

Hello Orange Cove Church Family & Friends of Orange Cove,

Pastor's Weekly Letter: February 23, 2017 – "Vital Insignificance"

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Happy Thursday, February 23, 2017. Here are the **PowerAds** for Orange Cove Church for this coming week:

- This coming Sabbath Pastor André will share the morning message, "Finishing God's Work, Part 4."
- This coming Sabbath is an Outreach Sabbath. We will look at options for future outreaches.

This Week's Devotional – "Vital Insignificance"

Have you ever been tempted to see your contribution to the world as insignificant? Have you ever been tempted to see your contribution to your community as insignificant? Have you ever been tempted to see your contribution to the finishing of God's work as insignificant? Please resist the temptation to see your contribution to any of these sectors as insignificant. Why? Because every single contribution to the world, to a local community and to the finishing of God's work is absolutely vital.

How can we be certain that every contribution is vital? The bible renders a phenomenal analogy of how God ordained for His church to impact the world and for His work to be finished. This analogy is found in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26:

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Doesn't this analogy apply to our world, our community AND to the church and the finishing of God's work? Of course it does. Every one of us has a part to play. We are part of the human world-wide family, we are part of the human community-wide family and we are part of the human family of God. God calls each one of us to make a contribution in the area where we live, where we work and where we shop or relax. Obviously a body has its vital organs, and these vital organs could represent our families. Without healthy vital organs, the extremities of the body can't perform their functions. In the same way, when there is dysfunction in any family unit, the members of that family can't contribute to their world, their community or their church and to the finishing of God's work.

Have you stubbed your littlest toe? Really stubbed it hard? The pain is excruciating, right? It becomes difficult to walk or to even think straight. In the same way, when the person who thinks their contribution is insignificant is hurt, the whole body suffers. Every act of kindness, every caring smile, every compassionate effort on behalf of someone else helps to make the world a better place, helps to make a local community a better place and helps to make God's church a better place and finish His work.

Jesus spent more time doing good and meeting people's needs than He did preaching and teaching. Jesus lived the character of His Father in practical terms. He did seemingly insignificant things that had huge ripple effects in the world, in His local community, in God's church and for the finishing of God's work.