

How Good and How Pleasant

In Monday's *Perspective*, we printed a poem written by T.B. Larimore entitled *Love and Pet Me Now*. A prominent preacher of his day, born in 1843 and died in 1929, he drew crowds wherever he went to conduct what he preferred to call "gospel meetings."

He would stay as long as he and the host church thought it necessary to continue these services. As one example, he began such a meeting on Jan. 4, 1894, and it continued for five months and three days, with Larimore preaching twice a day every day and three times on Sunday. The number of confessions of faith totaled 254.

Here is an observation he often used in his sermons – one that applies to us today as well as to the people of his era:

"There are many things that are good, but that are not pleasant. An operation that removes a cancerous growth is lifesaving, which is good. But it's not pleasant. Other things are pleasant, but are not good. For most of us, eating pie or cake, candy or ice cream is pleasant. But it's not necessarily good. And if you ate nothing but sweets, that certainly would not be good, even though it might be pleasant.

"Very few things in this world are both good and pleasant, things that actually benefit you and provide a pleasant experience as well. One of those things is the unity of God's people." He would then quote Psalm 133:1: *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.*

Larimore's words, and that Scripture verse, must certainly apply to our associates who work together in the mission to which we are called. Unity in health care is essential to achieve what the people we serve need and deserve.

It also makes for a wonderful and fulfilling workplace environment.

– Beecher Hunter

