

IT'S TIME FOR A RETURN TO A SIMPLE, PRACTICAL
LIFESTYLE . . . GETTING ALONG . . . HELPING EACH OTHER.



• ONE • ANOTHERING

SIMON SCHROCK

One
Anothering

One Anothering

Simon Schrock



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Dedication

To my mother and older brother, who taught
me much about One-Anothering

and

Faith Christian Fellowship

Author's Introduction

The modern space-age world brings with it much uncertainty and fear. We are caught in a world that honors those flying into space, but can ignore the deep needs of people next door.

Our world honors those who have been to the moon and back, or had a ride through space, but who cares for the person who doesn't make it on the "media blitz?" Who cares for the person who is deeply depressed or in financial trouble? Or caught in a disaster, or feeling of rejection and left out? Isn't there someone to care?

Lawsuits seem the order of the day. Neighbors sue each other to get their way. Christian couples go to the judges of the land to receive orders on how to live their lives. The powerful judges direct the lives of many of our children as the parents separate and attempt to settle their differences in court.

The daily lifestyle of the Church is near to the same selfish ways of the unchurched. The *Washington Post* reported that according to a study published for the Princeton Religion Research Center, "morality is losing ground." It cited indications that there is "very little difference in the behavior of the churched and the unchurched on a wide range of items including lying, cheating, and pilferage."

Is this really the way life should be for a people who are "churched" and considered a Christian nation? Should we be hiring an attorney to beat the other person

and make a monetary gain? Should we sue one another while venting our anger and revenge? Should we go to the judge for the directing of our lives?

I believe there is a higher order and calling for the Christian. It is an order that has been tested by time and is reliable for today. It's in the Bible! It's the principle and order of "one-anothering." For the casual reader, it is easy to miss the rich meaning of these short one-anothering expressions in the Scriptures. The Bible contains concise teachings on what believers should be doing for the other and what they should not be doing against each other. When these simple and to the point nuggets of truth are taken seriously, it makes a positive difference in our world.

Who will help the fearful, depressed, and rejected? Who will go the second mile in building good human relationships across the fence line? Who will be willing to help carry the load of the other? Who will give directions for the troubled? Who will give hope when hope is gone?

God is calling His people to do that! He calls those who confess His name to be a "one-anothering" people. His people are called to give biblical directions and assistance to each other.

One-Anothering is written with the hope that the people called the church will take these Scriptures seriously, live them daily, and become "one-anothering" churches. When this happens, there is renewed hope for our world.

Simon Schrock

Publisher's Preface

From country to city ... tasting sorrow and finding victory a simple life committed to Christ ... and a desire to spread the gospel ... these are all characteristics of Simon Schrock of Fairfax, Virginia.

Born in 1936 in Oakland, Maryland, to Amish parents, Simon became a Christian and a member of the Amish Mennonite Church. During his childhood years, he knew the serenity of life in rural Appalachia, attending a one-room school, and a country church.

After his marriage to Eva Lena Yoder, Simon moved to the Washington, DC area and felt the contrast of the smoky, noisy city. He soon began passing out Christian literature as he moved about the city. The death of his young wife led him through some deep soul-searching, but ultimately deepened his commitment to Christ. Pauline (Polly) Yoder and Simon were married about a year later. They have three children.

In 1968, Simon was introduced to evangelization through Christian bookrack ministry. He began dreaming of good literature for travelers through the Washington National Airport and placed his first inspirational books in the airport during that year. Since 1968, Simon has been instrumental in the sale of over 220,000 books at two Washington airports. (Choice Books is now providing Christian paperbacks in the public market from Maine to Florida.)

This manuscript grows out of Simon's concern to provide wholesome, inspirational reading material to the public. He lives on the cutting edge of his denomination and participates fully in evangelistic outreach through preaching, writing, and speaking engagements. It is from this perspective that Simon writes. He is a warmhearted Christian whose life exemplifies what it means to live in obedience to Christ.

He has written over one hundred articles published in Christian periodicals and has authored three other books, *Get on With Living*, and *The Price of Missing Life*, and *Vow Keepers—Vow Breakers*.

The Publisher

Foreword

God created us as social beings. Our coming into the world was not an event of our own choosing. Our early survival was entirely dependent on other people who cared about us.

