

April 2017

The Apostle Paul wrote two letters to Timothy with many instructions for the Church. Amazingly, in forty-two years of ministry, I have never heard other preachers or teachers use these letters for sermons or lessons. Where should the Church be today? These letters give us the photo of what a healthy church looks like - A FAMILY THAT INCLUDES ALL AGES.

One issue Paul addressed is the need for balance in our Christian walk. Paul says: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

The problems in the church today can be defined by this passage. We have the "Experiential-ist" (Feelers) and the "Bible Thumper-ist" (self explanatory). Paul says that our life and doctrine are equal.

How do we define *life*? This is the outcome of obedience to God's Word, the fruit bearing. Walking the talk. How God expects us to live as we follow His Son. The doctrine is the Biblical teaching as to who God is through God's plan for the salvation of man through Jesus Christ. A broader definition can surely be given, but the gist is our responsibility is to obey and live by God's commands.

A question arises as to why we are such pendulum swingers. Why can't we just do what God has instructed and commanded us to do? Unfortunately, people react to things they don't like by swinging in the opposite direction. Instead of finding the balance, we camp to the extreme left or extreme right. We see this ever so blatantly exemplified in the political realm today. The latest Supreme Court judge nominee is being rejected by the left due to his practice of ruling by the law rather than by "feelings."

Too often a church is made up of those who are Bible Thumper-ist, who are straight as a gun barrel with their doctrine, but just as empty as the gun barrel with their Christian life. They seldom express the love of Christ or exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit. They are very judgmental of others and quick to give directions to those who don't think like they do. In the opposite corner we have those who base most everything they do on their feelings. They give little regard for the plan of salvation; they believe it is different for everyone. They are usually involved with the PC crowd because they would never want to hurt someone's feelings. They seldom reference the Bible, but will use it when it fits their purpose. I listened to a sermon once where the speaker actually said, "we do not let doctrine get in the way of our ministry." Can you imagine Jesus saying this? His whole ministry was teaching and living

what He taught. Both inhabit our churches today and that I believe is why we are in such conflict.

These are the extreme views and I thank God there are those who are truly seeking the balance of doctrine and life. These two ways of thinking are ever present in the church today because those who go by feelings were turned off by those who were cold and hard, and those who are cold and hard are turned off by those who willingly teach falsely because it conflicts with what they believe. We cannot have the life until we accept and obey the doctrine, and we will not have the promises of the doctrine until we live the life. My late father-in-law put it this way in regards to life and doctrine: "When you are flying in a plane at 30,000 feet, which wing is more important - the left or the right?" Obviously they are equally important. Life is the direct result of trusting and obeying God's Word. Paul wrote: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Let us find the balance that God intends and quit swinging with the wind. The Church needs to be the shining example of our Lord to this very dark world in which we live.

THE PHILIPPINES

The trip to the Philippines was a great success as I found the ministry spreading and growing. Riza May Sumayop, our director on Negros Island is doing a tremendous job of planting the KFCI ministry. She has been very busy training new recruits and overseeing their progress. I arrived on February 3 to a full two-week schedule. Three rules for mission work always apply: 1. Be ready to teach, preach etc. when you land. 2. Eat everything that is put in front of you, (don't ask what it is?) 3. Be ready to die.

The day I arrived at Bacolod City I went with the KFCI team to walk through the neighborhood inviting children to the next days program at Hermelinda. It was very fruitful as 40 some children attended the program. We had a second program on that Saturday at Talisay-Carmela with 40 some in attendance there. The team did an excellent job in both places. At Hermlinda, Paul Wilson is using the KFCI ministry to prepare for starting a church in their neighborhood. The Wilsons started a school for leadership two years ago and they hope to begin a church near the school. The school Visayas School of Leadership graduated its second class in March of 2017 and the students are being trained to provide leadership in our churches and new churches as they are started. Paul has set a goal on Negros Island to double the number of churches by the year 2020. They want existing churches to broaden their

horizons and begin house churches in the different Barangay that make up their community. I am so glad that KFCI is a part of this plan as they are instrumental in getting to know the adults in their area through their children.

