

January, 2011

To our Colleagues in Personnel...

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you! Can it be that another year is already here? Perhaps this will be the year of our Lord's return... even so, "Come Lord Jesus."

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@aol.com or kenroyer@linkcare.org.

We appreciate your prayers for the conference "Building Skills for Member Care with Excellence," to be held at Hume Lake next week, Jan. 10-14, 2011. Although the group is small this year (16 including staff) -- probably a reflection of the tight economy -- we are praying and anticipating some of the best learning may result from small-group discussions. We sense that each one is here by God's appointment.

As we look to the New Year, here are a few thoughts...

Focus for 2011.....

.....Something to think about

As we enter a brand new year, I would like to share a burden on my heart -- stimulated by my own personal quiet times. In 2011, is it possible for us to really *pursue peace* and *personal holiness*?

Psalm 34:14-15 states this couplet so clearly,

"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry."

And Hebrews 12:14 (New Living Bible) adds...

"Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life: for those who are not holy will not see the Lord."

Focusing for the moment on *pursuing peace*, what would it be like to really apply this pursuit to

Family harmony?

Settling disagreements with neighbors?

Differences of opinion with loved ones at church?

Harmony in our ministries? Of course we work hard at our tasks -- but can we do more to encourage those around us?

Solutions at the international level. What part of fighting is really necessary? Could we have overlooked other possible solutions?

Here's the point: May we not forget that God has called us to *pursue* peace and has

promised a special blessing for the peace-makers. I'm impressed that in I Cor. 7 in Paul's discussion of family squabbles, verse 15 states so clearly, "*But God has called us to peace.*"

Now, in pursuing peace, of course we must not overlook sin. Illustration: What do Diotrephes, Demas, Alexander the coppersmith, and the Nicolaitans have in common? Certainly we remember -- these individuals were identified as those who stood in the way of the Gospel. Yes -- there is a time to warn against error and those who may be "wolves in sheep's clothing."

But back to the question: in the garden-variety of daily interactions, is there a way in which we may do more to *pursue peace*?

And secondly, turning our focus to *being holy*, here's my concern: we don't take seriously enough God's will for us to be holy in all we do. Do you remember when we used to sing that great hymn, Take Time to be Holy?

I remember the vivid impression on my mind while ministering in Bolivia 4 years ago. Above the platform were painted the words, "Santidad a Jeovah." What a great reminder to worship in holiness! God is holy! May we choose to live 100% for Him.

At this point I (Ken) must digress for a moment -- to offer an apology. In the last few days did you receive a spam message from me, looking something like <http://5starsupplier.com/zh123.html> bt4ahrj41 6wm vjho ex? Wow, I'm sorry! Here's what happened (to the best of my knowledge): Last Saturday when I tried to install a new router (wireless) for our home computer, there was a short period of time when the computer's protective firewall was down. It sure didn't take long for a "hacker" to attack our mail list and send spam to our friends!

As I've pondered this, I've wondered if there could be a spiritual lesson here? By God's grace, let's always keep our "spiritual guard" in place and in no way give the enemy a toe hold in our lives -- much more serious (of course) than computer spam. So to keep the firewall in place and the anti-virus functioning is pretty important! (In the meanwhile, I repeat -- I do apologize for the spam!)

Tying our thoughts together, some day let's plan to sing together around the Throne the praises of God from Revelation 15:3-4,

"Great and marvelous are your works,
 O Lord God, the Almighty
 Just and true are your ways,
 O King of the nations.
 Who will not fear you, Lord
 And glorify your name,
 For you alone are holy
 All nations will come and worship before you,
 For your righteous deeds have been revealed."

Amen!

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