

LIMA
RESCUE
 MISSION

Mission Messenger

By Aaron Ferguson

Loving our neighbors

"I thought you were supposed to be Christian!" This phrase has been repeated countless times over the years—most often in response to a confrontation about inappropriate behavior. In some people's minds, our being Christian means that we are obligated to overlook their actions, even when harmful to themselves or others. What is the appropriate Christian response to sinful behavior? How do we love our neighbors?

You can probably imagine the free-for-all environment if we allowed any behavior without consequence. Theft, damaged property, acts of violence, drug use, self harm—chaos would reign. Many are coming out of those types of environments and want to be away from that sort of thing.

The reality is that we're dealing with lost, unrepentant sinners, and one way or another we must respond to that. If not for the hope we have in Christ, we would be perplexed—there would be no clear answer, and in all likelihood we would default to the worldly position of affirming sin. The worst, most un-loving, un-Christian thing we could do is tell them they're okay in their current state. But there is hope—even for people who we may think of as the worst of sinners.

For Christians, the truth is that there was nothing good about us when God saved us. An accurate summary is found in Ephesians 2:1: "And you were dead in your transgressions and sins." But thankfully, "while we were yet

sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). If we were good enough, we wouldn't need to be saved. And no matter how good we try to be, that has no effect whatsoever on salvation: "He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy" (Titus 3:5).

We are not saved out of a lost and sinful state only to keep it quiet. The loving thing to do is tell the truth. We must warn about sin and its eternal consequences, and share the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. That is the gospel message put simply.

Danger of a false gospel

Did Jesus come to seek and to save the lost, or did He come to affirm sins? The answer should be obvious (Luke 19:10), but some may hesitate because of just how much the gospel has been distorted. In many cases, delusions are affirmed and sins are classified as "illness" to excuse the behavior, effectively turning people from guilty sinners into helpless victims. False Christians and false churches affirm, accommodate, and even celebrate sinful lifestyles. People love their sin and there is no end to what they will do to justify it. This type of behavior has become so prevalent that many truly believe that Christians must support them no matter the sin they have chosen to live in.

Reality of repentance

Jesus called for repentance (Matt. 4:17) and denounced those cities which did not (11:20). In appearing to the disciples after

His resurrection, Jesus explained Scripture to them, saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47). Paul stated that "God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent" (Acts 17:30).

The Bible is clear—sin separates us from God, and failing to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will result in paying the penalty of eternal destruction (2 Thes. 1:8-9). There is no alternative to handling sin. There is no excusing or accommodating it. The only answer is repentance and forgiveness.

True transformation

In 1 Cor. 6, Paul lists people who will not inherit the kingdom of God. He follows that with this statement: "And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (v. 11). When we are saved, we are made new (2 Cor. 5:17), and we are "blessed with every spiritual blessing" (Eph. 1:3).

As Christians, we must stand firm in the truth and share that truth with others. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only answer to sin and its consequences, and proclaiming it faithfully is the most loving thing we can do for our neighbors.

Memorials

The Lima Rescue Mission would like to thank everyone who recently contributed in memory of the following individuals:

Claude N. Courtney
Roger Courtney

Current job opening

We currently have an opening for the part-time position of cook. Responsibilities include planning and preparing daily meals, sorting donated food, and cleaning and organizing the kitchen and food storage areas. You may request a complete job description and employment application by mail, or find the information on our website at limamission.org/ministry-team.

A Charge to Keep I Have

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
Who gave His son my soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care
As in Thy sight to live,
And now Thy servant Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And still on Thee rely,
O let me not my trust betray,
But press to realms on high.

—Charles Wesley



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Donate online at give.limamission.org

Meet our board

The Mission is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of dedicated Christian leaders who are committed to furthering ministry to the homeless and less fortunate in our community. The board is responsible for policy setting, fiscal management, spiritual direction and general oversight.

In addition to oversight, the board provides valuable guidance. They review ministry reports, financial information and budgets and help determine the direction of programs and services. They are donors, volunteers, and community ambassadors. Their dedicated service allows the Mission to carry on a Christian ministry that addresses important needs in the community.

Current needs

Donating items from our needs list is a great way to make a difference in the lives of the poor and homeless, and anyone can get involved by collecting these items. The best time to bring donations to the Mission is on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Serving with us

There have been several new groups who have recently joined us to serve with our meal ministry. We appreciate all those who are serving others in a time of need! If you are interested in getting involved in hands-on ministry, please contact us. There are opportunities both for providing and serving meals. You may serve as a one-time event, occasionally as you are able, or even on a monthly basis.

Leaving a Legacy

We're thankful for friends who have made arrangements for a gift after their passing. Legacy gifts help provide financial stability and allow for ministry expansion and special projects.

There are several options for making a legacy gift, including a fixed amount or percentage listed in your will, a payable on death account, an IRA, life insurance policy, or other options. Your attorney or financial advisor will be able to help arrange the best option for you.

Thank you for considering a gift that will leave a legacy!

If you know any of our board members, please thank them for their faithful service!

President

Andy Brown

Vice President

Dave Ernest

Treasurer

Ken Hall

Secretary

Greg Herron

Trustees

Jim Lotz

Mark Phillips

Wes Reece

Doug Roser

Our current needs include:

- Bleach
- Instant coffee
- Large #10 cans of corn, green beans, pork and beans, sauerkraut
- Disposable cutlery
- Napkins