

"...encourage the fainthearted..."
1 Thessalonians 5:14

Want to be a

LIFE-ENHANCER

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to be a
LIFE-ENHANCER

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To enhance is defined as "increasing or further improving the quality or to raise the value of something." People can usually remember some event in their life that made life less than what they imagined it to be. They needed someone to take the time to enhance the situation or at least help them realize they are capable of getting through it. They needed a Life-enhancer. Life-enhancers are part of a very special group of people who seem to always sense when others are struggling. They don't just sense it but they do something about it. They are gifted with the ability to reach out and lift that person up. Just by their willingness to be who God made them to be, "life-enhancers" enrich the lives of countless people and inspire them to live the life that God intended. Life-enhancers are the ultimate nurturers.

Today's "it's all about me" culture is very much in need of individuals who are willing to consider others and reach out to help them to see and reach their potential. If it comes naturally to someone to see others difficulties and know just what to do, consider that a blessed, wonderful gift. Those for whom it doesn't come naturally, know that anyone can be a life-enhancer if they are willing to make the effort. The following tips will provide a framework:

- Treat everyone with dignity. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. Dignity is that feeling of inherent value and worth. Respect must be earned but dignity is inborn. In the book Dignity Donna Hicks states that "The quality of our lives and our relationships could be vastly improved if we learned how to master the art and science of maintaining and honoring dignity." Treat others as if they matter; as if they are worthy of care and attention. Continually remind them of who they are: invaluable, priceless and irreplaceable.
 - Be an Encourager. Watch carefully for those that might be discouraged due to circumstances in their life. Be willing to devote time to them by meeting with them and listening to "their story." For ideas visit the CEC, Inc. website at www.christiansencouragingchristians.org and click on the "Encouragement Ideas" tab. There are several different categories of individuals with ideas for being an encouragement for each of them.
 - Be Accessible. One can't enhance another's life from a distance nor allow them too much of your time. There must be a balance. This brings to mind a Carl Sandburg quote, "Time is the coin of life...do not allow others to spend it for you." Be the keeper of time and set boundaries but keep in mind that at first it will take more time. Eventually less time will need to be spent being helped as they learn to maneuver through life's situations on their own. Connection with them is of upmost importance, so stay connected even when they can go it alone.
 - Be a "Balcony Person." In her beautiful book Balcony People Joyce Landorf Heatherley writes that if you have balcony people in your life you are fortunate indeed. She suggests that one imagine that in all events of their life there is a balcony surrounding them, lined with people who are cheering them on. Leaning over the railing calling to them "You can do it." So, be surrounded by balcony people and be a balcony person for someone else. Enhance their life by reminding them "It Can Be Done."
- These are only a few of the many ideas for being a much needed, active "life-enhancer." This only scratches the surface on this subject; therefore send any ideas so that they can be posted to the website so others can learn to be better "life-enhancers". Send ideas by email to cecinc.info@gmail.com.

by: Kathryn Spradley





“Most of us, swimming against the tides of trouble the world knows nothing about, need only a bit of praise or encouragement -and we will make the goal.” Jerome Fleishman

CEC, INC Announces NEW PRESIDENT

Christians Encouraging Christians, Inc. is pleased to announce that Phil Bray accepted the position of President of the Board of Directors at the December board meeting. Phil is currently the Director of Finance for the city of Bedford, Texas, where he is responsible for directing and managing the activities of the Accounting Information Technology, Utility Billing, Purchasing, Accounts Payable and Payroll functions. He assists with budget preparation, oversees annual audit functions, annual financial report, cash management/investments and special projects

Phil has an MBA, is a CPA and has over thirty-five years of experience in supervisory positions.

CEC is pleased that he has taken this new position and the board looks forward to working with him to fulfill the mission of the organization. Phil and his wife, Kaye reside in Keller, Texas.

2016-2017

Board of Directors

President: Phil Bray

Vice President: Kathryn Spradley

Secretary/Treasurer: Leota Smith

Member: Beverly Crouch

Member: Sarah Modgling

Member: Laurie Fried

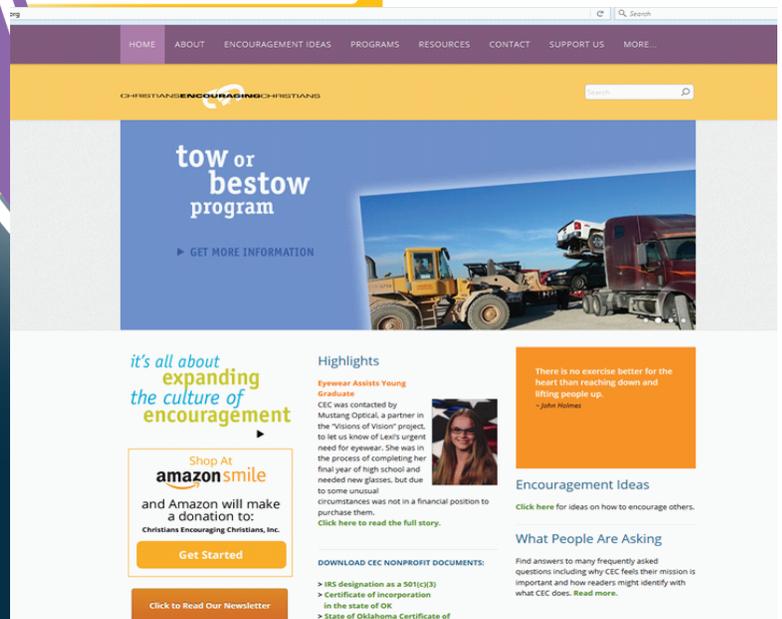
CEC WEBSITE REVAMPING COMPLETED

It is time to celebrate!!!!

