



BRIDGES OF LOVE

LOVE IS ACTION – December, 2011

“LOVE IS WHAT BINDS US TOGETHER....” Colossians 3:14

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”
Colossians 3:12, 14*

Paul gives us a strategy to help us live for God each day, as found in Colossians 3:12-14. All the virtues that Paul encourages us to develop are perfectly bound together by love. In order to practice any list of virtues without practicing love it will lead to distortion, fragmentation, and stagnation.

Christians should live in peace. To live in peace does not mean that suddenly all differences in opinion are eliminated, but it does require that Christians work together despite their differences. To live in love leads to peace between individuals and among members of Christ’s body.

Once a month, a group of dedicated volunteers, the “Bridge Builders” serve at the Mustard Seed. We came together to help at the shelter when it was located in the old Brick building and after it was torn down we have carried on in the Foothills facility.

That first evening came with trepidation for many; leery of what we might experience. Five years later, however, this group of faithful servant hearts is still meeting each month to serve others in love.

What has kept us together? Even though we are not attending the same church we continue to meet each month and experience the joy which comes from helping others. We try to bring a little treat to hand out after the meal is served. We mingle with the guests and on one occasion a man grabbed me by the arm. I was a little taken back until he said; “You know how much we appreciate you coming out of the kitchen and sharing a little treat with us.”

Rather than watching from a distance or keeping the needy safely at arm’s length, these special servants of God experience the joy which comes from getting involved, offering assistance that alleviates some of the pain of others.

Jesus said that His servants would be the salt of the earth and they would be the light of the world.

MY DREAM

Gifts by the Side of the Road

I saw a covered wagon travelling along the road and finally arriving at a most welcome watering hole. After filling their canteens with the refreshing liquid, the travelers realized that they had more canteens than they could ever use. Knowing others would be following in their path, they decided to leave the extra ones by the side of the road.

A little later another solitary wagon arrived at the watering hole and they were overjoyed to discover the discarded canteens. After replenishing their supply of water, they decided to leave some of their excess blankets for other pilgrims, who were yet to arrive.

Later, a wagon arrived whose habitants were truly in need of blankets, and they joyfully accepted the gifts from their unknown benefactors. Getting into the giving spirit, they left some harnesses which they no longer needed.

And so it went, each wagon would leave something for those who were to follow and every wagon grateful to those who had come before...

When I awoke, I realized how much like life my dream was. As one poet said, “We have all drunk from wells we did not dig; travelled on roads we did not pave, and received blessings we did not create.”

A grateful heart opens itself for more blessings, and an appreciative attitude inspires one to become creative and make contributions.

To truly live, we must give...
And treasure the gift we have been given.



HOW TO 'C' YOUR WAY INTO BETTER TEAMWORK

--John Maxwell

Teamwork makes the Dream work
“Together with Christ we can accomplish the Impossible”

It takes a team to achieve a dream.
But what does it take to create a team?

COMMITMENT that inspires results

CONTRIBUTIONS that make a difference

COMPETENCY that raises the standard

COMMUNICATION that increases effectiveness

COOPERATION that creates harmony

CHEMISTRY that enhances personal connection

CREATIVITY that enlarges the team’s potential

CONFLICT management that reduces tension rapidly

COHESIVENESS that allows change to be rapid

COMMUNITY that makes the journey fun

To achieve all that is possible, we must attempt the impossible. To be all we can be, we must dream of being more. To reach our dreams, we must reach out to others.

Matthew 5:16



It is possible to give without **LOVING**,
But it is impossible to love without **GIVING**

Richard Braunstein