

Coffs Encourager

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Nambucca, Port Macquarie,
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CWA Hall, 3 Dalley St. Coffs Harbour Worship-Sunday 10am, Study-Tuesday 7pm

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SHARING TRUCKS & ROADWORKS

by Marvin Ancell

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When I was a child back home, mum and dad had a full on concern that the four of us kids would share with one another. We were to look at everything from the perspective of 'family' and to share with one another every element of that whole side of our lives.

Once, when I was younger, much younger, the three of us boys were playing 'trucks' we each had one and we were making roads in the dirt field across from the house. We made an extensive set of roads, we even had a mine to go to get more 'ore' and the tailing from that mine were used on our roads. It was great fun. But we had only one truck that could carry dirt from the mine to the new road construction and I wanted it to finish my latest project. Bill had it and he was just driving around, not building anything at the moment, but making lots of noise and going everywhere. It just wasn't fair.

I wanted that truck to do something 'beneficial' with and he had it. "Don't fight and don't argue boys!!" This was the last message we had had from mum that morning and she meant it! It was going to be a challenge. What to do? As I was waiting on inspiration and or opportunity, I began to make louder and louder noise and do some amazing things with the tractor that we had. Bill saw it, and brought the dump truck over and offered me a swap. What luck! I could get the dump truck and not have a fight or an argument. It was perfect. Or was it?

For some reason, known only to a kid of 6 long agonizing years, I turned him down and kept on with the tractor. It drove Bill mad with envy and raised me to unexpected heights of joy. He tried again. I refused again. He went back and just sat there for a while, -and then tried again. I accepted and he was happy, and so was I. I got my road finished, in the proper way, with a dump truck, and he began to build an extension onto our already large set of road works.

Unknown to us, mum had been watching this all unfold and she told dad. We were real curious why they were laughing at us when we came in for supper. Years later they told us and it remains a good story from our childhood.

It was a story of the obedience of youngsters, of family values practiced, and of a cunning lesson learned, -I think. One way or another, I always had the dump truck after that and Bill always had the tractor and he ploughed for me and I hauled for him. Even today, Bill's favourite farm tool is the tractor, and mine is the dump truck. *(Mum saved them both, tractor and dump truck, until we were adults.)*

What can we do if we all practiced the rule of sharing and working out of our problems and difficulties with a sense of a win-win sort of solution? It would be a more peaceful world and families would be far more central to our general world out look. We would be able to look out at to where others are at in their lives and to see ways in which we could encourage them to join in with us in the larger picture of relationships. It would benefit everyone if we were to work in such a fashion.

Yes, my analogy is based on a bit of greed and self-centeredness, but it was a growing step in the greater good of

learning to look to see what others were doing and to look for ways to encourage them to join in with us, in common goals and in common efforts. Dad once remarked to my mum that we had at least made a kilometre, a good half mile, of roads in that dirt, complete with mines, farms, towns, and one local car garage and tea house that my sister ran.

The church, as one major point of application, is a family, and we should treat it as a big extended family, with all members of that family being important and valuable to ever other member. There is no place for the 'big me and the little you' in a true family.

Yes, we should make room for others, as they make room for us. This means that we should be working at building common ground and seeking common times together. It is what makes the vast army of kids trucks work together as one. The bible says that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, that we are to stir one another up to love and good works. That is a communal enterprise where everyone has a truck and they all work together to build a bigger road network. It is this common time of encouragement, sharing, and love that builds a family and it will also build a strong church.





PURPOSE OF THE HEART P. Tickner

'Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart' . . .
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Many people are trying to shortcut their way through life. It doesn't work. That doesn't mean a person must choose to make things more difficult than they should be. Going the long way around the block does not necessarily make the trip worth it. Neither does trying to shortcut life produce what we desire.

The problem with many people is neither the shortcut or the long way around. Their mistake is at the very start of the journey. It has to do with one's purpose. An awful lot of life's activity is taken up by things that have no purpose. I have heard a lot of people make this statement: "I didn't intend for that to happen." I'm sure they are telling the truth. They never meant for whatever failure, bad thing, set back, or trouble to occur. For the most part, it never dawned on them that such negative results would happen.

But if you want to stun people, ask this question: "Exactly what did you intend to happen?" Frequently, you'll get a blank stare. They never really intended anything. They were living without purpose, going through the motions, but not really living. When Paul discussed giving in 2 Corinthians, he understood that the only way the Corinthians could achieve success is if they acted out of purpose. His statement in 2 Cor 9:7 drew on one of the important principles of life that we should all know. Purpose something in your heart and it becomes a driving force moving us to succeed. Why had the Corinthian Christians not fulfilled their pledge to collect the funds under discussion in Paul's letter? Had they intended that a year or more go by without collecting the funds? Probably

not. But what did they intend to happen? Without purpose, there is no intention. We use a common phrase in our excuse mode that pleads intentionality. The Corinthians might have said, "Well, we intended to collect that money." Really? It was probably far more accurate to state the negative. "We didn't intend to go a year and still have no money collected." That's far more true.

It is doubtful that they actually had purposed in their hearts to do anything. That's why Paul laid out the principle of success. The purpose principle applies to far more things than giving money. What's your purpose in life? What's your purpose as a follower of Jesus? What's your purpose when it comes to membership in the church? Can you state your purpose in each of these areas? Are you constantly finding yourself making the negative statement about what you never intended to happen? If so, you need to turn it around. The purpose of your heart will lead you closer to God's will, or further from it. The purpose of your heart will move you to grow, learn, develop, and mature in the specific direction of God's will, or you will stagnate or regress into something less. Purpose gives meaning to life. Lack of it produces a life without meaning. Find your purpose. You will never regret it.

LESSONS TITANICA by Satish Samuel

Everyone knows the story of the SS Titanic. The ship was built in Southampton, England and was being sailed to New York in 1912. It was one of the largest vessels to ever sail the seas: -massive, -powerful, -unsinkable; a monument to its makers.

Unfortunately, as we all remember, the ship wasn't able to reach New York, due to a run-in with an iceberg. It sank on its maiden voyage. Many people died. Until it was in the sea, it was okay, magnificent even. But when it cracked open as a result of the collision, water came in and it lost buoyancy and sank.

This reminds us of the illustration that says that we are like boats in the water. The boat is in the water, but the water really shouldn't be in the boat, for obvious reasons. The boat is made for being in the water. That is its place and its purpose. But the water needs to stay on the outside of the boat. We live in a sea that surrounds us. We were created to live in that sea, but it is not good when the sea gets inside of us. We spit out sea water, it is not good to drink and too much is deadly. This we all know and recognize.



A man named John, a long time ago, referenced another man who taught John, "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of The Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from The Father, but is from the world. This world will pass away, as will all of its lusts, but the one who loves The Father, lives forever." This is found in 1 John 2:15-17.

When we live a life that is not open to the in-rushing sea, our ship of life is safe, but when we have our hull opened up to the sea, the sea and all of its bad side will come in and we will get sunk. Difficult situation to be in, isn't it? We are made to live in this life, not in a monastery, but that where we live is the danger to which we must be aware and prepared. We all face challenges and troubles, every day. But there is a hope, and the person who handed you this newsletter, has some answer that will help keep the dangerous waters of life out of your ship of state. Turn your mind to God, The Father.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

