



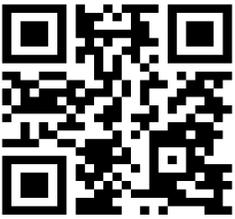
# Shepherd's Voice



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## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### Musings of the Chairperson Sister Cindy Saunders

July 2021



### What it Means to Me to be a Christian and a Volunteer

“Christian” and “Volunteer.” I think the two go together. You can’t be one without the other.

Many people think going to church occasionally, or simply believing in God, makes them a Christian. But the Bible says something different. A Christian is someone whose behavior and heart reflects Jesus Christ and is buried with Christ in baptism. Being gracious and merciful to others is behaving like Christ.

I look at volunteering as also behaving like Christ. Look at what Christ did. He helped the sick get well. You always see Jesus with children all around Him, sitting in His lap. He did not get paid for what He did. He did it out of love for us, so I feel we need to do things from our heart to show our love for others. I tell the parents of the children whom I cared for that if I didn’t have to help with our income I would volunteer all my time watching children and helping others. I could not do all I do without my Lord.

Being a Christian I have to make sure I treat my children and everyone I meet like Jesus would treat me. Being a Christian I have to do my share in the Lord’s church and my town to do what I see needs to be done or what is asked of me.

Ed and I and our three boys started coming to Orcutt Christian Church in 1985 when we moved to California. It didn’t take long and I found places that I saw needed something done, and I would do it.

God has really blessed my life in my Christian walk. I have the loves of my life with my family, and with so many children around me that love me; and I have been taking care of children for over 46 years. I love helping these families if there is something that needs to be done. I would go and buy food to put on their table. I even do loads and loads of laundry for the families I work for without being paid to do it, just like Jesus did with the five loaves and fishes to feed everyone. I would not be who I am today without my Lord and Savior.

#### **Galatians 6:10 ESV**

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

#### **1 Peter 4:10 ESV**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

#### **Acts 20:35 ESV**

we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

#### **Luke 12:33-34 ESV**

Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

# The Elder's Musing

## Elder Ben Colon



### What it Means to Me to be a Christian and a Volunteer

Just recently I was listening to a Christian radio broadcast and heard the minister mention a person from the bible named Simon who was from a place called Cyrene. The minister explained that Simon from Cyrene could be found in several books in the bible. However, it was the book of Luke that caught my attention. For those of you who do not know who Simon from Cyrene is, he was the man chosen by the Romans to help Jesus carry the cross to Calvary.

**Luke 23:26 (NIV) As the soldiers led him (Jesus) away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.**



The reader needs to understand that Jesus was just previously flogged. (Mt 27:26; Mk 15:15; Jn 19:1) The flogging by the Romans - what a horrible torture - given prior to crucifixion. Often, a person would not survive the flogging. So, after Jesus received this horrific beating, he was given the cross to carry for his own execution. Unable to physically carry such a large and heavy object, Simon from Cyrene was ordered to carry the cross instead.

This is a powerful story, but how does it relate to us. The account of Simon from Cyrene written in the book of Luke, caught my attention because he is the only one that mentions that the Romans “put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.” Simon followed Jesus to Calvary.

This made me think of what we as Christians must do every day. We follow Jesus with a focus on the cross. Jesus has even commanded us in **Matthew 16:24 (NIV) “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”** As Christian we must follow Jesus daily while carrying our cross.

What can we do as we follow Jesus carrying our cross daily? I like the way Paul puts in **Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) There, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.**

The church is where we meet to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. It is where we meet as a family, and where new members find a home. The church was left in our charge as followers of Jesus. We are commanded to make disciples, baptize, and teach everything that He commanded us. We are to care for His church by offering our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, as a true and proper worship. So, brothers and sister as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ, carrying our cross, ask yourself, how I am being the living sacrifice carrying for His church that test and approve God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will?