

THE SOWER
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Have you visited our web site lately? (www.Arthurcoc.com)

“THEY HELPED”

The prophet Isaiah, declared by the inspiration of God, “They helped everyone his neighbor: and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage” (Isaiah 41:6).

In times of crisis, especially, cries for help are frequently heard from every corner of the earth. Victims of floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters reach a point of desperation—a point in which they are powerless to help themselves—and out of necessity cry out, “Help me!” We read frequently of those who heroically witness an accident, and, at the risk of their own lives, rush in “where angels fear to tread.” It is encouraging when individuals show themselves willing to help the needy with such items as food and clothing. Sometimes, especially in times of warfare, weaker nations that are being besieged will plead for help from other nations that are better able to meet the need.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He frequently heard cries for help, and Jesus responded with compassion. Multitudes had nowhere else to turn. By His power alone the blind were enabled to see, the deaf to hear and the lame to walk. By His word some who had lost loved ones in death had their grief allayed in seeing their loved ones brought back to life. Jesus revealed Himself as the divine Helper to deliver aid to the helpless. With His return from earth to the Heavenly Father, the church, as the spiritual body of Christ, is to view itself as Christ’s agent of rescue for mankind. As Christians, we echo the spirit of Christ when we come to the aid of others. Paul, writing to the saints at Galatia, urged, “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:9-10). One observed that we are to render kindness for the same reason a flower blooms—we were made for that purpose. . Certainly, if you assist in meeting others’ needs, all paths lead to the door of the helpful.

While assisting others in their physical and material needs, or giving words of encouragement, is Christ-like, the greatest help of which we are capable is the sharing of the good news of Christ. Paul, having a vision of a man pleading, “Come over into Macedonia and help us”, concluded “that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel (good news) unto them” (Acts 16:9-10). Is that not mainly why we are here? We are called to be rescuers of those in the bondage of sin that they may be set free by Christ. Whatever the need you find in your world today, may you choose to be—and may God enable you to be—a helper of others. May it be said of us all: “They helped.”

--Ron

*“The grand essentials in this life are: Something to do, something to love and
Something to hope for.” (Addison)*

THE FIRST DAY

The first day of the week is essential for Christians. It is a day for celebration together around the table of the Lord. It allows saints to encourage one another, draw strength for their service, confess faults, refocus their loyalties, and support the work of God. It often sets the tone for the entire week. It observes the principle of giving the first and best to the Lord. It is a day to remember the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the promise of our own resurrection. On the first day of creation, God created light, and on the first day of the week, light and joy and satisfaction in the divine goodness belong to those who call upon the name of the Lord.

—Randal Matheny, *The Fellowship Room*

TATTOO MISTAKES

Dan Williams says that he sometimes cautions young people against making “tattoo mistakes,” that is, making impulsive decisions that have the potential to follow them for the rest of their lives.

Williams recently made reference to an article in the Daily Mail about a young Belgian woman who regrets making a “tattoo mistake”—literally.

In 2009, 18-year-old Kimberley Vlaeminck asked tattooist Rouslan Tomaniantz to tattoo some stars on her face. When he completed his task, he had tattooed 56 stars on her face.

Not long after, Vlaeminck lied to family and reporters, claiming she had asked Tomaniantz for just 3 stars near her eye. She also claimed that he kept adding more and more stars after she fell asleep at the Tattoo Box in Courtrai, Belgium. A week later,

however, she confessed to a Dutch TV station that she had been awake throughout, and had indeed asked for the full 56 marks.

Now, at the age of 21, Vlaeminck regrets her decision. She says she has avoided going out in public because the tattoos make her feel like a “freak.” Last summer she was preparing to pay f9,000 (over \$14,000 U.S. dollars) for laser surgery to remove the black stars. She fears that her impulsive decision to get the tattoos is going to follow her for the rest of her life.

Decisions made impulsively, without proper judgment, bring regret, and many times consequences linger for years or even a lifetime. Everyone who has sinned knows that all too well, and *each one* of us has sinned (Rom. 3:23).

But the good news (the gospel) is that regardless of our mistakes, forgiveness is available through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. --David Sargent, *Glad Tidings of Good Things*

“STANDING ON THE PROMISES—THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Part 2” will be today’s message, with Ephesians 2:13-22 as the reading.

PRAY FOR: Two-year-old Ruby Bradd (Clinton; cancer); our web manager, Larry Miles (cancer); Wayne Polk (Shelbyville minister; cancer); and I am scheduled for cataract surgery on my right eye Tuesday morning.

“THERE ARE three states of existence. The lowest state is what you own. The next higher state is what you do. The highest state is what you are.” --Richard Russell, *Dow Theory Letter*