

Heartbeat

Asking for Help is a Sign of True Community

By Pastor Scott Roberts

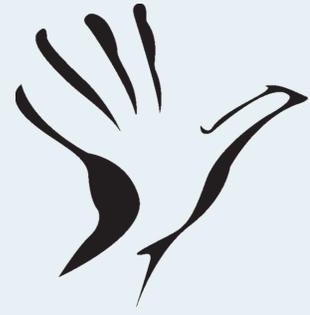
What are the marks of a true community? This question has been swirling around in my mind the past few days. As we reflected upon the coming of a new associate pastor, the flood relief work we have engaged in, the growing number of teens and young adults, and the struggle with some people not returning to church, the council agreed that God was inviting us into and teaching our congregation about community.

But what is a community and how does one foster a biblical view of this term? From the dictionary definitions that reduce community to a 'group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common' (Oxford Languages) to the relatively recent explosion of the term in literature (the term is 6x more popular today than in 1950) to the popular idea that communities are idyllic, there seems to be a lot of emphasis upon the idea. But what are the signs that a community really exists? What are the tangible acts that foster community and thereby allow one life to connect with another in a way that brings about a greater love for each other?

Over the next few months, I hope to write a series of brief articles that will help our church to get a handle on these practices of community. They won't be given in any particular order, but simply based upon my thoughts as I reflect upon this topic. Today's community-producing action is inspired by 2 events: A recent request for help cleaning out a crawl space and asking someone to help me work on my washing machine. In one instance, someone else asked for help, in the other I was doing the asking. But in both cases, laughter resulted, love was given and received and something that could have taken longer was accomplished quickly.

Furthermore, it took an individual recognizing that they had a right to impose upon other people. That may sound crude, but it is true. Our society often tells us we have no right to impose upon others. Maybe that is why true community

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Asking for Help is a Sign of True Community

(Cont. from first page)

is an anomaly. Maybe that is why literature has picked up the theme recently, as our highly individualized society has continued to degenerate from barn raisings and canning parties into selfishness and busyness. But when a person recognizes they have a right to ask for help, there is a claim being made and that claim is what contributes to the development of a true community. The claim is not for help alone; the claim is a statement that I belong to those whom I am asking – they are mine and I am theirs and we need each other.

It is this claim that is one of the building blocks to creating a truly biblical community where lives touch each other, serve each other, need each other. We see this in the Scriptures. True communities share their needs with one another. The Gibeonites, though only recently incorporated into the people of God, asked for help when they were attacked and Joshua provided aid (Josh. 10:6). Paul asks for help in many ways to further his missionary work – prayer support, financial help, ministry partners. And then there are all the Psalms where the people of God are asking for help from the Lord. In each case, one party makes a request of the other because they believe they have a rightful claim to another's help.

Therefore, at Hope in Christ Church, we want each person to regularly consider ways in which the help of others would be a blessing and further opportunities to work together and depend upon one another. But it isn't enough to simply think about it. After we identify the ways or the places where another could come alongside us, then we must choose to act by asking one, two, or more persons from the body of Christ to help us in our needs. Sometimes those requests may be as mundane as working in our garden, building a fence, or repairing an appliance. Other times they may be grand in scale like tearing and gutting a house. Sometimes we might ask for help in a project of our own; other times we might ask for help in a project to benefit another. Sometimes our request might be for prayer or help in learning something, or just needing another to sit with us quietly to assuage loneliness, depression, or loss. In all these ways, the claims we make must be viewed as a rightful and appropriate response by those whose lives belong to one another.

Asking for help is a means to developing true community.

Thank You from the Deacons

Hi Church Family,

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving offering response. You folks contributed \$2584 .00. With the money collected, we were able to buy these items through World Renew:

2 Goats, 4 Cows, 2 Chicken Raising Training Packages, 2 Friendship Packages, 2 Chicken incubators, 8 Ducks, 3 Family Size Water Filters, 2 Agriculture Training Packages, and 4 Bicycles.

These items will be distributed by World Renew to families throughout the world to help them achieve sustainable, healthy lives. If you would like more information about this program, visit their website worldrenew.net.

