

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

Rob Robinson

Thomaston Road Church of Christ is a great congregation, with many things going on and many concerned, hard-working and devoted people working together to keep them going. But many of our people, including some of our most consistently involved, are suffering with various problems. The Lord teaches us, *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2). We need to do that for one another all the time. Right now there are many of our church who have burdens, and some quite severe. Faithfulness to the Lord means that we will do what we can to be aware of one another's burdens, that we will pray for one another and that we will find ways to minister in some tangible way to help.

Bearing others' burdens means making contact to see how someone is doing. This can be done by a visit, a phone call, an email or a text message. By whatever means, the Lord does not want his children to struggle alone, but to have the companionship, support and assistance they need from others within the family of Christ. The first step to bearing one another's burdens is caring enough to find out who is having burdens and what they are. Just across the page of this bulletin is a list of people in our congregation who have burdens they need us to help them bear. Pray for each person on that list by name and ask for the Lord to bless each one with healing and strength. Contact those people and see how you can bear their burdens.

You will see names of cancer patients or other chronically ill. Some have been on our list for a long time. Some we see each week at church services and can see that they appear to be getting weaker instead of stronger. Some are not even able to make it to church. Some have recently found that their disease, once in remission, has come back. Some are undergoing difficult treatment, or choosing to forego it. Consider how discouraging that must be. On our prayer list are persons who have recently made commitments in their relationships with the Lord. They will likely face challenges or discouragements, and they will need our constant support and friendship. Let's be faithful as a Christian family and bear one another's burdens.