

from the shepherds

March / April 2011

Brothers and Sisters,

We each have a unique contribution to make to the body of Christ. God wants us to be actively involved in the community that He has established. It is a privilege to belong to His community, and belonging carries with it responsibilities. I believe these responsibilities fall into three categories:

We must WORSHIP. There is public worship and there is private worship. It is misleading to think that worship only takes place on Sunday morning. Worship encompasses our lives as we serve the Lord in many capacities throughout the week and not just when we are assembled together.

We must WALK. We've all heard the expression about "walking the walk" and that means we can't just "talk the talk." Christians are expected to shun the wrong and do the right, overcome temptations, and endure trials. And as members of the body of Christ, we have the responsibility of helping our brothers and sisters along the journey.

We must WORK. It is simply not enough to follow Christ in moral conduct and behavior; we must be about the Lord's work. The world is not impressed by the size of a church building but rather by the size of our hearts. It is our daily Christ-like service that makes a difference to lost and hurting souls.

When all the excuses for not living faithful, dedicated and consecrated lives are laid bare, the real problem is clearly revealed: a lack of zeal. Do you remember that energetic enthusiasm you felt when you were first baptized? That is the kind of zeal we need!

We recently completed a month-long effort encouraging involvement, and I am inspired by the enthusiasm with which many have responded. On behalf of the shepherds, I want to thank you and let you know that the ministry team will be getting in touch with you to offer you opportunities to serve in the areas you have indicated.


If you've not yet completed and turned in your Involvement Profile, what are you waiting for? It's time to live a life of worship. It's time to walk the walk. It's time to get to work. I see West Orange members coming alive in our church today and it is catching on with more people rising to the task, rolling up their sleeves and diving in. This zeal can be contagious if you get close enough. Why not take the plunge?

I am excited about the future of the Church of Christ of West Orange; I hope you are as well. Together, with all of us doing our parts, we are making an impact for Christ in our community and around the world.

Your brother in Christ,



Tom Munson



Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

John 4:23

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:10-12

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:1-4

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one!"