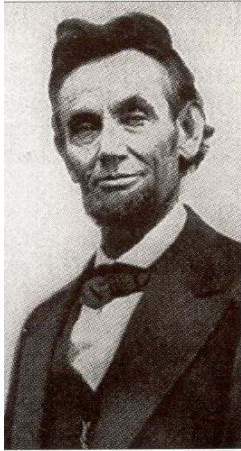


September 2010

From the Pastor 



A. Lincoln

Be an Encourager

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11 New Living Translation)

The Bible calls us to encourage one another. Here is a story of encouragement that can give you and me a practical way to encourage each other.

Lincoln's Encourager

One of the most interesting exhibits in the Library of Congress is a display of the personal effects found on Abraham Lincoln the night he was shot. Those include a small handkerchief

embroidered with "A. Lincoln," a country boy's pocketknife, a spectacle case repaired with cotton string, a Confederate \$5 bill and a nearly worn-out newspaper clipping praising his accomplishments as president. The newspaper story begins with this sentence: "Abe Lincoln is one of the greatest statesmen of all time..."

Clearly that clipping was an important source of affirmation for President Lincoln. Although today he is regarded as one of the nation's finest presidents, his day he was extremely controversial and unpopular in some circles. The nation was bitterly divided. Many major newspapers blamed him and his leadership for the Civil War. His life was constantly threatened. Thus Lincoln needed something in his pocket to remind him that his critics were not his only observers -that someone believed in him. So he carried that newspaper clipping.

This month I want to give you a challenge (a challenge that I will take on myself). Let me encourage you to write a note of encouragement each week this month to a person of your choice. It must be a different person each week and you can feel free to either put your name in the note or leave it anonymous. But let us encourage each other this month in a very practical way.

In Him and for His glory,

Pastor [Signature]

¹Victor Parachin, *BGC World Magazine*, Vol. 5, Issue 1, January / February 2007, p. 12.

