

## 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

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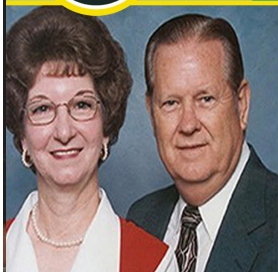
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## MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Charles & Jurdlean Strong | Mexico



### PRAISE

- For safety from recent violence by the drug cartels.

- For a successful Bible School in early August, there were over 70 in attendance and 24 were saved.

### PRAY

- The ongoing violence and crime in Mexico with drug cartels, stealing vehicles, shooting, killing.

- For the outreach to families of children who attended Bible School.

- For the pastor’s wife, Diane, she seems to be doing great and recovering. She has a follow-up visit soon.



Handout: 05/12/24

Study Date: 05/19/24

## Greet One Another

Reading Romans 16 reminds me of a tradition my family had growing up on New Year’s Day. My mom would cook corned beef and cabbage, which is a meal we didn’t eat any other time of the year (because it is gross). But on New Year’s, it was my favorite meal of the year because my mom put little coins in it the cabbage for us to find. Maybe the money symbolized prosperity for the year. Maybe it was a culinary parable about the value of an agrarian lifestyle. Maybe my mom made the whole thing up.

But I digress. Like I said, Romans 16 reminds me of that cabbage and coins.

The long list of names in Romans 16 may seem like a random and strange way to close one of the most powerful books of the Bible. It’s “cabbage” for most people, essentially like the credits at the end of a movie. You don’t watch the credits unless someone has told you they’re followed by a secret scene or some bloopers.

But tucked among all the “cabbage” of those names are some awesome gospel-coins.

We don’t know much about most of the 26 individuals Paul lists, but what these names do reveal is that the early church was remarkably diverse. They may sound strange to us, but they reveal unity-in-diversity in three areas:

Some of the names are Jewish, and some are Gentile; they are from the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

Having Jews and Gentiles together in one church gave rise to all kinds of cultural and political problems, which Paul dealt with repeatedly in Romans. You have to wonder if it would have been easier just to plant two separate congregations, like it would be easier today to do church by ethnicity.

Paul knew that these believers demonstrating unity in one church was an important gospel witness. When we really believe that today, then we do not merely host multi-ethnic events. We live multi-ethnic lives. Multi-ethnic unity on the weekends comes from multi-ethnic friendship throughout the week.

Some of the people were of considerable means, like Aristobulus and Narcissus, both of whom are said to have been the head of a “household” or estate. Some believe Aristobulus to be the grandson of Herod the Great, and Paul recognizes Erastus as the city treasurer. Other names, like Rufus and Urbanus, were common slave names. Yet in the church in Rome, they all sat together as equals.

That’s what is behind Paul’s command in Romans 16:16: “Greet one another with a holy kiss” (CSB). The emphasis is on the word “holy,” which means a kiss like that on the cheek was a sign of equality and friendship. In the early church, royalty and slave met together as equals.

Resource: churchleaders.com

## KEY3VERSE

Romans 16:16 (NKJV)

*“Greet one another with a holy kiss. The Churches of Christ greet you”*

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: I Corinthians 16:19; I Peter 5:14**

#### Greet One Another Passionately

1. When YOU first came to your church did you feel you were greeted *“heartily in the Lord”* (I Corinthians 6:19)? If so have you passed it on?
2. I Peter 5:14 is instructing us on how we should present ourselves to one another. So what’s our game plan for implementing this every Sunday?

**Tuesday: Genesis 1:26-27; Proverbs 18:24a**

#### Greet One Another Promptly And Proactively

3. Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that God created man and woman in His image. What does this say about our value as human beings and our importance?
4. Proverbs 18:24 says *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly.”* What is this teaching us about taking the initiative when meeting people?

**Wednesday: III John 14; Romans 16**

#### Greet One Another Personally

5. In Romans 16 Paul greets 35 people by name. Can you name 35 at church?
6. III John 14 makes the statement that we are to *“Greet the friends by name.”* What system can we use to help us remember everyone from church?

**Thursday: Galatians 3:28; James 2:2-4; James 2:8-9**

#### Greet One Another Politely

7. Galatians 3:28 tells us that no matter what nationality, social status or sex we are, we are to demonstrate whose character to one another?
8. If we make a habit of discriminating against certain people as James 2:2-4 suggests what ultimately shall we become according to verse 4?
9. What warning does James 2:9 give us in regard to *“showing partiality”* ?

**Friday: Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; Matt. 26:48-49; Gal. 2:9**

#### Greet One Another Properly

10. I Corinthians 16:20 and Romans 16:16 instruct the people to *“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”* What is a proper greeting in today’s world?
11. In Galatians 2:9 Paul and Barnabas are greeted with the *“right hand of fellowship.”* Are YOU regularly offering this greeting to those you meet?