



## OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

"And let us consider one another in order to  
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24

JUNE 24, 2007

### THE MEANING OF LIFE

by Robert Fulghum

Near the village of Kolympari on the island of Crete is an institute dedicated to human understanding and peace, and especially to reconciliation between Germans and Cretans. The Orthodox Academy of Crete site overlooks a small airstrip where Nazi paratroopers were attacked by peasants wielding kitchen knives and hay scythes. The German retribution was terrible. The populations of whole villages were shot. Hatred was the only weapon the Cretans had at the end, and many vowed never to give it up.

How has a foundation devoted to healing the wounds of war come to be here? The answer is Alexandros Papaderos. A theologian,

educator and son of this soil, Papaderos came to believe that if the Germans and Cretans could forgive one another, then any people could. By the time I came to the institute he helped create, Papaderos had become a living legend.

I asked: "Dr. Papaderos, what is the meaning of life?"

Papaderos looked at me for a long time, asking with his eyes if I was serious and seeing that I was.

"I will answer your question."

Taking his wallet from hip pocket, he fished out a small round mirror, the size of a quarter. Then he said, "I was a small child during the war. One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. I kept the largest piece. This one. I began to play with it and became fascinated that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine - deep holes, crevices, dark closets.

I kept the little mirror, and as I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life - that I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design I do not know. With what I have, I can reflect light - truth, understanding, knowledge - into the black places in the hearts of men and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. This is what I do."

***Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is like  
the shining sun, That shines ever brighter  
unto the perfect day.***

## JOB OR MINISTRY?

- If you are doing it because *no one else will*, it's a JOB;  
If you are doing it *to serve the LORD*, it's a MINISTRY.

- If you are doing it *just well enough* to get by, it's a JOB;  
If you are doing it *to the best of your ability*, it's a MINISTRY

- If you quit because *someone criticized you*, it was a JOB.  
If you *kept on serving*, it was MINISTRY.

- If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with your other activities, it's a JOB.  
If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a MINISTRY.

- If you quit because no one ever praised you or thanked you, it's a JOB  
If you stay with it even though no one notices your effort, it's MINISTRY.

- If you do it because *someone else said* it needs to be done, it's a JOB  
If you do it because *you think it* needs done, it's MINISTRY.

- It's hard to get excited about a JOB

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291

Oak Grove  
Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehnt

Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request

[oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org](http://oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org)

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a MINISTRY

- An average church is filled with people doing the JOB;  
A great church if filled with people who are involved in MINISTRY

- If your concern is success - it's a JOB  
If your concern is faithfulness - it's a MINISTRY.

- People will say "Well Done" when you do your JOB  
The Lord will say, "Well Done" when you complete your MINISTRY.

## I SHALL PASS THIS WAY ONCE

By Etienne de Grellet:

I shall pass through this life but once,

Any good, therefore, that I can do

Or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature

Let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect it,

For I shall not pass this way again.

## LIGHT THE CANDLE

A young man who had heard the Gospel accepted Christ. A little while after this, a Christian teacher asked him: "What have you done for Christ since you believed?"

He replied: "Oh, I'm a learner."

"Well," said the questioner, "when you light a candle do you light it to make the candle more comfortable, or to have it give light?"

He replied, "To give light."

"Do you expect it to give light after it is half burned, or when you first light it?"

He replied, "As soon as I light it."

"Very well," was the reply, "go thou and do likewise; begin at once."

## JOSEFINA'S SECRET WEAPON

John Maxwell, *The Power of Partnership in the Church*

The July 19, 1948 edition of *Time* magazine told the astounding story of Josefina Guerrero who was awarded the Medal of Freedom for her heroic partnership with the American government in the face of the harsh brutality of WWII. During the war, Joey, as she was called, spied for the Allied forces in Manila.

Joey was young, pretty and vivacious. Her husband was a wealthy medical student at Santo Tomas University. But after the Japanese invaded the Philippines, she joined her friends and together they helped internees and the U.S. prisoners of war – bring them food, clothing, and medicine. She also carried valuable information back to the U.S. military. She mapped the waterfront areas for the Allied army and prowled the restricted areas recording what she saw. From Joey's drawings, American planes were able to pinpoint their targets. She quickly won the respect and appreciation of the U.S. officials.

For three years – until the war was over – Joey

continued her cloak and dagger career – and was never caught. She was stopped several times by suspicious Japanese, but she was never captured or searched – due to her secret weapon. What was it? Leprosy!

As a leper she had been an outcast. No one wanted to have anything to do with her. After the war began, the very characteristic that had isolated her from others helped her to accomplish her mission. Her weakness became the secret of her strength.

God can do the same thing with our lives, individually and in partnership to accomplish great things in His kingdom.

## SHE SOLD THE EGGS

A young, married Bible College graduate and his bride were unpacking in their first parsonage. The young bride showed the young preacher a box and told him that he had to promise never to look in it. It was her personal box. He made the promise, but after 25 years he happened to see it on the shelf in the closet. He opened it and found 3 eggs and \$1500 in cash.

That night, his curiosity got the better of him and he admitted to his wife that he had looked in the box. He asked her to explain the eggs and the money.

She replied: "Every time you preached a bad sermon, I put an egg in the box."

The preacher felt pretty good about only 3 bad sermons in 25 years. "But, what about all that cash," he asked.

She replied: "Whenever I got a dozen eggs I sold them."

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **Mark Smith**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Brian Shepherd**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**  
**Larry Runner**  
**Chuck Sharp**  
**Steve Smith**

Scripture Reading: **Randall Hood**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Wayne Runner**

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **Mark Smith**

Song Leader: **J.O. Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Kenny Case**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Bill Milliner**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Phelps**