

# 2006 Proclaimer

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2*

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A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Homepages: [webs.lanset.com/carmichael](http://webs.lanset.com/carmichael) and [www.preachersnotes.com](http://www.preachersnotes.com)

(916) 483-9318

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## **ELDERS / EVANGELISTS**

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944  
<lareagan@lanset.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com <vernwil@comcast.net

## **DEACONS:**

Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Bill Kizer, 745-1043; Carl Romine, 773-4402; Rick Rittenhouse, 728-5077;  
Bill Schultz, 543-0206; Brad Shuck, 530-677-9474

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## **THE CAB RIDE**

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living, and got a call for a fare in a poorer part of town. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, and then drive away.

But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needed my assistance, I reasoned to myself.

So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman.

She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice".

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator.

We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico.

Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said

"You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said.

"Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift?

What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? < BR> On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments.

But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, **but they will always remember how you made them feel.**

Author unknown to me.  
But the message is quite clear.

### **Two weeks from Today:**

**Daylight Savings Time will end for this year. Be sure to regain that hour you lost last spring, as you set you clocks backwards (make it an hour earlier from when you reset it)**

**?????**

**We must seek to be one with God. His interest must be our own. His sentiments and designs ours. When we know the love of God for those in sin and the infinite sacrifice that has been made to save perishing souls; then let us unite with Christ in His great work.**

**Our unity and love for one another are the credentials by which we testify to the world that God has sent His Son to save sinners.**

**Faith looks through discouraging difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. Faith, hope, and love are sisters, and their works blend perfectly to shine amid the moral darkness of the world**

**Life is not made up of great sacrifices and wonderful achievements, but of little things.**

**It is plainly written on the unrenewed heart and on a fallen world, All seek their own. Selfishness is the great law of our degenerate nature. Selfishness occupies the place in the soul where Christ should sit enthroned.**

**Never for a moment should we allow Satan to think that his power to distress and annoy is greater than the power of Christ to uphold and strengthen.**

**Christ did not leave this world until He had made it possible for every soul to live a life of perfect faith and obedience, to have a perfect character. ---This Day With God**

## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Logan & Julie Agee  
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)  
Jason & Marie Anderson  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Jamie Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
Juanita Dickson  
Robert Erickson & Lucille  
Jon Fox (Kirk's dad)  
Helen Gray  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
Catherine Kay (Escalon)  
Fern Key (Brentwood)  
(Allen's mom in accident)  
David & Jerica Lovett  
Jean McCarty  
Jeffry & Kaye Pennant  
Wendell Rapier  
Sven & Berniece Raven  
LaurieAnn Reagan  
Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)  
Andy & Liz Roadman  
Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
Taylor Romine  
Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)  
Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)  
Rena Schultz  
Geneva Shelton  
Shawna Shuck  
Ernie & Freda Sprinkel  
Connie Taylor  
Ola Thornburg  
Nancy Valine  
Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)  
Gordon & Glenda Wilson  
Maxine Wilson

## **TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK**

Rick Rittenhouse  
Aaron Robertson  
David Lovett

## **IN THE MILITARY**

Jason Anderson  
David Lovett  
Michael Mendez  
Aaron Robertson

# **TAKE HEED WHAT YOU'RE BUILDING!**

**Col 3:12-15; 1 Cor 3:9-11**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. On Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey he went through Corinth and when he left, there was a church of the Lord's people meeting in that City. (Acts 18)
  - 1. Paul said he'd laid the foundation & others built on that foundation.
  - 2. Other preachers followed Paul there, & some of them didn't do a lot of good for them.
  - 3. WE KNOW that soon the church there was divided & had a reputation of ill repute!
- B. In Paul's first letter we note the conditions that called for the statement of our text.
  - 1. They were following after "preachers," not Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:11-12; 4:6; 3:3-4
  - 2. Leaders in the church can be instruments of great good or harm!

## **I. SECURITY OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD DEPENDS ON HOW WE HEED IN BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE!**

- A. We are His Temple in this place. 1 Cor 3:16-17
  - 1. All members need to BEWARE!
  - 2. We can see in Corinth that weak preaching produced weak members!
- B. WE ALL need to be involved in insuring the "doctrinal soundness" of this congregation.
  - 1. First, it's accomplished in the teaching efforts the congregation pursues.
  - 2. Also, the eldership urges every member to be present at every service.
  - 3. So, the bottom line is this: ALL OF US need to take heed how we are building!
- C. To Guarantee the church Morally & spiritually involves the efforts of every member here!
  - 1. Our spiritual activities need to be based on the Word of God!
  - 2. We all need to subscribe to the Lord's standard of right & wrong. Titus 2:11-12
  - 3. Know this: we can't give approval ratings to anyone whom the Lord doesn't. 2 Jno 9

## **II. SO, HOW SHOULD EACH OF US BE BUILDING?**

- A. Our love for the Lord and a desire for our own salvation will keep prompting us to carefully proceed in our efforts of serving the Lord.
  - 1. The LOVE that each of us has for the LORD and the BRETHREN is proclaimed and maintained in the good works we perform in serving and saving one another! John 14:15- "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
  - 2. Our personal desires for salvation will also cause us to want to KNOW EXACTLY how we should/ should not be building.
- B. There are definitely both affirmatives and negatives in building properly.
  - 1. Remember, we're NOT trying to build up ourselves in the estimation of other people ~ but we're taking heed to building the LORD'S BODY, and being an influence for Him to the LOST! SO: 2 Cor 4:5; Matt 23:12
  - 2. Please be clear about this most important truth ~ We're not building the Lord's House only for it to be a whirlpool of social activities.

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. HOW ARE YOU BUILDING? 1 Cor 3:9-11
- B. We must not be sporadic or spasmodic or negligent in building for God and His cause!
  - 1. We must constantly TAKE HEED to the way we are serving the Lord.
  - 2. The way you have been trying to serve God, IS IT REALLY RIGHT?
- C. Are you willing to stand on the record you have right now, or do corrections need to be made? And, IF SO, are you ready to make them today?