

## WALKING THE ROAD TOGETHER

During my studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, I was accepted as a hospital chaplaincy student for one semester. Death became “up close and personal” during those twelve weeks as I helped families in the raw stages of grief.

This passage from Philippians contains one scripture I clung to during that time: “For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain” (vs. 21). In other words, there are some things worse than death, like not following Christ. Paul wrote this while in prison as he awaited his sentence of death or acquittal. He took the time to consider his destiny. Many of us may not have the opportunity or take the time.

Even when facing death, Paul chose to show the world another side to faith: “Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (vs. 27). Despite what “raw grief” or “raw deal” life might hand you, let the teachings of Christ guide you in all that you do. Striving side by side allows us to walk the road with other Christians as we try living a life that is worthy of the gospel of Christ.

## LITANY

Leader: Side by side,  
 People: it gets easier to recognize the still small voice of God.

Leader: Side by side,  
 People: it gets easier to admit our imperfections and mistakes.

Leader: Side by side,  
 People: it gets easier to forgive ourselves and be forgiven.

Leader: Side by side,  
 People: it gets easier to ask, “What are you teaching us, Lord?”

Leader: Side by side,  
 People: it gets easier to live a life that pours out gratitude to Jesus, our friend and our guide.

All: Side by side, we come.

—Gail Erisman Valeta  
 Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren  
 Littleton, Colorado

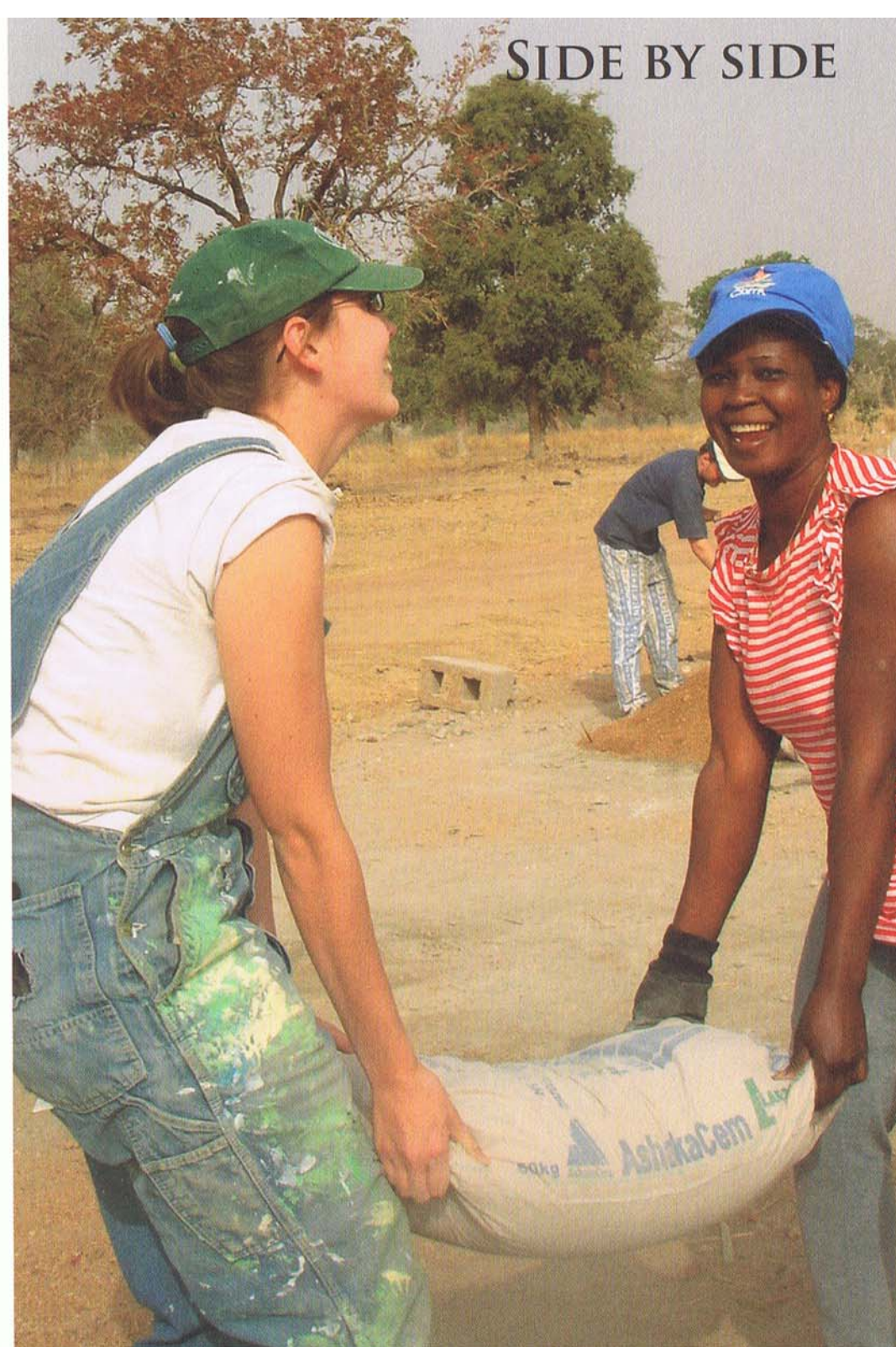
*Photo copyright © 2008 Kathleen Brinkmeier, Nigeria Workcamp 2006*

## Text for Today

## Philippians 1:21-30 (27)

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving **side by side** with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN LIVING WORD BULLETIN 9308





