

Inside this  
issue:

Blossoms from Bloom	1
Maurice's Musings	2
Devotional Thoughts	2
New Community Folks!	3
Blossoms (cont)	3
Music for Gatherings	4

"Here I  
Am, Lord"

**QUICK  
MESSAGE**

**What a  
GREAT  
Women's  
Walk!**

**Let's FILL  
the Men's  
Walk in  
September!**

## Blossoms from Bloom

**B**eloved,  
There is a lady that I adore. She is robed in majesty, a woman of noble character. She radiates strength and honor and dignity. She weathers any storm that comes her way. She is a beacon of light, a hope for many who travel from afar. She welcomes unknown visitors as beloved friends. Her foundation is strong and from within her core she speaks these words:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free, The wretched  
refugee of your teeming shore;  
Send these, the homeless, tem-  
pest-tost to me, I lift my lamp  
beside the golden door!"*

Our Lady of Liberty, the grand "Statue of Liberty" celebrates the birthday of America as she always does with the breath of freedom and warmly embraces diversity. She loves one and all who choose to enter the Golden Door of Opportunity... *America*... the land of the free...and the home of the brave.

I am so proud to be an American. I am so thankful that I was born free. I remember when I was growing up the performer Andy Williams singing a patriotic song entitled "Born Free." The first verse swells my heart with pride every time I am reminded of it. "Born free...as free as the wind blows, as free as the grass grows, born free to follow your heart."

Beloved, we are so richly blessed. I pray that we realize how precious is our freedom to come and go as we please...to dream dreams...to follow the desires embedded within us...what a privilege. The sky is the limit in America, if we aim high. What is it that you are aiming for? Success? Wealth? Status?

There once was a man who had reaped every earthly possession. Yet still, he lacked...something. He went to Jesus and asked him, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only *One* who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

"Which ones?" The man inquired.

To which Jesus replied, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

"All these I have kept." The young man replied. "What do I still lack?"

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have the treasure of heaven. Then, come, follow me."

When the young man heard this, he turned away sad, because he had great wealth.

Hmmm. The words of Jesus re-

vealed the man's weakness. His wealth was his God, his idol... and he would not give it up. Sadly he had violated the first and greatest commandment, "You shall have no other Gods before me."

Jesus had taken him to the crossroads of freedom...to the point of ultimate choice...to the place within him that was lacking. Jesus wanted him to have liberty of heart, mind, and soul. He knew what would set him free...but the young man turned his back and walked away.

What might it be in our lives that binds us and keeps us from freedom? Do you have feelings that there is something more...that there is something lacking in your life?

If so, ask the Lord to reveal it to you. He will. And when He does, pray and surrender. And when the going gets tough...fast...pray...and surrender. He will not turn His back on you. He will stand by your side until you reach freedom. Because that is the God we serve! *He loves you so much.* He wants you to be free from the bondage of this world. He wants all of us to break through the web of confusion that the Adversary *oh so slyly* drapes upon us.

You know...the American colonists of our beautiful America loved God completely. They wanted nothing more than to honor Him with their lives. They found that true liberty became theirs after

(continued on page 3)

## Maurice's Musings

Read 2 Peter 3:3-4. The short letters near the end of the New Testament are often overlooked. They shouldn't be; they have an important message.

The question posed in these verses comes four hundred years after the end of the Old Testament record. Yet it must surely have been the very question on the minds of all those who, in the meantime, eagerly looked forward to the coming of the promised Messiah. When would He appear? How long must they wait for the kingdom He would establish? Why was God so silent and slow?

We ourselves can identify with many of the same questions. Now that Christ has come and promised to return, when will He come again? How long must we wait?

Having revealed Himself in the person of Jesus and in the inspired Scripture of the New Testament, why is God still so silent? The problem is only intensified when their four hundred years has now turned into our two millennia. Although many in succeeding generations have been convinced that Christ would come in their lifetime (even publishing dates), so far those believers have lived and died only in expectation, not fulfillment. Christ will indeed come in some generation's lifetime, but it may not be our own.

Pastor Harold Camping of Oakland, California predicted the Second Coming would take place last month on May 21<sup>st</sup> at about 6:00 pm (PST). Mr. Camping convinced many people to quit their jobs and drive around America warning people of the end of the world. When it didn't happen, he decided he had miscalculated. According to Mr. Camp it will be this December.

So how do we deal with such delay? Become cynical and give up our faith? Become obsessed with signs of an imminent coming, even if they prove to be wrong yet again? Of one thing we can be sure: no matter how long it takes, CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN! How do we know? Because, despite the long delay between the two Testaments, Christ did indeed appear, precisely as promised. Just as surely, we too can count on His glorious reappearing. It may not be in our lifetime, but it certainly could be. And the mortality rate for this world is 100%.

Ask yourself this important question: if Christ should suddenly appear even today, would I be ready? People die every day - they don't have to worry about the end of the world. It ended for them already.

*Maurice, Spiritual Director*

Christ is coming again!

