



Clinton Alliance Church

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Thomas L. Hartley, Pastor

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Dear Friends,

English-born American newspaper columnist and author Sydney Harris once wrote, *"Time is love, above all else. It is the most precious commodity in the world and should be lavished on those we care most about."* Scripture is replete with references reflecting this same idea. Solomon wrote, *"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* (Prov.18:24) Moses writing to God's people about the importance of teaching His truths to our children wrote that we should, *"Impress them on our children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* (Deut. 6:7) Jesus himself dedicated his entire life to the family of believers and then urged us to do the same when he said, *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."* (John15:12) All of these admonitions to love and care for each other demand our time.

Recent events have afforded most of us the rare opportunity to reinvest some time in our most important relationships. Though there are many exceptions, particularly the healthcare workers for whom we should be praying, the vast majority of us find ourselves in the strange but wonderful position of being in our homes with our families for long periods of time. This, my friend, is an opportunity that should be seized upon.

A week ago, my daughter-in-law, Renee, sent me a picture of my son and grandson sitting on the floor together at home. David had retrieved a box of old wooden trains from the attic that belonged to him as child. Upon opening the box, much to Renee's delight, Thomas said, "Whoa, Choo-Choo Train!" They proceeded to assemble the track and play with the toys together. In the picture Thomas was carefully moving the train along the track, while David held in his hand a single car, which he was studying closely. I cannot be sure of what was going through his mind, but of this I am positive, he was in that moment reminiscing, remembering how his mother and I had played with him. Now he and his wife played with their son.

If recent events had not provided David and Renee with a surplus of time, how long would the trains have remained in the attic? What joy did this time give them and what will Thomas remember of it in the course of time. Of all the hundreds of pictures I have viewed of my grandson since he was born, none have pleased me more than this one. Harris was right, time is love and should be lavished on those we care most about.

This idea is equally applicable for those who live alone. Why not take some time to call a family member or friend you haven't talked with in a while? I'm sure they would love to hear from you. I'm sure a long talk would be a blessing not only for them but for yourself as well. You've been meaning to call for a long time, why not today? Listen to them, encourage them, lavish on them the 'gift' of time, for in so doing you will demonstrate your love and the love of Christ.

God Bless and Keep you
Until the lights come back on,

Pastor T. L. Hartley

P.S. This and future updates will be posted on our website. If you would like us to discontinue sending them to you by mail, please leave a message on our office phone, or just send us an email: clintoncma@optonline.net.