

EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE

John 1:1-18

Some of you may be familiar with a story Fred Craddock once told about Dr. Oswald Golter. Dr. Golter was a missionary to China more than 60 years ago. After World War II he was asked to leave that country. So his missionary society wired him a ticket and Dr. Golter made his way to India to catch a ship home to America. While he was there he noticed that there were many Jews living in the area--in attics, sheds, and barns. They were there because India was one of the few countries in the world that welcomed the Jews following the War. And Dr. Golter was excited to see them and went around and greeted them. It was Christmastime and he said to them "Merry Christmas to you!" And they said, "We're Jews." "Well, I know," said Dr. Golter, "but Merry Christmas anyway." "I tell you," they responded, "we're Jews. We don't mark Christmas." "I know" he said, "but if you did, what would you want for Christmas?" "Well if we did," they replied, "then we probably would want some fine German pastries." So, Dr. Golter found a shop that sold fine German pastries, cashed in his ticket home, and bought up boxes and boxes of pastry. He took it back to the barns, attics, and sheds and handed it out to the Jews saying, "Merry Christmas to you. Merry Christmas."

That story was told in the presence of Dr. Golter years later at a seminary where he was invited to speak. As he got up to the microphone a young seminarian stood up and said to Dr. Golter, "I can't believe you did that. Those people aren't Christians. They don't even believe in Jesus Christ!" Dr. Golter nodded his head and said, "I know." Then he added, "But I do. I do."

We are to love other as Christ loves us. May we live so that others experience Christ through our words and actions.

God bless,
Pastor Barbara