

Church community at its worst-and its best

By Dr. Gary Welton
Center for Vision & Values

Churches are havens and shelters for needy humans. They contain no perfect specimens. Nevertheless, they are held to high standards and are embarrassed when their building doors are locked during a local crisis. Yet their mission goes on, and we would be most miserable without strong churches. For example, as reported in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, a University of Pennsylvania professor studied 11 churches and one synagogue and concluded that the average economic worth of each to its Philadelphia neighborhood was over \$4 million a year. Even more so, the non-financial benefits are priceless, as I was reminded during a recent weekend.

We had received an email from a young family, members of a church in our denomination, 150 miles away, asking for our help in their move to our town. They told us they expected to arrive on Saturday, and asked if we could provide some muscle power to help them unload their truck. Although it was a busy summer weekend, and many families in our small church were out of town, I was able to assemble a sizable work team. In fact, some of our people telephoned me and said they were busy, but they would rearrange their schedule if I needed their help. I was able to assure them that we were already fully staffed.

That same Saturday afternoon my wife and I received a telephone call from some friends, an elderly couple, several hundred miles away. They needed a caretaker during a medical crisis. The couple was surviving in their private home, but barely. Because of some short-term medical issues, they were looking for help, and they needed care ASAP. STAT, PDQ. My wife immediately began planning to drive south the next day, but the

immediate concern remained. Will they be OK tonight and tomorrow morning?

A young couple needed some help with a move, and they reached out to their larger church community. An elderly couple needed some immediate caretaking, but they had no church community. They had never been part of a religious fellowship. Granted, we could have telephoned churches in their area, and located some assistance, but the helpers would not have had an established relationship of love and trust. Indeed, in this situation, our distant elderly friends would have been so untrusting and frightened as to have refused their help. At a moment of need, their life choices had cut them off from the local caring community.

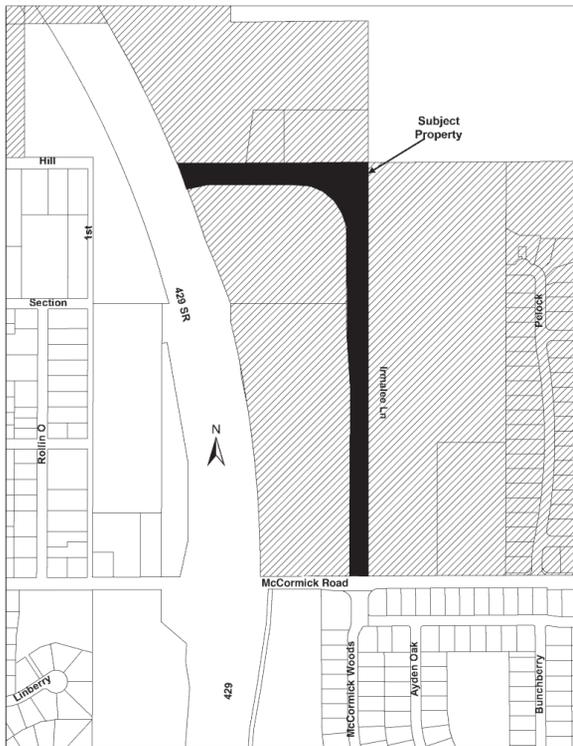
The short-term and ongoing needs in southeastern Texas and now in Florida are massive, and Americans have united in donating money, supplies, time, and prayers on their behalf. Needs on a smaller scale, however, are often overlooked and ignored. Admittedly, those of us in churches too often make selfish and poor choices. In fact, I myself have some work to do, as I need to decide how best to respond to a chronic need in our local congregation.

I am not always at my best; our churches are not always at their best. Nevertheless, I was struck at the contrast during these recent events. We will all find ourselves in situations of need at some point in our lives. These times and situations will, to some extent, reflect our choices to invest ourselves as caring, working, and contributing members of our own communities. Those within caring churches can turn to them as sources of support during times of need. Those without caring communities – not so much.

Dr. Gary L. Welton is assistant dean for institutional assessment, professor of psychology at Grove City College, and a contributor to *The Center for Vision & Values*.

