



Pastor's Page

Required for Light Work

A little while ago I visited my brother's home on my day off. On a quick trip to the "little boys room" I noticed that the light wasn't working. I also remembered that it hadn't been working on my previous visit a few weeks earlier. So, keen to sort out the situation I rustled up some tools and began to dismantle the existing lamp-holder and ceiling rose. I felt quite pleased with myself as I set about this simple task. However, after about 15 minutes I knew I was in trouble. It had been well over 20 years since I had been in Electrical Contracting (and that was as a buyer not an electrician) and I was struggling to sort out where the various wires should go! Then my teenage nephew joined the proceedings in an attempt to help (I pretended that I knew what I was doing!) He was keen but basically had no more idea that I had! After about 20 minutes with sweat dropping from my brow, threatening my grip on the tools (as well as my grip on reality) and two of my nieces, my sister-in-law and my nephew all offering advice I was losing the will to live! Remembering now with great clarity why I had chosen the ordained ministry as a career I prayed for divine intervention. It arrived in the form of my elderly Father – an ex-managing director of an electrical company and qualified electrician! (Amen) Seeing the mess I had got into he took over operations. He wasn't nimble enough to physically do the work himself but he explained to my nephew (the youngest and most supple of us all) which wires went where as I held the ladder! We were now 'on the money' and success soon came. And so an hour after I started this little job the mission was completed. Now it may sound corny to say "Many hands make light work" (little joke there!) but it does encapsulate a very important truth that I was reminded of during this experience; namely that we achieve more when we work together. (TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More)

With my Father's expertise, my nephew's dexterity and my persistence we did it! (I believe that my brother was praying in his study too!)

In his letter to the church in Ephesus (4:16) Paul likens the church to a human body saying **"From him (Jesus) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work"** We all have a vital role to play in the church and God has given us gifts and abilities in keeping with this task. The bible promises that as we work together in unity, playing our part, we will reach maturity in Christ. American author Tommy Tenney says; *Unity is people working together in harmony to achieve a common goal.* *In the field of music harmony does not mean unison. We are not all singing the same note, but we are all singing the same song) Men and women, children and teens, working for a common cause. Everyone is not doing the same job, everyone is not working at the same pace Yet, all are working together.*

You and I have unique roles in the body of Christ. The church really needs us to be ourselves and play the part that God has both called us to and equipped us for. As Rick Warren says; *"There are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes but all are valuable"*

Whether you're instructing the installation, fixing the wires or holding the ladder, you are desperately needed! Don't make light of your importance to the body of Christ.

10th May 2009