

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### A Blessing

A dozen or so children, ranging in age from three to eleven, reached out and placed their hands on the heads and shoulders of Mark and Evan and said: "Mark (Evan), I love you. Mark (Evan), we love you. Mark (Evan), Jesus loves you. Mark (Evan), receive the Holy Spirit." [Mark and Evan, along with their parents, were being received into membership at St. Timothy on Pentecost, the birthday of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which gave birth to the Christian Church.]

Earlier in the service at the children's lesson, I had enlisted their help for that moment in the Rite when there would be the laying on of hands. I taught them what I would like for them to say and do.

Then I had them practice on me. They reached out and placed their hands on my head and shoulders and said: "Pastor, I love you. Pastor, we love you. Pastor, Jesus loves you. Pastor, receive the Holy Spirit."

It felt strangely warming. Here I was hearing my own name. I was hearing what I had felt from them before and what I knew was true of Jesus. Yet I was hearing it in a new way. Then, even more strangely, I heard them say: "Pastor, receive the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit of God! "Do I need to receive the Holy Spirit?" I thought. "Why, of course; I need to receive the Holy Spirit! But through the touch of little children?"

The next day I pondered what had taken place. I pondered how without exception all of us need to hear our name. All of us need to hear that we are loved. All of us need a fresh in-pouring of the Holy Spirit...no matter how old (or young) we are, no matter what station in life we come from, no matter how many times we have experienced it before.

I needed a blessing. Thankfully, I received it.  
Pastor Dean