

## What Do I Owe My Congregation?

I owe it my loyalty. I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation.

I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me. I must fully keep faith.

I owe it my financial support. It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contributions when absent.

I owe it my presence. If everyone stayed home there would be no church services. I am as responsible as anyone to attend all of its services. I must not be a parasite.

I owe it the influence of a godly life. The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be a blessing to others.

(Author Unknown)

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

## Types Of Members In The Church

Those who  
MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.

Those who  
WATCH THINGS HAPPEN.

Those who  
DON'T KNOW what is happening.

—  
"Those who can, do;  
Those who can't, criticize."

## What Prayer Does

Prayer amplifies our feelings,  
certifies our relationship,  
clarifies our desires,  
dignifies our Christianity.

Prayer exemplifies our commitment,  
fortifies our faith,  
identifies our needs,  
intensifies our emotions.

Prayer justifies our belief,  
magnifies our hopes,  
notifies our Father,  
nullifies our fears.

Prayer pacifies our worries,  
ratifies our conviction,  
sanctifies our lives,  
satisfies our longings.

Prayer signifies our thanksgiving,  
solidifies our duty,  
testifies our adoration,  
verifies our security.

Edd Sterchi, Campbellsville, KY  
*Bulletin Digest.com*

## THINK

I once formed a mutual encouragement fellowship at a time of stress in my life. The members subscribed to a simple formula applied before speaking of any person or subject that was perhaps controversial.

- T — Is it true
- H — Is helpful
- I — Is it inspiring
- N — Is it necessary
- K — Is it kind

If what I am about to say does not pass those tests, I will keep my mouth shut! And it worked!

- Alan Redpath [Adapted]

(The Encourager,  
Southside Church of Christ, Killeen, TX)

## OUTWITTED

*He drew a circle that shut me out —  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout;  
But love and I had the wit to win;  
We drew a circle that took him in!*  
- Edwin Markham (1852-1940)

Does your life portray Him, or betray Him?

## News & Notes

**CONFESSION:** Jenny Rhodes.

**SYMPATHY:** To the family and many friends of Gene West who passed away last week. Gene was born and raised in Chester and his parents were members of this congregation. He was a retired evangelist of the Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville, and also taught at the WV School of Preaching. He was well known up and down the Ohio Valley. He will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

**NEW CONVERT CLASS:** Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Resumes this Tuesday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m. Come and help in this good work. Ability to sew not necessary.

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY:** Resumes this Thursday, July 19th, 11:00 a.m. at the Brown's residence. All the ladies are invited to participate in this study.

**MEMBER VISITS:** Our Elders and Minister are making visits to get to know the members better. Schedule a visit here at the building or in your home by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Otherwise, expect an impromptu visit.

**PANTRY:** Macaroni & cheese.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME:** Charlie Delong, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **AUBURN NURSING HOME, SALEM, OH:** Jim Mick. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl. **IN CALIFORNIA:** Cindy Moore (Pat Allison's cousin).

## WHAT IF...

"I can't." "I won't." "I don't." These are the words that keep people from reaching their potential. There's no telling how different this world would be if people throughout the ages would not have lived up to their fullest potential.

Consider this: What if ... Michelangelo said, "I don't do ceilings." David said, "I don't do giants." Michael Jordan said, "I don't do basketball." Neil Armstrong said, "I don't do outer space." George Washington said, "I don't do revolutions." Henry Ford said, "I don't do cars." Walt Disney said, "I don't do mice." Paul said, "I don't do mission work." Thomas Edison said, "I don't do light bulbs." What if Jesus said, "I don't do crosses"?

Just think what a different world this would be. We have been blessed all because of a few individuals who chose not to say, "I don't," "I won't," and "I can't."

Now then, what was it you were saying you just can't/won't do? Give it some thought.

Steve Higginbotham Knoxville, TN (*Bulletin Digest.com*)