Sheldon Church of the Brethren  
 Ministers - All Members  
 September 21, 2008  
 9:30 a.m. Worship



**NOTE:** The blue hymnal will be used today, unless otherwise noted.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING / ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL DAYS

PRELUDE / LIGHT CANDLES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (see litany on back)

\* GATHERING HYMN #42 *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

\*INVOCATION

PRAISE HYMN #49 *From All That Dwell Below The Skies*

CHILDREN'S TIME (Gathering Song: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*)  
*"The Tall Tower - Babel"*

FILL THE ARK - Introduction and gathering of quarters

OFFERTORY STATEMENT

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*OFFERTORY HYMN #96 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter (vs. 3)*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN #348 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pray For: Greene, IA Church

Praying For Us: Sioux City, IA Living Peace Church

SCRIPTURE James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

MESSAGE "That Odd Commandment"

PRAYER OF BLESSING ON THE WORD

\*CLOSING HYMN #366 *God Of Grace and God Of Glory*

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREEFOLD AMEN #382 (blue hymnal)

\* - Please Stand, if you are able

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, September 21:**

Message	Rev. David Loveall
Children's Message	Marcene Cox
Music	Marcene Cox
Ushers	Alan and Scott
Adult Sunday School	Marcene Cox
Children's Sunday School	Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, September 28:**

Message	Don Adkins
Children's Message	Don Adkins
Music	Teri Kelderman
Ushers	Alan and Scott
Adult Sunday School	Sally Young
Children's Sunday School	Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

**PRAYER REMINDERS**

Our Congregation & Children	Clarence & Rhelma Evans
Ann Evans	Don Adkins
Linda Beal	Rev. Don Lenderink
Living Peace Church, Sioux City	Mary Fike (18 weeks chemo)
United Christians International	with Jean-Jean & Kristie
Lost Brothers and Sisters	Those Serving in the Military
Reaching Out to Our Community	

## **Anniversaries and Birthdays for September**

*Anniversaries* 26 - Scott Maggert  
14 - Elmer & Helen VanKekerix 29 - Rachel Maggert

### **Birthdays**

02 - Clarence Evans  
16 - Alan Cox  
22 - Barb Rolston

Many happy returns of the day of thy birth. May sunshine and gladness be given and may the Dear Father prepare thee on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven.

## **Church Events**

### **Welcome!**

Welcome to Rev. David Loveall this morning. Also, welcome to all members and guests. You came to worship, go now to serve! You've been given the Light, go now to let it shine!

### **Congregational Pictures**

**Sept. 28** - After the church service, Ann Maggert will take pictures of the congregation for the 120th Anniversary book.

### **Adult Sunday School**

In Adult Sunday School we are using the *Serindipity Bible For Groups* with a Bible study format. Our topic this week is "What Should I Do Now?" from Luke 19:1-10. We welcome your attendance and participation!

### **World Day of Prayer**

Our church has been invited to join the Worthington Church of the Brethren to their Love Feast and communion, Sunday, Oct. 5, at 3:30 p.m. Please let Alan and Marcene know if you want a ride.

### **International Day of Prayer**

The International Day of Prayer for Peace will be today at the Mayflower Congregational Church at 1407 W 18th St. at 6 pm in Sioux City.

### **Church Trivia**

**Mar. 28, 1993**- At Spring Council meeting, Clarence Evans and Alan Cox moved that our church offer 20-25 of our old red hymnals to the Worthington Church. They were thinking of buying some new ones.

Visit <http://120.sheldonbrethren.org/mem/m-trivia.htm> to view the trivia that has already appeared in previous bulletins.

## **Community**

**Sept. 28** - The Crop Walk will be at 2 pm.

## **Guest Speakers**

Sept. 28 - Don Adkins	Oct. 26 - Don Adkins
Oct. 5 - Rev. David Loveall (Communion)	Nov. 2 - 120th Anniversary (Communion)
Oct. 12 - Rev. Lucinda Douglas	Nov. 9 - Rev. David Loveall
Oct. 19 - Gideons	Nov. 16 - Pete Aberson



You can express God's grace in your life by giving to others. Heifer International's Fill The Ark program offers individuals and families an opportunity to learn about - and offer a helping hand to - families around the world.

Fill The Ark is a daily missions - giving program that spans four weeks. It offers real-life solutions to world hunger and shows one person...one family...one congregation can make a difference in today's world. As you fill an ark with money you've saved, you'll learn how your gifts can share God's love and end human suffering around the world.

Noah built the ark because of a crisis brought on by human sinfulness. Safe in the ark's haven, humans and "every living thing" inside weathered the storm. The rainbow was a sign that God will preserve the rhythm of planting and harvest and provide animals and plants as sustenance for humankind as long as the earth endures. (The story of Noah is in Genesis 6-9).

That's why the Fill The Ark project exists. Today, we humans again threaten God's creation. Today's flood takes the form of war, environmental destruction, and massive poverty and hunger - all problems created by greed and injustice, all problems that can be resolved with love and action.

As Noah drew upon faith and hope, so we must draw on faith and hope to build a future without hunger and with a healthy environment. Your household and congregation can be a rainbow for many families in the world today.

**Goal Setting:** You may want to set a goal for your household's contribution to the ark. Your congregation may set a goal for its ark. Goals are helpful, but more important is helping each person in your household and in your congregation realize that the money they give becomes a live, breathing animal whose presence in a family in need can be the difference between a life of hope and a life of despair.