

We Commend To You the Following People

by Bryan Gibson

The New Testament writers commended a number of different Christians for the good they did—people like Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2), Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39), Aquila and Priscilla (Romans 16:3-4), Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30), and Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16-18)—just to name a few. We would like to commend the following present day Christians, for these two reasons: to encourage them to keep up the good work (Galatians 6:9), and to encourage others to imitate them (Philippians 3:17; 3 John 1:11).

The names have been changed to spare these people embarrassment, because they're much too humble to ever commend themselves.

Bill works a full time job, but he still finds time for Bible study. He teaches Bible classes regularly and he preaches whenever and wherever he is needed. He's not paid to do it; he does it because he sees a need.

Jack studies as diligently as Bill does, but he doesn't have the same ability. He doesn't teach or preach, at least not publicly, but he does all he can. He invites people to the assemblies of the church; he visits the sick; he goes to funerals; he and his wife have people in their home; he volunteers for work around the church building, and a number of other things that often go unnoticed.

Marissa gets meal lists together—she gets people to volunteer to cook meals for families who temporarily may be unable to do it themselves. They may have a new baby in the house, a prolonged illness, a recent surgery, etc. Rather than ask, "Is there anything I can do?" she just goes ahead and does it.

Susie is a young Christian who enjoys being around people her age, but she still cares about her elderly brothers and sisters in Christ. She visits them with her parents; she sends cards to them; she talks to them before or after worship; and she prays for them.

Betty is an elderly Christian, but she's very concerned about her younger brothers and sisters in Christ, especially the teenagers. She commends them for the good they do; she encourages them to remain faithful to the Lord; she occasionally attends their school functions and their ball games—just anything to let them know that she cares about them.

Joanie teaches a class of 4 and 5 year olds. She understands how impressionable these young minds are, how eager they are for knowledge, so she fills their mind with the word of God. It's no surprise that many of the young ones she taught in the past have now become Christians.

The Jacksons, because they live in a college town, take a special interest in the college students. They encourage them in their spiritual duties; they invite them into their home; they feed them occasionally; and just in general provide a nice refuge from what can sometimes be a very unwholesome environment.

Carla, for very important spiritual reasons, doesn't want her children or any of the other teenagers in the church to participate in the high school dances. So what she does is organize what some refer to as a "prom alternative." The teenagers get to dress up and enjoy some much more wholesome activities.

Jeff and his wife, Melanie, pay special attention to those members who for whatever reason don't always get included. They understand that every member is important, and they don't want anyone to be left out.

Tom and Mary have already raised their children in the Lord, so now they turn their attention to those who have just started. They understand it's hard work, so they want to encourage these young parents to stay the course, to raise those young children to serve the Lord.

The Wilsons give generously on the first day of the week, but that doesn't mean they're through giving. They've been known to sacrifice certain parts of their lifestyle, just to be able to further support those who preach the gospel.

Anna is in bad health, confined to her home, so she can't do some of the things her fellow-Christians do. But what she can do is pray, and does she ever. She prays for the elders and deacons, for preachers everywhere, for the spread of the gospel, for the physical and spiritual welfare of all her fellow-Christians. It's hard to measure just how much good she does without even leaving her house.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, keep up the good work!