

## KEEP WARM BY STAYING TOGETHER

As a youngster I was in the boy scouts and learned some valuable lessons. We had a jamboree at the Langlade County fairgrounds. This meant bringing a tent and all the supplies needed with you. I had my tent all set up and everything was in order, so I went a couple of blocks away and picked up the food I needed. At the time I was hungry, so my main supplies were beans and filled donuts.

We were to learn how to make a camp fire. We all had our fires going, when I noticed that a piece of firewood was not on the fire. It had been in the fire, but as soon as it fell away it went out. I'll connect this learned lesson a little later.

That Mother of mine was quite the gal. Being on a beans and sweet roll diet, when I returned home I said to her "Mom, what's for dinner?" She replied "Baked Beans!" I couldn't believe my ears, but she started laughing and said "I heard about your meals." Nice one Mom.

Now back to the main point of our greeting. When one builds a camp fire or sets up the charcoal grill, you are looking to have a hot fire. If you notice that a one charcoal has fallen aside and is not part of the fire, it will not burn and offer the heat that is given by the group of charcoal that have clung together.



Just look at the times the disciples were by themselves and when Jesus appeared to them, they lit up like a Christmas tree. He brings warmth, comfort and peace to everyone, and that's just what we need all of the time.

Isn't this an example of people who were once very active in bible study, church attendance and communion and for some reason they quit or are unable to attend? They are no longer a part of the group. The warmth that is offered to all by being a part of a church family is no longer there, the fire has dwindled.

Just one more thing that has been observed by all Christian churches over the years. When a person stays close to the camp fire (your church) where the warmth is, you will find that the challenges that sin brings into our lives will be handled in a much better way, than if you didn't have the re-enforced love and warmth of Jesus and others in the faith. The fear is gone. Why, because of the many promises from our Lord that He will be with you always and He doesn't break His promises.

***We read in the book of Hebrews Chapter 10: 23-25 the following:***

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*



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