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As Christians we are called

- To:
 - Share our faith in Christ
 - Share our finances for needs of the poor
 - Share our comfort /encouragement as the Lord and others have shared their comfort /encouragement with us.



Agents of Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

We all need encouragement



Corinth at Paul's Visit



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- The church at Corinth was a new church who were struggling of how to live their lives under Roman occupation and how to integrate that life with the new life they found in Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

3-7 - Thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he is our Father and the source of all mercy and comfort. For he gives us comfort in our trials so that we in turn may be able to give the same sort of strong sympathy to others in theirs. Indeed, experience shows that the more we share Christ's suffering the more we are able to

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- give of his encouragement. This means that if we experience trouble we can pass on to you comfort and spiritual help; for if we ourselves have been comforted we know how to encourage you to endure patiently the same sort of troubles that we have ourselves endured. We are quite confident that if you have to suffer troubles as we

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- have done, then, like us, you will find the comfort and encouragement of God.

J.R.R. Tolkien writes about C.S. Lewis

- *The unpayable debt that I owe to him was not 'influence' as it is ordinarily understood, but sheer encouragement. He was for long my only audience. Only from him did I ever get the idea that my 'stuff' could be more than a private hobby. But for his interest and unceasing eagerness for more I should never have brought The L. of the R. to a conclusion....*

When do you need Comfort/Encouragement?



Needing Comfort

- Death of a friend
- Rejection – of a veterinary practice
- Angry and blaming client
- Angry colleague
- Poor or failing mark on an examination
- Failure of a surgical procedure
- Loss of a friendship

How did you experience Comfort

- What did people say and do to offer comfort to you when you were really down?

How do we give comfort to others

- I'm sorry you aren't feeling well.
- I've noticed you've seemed down lately.
- Is everything OK?
- How can I help? Pray with you
- Kindness - smile, being a good listener or an invitation for a chat over coffee,
- Saying nothing at all..
- Just be there.

Unhelpful things to Say

- You'll get over it
- It is hard for everyone the first year.
- Just relax
- It will all work out alright in the end
- I will pray for you but not asking what to pray for
- After all all things work together for good
- I am sorry for your loss

Agents of Comfort

- You and I are agents of **Comfort**
- We are called to come along side of people
- *“that he is our Father and the source of all mercy and comfort”* 2 Cor 1:3
- Let’s pray that we would be effective and sensitive in giving Comfort/Encouragement