



## WORDS FROM *Pastor Randy*

### It's the "Write" Way to Encourage ...

Last week, I received 6 cards from 6 of our Deacons here at First Baptist. They were simple handwritten notes of encouragement. There was no special occasion or crisis dilemma that prompted them. These were men who just wanted to express words of gratitude and support to their preacher.

Now I know for a fact that it's not normal for men to take the time to sit down and record their thoughts on paper. This kind of worthy endeavor is usually more natural for our ladies. I am convinced that it's something that we all should do a whole lot more of.

One of the most effective ways to communicate our love, support, and encouragement to the heart of others is through writing. You heard about the young man who mailed a love note to his sweetheart one every day for 6 months (now that's a lot of writing!). No, she didn't marry him, but she did marry the postman!

We will never know all the good that comes when we write, but we know that good always comes when we care enough to carefully and prayerfully organize our thoughts on paper to convey our concern.

Over the years as a Pastor, I have regularly received notes of encouragement from such sweet church members. Many of these I have saved in my files. While some of the writers have already gone to Heaven, their notes remain precious and priceless to me.

Written expressions have the potential of lasting for a lifetime and becoming forever engraved in the memory of its recipient.

Acts 15:31 says, "*Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.*" Paul's letters to the churches in the first century were letters of encouragement. His writings usually involved some form of doctrinal exhortation followed by some practical instruction.

These Christians were facing unique challenges of loneliness, isolation, and incredible persecution. Many of them were meeting in caves and catacombs. Can you imagine getting a letter from the Apostle Paul! Take a few minutes and read Paul's opening words of greeting to his Christian friends at Rome (Rom. 1:8-9) and Corinth (1 Cor. 1:4-9).

Do you ever remember opening an envelope and savoring that moment when undistracted you were able to breathe in a word of pure encouragement from the note inside?

Do you have a friend going through some difficult time? Can you think of anybody who needs to be encouraged? Who needs a little recognition and appreciation? Is there someone in your life who could use me written applause or penned praise?

### Why don't you write them a little note?

The price of a postage stamp is higher than it's ever been. But, for a few pennies and about five minutes of your time, you can deliver a permanent token expressing the way you really feel toward someone.

Here at the church, we have a wide assortment of cards available for your use on a table near the office hallway. Indulge yourself!

It will be worth it! Your words will inspire, renew, and empower. They may just be the breath of fresh air that some discouraged sojourner is desperate for.

Be encouraged today by becoming an Encourager of others,

Inventions . . . "Happy is the person who discovers there isn't time left for not doing them"  
... UNKNOWN

See you in church! Pastor Randy