

Clive Wissmann: Supporting the Work (2/3/19)

Introduction:

At the beginning of this series on Stewardship we discussed the parable of the talents. We learned there that we are all given talents/gifts for the furtherance of God's work.

The question of consideration in our message today will be: *How can I help?*

Supporting the work in the Old Testament:

Aaron and Hur

- Exodus 17:8-13 - Aaron and Hur helped Moses by holding up his hands during the battle with the Amalekites. Moses was Israel's leader and his job was to direct the troops in the battle. When his arms would get tired they would hold them up so that the Israelite army could continue to make ground. These men, and the soldiers, were doing their part in the work (however menial).

The Child Samuel

- 1 Samuel 2:11 - Even when Samuel was very young he was able to help Eli the priest.
- 1 Samuel 3:1-5 - Because Eli's eyes had become dim from old age Samuel had become to him a helper at night. So when Samuel heard the Lord calling his name in the night he assumed it was Eli and came to his side to help him.
- Samuel was *willing!!* The tasks may have been menial, but they all contributed to the whole. No matter how menial the duties we can perform to support God's work, the first step for us to take is to ask "how can I help?"

Isaiah

- Isaiah 6:8 - Isaiah didn't yet know the job to which he would be called, but whatever was involved he was *willing* to serve the Lord, so he said "here am I Lord, send me."

Supporting the work in the New Testament:

Financial

- Acts 2:42-47 - The people had given their hearts to God and self was lost in Christ! They gave willingly of whatever they possessed.
- In Acts 5 we see the opposite experience. Ananias and Sapphira were pretending to be generous, while inwardly withholding from the Lord.
- In Acts 6 the same selfless attitude is displayed in the appointment of the deacons. They were willing to serve with their own abilities to ensure that others were not distracted from their calling.

Different Gifts & Talents

- 1 Corinthians 12:28,29 - God gives to each one of us different gifts and talents to be used in the work. The uniqueness of these gifts often determines the uniqueness of our calling. But, whether big or small, any calling is to be entered into with the commitment to do it to the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - In the following chapter Paul shows that the source of this ministering is agapē love.

Supporting the Missionaries (Paul's helpers)

- Romans 16:1-4 - Phebe, Priscilla, and Aquila are all mentioned as helping out throughout the ministry of the Apostle Paul.

- Philippians 4:15-18 - Epaphroditus and the Philippian church are also named as accomplices to the Apostle Paul in ministry.
- 2 Timothy 4:11 - Luke & Mark are named as companions to the Apostle Paul in ministry.
- Titus 3:12,13 - Artemas, Tychicus, Zenas, and Apollos were also fellow labourers with the Apostle Paul.
- Acts 27 - The use of the words "we" and "us" in this chapter indicate that where Paul went, Luke went too. They were, at least at this time, companions in ministry.

Supporting the work at Hinkler SDA Church:

VIA (Volunteers in Action)

- Early on in the history of the Hinkler SDA church, before we had a building (or anything of substance), it was decided that we must give to others as a fulfilment of our commission. So we started supporting local men and women of the pacific islands (through VIA) to spread the gospel to their people.

Archaeology Weekend with David Coltheart

- Another thing we did that enabled everyone to serve together was to run an archaeology seminar. During this weekend program people were able to use their varied talents to support the work of the church.

How can I support the work now?

Neville Peter Concert

- April 13th we will be hosting Neville Peter (blind singer-songwriter) for an outreach concert. As a church we can invest in this work of the church by committing to it our time, our talents, and our finances.

Weekend Seminar

- A few weeks after the concert we are planning to hold a weekend seminar. To effectively run programs like these it takes cooperation. People for setup, greeters, caterers, and the list goes on. All play an important part in the running of this kind of event.

Parenting Program

- During the second term we plan to run a parenting program. This also requires many people to make it happen. You could offer your services here in support of the mission of the church. And so too for the things listed below. The reality is that the church just doesn't move forward without all the parts working together and supporting each other.

Depression Recovery Program

Personal Friendship Evangelism

Appeal:

1 Corinthians 12:28 - What is/are your gift/gifts? and how can you help?

Are you willing to serve? Are you like young Samuel with seemingly menial tasks as your calling?

Are you like Isaiah with a big calling to fulfil?

Or are you like those who contributed to the ministry of Paul - through finances or talents?

Whatever it is that God is calling you to do, do it with all your might! Support the work however you can!