I spent a few days at the school and always appreciate the gracious hospitality of the Wilson's. I spoke at the school on two occasions and taught a class on children's ministry. I also had the opportunity to preach on Sunday morning at the Downtown Christian Church that is located in Bacolod City. That afternoon I spoke at a new church that is located in Bacolod East. The church is currently meeting in a restaurant and is experiencing great growth.

The 8th of February we began our journey south to Kabankalan where we met up with the preacher and several of the members from the Kabankalan Church of Christ. They have been going to one of the public High Schools in the area to share Christ with the students. Yes, I did say at a public school. This practice is welcome in the schools throughout the Philippines - I wish more churches would take advantage of this. We went with them and I was able to talk about the KFCI ministry at two different classes. I am so thankful the church is doing this and pray that great success will come of their ministry. I spoke that evening at one of our KFCI churches. I enjoyed my time there as I encouraged them in their work to reach children in the community. The next day we enjoyed a delicious meal at Bukana Jonah's Restaurant. Paul invited preachers and their wives to a special luncheon where I had the opportunity to speak about the KFCI ministry and encourage them to consider KFCI for their congregation. Paul shared his desire to double the number of churches by 2020 and also encouraged the churches to begin new works. The restaurant was the largest place I have ever seen, built with bamboo and positioned over a back bay. The main menu included oysters, shrimp, crab and many other sea creatures. The food was delicious and the fellowship was even greater. Glad to have oyster shuckers in our presence. That evening I spoke at the Kabankalan Church of Christ and once again encouraged them in the KFCI ministry. It was great to visit churches that are conducting our program and rejoice in their victories.

The next day we headed to Oriental that is the lower section of Negros Island. The Island is divided by a mountain range that contains a volcano and has a height of over 7,000 feet. I have traveled over this route several times and will never tire of its magnificent beauty. We arrived north of Dumaguette in the afternoon and unloaded the truck in one of our church buildings. Paul had a truck full of supplies for the area churches for their VBS programs. Later that afternoon, we loaded luggage and people into the truck and headed for a minister's and wives' retreat. This was a camping experience as well way up on a mountainside. A couple of years ago, Paul and I surveyed the area in order to start a church there. The retreat was wonderful as we shared in fellowship and worship. Paul presented his challenge for starting new churches and I shared about the KFCI ministry and how these two challenges

will work together. The cooperative attitude always impresses me as everyone pitches in and does all the things that need to be done to make this work. I'm always fascinated at how, with so little, a feast can be provided. That night Paul and I shared a tent and I must say it had been a very long time since I slept in a tent! Glad Paul had mats for us to sleep on.

That evening we went on to Dumaguette where we would stay for the next couple of days. On Sunday, I spoke at the Ajong Church of Christ (another KFCI ministry church) and that afternoon I spoke at a church that has been started by Ajong. It is located in San Jose ("do you know the way"). We had a wonderful time there and, as always, a great joy to meet my family members in Christ.

Monday morning we took the ferry over to Cebu Island and made our way up to Cebu Bible Seminary. We enjoyed time that evening with Larry and Mom Yo Carlson. They are faithful servants to the Kingdom and the earthly backbone of the college. Larry's Mom and Dad started the school in 1947 and the school has faithfully been graduating servants. Mom Yo opened a restaurant to help in the funding of the school and we had the privilege of eating at her establishment three times during our visit. On Tuesday, Riza and I led an all-day seminar on the KFCI ministry. We are hoping that the school will accept the challenge and start the ministry there. I have been invited to come back next year 2018 to speak at the Philippine National Christian Convention. They are hoping to also provide an avenue to introduce the KFCI ministry to all the attendees. The convention will be held in Cebu City and I am excited for the opportunity for the KFCI ministry. I spoke at the chapel service held on Wednesday morning and then caught a flight to Manila.

I arrived in Manila on schedule and made my way to my hotel. I had previously been in communication with Ruby Hermano, former director of KFCI at ICCM, and she and her family had planned to come and visit me at the hotel. I was in for a big surprise as a small KFCI reunion had been planned for me. Ruby had contacted several former KFCI people to come to the hotel. There were 10 in all and two from the original team that goes back 10 years. We had a delightful evening as we shared memories and made plans for a reunion next year to be held at ICCM. We moved our reunion to a McDonalds near the hotel and spent a wonderful evening together. This event was the icing on the cake for my Philippine trip. Very excited about next year's adventure with much scheduled during my time in the Philippines, that is if the Lord wills it.

