

impact

Living
Your Values
Out Loud

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**“We must not
love in word or
speech, but in
deed and truth.”**

1 John 3:18



LOVE IN ACTION

What would our nation look like if the church of Jesus Christ truly behaved like the church founded by the King of kings and Lord of lords?

Authentic followers of Christ are marked by their love for people. It is more important now than ever that Christians re-energize and challenge themselves to engage their communities with biblical truth expressed humbly through their own ministry to others.

Love is an action word. To say you love someone but fail to demonstrate that love is disingenuous. To say you are a follower of Christ but fail to demonstrate your love for others reveals an empty faith that is devoid of power.

We are to act differently than those who are not in Christ. In His earthly ministry, Jesus did not try to blend in or hide His identity. He did not avoid, but sought after, those who were in bondage.

While those of us who are in Christ are citizens of a heavenly Kingdom to come, we are not excused from caring for others while we are living in this temporal world.

Our model is Jesus Christ, and our concern for others flows out of our relationship with Him. Our service is motivated by His love for all men. Our concern for them is impressed upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Because God loves them, we must love them as well—even if their lifestyles are confusing or offensive to us, and even if they spurn our advances.

When we forsake our identity as the people of God, we bear witness to a weak Gospel and defame the author of our faith.

Top Volunteer Activities

Fundraising 27.9%

Food-related service 24.5%

General Labor 21.4%

Tutoring/teaching 20.5%

*Volunteering in America: 2008, Corporation for National and Community Service



Whether or not America has a future worth having doesn't depend on what happens in the White House, the Congress, or the Supreme Court. Our future depends on people like you. Are you exercising your responsibilities as a Christian and your rights as a citizen? It has never been enough to "talk the talk." We must "walk the walk." As Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel all the time. If necessary, use words."

Richard Land

Richard Land

SERVING WITH A KINGDOM PURPOSE

"If the church isn't going to help people like this, who is?" said Tony Redden, a remodeling contractor who had seen people taken advantage of when they could not afford the work they needed. When Redden finally responded to the call to help others that woke him eight nights in a row at precisely 3 a.m., he thought it would involve three or four of his construction buddies. While his wife and two young children provide him "all the usual excuses" to avoid taking on something so large, he now oversees over 200 volunteers from his church, Hickory Grove Baptist in Charlotte, North Carolina, as they do handyman projects for people who have no other resource. The Hearts and Hammers ministry has done everything from change a lightbulb to a remodel a house. "The Lord has given us all these abilities, and we're just trying to use them for Him," Redden said. "I can't sing or preach but I can use my hands. If we proclaim to be Christians and have love, Scripture clearly tells us to show that love to others," Redden said. "This is a very tangible way to do that. People appreciate the action more than just words."

Biblical Recorder, April 28, 2008

"You are called to wherever God has placed you...You are placed in a position to minister around you, and anybody can do it." This is the perspective that Dana Gallahair takes to her job as case manager for the neonatal intensive care unit and well-baby nursery at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery, Alabama. After watching her own newborn taken away in an ambulance to spend seven weeks in a hospital eighteen years ago, Gallahair developed a growing compassion to help teach new mothers what to expect, how to prepare for the baby, and what resources are available to help. Gallahair, a member of Harvest Fields Church in Deatsville, not only sees them through their hospital stay, but also makes sure they have all they need even after their discharge by connecting them with ministries in the area to help with supplies and encouragement. "I want people to look back at the end of the day and say they were glad that I crossed their path—to see a little bit of Jesus in me," she said. "And any kind of impact, however small it may be on you personally, can impact somebody else for good."

FFV, 2009, Issue 1

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PRAY, asking God for the wisdom to see others as He sees them and for boldness to reach beyond your comfort zone to those in need.

LEARN about ways you can use your spiritual gifts and talents for Kingdom purposes.

SEEK opportunities to serve others in your church and community.

TELL others of the joy of showing sacrificial love in Jesus' name.

