

# ☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### The Minister's Musings Bro. Archie Miller August 2018 Shipwrecks Still Occur!



Remember the oft-told story of a life-saving station that was built on a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks frequently occur? The building was no more than a hut, and there was only one boat; but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea. With no thought for themselves, they went out day and night, tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to be associated with the station and give their time, money, and effort to support the work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Eventually some of these new members of the lifesaving station became unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those who were saved from the sea. So, they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. With all this work, the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members and this led them to decorate it beautifully and furnish it exquisitely such that it became sort of a club—a place for them to meet and relax. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a memorial lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held but, fewer members were now interested in actually going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work.

About this time a large cruise ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were covered in oil, and some had become sick from the oil and salt water, and to top it off, some of them were foreigners. The beautiful new club was in chaos. There were pools of water and wet towels all over the place. Furniture and carpet was damaged. So, immediately, the property committee hired someone to rig up a shower house outside the club, where victims could be cleaned up before coming inside.

And, at the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities altogether because they felt they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. A small number of members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. The small group's members were voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast - and they did.

As the years went by, however, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old station. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the passengers drown.

I know you catch the moral of this story.

#### **1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV2011)**

**<sup>16</sup> Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

# Thoughts of The Elders

## It's ALL About ME!

“Really? That’s contrary to what we keep hearing!” Is that what you are thinking as you read this op-ed? Well, let us explain our meaning in that statement. What do we Elders mean when we say “*It’s ALL About ME!*”

We weren’t drafted, like in the military. The church of Christ is made up of volunteers. We are like yeast that is worked into flour, and in due time the dough rises. But, we are more like a mercenary army of volunteers who have made a commitment to go into dangerous territory, behind enemy lines, and carry on a campaign against the enemy. Our commanding officers decide where to assign us.

Every volunteer has their own reasons for joining in this spiritual attack force. What are yours?

Some of you want to be part of the solution. We live in an evil filled world, and some of you desire to mend broken hearts, empower people to be all that God intends for them to be, restore people to a right relationship to God. You want to make a difference in people’s lives.

Some of you need the rich fellowship we have here at Orcutt Christian Church. You have found here love and acceptance, you have found a challenge to be more like our Savior, you have found deep spiritual blessings.

Some of you want to make a difference by volunteering to help Orcutt Christian Church. Without pay, you volunteer to serve Communion to shut-ins. Without pay you help keep the facilities clean and orderly. Without pay you help provide maintenance to our buildings and grounds...everything from weeding to painting, from carpentry to plumbing. And, in doing so, you empower people to be their best selves. You are passionate about helping people to reach their full potential in the Kingdom of God. Your volunteering really energizes our wonderful congregation of believers.

The more we give, the happier we feel. Volunteering increases our self-confidence for serving in the Kingdom of God. Not everyone can teach. Not everyone can preach. Not everyone can evangelize. But there is a place for each of us, and we grow as we serve. Some folk are uncomfortable with the idea that a volunteer “benefits” from doing volunteer work, but the fact is you do benefit.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-18 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.