As we grew from total dependency we gradually developed some survival skills. Our overall development was very much conditioned by people around us. Our continued existence is an experience in togetherness.

Simon Schrock has written a book that can enrich the quality of our experience with others at home, at work, and at worship.

We deplore international conflict and terrorism. We are saddened by violence that makes it unsafe to walk the streets of our large cities. The log jam of litigation in our legal system is a further commentary of serious deficiencies in human relations. It speaks of a crying need for "one-anothering." Far too often we who are Christian neglect to nurture our relationships with those we know best and love most as we should.

The life of author Schrock is a testimony that he feels deeply about these things. His theology is intensely practical. His message is easy-reading.

Who can estimate the potential life-changing value of this book? It can begin in me and in you. It deserves a wide reading. May God bless the distribution and effects of this message to the enrichment of people everywhere.

David L. Mille
Calvary Publications

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Cheer On Your Team

Our children attend the Christian school sponsored by the congregation. On a number of occasions the fathers came to school for lunch with the students and to play ball in the afternoon. The father-son team was a unique arrangement for a good team. When one would hit a good one, there was a lot of cheering on. If it looked like a home run, there was plenty of cheering and urging on to home base. In Bible terms, one could say he was being “exhorted” on home.

Exhorting means cheering the other one, urging the other to move ahead, to press toward the mark. It means giving encouragement.

The Bible calls believers to encourage one another. “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Heb. 3:13;NIV).

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25;NIV).

It is clear from Scripture that the people of God are to

encourage each other. It is not an option; it is a command. God considers giving encouragement so important that He gave some special gifts for giving it. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us ... if it is encouraging, let him encourage" (Rom. 12:6,8). Giving encouragement may be your gift. If it is, you have an extra measure of the ability to encourage others. This does not mean that others need not work on giving encouragement. It is certainly not an excuse for some to be discouraging to others. The Bible command is for all to be encouraging one another.

The apostle Paul understood encouragement. He used it freely in his opening remarks in his letters to the churches.

To the Corinthians he used these cheer-on words: "I thank my God always on your behalf."

To the Colossians he wrote, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints." He encouraged them by affirming their faith.

He urged the Philippians on by saying, "I thank my God every time I remember you ... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Here he assures them of their worth and value to himself and to Christ.

He praised the Thessalonians for their "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope."

One of Paul's encouragement principles can be seen in his greeting to Timothy. In the second letter he first affirms Timothy's faith. He encourages and establishes a kinship. Then he goes on to remind him to "fan into flame the gift of God." Notice the principle: he first encourages, then admonishes, then warns, then instructs and teaches for further growth.

Paul used this principle in some correcting and counseling that needed to be given to Philemon. He first acknowledged his strengths. He affirmed him as being a

brother. He wrote, "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all saints ... your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints." After he recognized his faith, love, and strength — after he urged him on, he gave some important counseling. "I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me."

Much of what is called counseling and correcting among believers is ineffective and hits dead soil. It may not be because the counselor uses the wrong words or gives the wrong answers, but simply that there has been no prior established relationship. There has been no prior affirmation of worth and appreciation for the other person. The counselor has never told him, "I appreciate you and the way you use your gift for God." Therefore, the one being counseled has nothing to lose by turning a deaf ear.

If one falls into sin, you may want to admonish that person to return to fellowship with God and the believers. Do you have an acceptance base already established so you can be free to approach him on the matter? Does he have nothing to lose by ignoring your warning and remaining in sin? Practice encouraging others on their strengths, then you'll be in a position to counsel and help nurture growth in their weakness.

How does one encourage another? I'll share six suggestions:

First, through words. Check your words; do they make for peace? Do they "speak things that become sound doctrine?" (Titus 2:1). Do they "speak ... truth" with your neighbor? (Eph 4:29;TEV). Check on your words of the past week. Did they really have an upbeat tempo, the sound of encouragement?

Christians need to evaluate their words carefully. Are they urge on words? Sometimes when we are just kidding

the other person on his weakness, we may be heaping on discouragement. We do not always know where he may be hurting. What may be kidding to us may be another dose of negative words that further wound his already hurting spirit. Evaluate your words, they may be opposite of encouragement.