NOTICE OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER: 2603

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka intends to annex public right-of-way known as "Irmalee Lane." This public right-of-way is surrounded by the incorporated area of the City of Apopka excepting its western and southern termini. Annexation will occur in accordance with Florida Statutes 171.044 and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00. Irmalee Lane, containing 6.5 +/- acres, is currently owned by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, but will become the ownership of the City of Apopka upon annexation. The right-of-way proposed for annexation is illustrated in the vicinity map below:



(THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)
The proposed annexation, as indicated in the map of this advertisement, may be inspected by the public in the City of Apopka Community Development Department, and/or the office of the City Clerk, at 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida (Apopka City Hall).

NOTICE is hereby given that public hearings to consider the future adoption of ORDINANCE NUMBER: 2603 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, on **Wednesday, October 4, 2017, beginning at 1:30 P.M. and Wednesday, October 18, 2017 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

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Apopka City Council
Community Development Dept.
158858

Nelson: Minimize water use for restoration

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tions or would like more information, they may contact Fire Rescue at 407-836-9000.

Orange County is experiencing widespread power outages throughout the community. In addition, the storm has placed a considerable strain on the county's pump stations. To assist with the restoration process, Orange County requests that residents minimize the use of their water, such as use in bathing, flushing toilets, washing machines, and dishwashers; if residents have conserved water in a bathtub, they are asked to refrain from draining that water.

Where there are more than 300,000 residents without power, utilities asks for patience as they work to restore power in the community, and to only call once when reporting an outage with a power company. To report a power outage, residents are directed to contact the Orlando Utilities Commission at 407-423-9018 or Duke Energy at 800-228-8485. Additionally, utilities stresses that residents report and avoid contact with fallen power lines, as the power lines could still be live and pose a safety hazard if contact is made. Furthermore, all regional water treatment facilities and the county's drinking water system are operational and safe with no boil-water advisories. Utilities is working on impacts of one water main break and multiple individual service line breaks that may be affecting customers in isolated areas.

This week, Orange County opened 10 sites for residents to drop off storm debris: Barnett Park, 4801 W. Colonial Dr.; Conway Water Treatment Plant, 4750 Manatee St.; Cypress Grove Park, 290 Holden Ave.; Fort Christmas Park, 1543 N. Christmas Rd.; Harrell Road, 8503 Trevarthon Rd.; Meadowoods Park, 1751 Rhode Island Woods Cir; NW Water Treatment Plant, 701 W. McCormick Rd.; across from Eastern Regional Park, 9200 Curry Ford Rd.; West Beach Park addition, 9303 Winter Garden Vineland Rd.; and West Orange Soccer Park, 150 Windermere Rd.

Residents are permitted to only bring vegetative (trees/yard waste) storm debris to one of these locations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and will need to provide proof of Orange County address in order to gain access. Curbside debris pick-up assistance for vegetative debris began on Thursday. Residents

are asked to separate vegetative debris from construction materials, household hazardous waste or large electrical goods when placed on the curb for pickup. Residents can refer to ocfi.net or call 311 for more information, and if they live in one of our cities, they should check with their city on their procedures for pickup plans and locations.

Orange County monitors and maintains almost 600 traffic signals. While more than 50 percent of traffic signals were out and many are still out, the county asks residents to continue to follow the four-way stop procedure at traffic intersections. If residents have questions or need to report problems, they should contact the Orange County Traffic Management Center at 407-836-7890, or the Orange County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Complaint Line at 407-836-4357 after 6:30 p.m. In addition, based on 311 calls and inspections, the county believes that all roads are passable. Residents are directed to report any discoveries of tree limbs or roadways that are not passable to 311.

There is extensive flooding in the Orlovista community, where Orange County Fire Rescue and National Guardsmen helped to rescue more than 135 evacuees and their pets. OCFR is currently encouraging residents who have chosen to stay behind to seek safety. Orange County continues to monitor developments related to the sinkhole in the Apopka-Vineland Road and Colonial Drive area.

In terms of building safety, the county is prepared to waive permitting fees applicable to individuals and businesses that need contractual repairs.

It is one of Orange County's main goals to educate residents on how to recognize fraud and avoid becoming a victim to such a crime. When considering to hire a contractor, residents should do the following: Ask if the potential contractor has a valid license and insist that they have one; avoid door-to-door solicitors; ask for references, bonding, and insurance; make sure the contract can be broken if you don't receive financing; and always hire a contractor with a real office, not just a post office box address.

For more information on the Orange County Consumer Fraud Office, and how to avoid becoming a victim to fraud, residents can call 407-836-2490, 311, or email fraud-help@sao9.org.