The new CEC website is up and running, and the hope is that you find it to be friendly and easy to navigate. Ideas are continually added to the site, and it is updated with information as needed. Please take a few minutes and visit the site at www.christiansencouragingchristians.org. Take notice of the newly added "Resources" tab and additions to the "Encouragement Ideas" tab.

*"Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown again into instant flame by an encounter with another human being."
Albert Schweitzer*

CEC has been actively seeking a volunteer to maintain the website, and it is exciting to announce that God has provided. **Sarah Modgling**, a new CEC board member, has agreed to oversee the website and keep the site current. Thank you Sarah for your willingness to share your talents and expertise with CEC.



Christians Encouraging Christians has a new Facebook page!
Locate the page here:
www.facebook.com/christiansencouragingchristians

Please "like" the new Facebook page and be sure to share on your timelines to invite your friends to do the same. This is another tool to help grow CEC's awareness and let people know about opportunities and ideas on how to encourage others.



**“A LIFE ISN'T
SIGNIFICANT
EXCEPT
FOR ITS
IMPACT ON
OTHERS.”**

**Jackie
Robinson**

**CEC HAS A NEW & IMPROVED
FACEBOOK PAGE**

At the December board meeting, CEC, Inc. elected two new board members, Sarah Modgling and Laurie Fried.

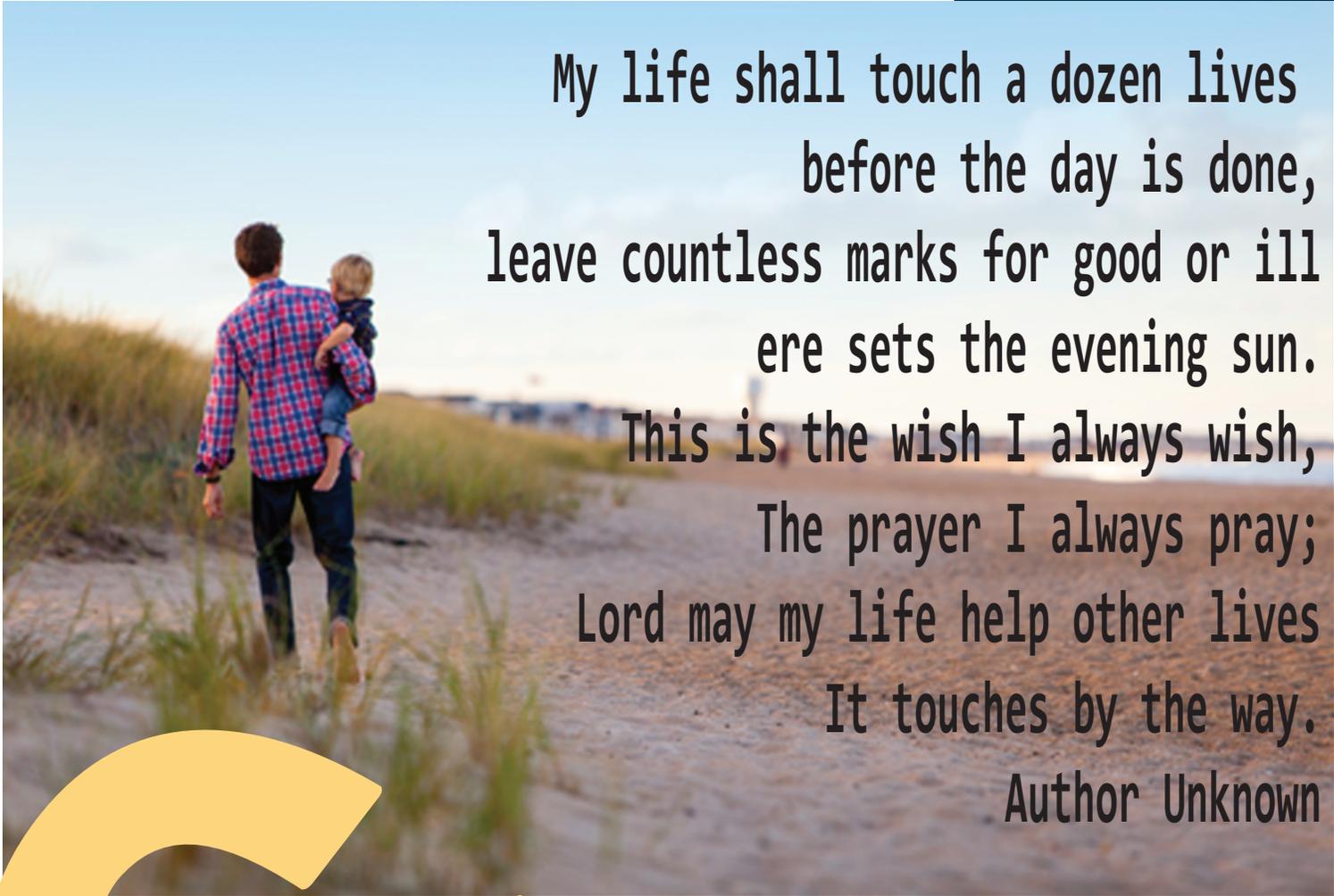
Sarah Modgling is employed at Pacific Power Renewables, a commercial solar company, as a Director of Sales & Marketing where she is the liaison for all marketing and development interface with clients from project inception through completion. She heads all company branding efforts including development of marketing tools, sales materials and develops strategies to maximize the public relations value of clients host solar installations. She serves as internal project manager for all departments.

