

The Lakeside

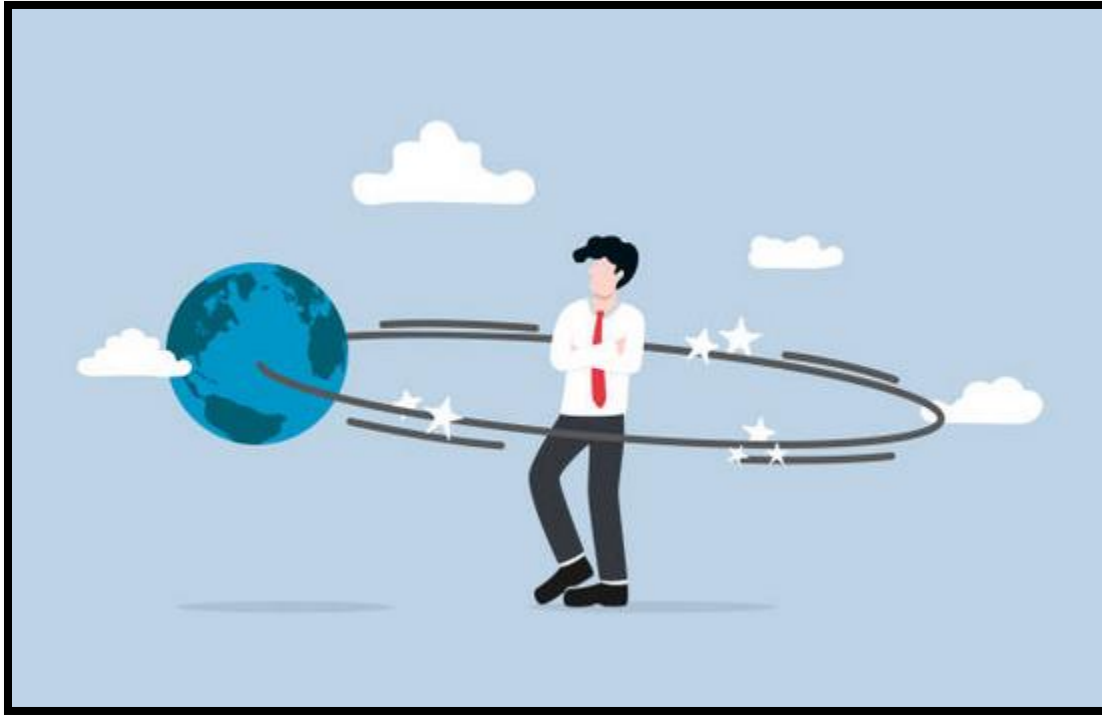


Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday April 8, 2024 - Romans 12: 16

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited

Read Romans 12 for meditation and inspiration.



BE A CHURCH FOR OTHERS

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

As a community of faith, one of the most serious charges that can be leveled at us is the claim that "Church People" are turned in on themselves. We Christians are vulnerable in the extreme to such a charge because the Gospel we preach is the Good News that God is a loving God who cares about all His human creatures. We are a People of God dedicated to a ministry of loving service to others. To whatever extent the charge is valid, we must face it honestly and openly because any aspect of self-centeredness in the life of the Church is a flagrant denial of Our Lord's intention in founding it. Nothing could be more obvious.

That is why we hope all of our members go far, far out of their way to welcome any visitor among us. That we bring them in and if time invite them to join others for coffee and snacks. Never, never do we want to seem uninviting, or cold, or snobby or caught up in clicks. Lakeside has a wonderful reputation of being a very, very welcoming and friendly church so let's keep it that way.

The Lord Himself came as a man for others. The one thing about Jesus the early disciples found most difficult to accept was that He came not to be ministered unto but to minister to. (They didn't accept it, really, until after the Resurrection.) When Jesus began to tell them that as the Messiah, He was to be a servant -- a Suffering Servant -- that He was to suffer and die on behalf of others, the disciples were incredulous. Simon Peter, the Rock, the first to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, said: "God forbid it; this is never going to happen to you! I mean, you're the Lord, you're the Messiah, you're not a servant!" And the one thing that we now find most challenging to accept is that, from the beginning, Christ intended for His People to be a Servant People; that Christ intended for the Church to follow the course of His ministry of loving service.

This is the next level of care for others. That is why I am so happy that we participate in the "Fourth Monday" to feed homeless people, in our "Family Education" Program teaching English to foreign speakers and in "Palm Beach Harvest" helping to bring food to the food insecure. Well done, Lakeside, and let us keep up the work of Christ in our area.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger