

Hello Orange Cove Church Family & Friends of Orange Cove,

**Pastor's Weekly Letter: February 1, 2017 – "Acting Like Jesus"**

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Happy Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Here are the PowerCues for Orange Cove Church for this coming week:

- This coming Sabbath Pastor André will share the morning message.
- The Interest & Art Group will meet in the Learning Center at 1:30pm after the fellowship luncheon.
- "Dinner With a Doctor" – You are invited to enjoy a free supper while Dr June Gentle speaks on better living.

**This Week's Devotional – "Acting Like Jesus"**

Bruce Marchiano acted the role of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, part of Visual Bible movie series. Bruce portrays a Jesus filled with joy and completely at peace throughout His life on earth. The Visual Bible series centers each of the movie scenes according the exact wording from the bible. The actors literally recite 'word-by-word,' from the first to the last chapter of a book from the bible. So Bruce Marchiano had to memorize long passages from the bible and reflect what he believed to be Jesus' actions and attitudes when He walked on this earth.

In his book, "In the Footsteps of Jesus," Bruce describes how overwhelming it was to act the role of Jesus. He had to spend hours in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to him how Jesus would have reacted amidst ridicule, how Jesus would have responded to a request for healing, or how Jesus would have replied when asked a difficult question. There were times when Bruce had to take a time-out from the movie set and ponder and pray over the script he was about to act out. What a phenomenal challenge he had—acting like Jesus.

The point here today is this—Shouldn't all Christians be acting like Jesus? Isn't the role Bruce Marchiano took on as acting Jesus in the Visual Bible the role that all Christians are taking on? The answer is 'Yes,' they/we are. Do not be overwhelmed or bowled over by this fact. Jesus Himself declared that He could do 'nothing by Himself. He could only do what He saw His Father doing.' John 5:19. Jesus laid His Divine Powers aside, took on our fallen human nature and came to this earth as the 'Son of Man.' His mission was to reveal His Father's character to this world. What an overwhelming challenge this was.

Knowing that He could do nothing by Himself, how did Jesus end up living a sinless life and reflect His Father's character without fail? The bible tells us that "*in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*" Mark 1:35. If Jesus reflected His Father's character by spending many hours in His Father's presence, how are we to act like Jesus and reflect His character? We are also to spend many hours in His presence. Just like Bruce Marchiano had to take time out and pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to him how to talk and act like Jesus, so we should take time out to seek the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to us.

How often do we as Christians act independently of the Holy Spirit in our day to day interactions and dealings, whether at home, at work/school, or at church? How often do we carry the title 'Christian,' but we talk and act like we talk and act, which is far, far from what Jesus would talk and act like? Do we even realize how far from acting like Jesus we are? Why don't we take on the role of acting like Jesus, one day

at a time? The words of the beautiful hymn, "The Beauty of Jesus," should be our daily prayer as we accept our part of acting like Jesus on the stage of day to day life:

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All His wonderful passion and purity; O Thou Spirit divine, May I truly be Thine, Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.*

*Let my wonderful Savior be seen in me, His amazing compassion and constancy; His great love is my goal, By His Spirit's control Till me wonderful Savior be seen in me.*

*Let the fruit of the Spirit be seen in me, Grant me grace all sufficient that I may be True and faithful each day, Ev'ry step of the way. Pointing souls to the Savior on Calvary.*

Pastor André

Orange Cove Church