

# BE A BURDEN BEARER

By Pastor Greg Hooker

*“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).*

My wife, Audrey, and I love to go hiking and camping. Every year we try to plan a trip to the Appalachian Trail and hike 50 – 75 miles. Most often we do this in the dead of winter when its 0 degrees and below and after things slow down at our Gallery in Gatlinburg (at least we don't have to put up with skitters and snakes). Our vision is to complete the 2175 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia, to Mount Katahdin in Maine. Call us crazy if you like, but it's something we enjoy doing.

For those of you who have done any backcountry hiking/camping, you know that all the food, shelter and other necessities of survival must be packed in. Subsequently, unless you own and can operate a pack mule (and even if you do, they aren't allowed on the trail) the only other option is to transport ones necessities in a pack strapped securely to your back. You learn real quickly what you can live without as you begin a 5000 foot ascent up the mountain! It's amazing how little importance a portable TV, radio, and a power generator becomes!

I can remember one year when Audrey was having trouble carrying her pack due to a painful knee (normally she can carry 45 – 50 pounds and skirt up the side of a mountain like a mountain lion). But on this particular trip her knee was aching, swollen and she was calling me names I care not to repeat or ever hear again (just kidding). So, being the great husband and gentlemen I am, I transferred some of the weight from her pack to mine, thus relieving the load she had to carry. To make a long story short, we arrived at our destination, met up with our ride and headed back home to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

The point I want to make in this analogy is: on this particular trip, Audrey was having some difficulty with her knee and needed me to 'share the load'. Without someone assuming some of her 'burden', it would have been very tough to finish the trip.

In like manner, we are told in Galatians 6:2 to *“Bear ye one another's burdens...”* - Literally share in carrying the load when the weight becomes too heavy for someone to bear. It may be:

- 1) The weight of some sin, temptation, or a besetting sin.
- 2) The weight of a financial burden, or loss of a job.
- 3) The weight of a death in the family.
- 4) The weight of depression.
- 5) The weight of loneliness.

The list goes on and on. God exhorts us to “bear” or shore up our brother or sister when they are experiencing a load that is too heavy to carry. Do you know of someone like that today that needs you to carry some of their load? Don’t put it off! Send a card, a letter, some monies, be the ‘burden bearer’ for someone you know. *“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”*

Dear Lord, open our eyes to those around us. Bring to our minds someone who is struggling to carry their load and help us to be the one who transfers some of that weight over to our shoulders. It may be prayer, a helping hand, a few bills to tide them over, or just a shoulder to cry on. Whatever it may be, Lord, cause us to become uncomfortable and let us not sleep unto we first help bear our brothers/sisters affliction; for we too, will need someone to tote our load someday.

In Jesus name, your son, Pastor Greg – Amen.