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# Dancing in the Rain

Moment of Manna

Leo Pete

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

To encourage means to inspire with hope, courage, or confidence; to give support to; to foster; to stimulate or spur; to give someone the confidence to do something.

Michael Josephson of Character Counts says that “Mark Gibson, a former gymnastics coach, tells a wonderful story about a 15-year-old girl I’ll call Cindy. When Mark coached at a gym where several world-class gymnasts worked out, he said Cindy was the most important person in the gym. Cindy wasn’t the best athlete—not even close. But when she was in the gym, everyone whined and complained less, worked harder and achieved more. She brought out the best in everyone. You see, Cindy was blind.

“When it was her turn to do the vault, her mother would run alongside of her, saying, ‘We’re getting close, we’re closer’, and when her mom said, ‘Vault!’ Cindy, with complete trust in her mother and herself, would jump. It was awesome.

“Neither Cindy nor her mother allowed her sightlessness to confine her, so they soared like eagles for all to see. Cindy led in the most powerful way possible, not by fancy rhetoric but by example. All who watched her strive to be the best she could be realized how much more there is within themselves.”(www.charactercounts.org)

Cindy’s mother was a great encourager to her daughter. Cindy was a great encourager to all who watched her. As Christians that’s what you and I need to do for others.

I keep seeing this quote on Facebook: “Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” An encourager is one who puts

courage into another or who puts inner strength into others when they are afraid or needing a helping hand. Cindy knew how to dance in the rain, and by her actions, she taught others to do the same.

I thank God for all the people in my life who have encouraged me along the way—who have helped spur me on when I was feeling insecure, fearful, and afraid of failure. They were 'as Jesus' to me. We need to be sensitive to the needs of fellow strugglers and be 'as Jesus' to them and be a great encourager in their time of need. God says we are to encourage one another. It doesn't matter how we say it, as long as we do it. So let's inspire, comfort, rally, cheer, stimulate, reassure, console, rouse, hearten, embolden, persuade, prompt, incite, boost, strengthen, endorse, commend, and give hope to each other. Let's encourage each other. Let's take the time to teach each other how to dance in the rain.