



The Family Report

Loving God... Loving You...

November 11, 2007

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Are you a “Stretcher Bearer” or a “Rope Holder” ???

Thanks to Teresa for this!

I guess you would need to know the definitions of these words in a proper framework before you can answer this question. These are quite interesting concepts and, especially given in the context that I am about to explain, will bring a lot of thought as to whether we are either one of these.

These concepts appeared in a book that I was reading by Carol Kent, author of “When I Lay My Isaac Down.” This book is a great faith builder and would be a great book for any one to read. The basis of this book is taken from Carol’s real life about her only son who went to prison for shooting and killing a man. She compares this to the old testament story of Abraham and Isaac. How that in unthinkable circumstances, God

has a plan. “God had a plan, and God revealed that plan to Abraham when he needed to know what to do next.” This can be another article written later. But, the point at hand is describing a Stretcher Bearer and a Rope Holder. Carol Kent writes about her unexpected journey not only with God being her support, encouragement, comforter; but also Christian friends and family who surrounded her during the most difficult time in her and her husband’s life.

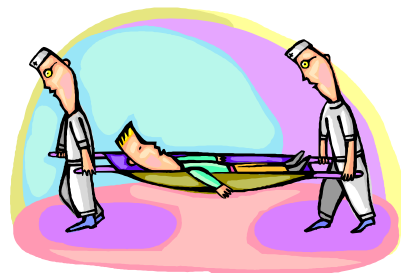
During the next two years that Carol and her husband waited for the trial of their soon, they were surrounded by these “stretcher bearers and rope holders.” Michael Slater wrote a book entitled “Becoming a Stretcher Bearer,” which encourages people to put “feet” to their prayers through active encouragement. Pastor Slater was launching a ministry based on the Apostle Mark’s dramatic account about the compassionate and inventive band of friends who came to the rescue



of a paralyzed man by carrying him on a stretcher so he could get to Jesus for healing. The same story is told in Luke 15:17-26. When they couldn’t find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of every one, right in front of Jesus. Jesus healed the man and he got up and walked, giving glory to God.

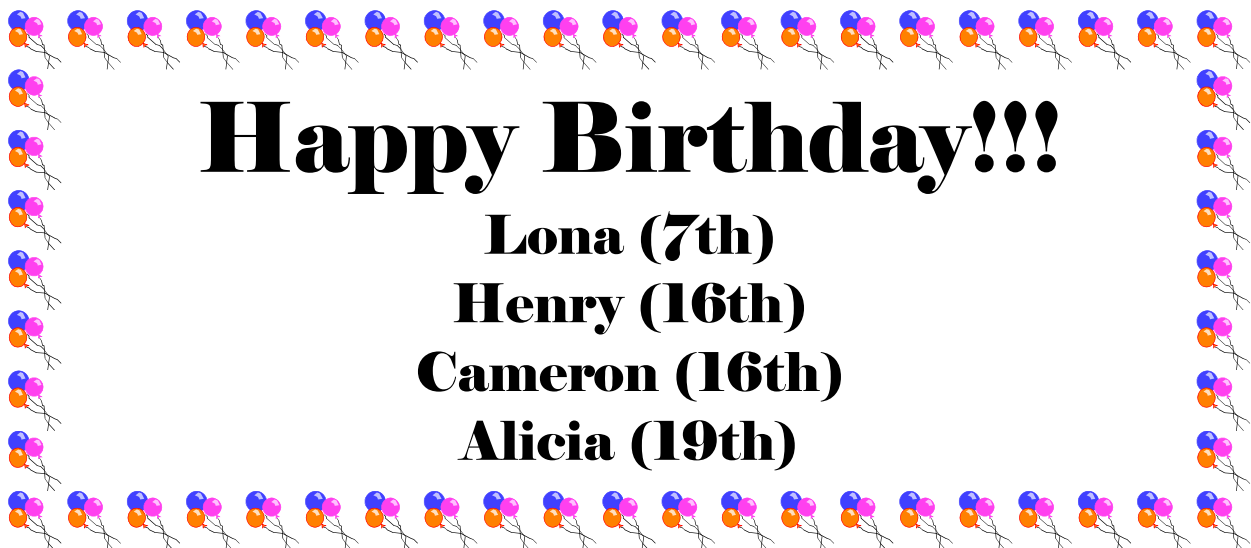
Carol writes, “In this story about one of the miracles Jesus performed, there are specific, fundamental factors that make the account intriguing and instructive:

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Don’t forget about movie night tonight ~ 6 pm ~ at the building!!!

