

This past Sunday, after Robby gave his testimony, God began to remind me of people throughout my life, who in some way, made an impact on me.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul reminds us that we are the body of Christ and that each one of us is a part of it. He uses the example of our physical bodies to help us get a better picture of the role that each part plays and how God has "placed the parts in the body, EVERY ONE OF THEM, just as he wanted them to be. " Get the picture? You aren't a part of the community for no reason. God put you here.

He goes on to speak of different gifts that people have, and while your specific gift may not be listed, know that it is needed. Lest you think you have nothing to offer, let me tell you of some of the memories I have of people who did small things that made a deep impression on me and are part of the reason I'm still a member of the "body of Christ.

My first pastor, when I was a very young child, was Sister Pearl Keaton. Being quite young, I don't remember what she preached about but I do remember her always having gum balls wrapped in a tissue and offering me one as we greeted her after church.

Jeri Clegg was a Sunday school teacher who was always so kind. Sometimes during church, I'd sit by her and she'd show me how to make a little goblet out of the foil wrapper of my piece of Juicy Fruit.

Bob and Donna Olmstead were Caravan workers who loved me when I was in those pre-teen years. Many a time I spent the night at their home and to this day I still have a special place in my heart for them.

Duke and Glenda Sickles were members of the church that I attended during my teenage years. Duke was involved in taking groups of kids on backpacking trips and he and Glenda loaned me equipment so that I could go on a couple of those trips.

Don and Eleanor Whitsett taught our young married Sunday School class in Oklahoma City. Eleanor would often host events at her home and one time invited the wives over to teach us how to make bread.

Many of you have had a lasting influence on me as well. Janis Greeno's gift of hospitality and Bonnie Green's gift of encouragement are just 2 examples of how God has used this church community to minister to me.

So, what I'm trying to say is that you should never underestimate the importance of your role in our church. You never know what simple act of kindness, what spoken word of encouragement or appreciation, what showing interest in what's going on in a person's life, can do for someone. Who knows, maybe 50+ years from now, your name will come to mind when someone is reflecting on how the church community impacted them.

Colossians 3:17 " And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."