

**April 21, 2024**

## Fellowship Is Fundamental

*by Ken Weliever*

Don Graham tells a story about Linda, a young woman, who was traveling alone up the rutted and rugged highway from Alberta to the Yukon.

Linda didn't know you don't travel to Whitehorse alone in a rundown Honda Civic, so she set off where only four-wheel drives normally venture.

The first evening she found a room in the mountains near a summit and asked for a 5 A.M. wake up call so she could get an early start. She couldn't understand why the clerk looked surprised at that request, but as she awoke to early morning fog shrouding the mountain tops, she understood. Not wanting to look foolish, she got up and went to breakfast. Two truckers invited Linda to join them, and since the place was so small, she felt obliged.

"Where are you headed?" one of the truckers asked.

"Whitehorse."

"In that little Civic? No way! This pass is dangerous in weather like this."

"Well, I'm determined to try," was Linda's gutsy response.

"Then I guess we're just going to have to hug you," the trucker suggested.

Linda drew back. "There's no way I'm going to let you touch me!"

"Not like THAT!" the truckers chuckled. "We'll put one truck in front of you and one in the rear. That way, we'll get you through the mountains."

All that foggy morning Linda followed

the two red dots in front of her and had the reassurance of a big escort behind as they made their way safely through the mountains.

"Caught in the fog in our dangerous passage through life," Don observed, "we need to be 'hugged.' With fellow Christians who know the way and can lead safely ahead of us, and with others behind, gently encouraging us along, we, too, can pass safely."

Fellowship, one of the most fundamental aspects of our faith, is perfectly illustrated in this story.

Oh, we could cite the Greek word, *koinonia* and the scholars definition as "sharing in common, joint participation, and communion."

We could list the 14 New Testament verses that speak of our fellowship as a spiritual relationship and exegete each one.

We could further describe fellowship with words like association. Intimacy. Partnership. Community. Comradeship. Companionship. Commonality. And togetherness.

We could reference the importance of fellowship as Luke describes the Jerusalem Christians who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Ac. 2:42, ESV).

We could illustrate and apply fellowship as...

...Contributing to the needs of the saints.

## 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

**Ladies' Class** - Tuesday, April 23 at 10 a.m.

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

(Rom 12:13)

...Extending hospitality (Ac 2:46).

...Sharing your faith (Phile 6).

...Mutual participation during the Communion service as we focus on Christ death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor 10:16-17).

...Enjoying Divine association with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14)

...Walking together in the light of the Lord and receiving cleansing from our sins (1 John 1:7)

...Weeping with those who weep; and rejoicing with those who rejoice (Rom 12:15).

...Sharing in the suffering of Christ together, while knowing we will be partakers together of His glory (1 Pet 5:1).

All of this and more speaks to the importance our fellowship in the Body of Christ. Yet, its most basic application and fundamental purpose is "hugging" one another through life's fog and its treacherous trek as we journey from earth to heaven.

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson's** had a very good report this week. The tumor is almost completely gone & no more suspicious things in his scan. His blood work was excellent

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is at home and still on constant oxygen.

**Debbie McMurray** has received good test results but is still under treatment.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister's home

**Lisa Trammel** has been hospitalized due to dehydration, malnutrition and pain. She has improved a little and should be sent home soon.

*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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