

September 19, 2021

Community Aid In The Forest

by Warren Berkley

It is hard to imagine. Some trees not only communicate with each other, they help each other. I hadn't known this or thought of it, until our recent trip to Utah.

A dynamic illustration of this is the underground root network system of the "Quaking Aspen" Tree. When you look out into the forest you see individual trees. While they are grouped together, what you see is individual trees. Underneath the surface there is a root system connecting the group. If one tree has an abundant supply of nutrients, that thriving tree is able to share the nutrients with struggling trees. It is sometimes described as a compassionate system of communication.

Stronger trees "look after" the weaker trees. Weaker trees are able to "tell" the stronger trees that they need help. So, what you see isn't really independent trees but a group, a family, like a healthy church - where the strong help the weak and where the weak do not hesitate to seek the help of the more mature trees. Growth and longevity depends on the "fellowship" or unselfish generosity of the members.

This is what God built into His creation. These trees could not have lived without this "organic" system of mutual assistance and community aid. I do not believe this system of community aid could have slowly evolved (how could the trees have survived before the

system evolved?). God built this into nature in the beginning.

Likewise, God has ordained that this system of shared assistance be active in families and local churches. "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves." Rom. 15:1

Be Careful What You Say

By George Slover

He that covers a transgression seeks love; but he that repeats a matter separates very friends." (Prov. 17:19)

The Scriptures say a lot about loving your brother, about making sure that he comes first in your preferences, that he is accorded the kind of respect and honor he deserves, even when you disagree with him. It is true that we may need to correct the wrong done by my brother, but such is not a license for me to fuel my ego or bolster my reputation. Before criticizing carefully examine your motives. It's people who are important, not your own satisfaction.

Allow me to suggest three points to consider before you open your mouth. First, before you say something about someone, be sure it's true. It is dangerous to repeat unverified information. Second, before you say something about someone, examine the reason for saying it. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Don't

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our meeting with Mike Walls has been postponed.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

criticize before you know you can help". Third, before you say something about someone, remember how Jesus said, "Do unto to others as you would that they should do unto you." If you don't want your name slandered, don't be guilty of slandering others.

The tongue is hard to control. It requires tremendous concentration. However, if we fail to tame the tongue it can kindle all kinds of fires.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is at home and undergoing physical therapy.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments. He also has Covid.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams is back home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is ill with covid and has been taken to Seton Northwest.

Zola Fisher is still battling covid. They expect her to return home when her oxygen levels are stable.

Danny Crumley has covid.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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