Second, couple your words with a firm handshake. When I was a teenager attending church with my parents, the boys would line up outside the church house until just before the services began. Then we would follow the leader to a seat inside. I can still remember this one man who would come up the line and give us all a handshake and say our name. I remember how he would shake my hand and say, "Simon." Way down inside of me, that handshake coupled with my name had an encouraging effect. I felt loved and accepted. Even though he was an older man, I viewed him as a friend. He rated well with me. He practiced the Bible teaching to "greet the friends by name," and coupled the encouraging word with a firm handshake (3 John 14).

My mind goes to another, older man who has passed into the presence of the Lord. When he shook my hand, I knew he loved me and appreciated seeing me. Encourage another with a firm, affirming, sincere handshake. Just think — there is no name as sweet as their own.

Third, encourage through compassion. Be open and understanding to the hurts of others. Be sincerely sympathetic to their griefs and sorrows. Express sympathy by facing your friend eye-to-eye with words that show caring. My first wife died when I was twenty-five. I was in deep grief. I shall long remember how I felt love and compassion from my own mother when I would visit the home place. One day when I was there, I overheard a remark she made to my older sister. The remark was only a few words, but of deep compassion. Those words are encouraging to me to this day. It was because I felt the compassion in her words.

Fourth, encourage through an act. Israel was drawn into battle. The Amalekites attacked Israel. Joshua and his chosen men fought the Amalekites while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill where Moses held up his hands. As long as his hands were up, Israel was winning. When he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands became too tired, they took a stone and put it under him, then Aaron and Hur each held up a hand of Moses so that his hands were up till sunset. With the act of encouragement, cheering on, holding up the hands of Moses, Joshua won the battle over the Amalekites.

Believers are in many spiritual battles today. They are up against the wiles of the devil. We need to lift up one another with acts that encourage.

Fifth, I've been encouraged many times with a smile from another person. One specific time was at the memorial service of my mother-in-law. My oldest brother gave me a smile as he walked by me to view the body. I understood what it meant. It was encouraging at such a time.

When your pastor preaches the Word, give him an approving smile. Let him know you are awake and with it. A sincere smile encourages, but a snooze is downright discouraging. It has been reported that it takes sixty-six muscles to frown and only twelve to smile. It's easier to smile, it gives encouragement, and it looks better. Smile!

Sixth, encourage through prayer. Think of the unsaved! Appeal to God on their behalf. Through prayer encourage them to yield to God, because it is not God's will that any should perish.

Think of your pastor. Pray that he will speak sound doctrine. Pray that he will have a fresh inspiration from the Lord to share with the flock. Pray for others around you who are having times of testing and struggling with difficult situations. Encourage others by interceding in their behalf through prayer.

Why should we encourage? It's a threefold answer.

First, to urge others to come into a right relationship with the Lord Jesus. Believers should encourage unbelievers to take the step of faith by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting Him as their Saviour and Sin-forgiver. Encouragement also means helping others submit to Jesus, willingly allowing Him to be Lord of their lives.

Second reason to encourage: to build up the body of Christ. Within the church, members are to encourage others to be “rooted and grounded in love,” and to be “builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” We are to be cheerleaders and urge others on in becoming strong in Christ.

Third reason: we are to urge others on to a meaningful life work. We need to affirm the work of one another. Urge others on as they build houses, work in factories, milk cows to feed the world, repair machines to keep commerce moving. Urge others on to help them become successful in being parents, providers, and good, honest business people.

Exhort one another! I think of times when others exhorted me. I think of one of my school teachers who saw enough bad in me, and enough good, that she thought I would become a minister some day. That was encouraging.

I think of my Aunt Emma, who spent a good part of her life in a wheelchair. She exhorted me by affirming that she saw someone in her nephew. She expected something from me in the future. Her expectation was encouraging.

I then think of my editor friends who nurtured me along in writing. Eventually the writing resulted in having a book published.

Just think what kind of church you would have if you really exhorted, encouraged, urged on, cheered on one another. Of course, we cannot do it of our own strength, but from the inner strength available from God’s Spirit that dwells in the believer.

Think of the words you used during the past day. Try to think over the past week. You might be surprised

how lacking your conversations are of exhorting words. Try for one week to use only words and comments that are encouraging to those who hear you. Do something different for this whole week — encourage one another!

Believers are the team for God. Urge them on!