

January 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

Someone said:

*“All great men and women became great because they invested,  
time, talent, and ability in the care of others”*

And in Ephesians 4:16 Paul writes:

*“From him (Jesus Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every  
supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love,  
as each part does its work.*

I read about an airplane that was stranded in an airport in Memphis. The country was in the grips of a terrible snow storm. Those on board thought the bad weather had finally caught up with them. As it turned out one flight attendant was absent. The plane could not operate with two attendants, there had to be three. So everyone had to wait until the third attendant arrived. The entire operation of that airline, hundreds of passengers, and a multi-million dollar aircraft was grounded because of one person.

I am not sure that flight attendant knew how important he was. But I also wonder if you and I always realize how important we are. It may seem like our presence or absence is hardly noticed. But, consider what the lives of our friends and families would be like if we were not there.

The old classic Christmas movie, “It’s A Wonderful Life” illustrates how each one of us has tremendous purpose to fulfill. And, the truth is that our purpose is not just for our friends and family but also many people we will never meet.

Some have called this simply a ministry of presence---just being at the right place at the right time.

As we move into the New Year I hope you always remember that you really do matter. You matter to your family and your friends. You matter to God and to your church family. And, you matter to folk you will never meet but who are influenced by your life. We all have a great purpose to fulfill.

With appreciation,  
Pastor Emmett & Mary

*Happy New Year!*