Also, a reminder to every so often check the Neighbor in Need list at, <https://www.whatcomloveinc.org/nnn>

Thanks for your GENERIOUS GIVING,

Considering the Nature of Foolishness

By Pastor Ethan Rogers



Greetings, dear brothers and sisters! I have been considering the nature of foolishness lately. As well you know, Scripture (and especially the Book of Proverbs) speaks to us at length about the blithering idiocy of a fool, often telling us exactly the sorts of traits and actions which make one;

They resent instruction and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), give full vent to their spirit (Proverbs 29:11), take no pleasure in understanding but continue to express their opinion anyways (Proverbs 18:2), do what is right in their own eyes (Proverbs 12:15), are reckless and careless (Proverbs 14:16), and treat sin like a joke (Proverbs 10:23). Because of these actions, the fools of our world bring grief to their fathers (Proverbs 17:25), invite their own pain (Proverbs 18:6-7), and compel suffering to those around them (Proverbs 13:20).

Yet, despite this apparent misery they inflict on themselves and everyone else, what remains fascinating about fools is that they are ultimately unaware of what causes their woes. What's more, the average fool is so insulated from wisdom that, not only does he remain perplexed as to why he is so miserable, but he actually thinks himself wise (Proverbs 12:15, 28:26).

"If you talk sense to a fool, he will call you foolish." How humorous and horrifying it is to find that, even after all these many millennia, such consistency among the fools; humanity has vanquished much in the name of progress, but it has yet to extricate from itself the most consistent cause of its own sufferings, in fact, the root of its sufferings. In the Garden of Eden we see the very same narrative play out; Eve, believing the acquiring of wisdom to be good, disobeys God and acts in foolishness, shares that foolishness with Adam, who himself is too busy being a fool to notice any trace of wrongdoing in their actions. "Believing themselves wise, they instead became utter fools." There is no shortage of irony at play.

But a more immense irony plays upon us; do we not, in chastising the fools, begin by supposing we are not counted among their number? Do we not, by necessity, then assume we are wise? Is this not the very same flaw that we are chastising the fools for doing? Is not foolhardiness ignorant of itself? What then stops us from being fools ourselves?

If you are anything like I am, you begin to see fragments of yourself in the warnings of Proverbs; I have resented instruction, I have given full vent to my spirit, I have expressed my opinion in ignorance of others, I have done what is right in my own eyes, I have been reckless and careless, I have treated sin like a joke. I have, because of my own foolishness, brought grief to my family, invited my own pain, and shared that pain with others. I have been, every bit of me, a fool.

The question then arises, "Are we, all of us, fools?" Certainly not. "But how then do we tell a wise man from a fool?" A more substantial question. But I believe our concerns with the forces of wisdom and folly have a more personal note attached, "How do I know whether or not I am a fool?"

The first course of action is to acknowledge that wisdom is not absolute; "even the very wise cannot see all ends". Any given person you are talking to may well know something that you do not know; in fact, in all probability, they know many things that you do not know. A wise person knows that their wisdom has bounds, limitations, imperfections; they do not enter a room supposing that they are the most intelligent, but interact with all as they would with peers. After all, even if that room is full of fools, a wise man will learn more from them than they will from him.

The second course of action is to begin analyzing our responses to circumstances; how are we speaking to people? Do we listen to them? Or do we just express our opinions? Are we actually receiving wisdom and instruction, even when understanding must come to us from somebody else, or from painful situations? Are we imple-

Continued on next pg.

Considering the Nature of Foolishness (cont.)

menting that understanding in later conversations? Do we, when we leave people and places, leave them better than when we found them? Or do we bring pain, misery, and shame on those we know? Seriously asking these questions and seriously evaluating how others are responding to us will help us begin to know where we are wise and where we are foolish.

The third and final way to know whether or not you are a fool is this: are you consciously pursuing wise action? Wisdom and foolishness are traits that we often perceive as bestowed at birth, but this isn't so; wisdom is won through pursuit, and foolishness displayed in conduct. Each of the Proverbs which comment about the fool also speak of what is wise: the wise fear the Lord (Proverbs 1:7), hold back their frustrations (Proverbs 29:11), take pleasure in understanding (Proverbs 18:2), listen to advice (Proverbs 12:15), turn away from evil (Proverbs 14:16), and learn from their mistakes (Proverbs 26:11). And what does this wisdom yield, if it is enacted? A path to walk straightly forward (Proverbs 15:21), discernment to know well the way (Proverbs 14:8), a wealth of life (Proverbs 14:24), a deliverance from unnecessary woes (Proverbs 19:3) and the spread of wisdom to others (Proverbs 13:20). May we all find ourselves pursuing wisdom, then, and banishing foolishness from our conduct. May we listen well, speak softly, temper our spirits, constrain our anger, take pleasure in understanding, and not mere knowledge. May we learn from our mistakes, turn away from evil, and fear the Lord. May we seek His perspective in study and in prayer, with sincere hearts, that no one will be able to dissuade us from following after Him, and that the world will know He is in us. Keep love in truth, and keep truth in love.



