

You're Up Next

The Karns Church secretary, Cindy Powell, sends out an E-mail message to one of us each week with a familiar message "You're up next," reminding one of us we are scheduled to write the article for the weekly bulletin. Yes, most of us need to be reminded occasionally to do what we know we are supposed to do. Often, I hear words from Marg like "you know you are scheduled to be somewhere" or "do something today." The responses are sometimes, "yeah, I know" or "thanks, I'm glad you reminded me." It is a family thing.

Brothers and sisters in Christ also need to remind each other to do the things we are supposed to do. We read, *Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but for the interest of others* (Phil. 2:4). Our purpose in reminding each other of our responsibilities and commitments should be because we have love for our brothers and sisters and we have a genuine desire for everyone in the church family to be faithful servants of God and His church. Encouraging and reminding each other should be both given and received with a right attitude. When we have this level of concern for our fellow Christians the results are that we *stir up love and good works* (Heb. 10:24b). It's a family thing!

Needless to say, we some times leave undone or forget to do things we know we should do. In some instances, the thing(s) which we failed to do or have forgotten can be done another day or time. Sadly, there are occasions where there is only one opportunity to share our faith or do something helpful for the cause of Christ. And when they occur, we are reminded of Jesus' words *I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work* (Jn. 9:4).

The short answer to Cain's question to God in Gen. 4:9 is 'we are our brother's keeper'. Paul wrote *bear one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ* (Gal. 6:2). Gregg, you're up next!

For the elders,
Don Denton