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From the Chaplain (September 2006)

Dear Friends,

A paradox is something that is illogical or absurd. It is a contradiction and in all reality does not make sense. That describes precisely the life of a Christian.

As God's people we live in this world, but are not of the world. The lifestyle and challenges laid before us dictate that we respond differently, we march, if you will, to a different drumbeat. Living a paradoxical life means that when things in this world are going badly, our spiritual lives can still be meaningful.

Jesus said that you become a leader by serving. You handle those who hurt you by forgiving. With the gifts we have been given we are called to share and meet the needs of others. Enemies are to be treated with love.

In fact, in God's kingdom we are given a new attitude toward everything and everyone.

On Sunday mornings in the month of September we will be looking at four of the paradoxes of our faith. They will include the truths that we find by losing, that our weakness is our strength, in letting go we find freedom and in dying we live.

I share with you these thoughts from a writing that Mother Theresa had on the wall of the Children's Home in India. They encourage to live the life we have been called to – to do anyway, even if it makes no sense.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you
of selfish ulterior motives.

Do them anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends
and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas
can be shot down by the smallest men and women
with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs, but follow only top dogs.

Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack
you if you do help them.

Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have
and you will get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have anyway.

Jesus is calling you to a paradoxical life. He is not calling you to worldly success, but to serve God. He is calling you to love and help people, to reach out, no matter what. You may lose your way, but you can always walk with God. You may suffer and know disappointments, but you can always find happiness in Christ. You may know fear, but you can always find encouragement in Christ.

Jesus calls us to a life that is illogical – but will you answer His call anyway. Jesus did it anyway – will you?

God's peace and joy to each of you,

Chaplain Sandy Anenson
