

July 1, 2004

Pastor Jerry Shirley
Grace Baptist Church
3770 N. Water St.
Decatur, IL 62526

Dear Pastor Shirley:

June has been a full month for us; we have been busy each weekend. I preached for my Son-in-law the first week. The 13th I was with one of my preacher boys in South Florida; that evening with Brother Green in Orlando. The 20th was Fathers Day and on the 27th I preached for Brother Tony Price in Cocoa. We do appreciate being in all your churches.

Each of us have a ministry to fulfill, Paul wrote to young Timothy “make full proof of thy ministry” literally that means fulfill your ministry, accomplish in your work, the things God has called you to do.

Each of us has a special ministry from the Lord that no one else can do for us. It is our ministry, assigned to us by the Lord and we are responsible to finish it for His glory. Whatever ministry God has called you to fulfill, be sure to magnify God in it. I am glad I can still be used of God in my “Encouragement Ministry.” I want to be active in His service as long as I am able to do so. So preachers call me if you need me, not just to preach, but also to just come and talk with you if you need someone to listen. I will visit with you, or just anything I can to keep you encouraged.

Pray for us!

1. Our health. (Sarah had to go back to cardiologist-will wear a monitor & perhaps will have to have a pace-maker).
2. Traveling on the busy roads.
3. Our ministry of encouragement.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Jesus Name,
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend

ENCOURAGEMENT

JULY 2004

Good Morning Friend,

Some years ago, Ann Landers, in her syndicated column, gave a definition of the Yiddish word, "noodnik." She explained it like this ... *a noodnik is someone who spreads cheer by not showing up.* Let me further add that a noodnik is someone you would rather not have around. His absence is better than his presence. If he does come, his presence will, at best, be tolerated or ignored. At worst, his presence will be painful or even destructive.

God wants you and me to be the opposite of that. Not noodniks, but refreshers and encouragers. In Paul's short letter to Philemon he uses many warm words and phrases to describe and affirm Philemon. He uses one word twice... the word *refresh*.

For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother. (Verse 7).

Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord. (Verse 20).

Philemon had the reputation of being a refresher. When he was around, joy and love would exude from him. I see many such people in the Bible. Titus brought *comfort* to Paul (II Corinthians 7:5-7). Jonathon helped David find *strength* in the Lord (I Samuel 23:16). Barnabas brought *encouragement* to his church in Acts 11... and also to John Mark and Paul. And Philemon brought *refreshment* to many. Each of these were messengers of God bringing God's attributes to people.

There still are refreshers among us. I have found certain authors to be refreshers in their writing. I have discovered certain preachers to predictably be refreshers in their preaching. God has brought some individuals into my life who have been refreshers. I'm not talking about individuals with powerful personalities. Nor people who are extroverts. It is something deeper. Not self-generated. The only explanation is that it is Jesus-generated.

One of Paul's life-long goals was that Jesus would be *magnified* in his body, whether by life or by death. (Philippians 1:20).

Many of you years ago often sang this chorus...

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All his wonderful passion and purity.

Oh, Thou Spirit Divine, all my nature refine 'til the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

As you spend time with Him, as you yield to Him, as you long for HIM above all else, He will refresh you and make you a refresher to others. Now begin to look for little ways to refresh others even if you are not physically near them... a prayer for them... a note to them... a phone call.

Be a refresher... and lots of refreshment will be returned to you from others and also from the greatest Refresher of all... Jesus, Himself.

Be Encouraged
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend