

Having a Bad Day? Know Someone Who Is?

Here is a letter a man wrote to the company he worked for requesting their understanding and help because he had a bad day on the job.

"When I got to the building I found that the hurricane had knocked off some bricks around the top, so I rigged a beam with a pulley at the top of the building and hoisted a couple of barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the damaged area, there were a lot of bricks left over. Then I went to the bottom and began releasing the line. Unfortunately the barrel of bricks was much heavier than I was and before I knew what was happening, the barrel started coming down jerking me up. I decided to hang on since I was too far off the ground by then to jump, and half way up I met the barrel of bricks coming down fast. I received a hard blow on my shoulder. I then continued to the top banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers pinched and jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground hard, it burst its bottom allowing the bricks to spill out. I was now heavier than the barrel, so I started down again at high speed and half way down I met the barrel coming up fast and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground, I landed on the pile of spilled bricks getting several painful cuts and deep bruises. At this point I must have lost my presence of mind because I let go of my grip on the line, and the barrel came down fast giving me another blow to my head and putting me in the hospital. I respectfully request sick leave."

Having a bad day? Know someone who is? Life can be rough. A lot of ministers give up on the ministry because they are so discouraged. A lot of people are discouraged - friends, neighbors, relatives. St. Paul writes: **"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"** (1 Thess. 5:11). He wrote this to some Thessalonians he had led to Christ. They had become discouraged. He said, "Now remember who you are - God's people. Remember that Jesus has promised never to leave you. Remember how much He loves you!"

Be like Paul. Be an encourager; watch for opportunities each day. Even your perspective on life can change as you encourage. Lift up the arms of those who are hanging, shoulder the burdens they are carrying, take time to lift the corners of their mouths and in the process you will change, too. And so, I encourage you to be an encourager! Do it at home, at work, in your church. You will be blessed as you do it. - Don