Servants for January

E-Street Drivers

2- Joe P
9- Doug & Jan
16- Dave & Ida
23- Len & Terry
30- Alice

Greeters

2- Jerry & Faye
9- Bud & Lorraine
16- Gina N, Joe P
23- Clair & Hildred
30- Len & Terry

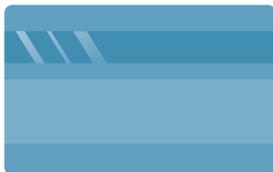
Prayer Room

2- Tanya
9- Alice
16- TBD
23- Ida
30- Dave R

Communion Prep for Jan. 2: Doug & Winnie

THANK YOU ALL FOR SERVING!

Giving in Nov 2021



	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 5,687	\$ 37,993
General Fund Offerings	\$ 21,159	\$265,873
Rent / Utilities Income	1,925	27,451
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	26,700
Interest Income - Undesignated	13	196
Total Undesignated Income	<u>23,097</u>	<u>320,220</u>
General Fund Expenses	<u>(26,599)</u>	<u>(238,863)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (3,502)</u>	<u>\$ 81,357</u>
Total 2021 budget, including ministry quotas		\$281,796
Year-to-Date Budget for 12 months		\$281,796
Total Undesignated Income		<u>320,220</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 38,424</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$-0- paid off in November 2021

Elders' Note

Joy and Shalom to you in this season of holidays. We have many opportunities to reflect on God's goodness as we celebrate: Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Advent, Friendship Program, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and contemplations of the Old Year ending and the New Year beginning. There have been many significant changes and events with members addressing various medical issues, death has visited, great flooding has carved a scar, we have learned to live with covid-19, our youth have another capable and caring leader and partner, generosity is our middle name at HICC, members are growing in faith and prayer.

An extract from Recent Council Minutes:

Begin to pray for candidates for elder & deacon (chosen in Feb); pray seeking God's calling on needed replacements for elders Clair and Jay and deacons Ruth and Jenn.

What do we sense God doing in our congregation, and where do we think He is leading us now?

Thankfulness for?

Please contact your Council members to share your ideas and concerns.

1887 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms by Anthony Showalter and Elisha Hoffman based on Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms..."

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning (Leaning on Jesus), Leaning (Leaning on Jesus), Safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning (Leaning on Jesus), Leaning (Leaning on Jesus), Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Shalom!



Zander says, "It's high time for a:

CUNNINGHAM FAMILY UPDATE"

Telkwa, BC. Christmas 2021



Dear Friends and family:

Merry Christmas from our family to you! We hope that the light of Jesus which we celebrate entering our world will once again bring you comfort and peace in the darkness of the present events in our world.

For our family this has been a year of great loss as we dealt with GERALYN'S mom's diagnosis of ALS. Her weakening, loss of speech and all movement, and eventual passing in late October was a real sorrow for us all. GERALYN spent nearly 4 1/2 months of those 11 months down in Bellingham helping her sister, father, brother and many care-givers look after Ali's needs. Ali was able to remain home for the duration, which was a blessing. We had a funeral for Ali late in November, which was a beautiful celebration of the caring, musical life that Ali lived. Our great comfort is that Ali is at home with her Lord, adding her beautiful voice to the heavenly choir! Our prayers are especially with Herm, as he adjusts to life without his dear wife of 52 years by his side.



Sadly though, Ali was not our only loss in 2021. Early in the year 2 young men that we had grown to love through the Board and Beam outreach passed away to addictions. Then on the heels of that, a third young man, and quite recently a single mother of 4 from Fort Babine died of similar causes. Also in this year we lost an elder, William, who billeted us students during our first years in Fort Babine 27 years ago! It's honestly hard to come to terms with it all, except that we realize once again how important each moment, with each person really is.

