

# View From Afar

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The view of the Obed Wild and Scenic River from a high cliff overlooking the canyon and river has a quiet and peaceful appearance. The rapids in the river far below appear as white patches on the dark surface. The tree tops between the canyon walls sway gently in the breeze and the bushes and undergrowth carpet the floor of the canyon. The scene from afar belies the true nature of this wild river and rugged terrain.

Sometimes our interactions with our brothers and sisters in Christ are just as superficial as viewing the Obed River from a high overlook when our association is limited to an exchange of greeting in the foyer of the building. Some of our brothers and sisters are dealing with significant issues in their lives. Financial, marital, and other family problems cannot be seen and known from casual association. In addition, we typically do not share our problems with people we do not know well.

Paul wrote, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). Knowledge of the burdens our brothers and sisters are experiencing requires that we know and understand their needs. James' familiar statement, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble..." (James 1:27) implies a closeness to the widows and orphans so we can share their troubles.

In order to give real meaning to the term "brothers and sisters in Christ", we must get to know each other. We all understand we have the responsibility to meet new members of the congregation. But most of us who have been at Karns for an extended time are aware of other members we really don't know. Please look around the assembly and identify brothers and sisters in Christ you do not know well, and then take the steps necessary to get to know them. However, getting to know our brothers and sisters is not the end, it's the beginning. God expects each of us to be a true brother or sister to our brothers and sisters at Karns and bear one another's burdens.

For the elders,  
Don Denton