Corbeil: High command asked for volunteers

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"What's the matter, mister? That record can't mean that much to you. There's a whole bunch on that thing that are much prettier."

"I know there are, but if you knew the reason why I play that song ... Aw, never mind, you wouldn't be interested."

I knew my place would be quiet for about an hour so I asked him if he would do me a favor and tell me that story, so I could stop battling my brains trying to figure it out.

He says okay, then asks me: "Do you remember Sy Howard?"

This question seems a little silly to me, on account of everybody knew about Sy, one of the greatest ball-players and natural hitters that ever lived. That is, up to about a year and a half ago when the Army got him, and he got his in Korea. I tell the guy, of course, that I remember him, and then figure this to be one of those hero worship cases. Then, this guy opens up with the heavy stuff, and starts giving it to me thick and fast.

"Sy and I were together in Korea; in fact I was his company commander. He was a damn good soldier and a nice guy on top of that. In the month that we were together at the front, I got to like that kid a lot, a little more than the rest of the men even. It may seem crazy to you, but I felt it was my duty to the American public to keep a personal eye on him, especially for the kids. That boy really deserved everything people said about him.

I know that now, only too well.

"Those were the days we were getting it pretty bad over there, with the whole army retreating back toward the sea. The high command had asked my company for volunteers in a rear-guard action, so I put it up to the men. Some stayed and some didn't. Yes, the kid stayed. He could have gone back to his fans, the crowds, a lot of money and a lot of success but he stayed there with me and the others.

"We held off for a while, but they finally surrounded us and we had to give in. They sent us north a little ways to this stinking prison camp where we didn't get the best of treatment by any means. After about two weeks, the kid couldn't stand it anymore and stared to talk about escaping and getting back. I tried to tell him to forget and even ordered him to stay. The kid had too much guts for that, and one night, late, he took off.

"He got pretty far, considering the odds against him, but a patrol picked him up and dragged him back. He wasn't very pretty when he got back, after their beauty treatments, and they shut him up all by himself in a small stockade. I couldn't help feeling bad because it was only a matter of time before they dragged him out to make an example of him. Only a matter of time before a great athlete and sportsman would die.

"Then, one night, they threw him back in with us and I knew that tomorrow was the day. I don't know how I knew, but it was a cer-

tainty I couldn't put aside.

The kid knew also; I could read it in his eyes: not fear, just a calm acceptance. He spent the night writing letters while lying on the ground, thinking. When morning came he handed me the letters; one to his folks, one to his wife. He just shook my hand with a slow smile. I couldn't have said anything anyway as my throat was so tight and full, but he understood.

"They came for him early, and as he left us, he turned and gave a big wave, just as if he was going home. That wasn't the last we saw of him though. The Reds herded us all out into the main compound where the kid was standing all alone in the middle of the yard. A soldier with a sub-machine gun was waiting a short distance away talking to a high-ranking officer.

"All of a sudden, this kid calls the officer over and started talking with him. I guess the officer understood English, because after a few minutes, he went over to a soldier, took his rifle, emptied the cartridges out, then started back toward Sy, who had followed him part way.

"The whole thing was getting crazier by the minute, and when the officer gave the rifle to Sy, I didn't know what was coming off. It wasn't long before I found out what the kid had in mind.

"He took the rifle, held it by the barrel in both hands, hefting it and swinging it like a ball bat. Sy Howard was going up to the plate for the last time, and he was go-

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The Apopka Chief

Established 1923

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The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokachief.com,
news@theapokachief.com

The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net



All About Apopka

www.orangecountyfl.net

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1703
City Administrator	407-703-1750
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
Police Chief	407-703-1789
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1721
Solid Waste Collect.	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency	911

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services	407-254-9140
Auto/Boat Tags	407-836-4145
Building Dept.	407-836-5760
County Chairman	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-9111
Garbage Collecting	407-836-6601
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.	407-836-4143
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6280
Property Appraiser	407-836-5000
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Bill Nelson (Dem.)	407-872-7161
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Val Demings (Dist. 10)	321-388-9810
State Representatives	
Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31)	352-742-6275
Kamia Brown (Dist. 45)	407-905-3807
State Senators	
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11)	407-656-6716
Orange County Commissioner	
Bryan Nelson (Dist. 2)	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3202
School Board	407-317-3236
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441