Thankfully, there have also been many joys this year, in amongst all the sorrow. Our Lord has promised us that though in this world we will have trouble, he has overcome the world! And thus, we thank him:

-For all the love that was shown to Ali, by friends, community, and care-givers.

-For the Hope House ministry here in Telkwa, in which we now have 2 awesome caregivers and 2 sisters (grade 8, and 9) from Fort Babine, living together.

The Hope House girls (and mom)



Our man, Leo

-For bringing me a partner, Leo, to help with the sawmill ministry and share the work of discipling the young men that God brings our way.

-For Nozhan, Johnson, and Chad, the young men that God has brought to us this year. For the many interesting projects that God has supplied for us to work on together, and the more important work that He has done in building faith in all our lives.



Our boys, Johnson, Nozhan, and Chad

-For Josiah, finding a job with Coldstream Helicopters in Kelowna, and then when his season ended, found an apartment in Mission and a job driving a Street Sweeper in the lower mainland.



University girls (Abby and Beth in middle)

-For our Abby and Bethany working hard on their second years of university at TWU: Abby in pre-vet, and Beth in nursing.

-For the blessing of our 4 children at home; Aleya Joy (16), Emma (13), Nate (11) and Zander (4).

Onward we go, looking to the Lord for His strength, leading and guidance in the following areas. Please pray with us for:

-Resources as we seek to renovate the Hope House basement to make it more useable for the girls living in the house.

-For our Gen. Director, friend and fellow missionary Ken Penner as he and Eunice deal with treatment decisions for his cancer.

Josiah's new career path



Nate, Emma, Aleya Joy, and Zander

-For unity and grace to flow between believers in these polarizing Covid times.

-For comfort and healing for GERALYN and her family as they grieve.

-For Josiah as he looks for a job with the right helicopter company that will get his foot in the door of the flying industry.

-For growth in the lives of E and A, the two sisters that are living in the Hope House and completing grade 8, and 9.

-For God's continued work in the lives of the current young men in the Board and Beam ministry, as well as the many others who have been a part of our lives in years past, and have moved on to other things.

-That God will lead the Church in how to connect with those trapped in dangerous addictions, who are at such great risk of becoming the tragic statistics of this next year!

In closing, we are ever so grateful for all the ways we have been witness to the presence of God through a difficult year. Whether it was getting our family across the US border, friends showing up with a meal at the door, a ministry team from YWAM Nanaimo helping out for 3 weeks, donations to help with benevolent projects, work that's come in for our boys, or new missionaries joining our team, we have seen God's love in so many tangible ways. We are humbled and thankful that our God is in control and fulfills his promise to never leave us or forsake us, even though we often feel in over our heads!

We trust that you too can both celebrate God's goodness, and reach out to him for help in your times of need, as you make yourself available to walk alongside and share God's love somehow with those in your circle of influence!

If you would like to see more pictures of our ministry work over this past year, look us up at www.boardandbeam.ca and click on the "Recent Projects", and/or "Touching Lives" tab. God bless you richly into 2022!

Love in Christ, Mike and GERALYN CUNNINGHAM and family

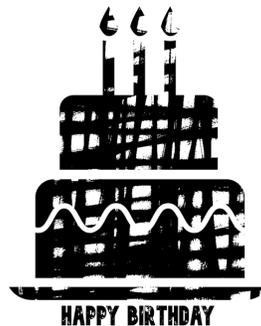
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January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 a.m. Worship, Communion 11:00 am. Sunday School	3 G.E.M.S	4 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boer Bible Study	5 HCC Day2Pray Elders Meeting	6 6:30 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	7	8
9 9:30 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:30 p.m. Jesus Gathering 7:00 p.m. Kaemingk	10 Friendship Bible Study	11 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer 2 p.m. Stadt Group at Ruth's house	12 Council Meeting	13 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	17 G.E.M.S	18 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer 6:30 p.m. Boer Bible Study	19 February Heartbeat articles due	20 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Kaemingk Bible Study	24 Friendship Bible Study	25 12:15 Lunchtime Zoom Prayer	26 7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team	27 6:30 a.m. Men's Group	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	31					

3 Elaine W
7 Don S
10 Hildred A
11 Faith R
15 Lisa D
18 Avis K



22 Chris P
24 GERALYN C
24 Katherine F
27 Mona R
29 Linda M
30 Herm L