

“Filling a need ”

June 2008

Hymn “I need thee every hour” VU 671

Scripture Ephesians 2: 8 – 10

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Prayer Let us pray together - O God, you have made each of us in your image to help to carry out your work here on earth. We need you and we need other people to achieve the anticipated result. Be with us here today and every day as we strive to do what you would have us do. Amen.

Reflection There is a parable of a man whose wife had been captured by a king and brought to his castle as a slave. The man set off with his five-year-old son to rescue the woman. During their trip the father had to carry his son because the boy was too young and too small to walk all the way. Finally, the two arrived at the castle. The castle gate was closed, but there was a small narrow window in the wall alongside the gate. The boy realized that he was small enough to fit through the window; he climbed up the wall and through the window and opened the gate for his father.

We all need each other. Living a life without ever needing someone, using someone, or being used by someone is rare. If you’re a fair person usually you will find an equitable solution. But you may end up employing others’ talents. Then you should be generous. People resent being “ridden”. But even the best and most merciful rider is still the rider. Such relationships are inevitable. Soldiers fight, generals get stars; research associates discover, professors get promoted; salesmen move merchandise, CEO’s receive large bonuses. Of course it is likely that at one time you carried others: once, you were a soldier, or a research associate, or a salesman. Hopefully you were used for good causes.

Contribution from one generation to another is fine, but not sufficient. You must also deliver now. You must take care of your soldiers, associates and salesmen if and when you become the rider. Compensate them, share your glory, recognize their efforts in your success or help them in other ways. This is not totally charitable or altruistic behaviour. In a larger arena you may still need help in the future and perhaps you’ll receive it from a totally unexpected source.

Riding others may be inevitable but the rider and ridden must safely arrive at their destination together. You may not be able to carry the ones who carried you, but think of their souls as an extension of yours and show an equal degree of attention and interest in their souls. Jobs may be defined differently but each is unique in its contribution to the overall mission.

(based on material from “The Spirit of Happiness – discovering God’s purpose for your life” by T. Byram Karasu, M.D.)

Discussion In what ways have you carried others?
 In what ways have others carried you?
 How have you thanked others for what they have done for you?
 How have you thanked God?

Closing prayer Let us pray – O God, we thank you for this group of men who work and play and laugh and cry together as we listen and learn and act together in your name. Each of us needs to be carried much of the time and occasionally each of us is able to carry another for a short time. Help us to hear the needs of one another and give us the humility to allow ourselves to be carried and the strength to carry others. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Coming event Kairos 2008 for young adults (18-30) at Five Oaks in August

Book of the month “The Spirit of Happiness” by Dr. T. Byram Karasu in which the author explores the psychological barriers that prevent so many of us from allowing faith to become an integral part of our lives and from becoming truly serene and fulfilled human beings.