



Be an Alternate Society

Honor as Part of Our Alternate Society

By Amy Parris



We hear the word "honor" often — on my honor, men of honor, guest of honor, maid of honor, do the honors, in honor of, and let's not forget honor your mother and father. Even though it's not a foreign term, the application of it is.

One part of creating an alternate society includes honoring one another. In our family, we honor people on their birthdays. It's not something that comes naturally to children, but we don't make the action optional on a birthday. We encourage them to say what they love about that person or what makes him or her special. As they get older, and have had some practice (one of the benefits of a large family), it's amazing what they say.

When they were younger, they said things like, "She is nice," "He swings me high," or "You're good at soccer". As they have matured, they have brought tears to my eyes by finding qualities in each other I haven't even seen. It's a beautiful moment.

It not only honors the birthday girl or boy, but it gives the others pause to remember that that person who can drive them crazy is not really all that bad. It forces them to find the good in each other.

This simple gesture is completely foreign to most. We have a standing household dinner on Wednesday nights with a mixture of community and non-community people. Recently, we celebrated the birthday of one of our members and after we ate, we honored her. She was stunned. No one had ever done that for her before. Can you imagine going your entire life without someone reminding you how special you are? Though it had never occurred to me, in that moment, I realized that some people do.

Come to think of it, outside of community, the occasion where I have most often heard people honor someone is at a funeral. Though this is definitely an appropriate occasion for

honor, it shouldn't be the first. By that same token, a birthday should not be the only other time we honor each other.

Some synonyms for honor include praise, recognize, celebrate, and commend. If we're going to be like Jesus, shouldn't we be looking for ways to do this on a daily basis? How much better would the world be, if instead of criticizing what is wrong, we honor what is good?

It's such a simple action. Try to catch your children doing something well and tell them. When you come across a cheerful voice at the drive-through, praise that person when you see her at the window. If an employee does a good job, take the time to find the manager and let him know. When your husband comes home, thank him for working so hard to support the family. Recognize the hard work your wife put into tonight's

How Honoring Has Changed Me

By Vivian Hornsby
Guest Columnist

What's that you say? I have to pour out my heart in front of everyone? I have to tell them how I deeply feel for them and all the love I have for them? I have to do this out loud?

This is honoring...a tradition for the Hornsby family and the community of Alleluia. The tradition is to honor a person on their birthday, or other special days (mother's day, father's day, etc.) by telling them why you love them.

Honoring was very challenging for me in the beginning, especially when I come from a home where all we did was sing "Happy Birthday" and that was the end of it. It is not an easy task to speak from your heart, the raw truth.

I have now been honoring with the Hornsby family for over 10 years,

and it is something to look forward to. I have led honoring for other occasions (co-workers leaving, friends' birthdays, etc.) and each person leaves with a profound sense of how they are loved. This tradition is now my own and will be my children's.

Why should we? It takes a quiet room, kids have to sit still, electronics put away, the patience of listening, and not to mention, the whole heart on your shoulder for all to see. Why should we? Because it's an act of love at its finest... taking your time to sacrifice for another, taking your positive thoughts and projecting them towards others, telling a person directly that they are good and loved and deserving. It affects both the speaker and the receiver upon awareness of each other's love. To love an-



other is Christ like. We must be devoted to one another in love.

Such a simple act of love, such amazing results.

Everyone desires this act of love, everyone deserves it. Honoring can change a person It has changed me.

Vivian Hornsby is an art teacher at Westminster Schools of Augusta and is married to Clester Hornsby, son of Full Covenant members Chuck and Peggy Hornsby. She and Clester have two children and live in Augusta, Georgia.

Showing Each Other Honor

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meal.

When you honor people, you show them the love of Jesus. You bring out the good in them. You let them know their efforts are not in vain. You inspire them to continue to be honorable.

Last year on my birthday, my dad honored me for something I had been working on. I hadn't told anyone about it because I am not a fan of public failure. Not only did I think no one had noticed, but up to that point I felt as if my efforts had been completely unsuccessful. When he honored me for that very thing, it validated everything I had been trying to do. It made me believe that I

am capable of change. It inspired me to keep working hard. I thought about that one statement throughout the following year.

Let's do what God asks us to do, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." (1 Peter 12:10)

Amy Parris is a second generation Alleluia-ite, a former teacher in the Alleluia Community High School and a Support Group Head's wife. She and her husband Nelson have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia Community since 2007. They are the parents of five children and attend Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Augusta, Georgia. Amy writes about her life as a mom at <http://raisingangels.blogspot.com>.

Funding Air Conditioning for the ACSC Gym

The thermometer depicted below shows where we are financially in our attempt to air condition our gym. So far we have approximately \$25,000 in donations. We calculate that we will need \$85,000 to provide good air conditioning.

This thermometer will appear weekly until we reach our goal. Anyone wishing to donate for this project may send donations to the ACSC office made out to ACSC, Inc. with "for gym air conditioning" noted on the check.

