

# FLEURIEU EDGE

## When One Hurts, All Hurt

When a co-worker called in sick due to extreme pain, everyone at the office was concerned. After a trip to the hospital and a day of bed rest, he returned to work and showed us the source of that pain, a kidney stone. He'd asked his doctor to give him the stone as a souvenir. Looking at that stone, I winced in sympathy, remembering the gallstone I had passed years ago. The pain had been excruciating.

Isn't it interesting that something so small can cause a whole body so much agony? But in a way, that's what the apostle Paul alludes to in 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it." Throughout chapter 12, Paul used the metaphor of a body to describe Christians around the world. When Paul said, "God has put the body together," he was referring to the entire body of Christ, all Christians. We all have different gifts and roles. But since we're all part of the same body, if one person hurts, we all hurt. When a fellow Christian faces persecution, grief, or trials, we hurt as if we're experiencing that pain.

My co-worker's pain drove him to get the help his body needed. In the body of Christ, someone's pain ignites our compassion and moves us toward action. We might pray, offer a word of encouragement, or do whatever it takes to aid the healing process. That's how the body works together.

Linda Washington

**1 Corinthians 12:21-26** <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 honourable we treat with special honour. 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 put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, 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 honoured, every part rejoices with it. (NIV)

*"Doing life together"*



## Fleurieu Family Church

Service Time: 10am 54 Hill St, Pt Elliot

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