- An individual needed help, and in his paralyzed state he couldn't get the assistance he needed by himself.
 - He had friends who saw his need.
 - These friends interrupted their personal agendas and got involved in giving tangible help to some one else.
 - They physically carried their friend when he couldn't carry himself.
 - They faced a big obstacle. The crowd was so huge that they couldn't walk their friend in the door and get close enough to get Jesus' personal attention.
 - The friends got creative. **They carried their helpless friend on his stretcher up to the rooftop. They made an opening and lowered their friend to Jesus through the ceiling.**
 - Once the friends got the man to Jesus, he forgave the man's sins and healed him.
 - The man got up and walked, picked up his bedroll, praised God, and left for home."
- The "stretcher bearers" surrounded the Kent family with encouragement by way of prayers, scriptures, letters, money, "feet" to help, gifts, time, phone calls, cards, and visits to get them through this very difficult time. They continued surrounding them with love and encouragement for two years.
- Are you a rope holder???** A letter came to the Kent's from a friend the day they heard the verdict about their son. The friend wrote, "I have felt like a rope holder. When I was a freshman at Colorado College I joined the mountain climbing club. Before you are allowed to start climbing, they teach you how to be a "rope holder" for another climber, **providing a lifeline, if needed.** When you see a climber going up or down a mountain face, you usually see the rope tied around his/her waist, but what you often don't see is the person at the end of that rope. It wasn't until I started climbing that I realized the importance of the person who holds your rope while you are climbing... your life is literally in their hands if something should happen while you are climbing." As the friend continued to write, she pledged that she would continue to be their "rope holder who plans to stay in place for as long as there is a climber on the mountain." The Kent's son was sent to prison for life. The Kent's would need these "**Stretcher Bearers**" and "**Rope Holders**" for a long time.
- Is there anyone that needs for us to be their "**Stretcher Bearer**" or "**Rope Holder**"? It brings to mind the scripture from Galatians 6:2: **"Carry each others burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."**



Happy Birthday!!!

Lona (7th)

Henry (16th)

Cameron (16th)

Alicia (19th)

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Prayer Report

We have a wonderful privilege and honor to go to God in prayer. As you pray, please remember the following people:

Carolyn and Edward, Vicki's parents, are dealing with several health issues.

Keith, Coeta's brother, is sick. Also, for **Coeta**.

Ollie A., Coeta's friend, is battling cancer.

Nita M. is having eye problems.

Vince, Stacy's brother, has scar tissue on his brain. Also, for his wife who is recovering from surgery.

Cathy M. is suffering from emphysema due to smoking cigarettes.

Shirley, Luther's daughter, is suffering from lupus. She recently had to have surgery on her head to repair a shunt which drains fluid off of her brain.

Ladonna and Lauren, both Henry's friends, are suffering from cancer. Lauren is a freshman in high school and is only 15 years old.

Kevin, Randy's brother, is battling an addiction to drugs.

Olivia M. has cancer. She is only 5 years old.

Gary D.'s father is recovering from a stroke.

Fay B. is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

Randy M. is dealing with heart trouble.

Frieda D. also is suffering from heart problems.

Dan, Randy's co-worker, recently had a stroke.

Brenda, Stacy's cousin, is going through a divorce. She has two children.

Johnny, Rick's brother, is serving in Iraq.

Ray, Wes's friend, suffered a stroke.

Karen, Wes's co-worker, has cancer.

Grant T., Randy's nephew, was recently diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

We want to always remember the entire **Tambov congregation** in our prayers. Let us pray that they will have strong leadership.

Nellie, Pat's mom, is suffering from a blockage in her neck.

Frank, Jean's stepdad, has a spot on his lung.

Dan and Denise, neighbors of Todd and Alicia, are currently separated.

Leland D. is recovering from a stroke.

James O. is in the last stages of brain cancer.

Gary's mother is

suffering from brittle bones
Pearlie T., Wes's co-worker, is suffering from seizures.

Wayne is recovering from surgery. Also, **Justin**, Wayne's son, will be going to Iraq in March.

Additionally, remember **Mike and Jim C.**, **Beth and Michael** (friends of Kat and Don), **W.D.** (Randy's neighbor), **Pam** (Stacy's sister), **Ann** (Wayne's mom), **Garcia's father**, **Sarah** (Jeff and Lona's neighbor), **Don** (Randy's brother), **Clara** (Paulette's mom), and **Val V.**

Alma K. recently had knee replacement surgery. She is having difficulty with that as she fell on her knee shortly after the surgery.

Jimmy V., who had suffered with bouts of depression, committed suicide. Please keep his family in your prayers during this trying and emotional time.

Donna's son is suffering from an auto-immune disease.

Friends of Aaron and Jessie are expecting a child. Pray for a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Greta is recovering from recent surgery.

We don't want to forget to pray for the **Haysville congregation**.

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Our Vision

Community

It is our vision to become an active member of our immediate community; to provide hope, help, love, acceptance, and spiritual encouragement.

Growth

It is our vision to welcome new people into the fold, and help them discover the gifts and talents that God gave them to be used in proclaiming Christ to a lost and dying world.

Faithful to God's Word

It is our vision to remain faithful to God's word, to place Christ first in everything we do, and to allow ourselves to be led only by His Word and Holy Spirit.

Concern for Others

It is our vision to become intimately aware of the needs of our congregation and community and to actively try to meet those needs.

Evangelism (Reaching the Lost)

It is our vision to focus intently on ways to reach the lost in our local community and in foreign lands, and to send missionaries from the body on short and long term mission projects.

Leadership

It is our vision to have scriptural leadership; to have elders, deacons, and teachers within the next two years.

Family Atmosphere/Relationships

It is our vision to maintain and promote a true family environment where all may feel they belong and everyone knows each other's name.

*"The avalanche of blessing and ministry began with three words:
'I am willing.'"
-Chet Bitterman*

November Schedule

Sunday, 11/11: Todd speaking
Family Movie Night

Wednesday, 11/14: Gary speaking
2 Thessalonians 2

Sunday, 11/18: Jeff speaking
*Lunch following services
Men's and Women's Studies*

Wednesday, 11/21: Luke speaking
2 Thessalonians 3

Sunday, 11/25: Gary speaking

*Please join us in
worshipping God!!!*

*Sunday morning: 10 am
Wednesday evening: 7 pm*

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