INDIA

I had a very productive visit in Bangalore for the few days I was there. It was very different not being met by Abraham at the airport and staying with he and Mercy this time. He is so missed by the KFCI ministry.

I am very grateful to a friend of ours who we know from our days in church camp. Sandy (Anderson) Quant introduced me to a wonderful couple who live in Bangalore. Dr. Dam Harry

and his wife met me at the airport and graciously took me to my hotel. All flights in and out of the airport arrive and depart in the late and wee hours of the night. It was after 1:00 AM when I met up with them and it was well after 2:00 AM when we arrived at the hotel. I did not have time to be with them over my stay there but was very grateful they were able to attend the meeting.

We still need for a new director but are very glad that the leaders have decided to work together as a team to lead the ministry until a director is found. We had a meeting on Saturday evening that was well attended with many new faces interested in what we are doing. Rachel Jayvanth was a huge help as she directed me where to stay and set up the meeting by making all the arrangements. Rachel's brother works at the hotel and he made sure all my needs were met. Jeffrey Jesuraj, one of our early trainees is still working hard with KFCI and he suggested that we use the KFCI Face Book page to keep in touch and to report what is happening with the individual ministries. I think this is an excellent idea and I am striving to see that this happens. I recently heard from Jeffrey and he informed me that he and Rachel plan to conduct training for all the newbies that attended the meeting. They are working out the details and will report back on the progress. This is exciting news to me as I was considering a second trip this year for that purpose. We covet your prayers in securing a Director to lead and instruct.

The political atmosphere is not good, as the Hindu religion has gotten a boost through their new Prime Minister. Just recently it was made a life sentence for killing a cow. Many of you know that persecution has increased against Christians and this new revival of Hinduism has made the climate very dangerous. Ajay Loll lost one of his workers back last year as he was tortured and then murdered. Prayers for Christians is much needed and for the evangelization of this country.

Financial

We appreciate the financial support we receive and always welcome new contributors. Your contributions go towards our living expenses, support to the ICCM KFC team, support to Riza and travel expenses.

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in the bottom right hand corner, type in Kids for Christ International, a list will pop up, choose Kids for Christ International, Reading PA. Then whenever you order Amazon products through this site, .05% will be donated to KFCI.

Personal Notes

A busy year is at hand with several trips planned that involve much driving and possible trips outside the US as well. I am still considering going to Uganda and a possible trip back to Liberia.

My quartet has a couple of dates planned after a year of not being together. We will be at the Cornerstone Church of Christ in Chambersburg, PA May 7 and in June will be in a revival at the Waterford Church of Christ in Ligonier, PA. Jim Book is the evangelist for this tent meeting and the Allegiance Quartet will provide the music.

I will have the opportunity to give a KFCI update at two of our supporting churches in Chambersburg and Waterford, Pennsylvania. I will go from Chambersburg in May to Philadelphia where I will spend some time with Bruce Wunderley. Bruce is a big supporter of KFCI and a very close friend. I hope to touch base with the Levittown Christian Church and am scheduled to speak on May 14 at the Hunterdon Christian Church; they are also supporters of the ministry.

I am serving as the president of the Bridgeton Kiwanis Club this year and I do consider it a privilege. If you are not familiar with the Kiwanis Club, you should be. It is a civic club focused on improving the lives of children, thus why I am involved. This position has kept me busy and I will serve until the end of September. Our club meets once a week and we are involved in many activities in the community.

The Asian trip I made in February took me to my fourth time to circumnavigate the globe. I am so thankful to be doing Kingdom work that benefits the lives of many around the globe and am humbled at what all God has done and continues to do.

Thanks so much for your prayers and continued support. God is blessing this ministry through you and we are so grateful for our relationship with you in God's Kingdom.

Chuck and Carolyn



KFCI PROGRAM AT HERMELINDA



KABANKALAN WITH BLESS



MINISTERS AND WIVES RETREAT



PAUL WILSON – TUCKERED OUT



NICE MOTEL – DEFINITELY MOBILE



GREAT LOCATION



WONDERFUL SINGING



KFCI TEAM AT AJONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



TRAINING SEMINAR AT CEBU BIBLE SEMINARY



RIZA

