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Subject: To our Colleagues in Personnel
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To our Colleagues in Personnel...

1) This monthly "resource tool" is designed to provide encouragement for personnel workers in ministry-related areas. If you would like to be removed from the list (or a friend would like to be added), please let me know... kenroyer@linkcare.org or kenroyer@aol.com.

2) Link Care's Program of Restoration and Personal Growth has openings. If we may come alongside and consult or help by providing counseling services, don't hesitate to contact us.

3) "Building Skills for Member Care with Excellence" (Jan. 9-13, 2012) – We are pleased to extend our special offer ($50 reduction to $600 total) to all applicants. YES, it looks like we'll have a good quantity of participants and the conference is definitely "on." We'd LOVE to have you with us! Please write for info.

4) Last night Mary and I saw the movie Courageous. The message is outstanding in challenging men to be Godly! We recommend it.

For this month's "tool" ... with permission to share the following, we're calling upon our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Lareau Lindquist, Founder of Barnabas Int'l for his insights on Chrysanthemums. (I'm pleased to serve on the Barnabas Int'l Board). Geographically, in the Northern Hemisphere, the nights are getting longer, and the flowers are about to give their fall colors! Enjoy...

Don ' t Forget the Chrysanthemums

By Lareau Lindquist,
Founder,
Barnabas International

I still often think of an early Sunday morning conversation I had at the Airport Day's Inn in Los Angeles, California. It was about 6:00 a.m. when I stepped into the restaurant for a light breakfast. There was one other customer there. He was seated at the next table. As we waited for breakfast to be served, we talked with each other.

He was a botanist and his specialty was flowers; to be even more specific, his specialty

was chrysanthemums. In fact he traveled the world giving lectures on chrysanthemums.

He was pleased to know that Evie and I had some chrysanthemums in our garden. I asked him a question: "What should I know about them that I maybe do not yet know?" Here's his answer: "Chrysanthemums do best when they have long, dark nights . . . the darker the night, the brighter the bloom."

I took out my pen and paper and wrote it down. He was surprised that I wrote it down. He said, "Usually my audiences don't get that excited when I tell them that." I said to him, "I really like that distinctive about chrysanthemums, because I am a preacher and that will preach."

Indeed that will preach. It still does preach. If chrysanthemums prosper through dark nights, so much truer yet we Christians, too, can do very well as a result of our long, dark nights. Yes . . . such times can make us more beautiful, more attractive, and more effective than we ever were before those long, dark nights.

The Apostle Paul often writes about tough times. In Romans 8, he mentions a phrase, ***all things***, three times between verses 28–29. Here they are:

1. We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Verse 28)

2. God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things. (Verse 32)

3. In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Verse 37)

What is Paul referring to, when he three times mentions ***all things?*** He answers this question in verse 35. These ***all things*** are mentioned as including ***trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger*** and ***sword***, referring to death in the next verse, 36, as quoted in Psalm 44:22 . . .

Let's take another look at these three verses as I paraphrase them.

• We can be absolutely convinced that God is always at work through our tough times. That's right, we know that in ***all things .*** . . not some . . . not many . . . not most . . . but He is at work in ***all things.*** And He is working to bring something good out of it all. In His own way, and in His timing, it will happen. (Verse 28).

• God the Father didn't even keep his Son, Jesus, from going through tough times; indeed **very tough times.** Nor will He keep you and me from experiencing a variety of tough times. (Verse 32)

• Praise God, ***in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*** Because Jesus was, and is, our conqueror, He allows us victoriously to go through anything and everything. Yes . . . again, not mopingly, not barely, but victoriously. **Whatever, whenever,**

wherever . . . (Verse 27).

Don't forget the chrysanthemums.