

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2017

Meeting location: St. Paul Lutheran Church Library

2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced

Meeting # 282

President (Administration Chair) Jan Sorge	Present
Vice President (Recruitment Chair) Michelle Paloutzian	Excused
Secretary (Public Relations) George Gallaher	Present
Treasurer Donna Hall	Present
Family Services Chair Nellie Venegas	Excused
ReStore Resource Chair Lyle Allen	Present
Finance Chair Sean Arnold	Present
Member at Large Pete Delacruz	Present
Member at Large Fred Pillsbury	Excused

6:34 p.m. Call to order, Jan Sorge President.

Guests: Barry Carbaugh,

Devotion: Jan read the following as this meeting's devotion:



Lightening the Load

By Julia Clinton

(Retrieved from <https://www.ewomen.net/devos/2017-06-08/lightening-the-load/>)

It is impossible to get exhausted in work for God. We get exhausted because we try to do God's work in our own way.

-Oswald Chambers

I can't tell you the number of times I've done something by myself because I bought into the idea that "if you want it done right, do it yourself." Or the number of times I was too proud to ask for help because I thought I would seem less capable. And sometimes I refused to let others help because doing so would mean losing total control.

When we try to do too many things or refuse help from others, our lives become more imbalanced. And for most Americans, exhaustion has become an epidemic.

- Workplace stress costs more than \$300 billion each year in health care, missed work, and stress-reduction.
- Americans work more than 1800 hours on the job a year-350 hours more than Germans and slightly more than Japanese.
- More than 30 percent of workers say they are "always" or "often" under stress at work. A quarter of those surveyed in 2002 said they often did not have enough co-workers to get the job done.
- The average European worker gets four to six weeks of vacation per year compared to the average two weeks of vacation for their American counterparts.

We are certainly an overloaded society. Stress piles up, affecting our physical, emotional, and mental health and distorting our attitudes at work, at home, and even in our ministries. Pushed to the limit, we become exhausted and ultimately ineffective in God's work.

Moses knew exhaustion all too well. Attempting to fix the ineffective judicial system set up in the wilderness, Moses tried to shoulder the burden alone. But his father-in-law Jethro recognized Moses' inability to handle all of his people's cases saying, "What's going on here? Why are you doing all this, and all by yourself, letting everybody line up before you from morning to night?"

After Moses tried to excuse himself, Jethro continued, "This is no way to go about it. You'll burn out, and the people right along with you. This is way too much for you-you can't do this alone. Now listen to me. Let me tell you how to do this so that God will be in this with you." Whoa! Was Jethro really implying that if Moses didn't begin to delegate, God wouldn't be in it? The answer is yes. From a wise third-party perspective, Jethro saw the potential pitfalls of a leader on the edge of burnout. So he warned Moses that people rise and fall on leadership. If Moses became exhausted, those working with him would falter too. Jethro knew exhaustion comes not from the Lord but from man's stubborn inclination to do it his own way.

Jethro continued, "Be there for the people before God, but let the matters of concern be presented to God. Your job is to teach them the rules and instructions, to show them how to live, what to do. And then you need to keep a sharp eye out for competent men-men who fear God, men of integrity, men who are incorruptible-and appoint them as leaders..." (Exodus 18:14-21 MSG). Jethro advised Moses to delegate his responsibilities. There will be times you are called to do the same with the tasks placed before you. God puts mentors, helpers, and burden-bearers in our lives to support us in the work He calls us to do. Before you burn out, look around for those helpers God may have sent your way.

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. God designed us to be in community with one another, to help when we can, and to accept help when we need it. So, what can you do to lighten your load?

- **Know your limits.** Never let your schedule get so out of control that you can no longer manage it. Do a personal inventory. Are you getting enough sleep? Spending enough time with your children? Your significant other? Learn to recognize the physical, emotional, and mental warning signals your body emits at the brink of exhaustion.
- **Know God's Will.** God's will is for you to «pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all" (1 Thessalonians 5:15 NKJV). It's not to scramble around frantically to make sure every task is completed by the end of the day, wearing out both you and those around you. If you're constantly living with an agitated heart, you are not in the center of God's will.
- **Know when to quit.** Jesus never spent his time and energy the way we do today. The Bible gives no indication that He worked around the clock. In fact, in many cases Jesus snuck off alone to pray and rest. Being in God's will, Jesus was able to go to sleep without having healed and saved everybody in Israel.
- **Know what's important.** Knowing your priorities will help you accomplish more even when you feel as if you're doing less. Effectiveness is not about quantity and getting a lot done; it's about the quality of what you are doing and understanding that the Holy Spirit is ultimately responsible for multiplying your efforts.

I don't know what you're wrestling with in your life that might be too *heavy* for you to bear. But I do know that right now, somewhere in your life, some people are just waiting to be asked to help you. Maybe a friend can give you a break from care-giving responsibilities. Or a supervisor who will assure that your work gets done as you go through chemotherapy and radiation. Or a credit counselor who is waiting for you to call so that she can help you begin the journey back to financial health and freedom.

Only you know what's weighing you down. But Jesus stands ready to help you figure out how to lighten the load and has placed people in your life to assist you. All you have to do is ask.

Minutes: August Board minutes: Moved by Lyle, seconded by Donna to be approved as written.

Financial Report: Donna reported that all mortgages are up to date for August. Jan reported that the performance bond, \$6,264.79, will be transferred to our checking account in January when it will be mature and interest will be paid. Donna explained that project 17 has been set up for the costs relating to opening the ReStore. Expenses and reimbursements for Brush with Kindness will be posted to the proper account by the next board meeting. Donna stated that she is getting more proficient at using the accounting software and that the books and reports will be accurate from now on.

Restore Research Chair/ Construction Co-Chair

Lyle showed and explained a floor plan drawing to the board. Sean has the sign permit paperwork completed and will contact the sign maker when every part of the permitting process is completed. Barry stated that the workers have been working every day from eight A.M. to two-thirty P.M. Walls have been completed, a door hung and much electrical work done. The alarm panel has been installed. The City of Atwater is reviewing the bathroom renovation plans. Once renovated, the bathroom will meet ADA standards. Shelving is being built and much of the furniture belonging to someone else has been removed. The board needs to investigate various methods of having a telephone for the ReStore. Jan and Donna will review our current telephone bill and compare the current cost with other viable options. The Atwater storage facility has been emptied and the company will refund Fred a month's rent.

Family Services: Jan asked Pete to call each partner family and invite them to the annual dinner. Jan will supply phone numbers and George will supply addresses. Jan will invite the Mariposa and Los Banos affiliates to the annual dinner.

Site Selection No report.

Administration: Jan reported that she has flyers for each board member for the Carl's Jr. Applebee's pancake, and Chipotle fundraisers. Board members need to obtain numbered Applebee tickets to sell for \$5.00 apiece after the board meeting. Our annual meeting is set for October 21, 2017. Board members

need to be there at 4:00 P.M. to set up for the event. Devotion volunteers include Lyle for October, Donna for November, and Michelle for January.

Public Relations: The newsletter needs some minor revisions but, otherwise, is ready for publication. The web page for the ReStore is moving along nicely. George will get approval from Lyle before linking it to our website.

Church Relations: Jan has sent many items to churches and will back off a bit to avoid overkill.

Recruitment: no report.

Other:

Meeting adjourned: at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: George Gallaher, Secretary

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County

Meeting Sign In September 25, 2017

Neomi Gallaher

Lyle Alfaro

BARRY CARBAUGH

Rita Delacruz

Danna Hall

Jan Lopez

A. Bold
