



Dec. 24, 2006 (Vol. 6)

Charity Organizations

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The United Way is a well known organization. They are international in scope and are very active. And they make it very convenient to contribute to their organization, especially at this time of year. But we need to consider that there may be other ways for us as individuals (Gal. 6:10) to help the needy of the world that are more effective than using The United Way.

For example, some United Way chapters have been involved in cutting funding from the Boy Scouts of America. Why? Because the Boy Scouts don't allow homosexuals to be scout leaders or scouts. Instead of giving to the United Way, why not give to the boy scouts? Or why not find someone who is in need and directly help them?

When the Bible says to "visit" widows and the fatherless (James 1:27), it doesn't mean just drop spare change in a can as you go to the store. It means to see how they are doing & help them as you can. It means that we must become personally involved. It may mean using money or it may just mean spending some time with them.

Jesus' mission was spiritual (Lk. 19:10). When people followed Him for earthly reasons, He rebuked & redirected them toward the spiritual things (John 6:26-27). Yet this does not mean that He never cared about or didn't take thought for the physical needs of mankind. He just wanted people to have their priorities straight (Mt. 6:19-34).

But concerning legitimate physical concerns, "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." (Matt.15:32) Jesus felt sympathy and pity for those in physical need. Again, Jesus consistently emphasized that spiritual things are more important, but this clearly did not mean He never considered physical needs.

So, let us have the proper balance in things - as Jesus did. Spiritual things are first, physical things second. The salvation of the soul is more important than the preservation of the flesh. For our earthly life will fail and fade; but the life to come is eternal (Mt. 25:46).

But in our aiming for eternal life, we need to remember that how we live here affects whether we get there (Mt. 22:39; Rom. 13:9-10; Gal. 5:14; Jas. 2:8). So be compassionate as Christ was. A discerning compassion, that helps not just for a day - but for eternity (Heb. 10:34; 1 Pet. 3:8; 1 John 3:17; Jude 22).

Author Unknown

I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed, "O Lord, bless every one;
Lift from each heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."

But when I awoke at day,
I carelessly went on my way.
The whole day long I did not try,
To wipe a tear from any eye.

I did not try to share the load,
Of any brother on the road.
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.

Yet once again, when day was done,
I prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone."
But as I prayed - a thought was in store,
Shouldn't I be doing more?

Pause, hypocrite, before you pray,
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
By hands that serve Him here below.

And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me Lord, for I have lied.
If I live another day,
I will live the way I prayed."

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Home Bible Study - Sat., Jan. 6 & 20.
- Next Business Meeting - Sun. Jan. 7.
- GM - Jeff Smith, April 15-20, 2007.
- GM - R. McPherson, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- GM - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- GM - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Othena Kinnard, Mag Bumbalough, Thelma Cunningham, Mary Cox, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet (two broken ribs), Joshua & Misty Poteet, Rose Taylor, Dorris Williams, Betty & Robert England, Johanna Fletcher, Ed Williams, Joe Smith, Lydia Poe, Mike Tenpenny, Thelma Klein and Alisa Fletcher (expecting). Also, Reba Jones (Dorris Williams' niece), Jackie Tindle (cancer, relative of the Sims), John Ross Key (Mary Cox's son), Marci Miller (Alisa Fletcher's mother), Ocia Bell Jones (Doris William's mother), Ruth Williams (Betty England's niece), Pauline Hickey, Nanny Witaker, Dylan Roberts (grandson of Marilyn's friend); Kitty Mahan (Kathy Tenpenny's mother), Dwayne Williams (Dorris William's son), Jeff England (Robert & Betty's son), Paul Grissom.

Let us also remember **Kathy Tenpenny** as her father (Carson Stoglin) passed away Wednesday, 12-20-06.

North Sparta Church of Christ
 359 North Spring Street
 Sparta, Tennessee 38583
 (931) 836-3321

Douglas W. Hill
 Evangelist

Speaking where the Bible Speaks & Silent where the Bible is Silent

Service Times

Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to all of our services!

2007 January	1/7/07	1/14/07	1/21/07	1/28/07
SUNDAY-MORNING				
Greeter	Ralph Sims	Ralph Sims	Ralph Sims	Ralph Sims
Announcements	Kevin Blankenship	Matt Eller	Michael Fletcher	David Price
Reading	Matt Eller	Michael Fletcher	Matt Eller	Ben Trute
	Pr 10	Pr 11	Pr 12	Pr 13
Song Leader	Chad Sims	Chad Sims	Mark Welte	Mark Eller
Opening Prayer	Mark Welte	Sam Gardner	Mark Eller	Kevin Blankenship
Lord's Supper Lead	Jonathan Hickerson	Jonathan Hickerson	Kevin Blankenship	Mark Welte
Lord's Supper Assist	Ben Trute	Micah Eller	Jake Hale	Mike Tenpenny
	Jake Hale	Ben Trute	Jack Stafford	Jake Hale
	Jack Stafford	Mike Tenpenny	Mike Tenpenny	Chad Sims
Closing Prayer	Micah Eller	Jack Stafford	Micah Eller	Matt Eller
SUNDAY-EVENING				
Opening Prayer	Sam Gardner	Kevin Blankenship	Jonathan Hickerson	Adam Featherston
Song Leader	Adam Featherston	Harold Frazier	Chad Sims	
Closing Prayer	Michael Fletcher	Sam Gardner	Jerry Taylor	Wesley Geer
Lord's Supper Lead	David Price	Mark Eller	Adam Featherston	Harold Frazier
Speaker / Invitation		Mark Welte		Jonathan Hickerson
Group	1	2	3	4
WEDNESDAY-EVENING				
Opening Prayer	Doug Hill	David Price	Michael Fletcher	Jonathan Hickerson
Song Leader	Harold Frazier	Harold Frazier	Sam Gardner	David Price
Closing Prayer	Mark Eller	Jerry Taylor	Jerry Taylor	Jack Stafford
Invitation	Mark Welte	Adam Featherston	Doug Hill	Doug Hill

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