

From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL**

23 September, 2018

ANT ISLANDS!

We who have strong faith ought to shoulder the burden of the doubts and qualms of others and not just to go our own sweet way. Our actions should mean the good of others—should help them to build up their characters. Romans 15:1-2

The body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another. So it happens that if one member suffers all the other members suffer with it, and if one member is honored all the members share a common joy. Now you are together the body of Christ, and individually you are members of Him. I Corinthians 12:25-27



Our prayers go out to the victims of Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas. The flooding there is severe as we all know. The waters continue to over flow the banks of rivers and creeks causing loss of life and enormous property damage.

One of the things typically witnessed during heavy rain and flooding like this are floating rafts of thousands of fire ants on the surface of the flood waters. When the flood waters cover areas where the ants are bedded, the ants are driven out of their nests. Very quickly they come together in clumps that soon flatten out into a pancake. They can float for weeks without drowning in these ant islands. Their bodies are somewhat water resistant naturally, but when the ants work together, their hormones produce an additional waxy coating that makes their water resistance even stronger.

The colony can float for weeks in this formation as they protect the queen and keep her dry. As they float, the ants are continuously shifting positions so that no ant drowns. Ants depend on touch and smell to understand the world around them. They sense only what is close. Each ant controls itself based on information they gather. The queen does not issue orders. Yet working independently, the ants work together for the good of the queen and the group.

This natural phenomenon reminds me of a valuable characteristic of the Lord's church. When we have encountered the storms of life at Creekwood, independent members have come together as one for the good of other Christians. We as individuals came together to work as one body. If one member suffered we all suffered with them. When we enjoyed the happy times of life, we celebrated together. If one member was honored and celebrated, we all celebrated with them. Through the years we have made it through some pretty severe storms, figurative and literal. We have celebrated many great victories together. I am thankful to be a part of an "ant island" like the Creekwood Church of Christ. Thank you for your love and faithfulness.

RICKY