

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

THE COMPASSION BASIS FOR GENEROSITY (COLOSSIANS 3:12)

“She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. ‘This is one of the Hebrew babies’, she said (Ex 2:6).” Pharaoh’s daughter spoke these words in reference to the baby Moses. We know the history and what she did for him. Compassion has within it feelings for unfortunate, helpless individuals; providing for the needy.

“The men designated by name took the prisoners and from the plunder clothed all who were naked. They provided them with clothes and sandals, food and drink, and healing balm. All those who were weak they put on donkeys. So they took them back to their fellow countrymen at Jericho... and returned to Samaria (2 Chron. 28:15).” A war time episode perhaps not indicative of a true heartfelt compassion. Their generosity, however, is evident in providing for prisoners of war.

“Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me, because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him. The man who was dying blessed me; I made the widow’s heart sing (Job 29:11-13).” Job’s discourse reflecting on his time of plenty at a time when he is distressed.

Other stories of compassion leading to generosity are found through out the Bible. Space is not sufficient to discuss them all, but the story of the good Samaritan (Lk. 10:29-37) may be as good an example as any. Interestingly it follows the question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life? (v.25)”. Answer: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; and your neighbor as yourself (v. 27).” Well answered, but “Who’s my neighbor (v. 29)?” Then in verse 30 Jesus tells “who” in the parable. Notice in verses 33 and 34 the human compassion, ... “seeing the [beaten and robbed] man, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. As we read on, we see where he took him to an inn and took care of him; providing monetary support for expenses that might be necessary for the man’s well being. Note: In concluding the parable, Jesus said “Go and do likewise”.

The Fairview Road Church families have displayed compassion and generosity by caring for the needy through the benevolent ministry, meals for St. Francis House, and disaster relief. Many share their homes for small group meetings. Each week members have compassion for the ministries of the church by their generous giving monetarily. These are just a few examples. Praise the Lord!
~ Glen Godsey

Shepherds' Vision Goals

Overall Goal:

To grow spiritually and numerically as “a family growing people to the glory of God”.

Goals for the next 12 months:

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: www.fairviewroad.org.

Shepherds (*Denotes quarterly Chairman):
*Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby,
Don Osburn, James Treece, Dee Vanderburg