



The Relator

February 2017



*"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16*

Volume LXIX – EDITION 6



Cosma's Corner

6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.

What do soldiers, athletes, and farmers have in common?
Discipline.

First, you're a soldier. Recognize you're always in a war, and don't be surprised when you suffer. Expect it. Second, you're an athlete. You've got to play by the rules to win the prize. Third, you're a farmer. The guy who works the hardest gets to be in line first to get the fruit.

Soldiers go through drills day in and day out. They want to be battle ready. Athletes undergo strict training so they can compete in the race or on the team. Farmers work from the rising of the sun until it sets, patiently toiling in hope of a bountiful harvest. (Although the air-conditioned, GPS guided combine helps)

That's not all. Paul tells us to be "good soldier[s] of Christ Jesus". The Greek word for "good" is kalos which means noble or excellent. In other words, we're not to be just dutiful soldiers, we're to be excellent soldiers who lead a disciplined life so as to please our Commanding Officer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers in Jesus are to be like soldiers, athletes, and farmers. That's what the apostle Paul tells Timothy and us in **2 Timothy 2:3-6.**

And like an athlete going for the gold, we give ourselves over full-time to spiritual training. We're compelled to win, not just finish the race. We discipline ourselves and embrace hard years of effort so that we're the best we can be, honing the gifts and talents God has given us to His glory.

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. 5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

Additionally, Christians are to be like hardworking farmers. The adjective hardworking used here means to work to the point of exhaustion. Christians work hard because they trust in God's promises. He patiently works with us until success comes.

Remember that Jesus says with great expectation in the Sermon on the Mount that when you give takes discipline ... that when you pray takes discipline ... when you fast definitely takes discipline.

And during the month of February we are reminded often that when we love ... it takes discipline ... because love is thinking the best and doing the best to the point of self-sacrifice.

And remember ... our lives have a tendency to move in the direction of our strongest thoughts. So think about this: What kind of soldier, athlete, or farmer will you and I be?

From One Tri-Discipline or Try-Discipline Believer to Another

Love the LORD your God ...
and hold fast to him.



reflections..



God's Conversation Hearts!

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- **FOREVER:** God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- **TRUST ME:** "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- **SWEET TALK:** God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- **#1:** "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).



19	Bill & Missy Opsitnik
26	John & Chris Toalston



5th ... 8:00 am Trustees Mtg

12th ... 8:00 am Elders Mtg

February Calendar

13th ... 6:00 pm Annual Valentine's Day Dinner at the Shale in Lisbon. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next week. See Diana Reiter for more information.

19th ... 8:00 am Board Mtg

'Stitches and Giggles'

We will be meeting March 23 from 1-3. Spring will be here! Some of you have showed interest in making scrubbies, bring a K crochet hook and I'll show you how. Bring your project and I'll see you in March!
-Robin Heestand

The Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study Group's 2nd Annual Soup making will be held February 11th. We will be making vegetable soup. Please send names of people that would enjoy homemade soup delivered to them to Dorothy Faloba.

2nd ANNUAL YOUTH



3	Jack Vincent, Sr.
3	Gail Lea Phillis
3	Jerry Phillis
5	Bill Wildman
6	Mike Phillis
11	Scott Phillis
15	Jack Vincent, Jr.
17	Kaylie Shinn
21	Martha Crookston
28	Clyde Floor
28	Tom Miller
8	Glen Huston
9	Karen Benson



Phillips Christian Church,
Thank you so much for helping
complete Lifehouse Christian Church
by your generous donation of gift
cards.

God Bless,
Lifeline Arizona Staff
(We sent them Home Depot
Gift Cards in August to help
with renovations.)



Thank You Notes !

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the beautiful floral
arrangement you sent to me. It is a
perfect size for my apartment.
It also contains the perfect flowers chosen.
I pray that God blesses all of you and that
the church group grows in numbers.
I wish you the best in the year 2017.
I miss attending your services

May God continue to bless
you,
Maxine Vincent

Dear Friends,

Jan 3, 2017

Thank you so much for the lovely flower arrangements for Patricia and for me. They are still pretty and thriving. I can't believe they continue to look so vibrant. We miss our friends at Phillips. I thought I would be in attendance for last Sunday's Services however due to failing brakes on the car Friday night, I became homebound. Hopefully, Wednesday I'll be back with wheels! Pending weather perhaps next Sunday. Again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness and for taking communion to Patricia on Sundays. I am most appreciative. May the New Year be kind to all of you.
Lovingly, Elizabeth (Thatcher)



