

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Roxann Goodwin
Missionary to
Outreach To
Asian Nationals
Please Contact Her at
roxann@mailbox20.org



Transforming Your Service

When I was home one Christmas with my family, we watched movies of when I was a child. One clip was a Christmas morning where my five sisters and I ran into the living room filled with gifts. Each of us ran to our stack of toys and began to open boxes and take out everything from skates to a BB gun.

Like children running to open their gifts on Christmas morning, followers of Jesus should have the same anticipation and excitement to unwrap their spiritual gifts. God is a gift-giving God. He does not give simply to secure our eternal relationship with Him, but He gives the gift of salvation and spiritual gifts so we can participate in what He is doing to redeem people to Him.

Every Christian needs to know that "to receive God's grace for salvation is to receive God's gift for service." Jesus did not pay the price of a crucifixion death so we can sit happily at home with a remote control in our hand or so we can have the latest "Fast and Furious" version of a Honda Civic. Jesus paid the price so we could have a life of eternal purpose for His glory. He gave each one of us a gift of His Spirit in order to be a functioning member of his body, the church. Spiritual gifts are like parts of a body.

1. **Every part belongs and has a reason for being in the body.** Paul, the missionary, used this analogy: The eye can't say to the ear that because it is not an eye, it doesn't belong to the body (1 Cor. 12:14-16). No, if the whole body were an eye, no one would smell anything! So, no matter the gift God has given you, you belong to the body of Christ. No one can say you don't belong.

2. **Every part needs the other parts.** Again, Paul reminds us that the eye (who must be pretty proud of himself because he keeps telling the others they aren't needed) can't say to the hand, "I don't need you." If that were true, you could see the food but couldn't get it to your mouth. An eye without a hand would be a disadvantage. No, the eye and hand need each other.

Even those parts that seem less important are necessary for the health of the body (1 Cor. 12:24-25). For example, although the thyroid gland is small and unseen, if it gets sick, the whole body gets sick. You can't say to anyone in your group "We don't need you." God has made it clear that everyone who is part of the church has a useful function—even if you can't see that clearly.

3. **Spiritual gifts contribute to the body.** Your gift is to be used in order to help the body of Christ function in the world. For example, the spiritual gift of service is the hand of Christ in the world. People with this gift perform acts of service that demonstrate God's love to others. Their service may take the form of setting up chairs in the youth center to carrying food to a family in need. Another example is the gift of exhortation or encouragement that can be viewed as the arm of the church that you put around those who are discouraged or need someone to walk alongside them.

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:4

“ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 12:3-8

Introduction

1. What gifts has God given you to use in the body of Christ?
2. If you knew you wouldn't fail, what is one way you would like to serve God this year?

Tuesday: Romans 12:3; Titus 3:5-8

Think Soberly About Yourself And Your Service

3. Last week we studied renewing our minds. How does having a renewed mind help us serve the body of Christ?
4. What does it mean to not think of yourself more highly than you should? How should you think of yourself?

Wednesday: Romans 12:4-5; Colossians 3:15-17

Body of Christ

5. What does it mean to you to be part of the body of Christ?
6. Practically speaking how can we be one body and members of one another at Capital?

Thursday: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11

Use Your Gifts

7. What is the importance of using the gift God has given you within the body of Christ?
8. 1 Peter 4:10 refers to the use of your gift as a stewardship. How well are you using your gifts?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

The Body of Christ Needs You

9. Who determines what spiritual gift you have and what part of the body of Christ you are?
10. Why is it important to acknowledge every part or every act of service as important?
11. Our topic next week is Transforming Your Relationships (Romans 12:9-21). How can realizing that every part of the body is important transform your relationships at Capital?