Sarah has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Communications from UC Santa Barbara and an MBA from UC Davis. Sarah currently resides in Auburn, California.

Laurie Fried is the Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Coordinator for The Salvation Army's Arkansas/Oklahoma Division. She represents The Salvation Army in the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project, a collaboration of five agencies involved in providing long-term case management for the May 2013 Central Oklahoma tornadoes. She directs a staff of case managers working directly with survivors of the storms to help rebuild their lives to a new normal while ensuring all personnel are adequately trained and have appropriate certifications. Additionally, she serves as a funder for unmet needs committees. She works to ensure all finances, planning, personnel, client records are on track as well as developing an agency exit strategy.

Laurie meets with Long-Term Recovery or Unmet Needs Committees, local disaster response agencies to determine existing services that are provided to prevent duplication of efforts, establishes priorities and develops a plan to implement the needed service(s). She also serves as liaison to local, state and federal officials as well as the local and regional FEMA offices. Laurie and husband, Kevin reside in Oklahoma City, OK.

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the power to turn a life around.”
Leo Buscaglia



My life shall touch a dozen lives
before the day is done,
leave countless marks for good or ill
ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
The prayer I always pray;
Lord may my life help other lives
It touches by the way.
Author Unknown

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christiansencouragingchristians.org



“Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their heart.”

Rita Ghatourney



Recommended Books on Encouragement:

- Balcony People by Joyce Landorf Heatherly
- Encourage Me by Charles R. Swindoll

ENCOURAGEMENT : 101

GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT

A practicing life-enhancer typically has no difficulty in recognizing a person who needs help, and they instinctively know what to do to enhance the situation. Being an encourager comes as naturally to them as breathing. There are others though who find it difficult to recognize an individual in need of encouragement and then does not know what to do to encourage that person. Listed below are some general ideas for encouragement that can be practiced by the experienced as well as the "want to be" life-enhancer. These ideas can be used to effectively enhance a broad range of people and circumstances. For additional ideas for encouragement visit the CEC website www.christiansencouragingchristians.org and select the "Encouragement Ideas" tab.

- Acknowledge every person encountered with a smile or a hello.
- Treat each person with dignity.
- Actively listen to their story.
- Be sensitive.
- Refrain from exercising judgement.
- Offer to pray with them.
- Pray for them in their individual circumstance.
- Walk with them through their difficult situation.
- Stay in contact with them by phone, text, email, etc.
- Be a safe person for them. (Read Safe People by Cloud & Townsend)

**" YOU CANNOT
TEACH A MAN
ANYTHING;
YOU CAN ONLY
HELP HIM TO FIND
IT FOR HIMSELF."**

GALILEO

On December 8, 2015, a group of eleven volunteers met at the Village Church to sort and pack clothes to ship to Honduras. As can be seen in the pictures, it is quite an undertaking. Dozens of bags and boxes of clothes had to be examined for damage or if it would be practical to use in Honduras, and then they must be sorted into men, women, boys, girls and baby sizes. Once sorted they are placed in 24" X 24" X 24" heavy cardboard boxes. When it is determined that the boxes have reached capacity, they are sealed securely and labeled on top and side with shipping information. Note in the pictures that they are rather large boxes and they are also very heavy so it takes a very strong person to maneuver the boxes into position once they are filled. Upon completion of the packing of ten boxes, with an estimated weight of 100 pounds of clothing each, the shipper was contacted to pick them up. They were delivered to Houston where they were placed on a ship traveling to Honduras.

Once the clothes arrive in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Manuel and Heather Pastrana along with members of the congregation will organize the distribution of the clothing to needy Christians in the local churches and the surrounding rural area. Pictures of the distribution of the clothing will be taken and shared in the next newsletter.

A special thanks to the church in Rogers, Arkansas, for their willingness to cover the full cost of shipping. Shipping is quite expensive and the "Wear It or Share It" project would not be possible without the generous support of people who are willing to supply the funds for shipping.



Kasie Warr, Hailey Winn & Brandon Mason



Rick Harris & Eric Eby



Wensdae Eby



Lynda Leeth & Barbara Thomas



Laurie Fried, Leota Smith & Eric Eby

WEAR IT OR SHARE IT Program in Action