

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES of Colorado Springs

## UNITED WE STAND

Pastor George Stahnke, 03/23/2003



The emblem of the state of Kentucky shows two men facing each other shaking hands. The motto beneath reads: "United we stand, divided we fall." It originated in the fourth verse of a 1768 patriotic ballad, *The Liberty Song*, by John Dickinson. Here is the first line of the chorus,

"Then join in hand, brave Americans all; By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

During the Civil War, the phrase became a rallying cry for the Union cause. By the early 20th century, labor unions had taken up the slogan as a call for solidarity in the struggle for better working conditions.

In World War II, United We Stand invoked not just American patriotism but unity among the Allied nations, as expressed by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in her address to the U.S. Congress on August 5, 1942: "United we stand, and united we will achieve victory."

Most recently, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the phrase United We Stand re-emerged along with the flag as Americans confronted a new national crisis."

### 1.) Unity provides increased strength

The origin for the concept of strength in unity can be traced all the way back to the book of Ecclesiastes.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)** Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

### 2.) Unity secures the blessing of God

**Psalms 133:1-3 (NLT)** How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony! <sup>2</sup>For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. <sup>3</sup>Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And the LORD has pronounced his blessing, even life forevermore.

A. Anointing oil: Priests were anointed with a fragrant oil as a symbol of God's blessing on their holy office (Ex. 30:22–33). This psalm pictures the oil in such large quantity that it flows from the **head** to the **beard** to the garment of **Aaron**, who represented the priests of God. When God's people live together in unity, they experience God's blessing.

—Nelson Study Bible

B. Mount Hermon: is the source of many blessings to the land. Refreshing breezes blow from its cold heights. Its snows are carried to Damascus and to the towns on the seaboard.

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## of Colorado Springs

C. The dew: is the means of refreshing and reinvigorating all vegetation and speaks of God's continual provision.

"It is a psalm of general use to all societies, smaller and larger, civil and sacred."

—Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Old Testament

### 3.) Unity must be pursued to be a reality

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

"Two neighbors, a cooper [one that makes or repairs wooden casks or tubs] and a farmer, were spending the evening together. Both were professors of religion, but of different denominations. Their conversation was first on topics relating to practical religion, but after a time it diverged to the points of difference between the two denominations to which they belonged. It first became a discussion, and then a dispute. The cooper was the first to perceive its unprofitable and injurious tendency, and remarked, "We are springing apart from each other. Let us pray." They kneeled down and prayed together, after which they spent the remainder of the evening lovingly together, conversing on the things of the kingdom in which they both felt an equal interest. The suggestion of the cooper was an excellent one, and it were well if it were acted on more frequently by those who, like him, are members of the household of Christ." [emphasis added]

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Quotable Spurgeon*,  
(Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, Inc, 1990)

### 4.) United in One Body

**Ephesians 4:4a (NIV)** There is one body . . .

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NIV)** The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body,

# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

## of Colorado Springs

but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

### 5.) United in One Spirit

**Ephesians 4:4a (NIV)** . . . and one Spirit

A. Strong's, G4151 πνεῦμα *pneuma* [*pnnyoo' -mah*] (spirit or breath, creation). God breathes in the breath of life emphasizing his personality, his character, his work and his power.

B. God breathes into the church the breath of life and creates a living church.

C. Unless the breath is in the body, it dies. God's Spirit is in all of us directing us into all truth ... conviction ... comfort ... life.

D. A Holy Spirit-controlled church is vibrantly alive because each member of the body is walking as the Spirit leads.

### 6.) United in One Hope

**Ephesians 4:4b-5 (NIV)** . . . just as you were called to one hope when you were called—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith

A. Our earthly goal is to see the world redeemed in Christ.

B. This hope unites us in a purpose. We serve, we give, we witness, we love, we reach out together.

C. We may have a differing methods of accomplishing our purpose, but if we are all working for the same things, we are together.

D. In a world of despair, we have hope!