

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL *e-mail edition*

Fri. May 7

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 9:13-19

KEY VERSE: "[Ananias] stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!'" (Acts 22:13).

Have a Family

"Brother Saul." Ananias was the first Christian to call the former persecutor "brother." Hearing that word, Saul knew that the Church is a family, and he was included in the family circle. He had brothers and sisters to stand beside him as human symbols of the love and power of Jesus. They would pray for him, give to him, hear from him, and rejoice in every mission he conducted for their common Lord. He would enjoy family reunions, meeting with his brothers and sisters to report his missionary adventures. That's why we have worship services: We gather to honor our Father and to rejoice in what He is doing in, with, and through all of our lives.

The psalmist said, "God sets the lonely in families" (Ps. 68:6). Everyone needs to belong, to be part of a family and a community. That need is best met in the fellowship of those forgiven and re-routed by the Savior. In the family, "the tie that binds" is blood. Not performance. Not achievement. Not success. Just blood. Saved by Jesus' blood. Bonded by His blood. We are family!

W. E. McCumber

SING TO THE LORD

*Join hands then, brothers of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serve my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.*

"In Christ There Is No East or West" by John Oxenham

REACH OUT IN PRAYER

Developing Christian leaders in Hong Kong.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

[W]hile our hearts are being reconciled to God, we are also being reconciled with each other (Bruce Paul).

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Psalms 79-81



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