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"God loves
you and
I'm not
afraid to
say it!"

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

**Have you
talked to
someone
about the
February
Men's Walk?**

**Get that
application
in TODAY!**

Blossoms from Bloom

Beloved,
"God has a soft
heart for you...and
I'm not afraid to
say it...He LOVES YOU!

February is *expression of the heart* month. We celebrate by exchanging cards and baking heart shaped cookies. We purchase chocolate truffles and flamboyant flower arrangements to give to those we cherish, hoping to convey to them what our heart is beating to proclaim, "**WE LOVE THEM!**"

It is so easy to love those who are kind to us, who love us in return, yes? And it's a real stinker of a task to love someone who is down right detestable and disgruntled with the world in general... would you also agree?

I recently had the unfortunate opportunity (or so I thought) to cross paths with one such individual. No matter how much finesse I used to communicate what I needed to discuss with this person...my efforts were futile. I exited the conversation I was having with this person *abruptly* to prevent myself from saying something I knew I would regret! Afterward, my whole morning was shot and I felt like a

failure. You see, communications is my forte. It's what I do best. And, I had blown it. I just knew God was disappointed in me and I could not shake my despair.

I am employed at Southern State in the Financial Aid Department. And I have the opportunity to work with many different types of individuals who need funding to be able to continue their education. Two such persons, from completely opposite backgrounds, came to me on the same day as my altercation with my *unhappy individual*.

The first woman to come to my window was in her late forties or early fifties. Her husband was recently disabled and she was the bread winner of the family. She had already earned her bachelor's degree but explained to me that she knew she had to do something else to provide for her family. After much prayer, she was returning to school to pursue a degree in the registered nursing field. I listened as she told me how long she had been praying about this decision and even though she was not sure how her family was going to survive her not working a full time job, she

knew this was exactly what God wanted her to do. She trusted God and was choosing to move forward even though she was unsure of her future financially. She knew God would provide.

The confidence and assurance that she radiated as she spoke of her plans, blessed my heart, and with tears in my eyes...I told her so. Without a moment's hesitation she reached her hands through my window, her fingers spread wide for me to reach forward and grasp. As I slipped my fingers between hers I felt a surge of positive energy pulse through my body as she looked me straight in the eye and told me *that I was a blessing to her, too!*

The second woman was in her late thirties and required assistance from a care service provider. She was special mentally, and said nothing...only smiled at me as her care giver asked questions for her regarding financial aid. Her caregiver smiled as she told me how much her client loved children and hoped she would be able to take classes *just for audit* so she could gain skills and hopefully be able to
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JOY FROM JOY

MAWMAW, do you know I love you?

Become a fan on facebook.

My grandson turned five yesterday. Since he was two he has been asking me if I know he loves me. We may be stirring chocolate milk, driving down the road, playing with cars, watching a movie..... When I am having a great day or a not so great day, just out of the blue, this precious little voice will ask me, "Mawmaw, do you know I love you?" I dread the day he thinks he is too big to ask me that question. I truly hope it never comes.

All of us need to know we are loved. In so many ways God is constantly saying 'Do you know I love you? Do you remember I love you?' Isn't that what Jesus was really saying when He told us each time we partake of Holy Communion to remember. Remember how much He loves us. We have probably all memorized John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life." Jesus went to the cross because of God's love for us. Then Jesus shared that He was leaving this world to go prepare a place for us that where He is we may be also! Wow! He loves us so much He doesn't only want us to remember how much He loves us, but he actually wants us to come live with Him forever. Oh, then there is the wonderful walk. The sweet communion through prayer, our daily walk and the offer of a constant, consistent relationship with him! Folks, we are loved!

I have been thinking about the wonderful gifts of agape that we have become so acquainted with at Emmaus. Oh, how important it is that we show God's love for each other, and our love for each other, through those wonderful acts of agape.

One of the reasons why our community is so important to each of us is because through our walks, through the gatherings, through the sharing of Holy Communion, through the sacred moments that we share together, God is constantly reminding us "Do you know I love you?"

We do know that He loves us and we must continue to never let the importance of that knowledge be forgotten.

"Mawmaw, do you know I love you?" "Yes, Caleb, I know you love me and I love you, too. Don't ever stop telling me!" "God, do you know I love you?" I have a feeling He is saying back "Yes, and I love you too, but don't ever stop telling me!" He never stops telling us! Decolores!

Joy

(continued from page 1)
work with children one day.

We had finished our conversation when out of the blue this very special child of God gave me a toothy grin and boldly said: **"God loves YOU...and I'm not afraid to say it!"**

Speechless, a lone tear slid down my cheek followed by another. God had spoken. These two women had no idea how badly my day had started and how I felt in my heart. But, my Father knew. And through these two who were walking in obedience to His loving grace...the Father reconnected and restored His love in my heart.

