

Faith and Works

“...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Recently I was notified by the local government to report for jury duty. In the county where I live there are no automatic excusals, so even healthcare workers in private practice must report for duty. I ended up sitting in the jury pool all day before being assigned a case and eventually being dismissed by the judge. It turns out that the case was a medical malpractice suit, and the attorneys didn't want any potential juror with a healthcare background.

To help pass the time while I waited, I read a book by Aubrey Malphurs entitled *A New Kind of Church*. The author makes the case that we have many present-day churches that are narrowly focused in their ministry. He likens them to churches that fill a particular niche. Maybe they are a teaching church, a seeker-friendly church, a social church, a mission-minded church, or a church that primarily targets young families. You get the idea.

Malphurs encourages a fuller, more wholistic approach to ministry in which congregations engage in teaching, fellowship, worship, evangelism, and service. Pastor Rick Warren in his book *The Purpose Driven Church* argues for a similar, more well-rounded mission for the local church.

A review of recent church history reminds us our presently limited view of ministry is nothing new. Some of our evangelical churches have traditionally had a strong passion for saving souls, at the expense of caring for the individual's physical needs. In contrast, during the Social Gospel movement of the early 1900's, emphasis was placed upon caring for people's physical needs, with little energy directed toward eternal matters.

The challenge for our churches, and for us as individual disciples of Christ, is to live out our faith. It's understanding that while Jesus commissioned us to *“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16:15 NKJV), He also told us that the righteous are those who offer food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and clothing to the naked. (Matthew 25:31-40)

Even James writes, *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does that profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”* (James 2:15-17, NKJV)

Herein lies one of the reasons I'm proud to be an active member of the Christian Chiropractors Association. We are the voice for Christ in our profession. We also witness to our patients, and our acts of mercy and justice can be powerful testimonies in our local communities.

The CCA has a glorious history of supporting missionaries on the field, sending doctors on short-term mission trips, and more recently of providing

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scholarships to needy chiropractic students. I can also remember helping to provide new mattresses for children in a Ukrainian orphanage, and funds to help build a church in Brazil.

Opportunities to put our faith into action continue. Last year, the CCA raised enough money to purchase 97 pairs of new shoes for children living in the slums of Montego Bay, Jamaica. I was blessed to be there when the shoes were handed out to the children and to see the smiles on their faces.

This year we hope to be able to provide new shoes for 200 children. We estimate the cost to be around \$5,000. I know that sounds ambitious, but I also know we serve a mighty God who can do amazing things. Through your generosity, we have already reached over half of this goal, and I thank you all so much. I would like to personally invite you to partner with me and other CCA members by sending in a financial contribution to purchase these shoes and reach this goal. Make your check out to the CCA, and mark "*The Jamaican Children's Shoe Fund*" on the memo line.

May God bless you for your generosity and your willingness to live out your faith. Together we can minister in a more all-encompassing way, all in the name of Christ. May it be so.