Perfect Attendance

(January 2017)



Little Angels: Missy Opsitnik



Curious Kids: Marty Shinn,
Cody Opsitnik



Teens: Mike Phillis, Emma Jenkins



Homebuilders/ Loyal Sons & Daughters: Sheldon Cosma, Gail Phillis, Tom & Linda Miller, Lynn & Brenda Schmidt, Dorothy Faloba, Carl & Judy Merriman, Bob Shinn, Jack & Bonnie Vincent, Robin Janofa



A new year has begun and we will start it up with our annual "Valentines Nite Out" for our group. We will again be meeting at the Shale Restaurant outside Lisbon on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm for a time of fellowship and food. A sign up sheet will be up soon for our reservations and I will post it in the foyer at church. Hope to see everyone there.

We will also be having a meeting in the next month or so to discuss a few ideas for us to do on a monthly basis as a group. I have one that would involve our shut-ins and members who are in nursing home facilities. Please also bring any ideas you may have, too.
---Diana Reiter

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Northeast Ohio Bible College

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Donald Barnhart (hip problems and kidney disease)

Beverly Evans (Carpal Tunnel Surgery Jan 25th)

Baby Elijah (born with heart defect, improving slowly at home)

Jim Webber (CHF, heart virus, pacemaker & defibrillator)

Zac Carter (leg amputated; finished chemo round; still at St. Jude's)

Mandy Fitch (dialysis; possible transplant)

Charlie Hahn (complications from hernia surgery)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis; Joel Newburn, back in the US; Kyle Stephenson; Paige Wyss;

Matt Bartel, 5th Deployment to Iraq

OUR SHUT-INS

Jim Dorsey, Essex II; Bess Staubs; Pat Kalbfell; Dorothy McFadden;

Martha Crookston, Crandall ;

Wanda Huston, Allay Senior Care Center, 131 Pendleton Street, Lisbon Ohio 44432;

Ada Bailey (444 1/2 Ohio Ave, Salem, OH 44460)

Our Congregation, Our Nation, Lost Souls,
Unspoken Needs Of Our People

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Maxine Vincent (cancer)

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Suzanne Holloway (lung cancer)

Mary Lou Hartzell (throat cancer)

George Faull (pray for strength)



*"I will
restore health
to you."*

JEREMIAH 30:17



"Health and Salvation To Every Nation" ... Psalm 67:2



HASTEN International is a mission to the Churches of Christ - Christian Churches that bring physical and spiritual healing to third world nations. Currently we are involved in projects in Zimbabwe, India, closer to home in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Projects include medical clinics serving underdeveloped areas, schools where they are not available and Christian churches.

Our work continues with renewed enthusiasm and prayer... new transportation for the orphanage in India, church growth at Dama and Odzi in Zimbabwe, medical and spiritual growth in Mexico, helping and funding for the hurricane church folks in Haiti, and growth in the churches in the Dominican Republic! Pray for us this season and in the new year—that God's message will reach even greater numbers in these fields. Your support keeps that work alive !! Thank you to all the churches and supporters of HASTEN.

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Sheldon Cosma, Minister

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SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ...Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.phillipschristian.org

Giving Credit where Credit is due.....

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again."

Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"



'Take Care'

In Jimmy Fallon's first monologue as host of *The Tonight Show*, he expressed thanks to all past hosts. On an occasion when he might have said, "And now this stage is mine!" or "I'm delighted to be counted among such greats," instead he stated

with deep humility, "I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while."

Take care of. That's language not of ownership but of stewardship. That's the language of Genesis 2:15 (NIV) — "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

What have we been called to "take care of for a little while"? The earth, surely. Perhaps a congregation, a business, a neighbor in need, a volunteer or an employee. A child, who may need less care — or different forms of it — as time goes on. We don't own these people and things. God invites us to be stewards of them, to care for them, to use wisely and value these precious gifts ... and someday, to pass them on to others.

The Need for Charity



*The ancient English word for selfless, agape-type love is charity, points out John Ortberg in *Love Beyond Reason* (Zondervan). It means expressing love in the form of pure gift, though it now has condescending connotations. "No one wants to be a 'charity case,'" Ortberg writes. "But in the final run, the ultimate love comes to us as a gift."*

Agape love is necessary in human relationships too, writes C.S. Lewis, because "only the lovable can be naturally loved." He notes, "All who have good parents, wives, husbands or children may be sure that at some times they are receiving charity, are not loved because they are lovable but because Love Himself is in those who love them."