

Encouragement: The Key to Caring; by Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr. and Dan B. Allender; Zondervan Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1984; hardcover, 139 pp..

The epistle to the Hebrews tells us to "encourage one another". (10:19-25) We all need encouragement. Our sinful world makes Christian life hazardous. What is encouragement? It is "the kind of expression that helps someone want to be a better Christian, even when life is rough". Who can encourage? Christians who have a self-examined heart and a compassionate discerning sensitivity to the need of others. The authors have a wholesome emphasis on the ministry of the local church. The church is not an organizational or a business enterprise. Christians must have a listening ear and a caring attitude. Through mutual ministry troubled people can be restored to purposeful lives, able to bear testimony to God's redeeming power before a watching world.

This book is written for lay people. It is a good text with an abundance of anecdotes, for young people, couples' clubs or study groups.

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