As I reflected on the day's happening, I realized that the Father was there... *in my heart...* all the time. It was I who had fallen into the adversary's web of confusion and had listened to His voice of reason. But, as we all know, *Satan never has the last word!* This day, I was washed anew in the blessed assurance that Jesus is mine! *I knew* God was not disappointed in me. *I knew* He loved me today...more than ever. He had demonstrated it! *Right before my eyes!* :o)

Beloved, we have twenty eight days, or, six hundred and seventy two hours worth of opportunities in this month to tell others how much God loves them! And, we have an excuse! It's **FEBRUARY!** :o) So, tell your family, tell your co-workers, tell the person who is so very unhappy with the world that **"GOD LOVES THEM!"** And, when the opportunity knocks, don't be afraid to say it or show it! Let God use you to speak and reflect His love. You never know what kind of impact your words may have on the lives that you touch.

Doing the "back stroke" in His amazing love,

Cindy

Pilgrim List for Men's Walk #52 (as of 26 Jan 2011)

Darrick Abney	Mainville, Ohio	Jeff Bills	Jerry Allison, Lay Director
Glenn Bowles	Hamilton, Ohio	Jim and Mary Jane West	<i>Please keep the entire walk in your prayers—both pilgrims who have been confirmed and those who may not even have been asked yet. Our Heavenly Father knows who they are and who will be the one to invite them. Remember the TEAM also. This includes ALL the team, those who will live at the church the entire weekend and those who will travel to cook a meal, carry luggage, work with agape, sing a song or clean the building.</i>
Jody Edwards	Sabina, Ohio	Deborah Edwards	
Matt Estep	New Vienna, Ohio	Josh Adkins	
Jerry Fyffe	Sabina, Ohio	Carl Gilmore	
Tim Miller	Wilmington, Ohio	Bill and Toni Jenkins	
Dave Moore	Clarksville, Ohio	Kevin Ellis	
Brian Passarge	Wilmington, Ohio	Bill and Toni Jenkins	
Justin Tong	Sabina, Ohio	Melissa Tong	
Jeffrey Willett Jr.	Clarksville, Ohio	Jeff Bills	

Team for Men's Walk #52

Lay Director	Jerry Allison	Perseverance
Asst. Lay Director	Terry Alexander	Fourth Day
Asst. Lay Director	Mike Smith	Priority
Asst. Lay Director	Jim West	Changing Our World
Spiritual Director	Joy Stanforth	Means of Grace
Asst. Spiritual Director	Calvin Martin	Sanctifying Grace
Board Rep	Jim Wingo	Growth Thru Study
Audio Visual	Mike Daugherty	NA
Music Director	Rusty Staten	NA
Asst. Music Director	Ed Ramey	NA
Asst. Table Leader	Lucas Rayburn	NA
Table Leader	Jeff Bills	Life in Piety
Asst. Table Leader	Randy Durham	NA
Table Leader	Mike Cook	Christian Action
Asst. Table Leader	Josh Adkins	NA
Table Leader	Ron Rutherford	Body of Christ
Asst. Table Leader	Mark Edwards	NA
Table Leader	Vic Tissandier	Discipleship
Asst. Table Leader	Daryl Burns	NA
Table Leader	Mike Davenport	Priesthood of All

He Knows My Name

"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...and the sheep follow him because they know his voice." John 10

A little girl from Connecticut kept making a mistake when reciting the Lord's Prayer each night. Her version was: "Our Father, who art in New Haven, how did you know my name?" The child's mother was troubled about the mistake and asked her pastor what she should do about it. The pastor replied: "I wouldn't correct her just now, for, after all, she has hold of two wonderful truths about God: God is everywhere, even in New Haven, and God knows her name."

There is good reason why we like to be called by name. In an impersonal world, to be called by name reminds us that we are individuals, each a sacred and unique person. In the relationships that mean most to us, we always call each other by name.

When Jesus wanted to draw a picture of God's love, he spoke of the way a Syrian shepherd treats his sheep: he calls each by name, and the sheep follow because they recognize the voice of the one who knows them and cares for them.

(originally published in 1965)

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In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong.

Abraham Lincoln

"Reply to Loyal Colored People of Baltimore upon Presentation of a Bible," September 7, 1864





Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus
 Wilmington United Methodist Church
 PO Box 191
 Wilmington, OH 45177

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
February 8
 Singing starts at 6:45pm
 Bring a snack to share afterwards—
 when Emmaus meets, EMMAUS EATS!
 Don't forget to wear your NAME TAG!
 This helps everyone to learn your
 name much more quickly!



It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.

George Washington in a Thanksgiving proclamation, October 3, 1789



MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
FEBRUARY	Ed Ramey &/or Carl Guenther	Carl Guenther	Ed Ramey
MARCH	Kyle & Sydney Parker	Amy Sexton	Sandie Wingo
APRIL	Sandie Wingo	John Glaze	Kathy Holbrook
MAY	Dulcimer Trio	Jennie Harner	OPEN
JUNE	Kathy Holbrook	OPEN	OPEN
JULY	Rick Geddes		

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? As you can see, the months are filling up. We typically have two music specials at a Gathering and need a song leader and an accompanist. Although "piano" is listed, we can have guitar accompaniment...or any other instrument able to lead group singing.

To volunteer for a monthly Gathering contact JENNIE HARNER at 937-987-2518 or harnersewing@yahoo.com.