

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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March 19

2023

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## PROBLEM SOLVERS VS. FAULT FINDERS

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Let me state some realities for you. The following list is not a specific indictment of this congregation, but I do believe these statements could be made about any local congregation, anywhere in the world:

“The church isn’t as evangelistic as it could be. We’re not doing enough to reach out to lost sinners.”

“We don’t do enough to support the weak and to encourage those who are struggling with hardships in their lives.”

The church isn’t as friendly as it could be. We don’t do as well in welcoming visitors and newcomers as we could, and there’s not as much close association among the members as there should be.

The Bible classes could be improved. The subject matter is sometimes ambiguous, and the teachers are sometimes unprepared.

We’re not doing enough benevolence. We’re too slow to step forward when legitimate needs come to us.

This is just a sampling. You can, no doubt, think of other things to expand this list. My point, however, is this: What are you doing about these deficiencies? There are two types of members in congregations, and they always have opposite reactions to the kind of problems I’ve listed here.

There are some who are dedicated to serving in the kingdom. When they see areas that need attention, they jump into the work. Are there lost people that need to be taught, weak brethren to encourage, sick people to visit? These members don’t wait to be told — they’re busy working to address the needs. For example, instead of complaining that the church is unfriendly, they’re doing their best to change that reputation by inviting people into their homes and by actively showing their love and concern for others. They volunteer to teach classes. They offer constructive criticism in loving ways. They get involved in bringing about needed changes. In short, they love the church and want to see it grow.

Sadly, there are others who only want to complain. They’re never happy and are constantly finding fault. Those members see none of the good in the congregation. They gripe and whine and do nothing positive. Their contribution and legacy in the church is tearing down, not building up. Which of these descriptions fits you best? Be a problem solver and lovingly fix the areas of the congregation that need it.

*✍ Kyle Campbell*

## Pray More, Worry Less

I venture to say that we all are familiar with the anxieties (i.e. feelings of worry, nervousness, or unease) of this life. You see, life is full of challenges, and there are, and there will be times when we will be faced with trying, and uncertain situations in this life. So, knowing that my beloved brethren, I ask, how do you deal with the anxieties of this life? Where do you look for relief when the anxieties of this life overcome you? Do you pray more and worry less? Or, do you worry more and pray less? Think about that!

For, in Philippians 4:6-7, the inspired apostle Paul, in writing to the saints in Philippi wrote, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Now, when Paul says “be anxious for nothing” he did not mean that we as Christians should not care about anything, nor have any concern about something or someone, but rather, brethren, the point is, we as Christians, should not become overly anxious (i.e. excessively worried, tense, or uneasy) about anything.

You see, a Christians primary focus needs to always be on God, and serving Him (Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1), and a Christian must never let the cares of this world become such a distraction to them that they lose focus on what is most important (Matthew 13:22-23).

Therefore, brethren, when the worries of this life come upon you, don’t be inclined to worry more, but rather be

inclined to pray more, and worry less. For, when a Christian goes to our Father in heaven in prayer, and makes their request known to Him, they will find peace amidst the trials and challenges of this life (Philippians 4:6-7).

So, my beloved brethren, when anxiety comes upon you, don’t worry more and neglect to seek the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, but rather pray more (1 Thessalonians 5:17), cast your burdens upon the Lord our God (Psalm 55:22), knowing that He does care for you (1 Peter 5:7), and that He is able to supply you with peace you need in challenging times.

Once more, brethren, I encourage you to pray more, and worry less!

*✍ Brad Phillips*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816