

The Bulwark

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September 29, 2024

“HE AIN’T HEAVY, HE’S MY BROTHER”

In a story that appeared on CNN, June 9, 2015, fifteen year old Hunter Gandee carried Braden, his eight year old brother some 57 miles across a stretch of southern Michigan. All of which was done to bring awareness faced daily by those with Cerebral Palsy. A moniker, “Cerebral Palsy Swagger” was attached to the demanding trek by Hunter’s mother. Not really sure if swagger would be an apt description of how Hunter walked at the end of his journey; nevertheless it seems to have stuck.



When I was reminded of the Gandee brothers, and what one did for the other the Hollies song, “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother” came to mind. But also the support received by those who walked along with them. Hunter was quoted at the time saying, “My legs were sore, but my friends picked me up and I made it through.”

“Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

“So then while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

As children of God we are called upon to lift one another up. In the twelfth chapter of Romans, Paul lays out a dynamic for dedicated service one to another. In his first epistle to the brethren in Corinth, Paul also stresses the need for each member of the body to lend support and aid to one another (see chapter twelve, verses 13-27). We are joined together in the body. Likewise, we are brought together into the household of God; a spiritual family (see Ephesians 2:19-22). As a result, to lift up another isn’t viewed as problematic, inasmuch “he ain’t heavy, he’s my brother”. How

blessed is it to know another has your back!

Is there any who would argue with respect to the strength and overall courage of the apostle Paul?

Yet, as much fortitude as he displayed (see 2Corinthians 11:22-33), there were times when he needed someone to help pick him up. Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned as being “*fellow workers in Christ*”, but what really stands out is what is seen in the following verse, Romans 13:4; Paul notes, “*who for my life risked their own necks...*” Talk about a pick me up!

However, through out the entire thirteenth chapter of Romans Paul makes reference to a rather extensive list of brethren who in one form or another lifted him up. In verse one, Phoebe, is described as being “*a helper of many, and myself as well.*” In the twenty-third verse, Gaius, is said to have demonstrated hospitality toward Paul, and for that matter the church. There are over twenty names mentioned in that chapter that in one way or another lifted Paul up.

What about in your life, who are the people who have lifted you up? It may have been with respect to physical things, or to a greater degree a spiritual uplifting, or a combination of both. By the care and concern they demonstrated the essence of “he ain’t heavy, he’s my brother.” Take some time to read over 2Corinthians, chapter one and verses three to seven, as you do so, note that the uplifting, “*comfort*”, needs to be paid forward. Look for ways to help ease the burden of another brother or sister in Christ.

“Let us...” (wbe)