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

### EFFECTUAL PRAYER

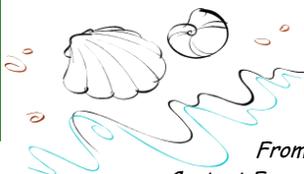
How can our prayers become effectual?

If our prayers are merely words directed at God, they are—well, merely words.

What we pray for must first be already begun in ourselves. If we would pray for peace, we must already be peacemakers. If we would have forgiveness, we must already be forgiving.

Some are so advanced as to pray for their enemies. To make this effectual we must first consider: has my enemy something against me? Am I willing to amend that offense of mine so that we may be reconciled? It is no use to pray for our enemies if we are looking down upon them.

Our actions must go in the line of our prayers. It would baffle anyone—even God—to hear someone say, "I am coming toward you" who all the while was walking in the opposite direction. "Your prayers *and* your alms have ascended as a memorial before God."



*From "Forward, Day by Day" Vol. 76, No. 3, used by permission  
Contact Forward Movement at 800-543-1813 or visit [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org)*

### LORD, SHUT MY MOUTH!

One of my ongoing prayers is for the strength to curb my tongue and not offer my marvelous insights on everything. This does not mean that I must always be silent, but it does mean that I must listen and be sensitive to the needs and feelings of other people before I speak. Most especially, it means that I am called to listen, prayerfully and attentively, for the voice of God.

Norvene Vest in *No Moment Too Small* says that "before we speak, we can choose silence and then look honestly at what the urge to speak is telling us about ourselves." That is good advice.

Must I have an opinion on everything? If I do have an opinion, must I belabor it? Is that clever retort necessary? Will my speech hurt someone? Am I really listening to my friend, my partner, my children? Do I ask or demand too much? Am I content to sit silently in God's presence and listen instead of always asking? God speaks to us in the silence within us. I must guard against blocking out God's voice with the noise of my own voice.

# NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS—WOMEN'S WALK #86

Cut out this list and add it to your Community Directory!

Nancy Barton	9645 US Hwy 22 and 3	Clarksville	OH 45113	937-289-3503
Darlene Bennett	PO Box 117	New Vienna	OH 45159	937-527-7718
Ruth Carroll	309 N. Main St. PO Box 32	Lynchburg	OH 45142	937-364-2939
Amanda Collins	1911 Washington Mill Rd.	Xenia	OH 45385	937-672-0290
Misty Cowin	535 Howard #C	Wilmington	OH 45177	937-944-0930
Wanda Currey	805 Nightengale Circle	Xenia	OH 45385	937-352-6755
Nikki Estep	667 Bernard Rd.	New Vienna	OH 45159	937-987-2068
Karen Everhart	169 Eastview Dr.	Washington CH	OH 43160	740-335-1047
Cheryl Geddes	5329 St. Rt. 734 NW	Jeffersonville	OH 43128	740-505-1775
Sherri Hooper	12695 Stafford Rd.	Leesburg	OH 45135	937-780-6934
Angela Hurst	85 E. Washington St.	Sabina	OH 45169	937-728-6191
Kacie Jenkins	1087 Williams Dr.	Wilmington	OH 45177	419-305-7016
Teresa King	804 Hook Road	Xenia	OH 45385	937-372-3029
Diana LeMaster	341 Gilbert Ave.	Fairborn	OH 45324	937-475-1009
Dorothy Mockabee	118 Commons Lane	Wilmington	OH 45177	937-382-8616
Diane Moore	4005 S. Clarksville Rd.	Clarksville	OH 45113	937-725-9676
Melissa Moore-Maines	7875 Keplinger Rd.	Hillsboro	OH 45133	513-693-3016
Robyn Morris	856 W. Main St.	Wilmington	OH 45177	937-829-2980
Milah Myers	10809 Hiawatha Dr.	Hillsboro	OH 45133	937-403-4984
Sherry Payne	6306 Belfast Rd.	Goshen	OH 45122	513-625-9453
Janet Reese	2454 Bogus Rd. SE	Washington CH	OH 43160	740-335-1602
Darlene Roberts	300 N. South St. Lot 68	New Vienna	OH 45159	937-987-4057
Beth Shepherd	612 S. Columbus St.	Xenia	OH 45385	937-372-2284
Jo Slocum	311 N. Mill St.	Blanchester	OH 45107	937-783-4623
Mary Smith	644 Yeoman St.	Washington CH	OH 43160	740-572-3059
Phyllis Smith	PO Box 225 1945 St. Rt. 28	Goshen	OH 45122	513-722-2483
Robyn Spragg	2518 Mitchell Rd.	Wilmington	OH 45177	937-725-6299
Judith Sturgeon	139 Springbird Ct.	Wilmington	OH 45177	937-728-7025
Brenda Wicker	5869 Monassas Run	Milford	OH 45150	513-575-5869
Marie Williams	9791 Debold-Koebel Rd.	Pleasant Plain	OH 45162	513-305-5277



"Turn your wounds into wisdom. You will be wounded many times in your life. You'll make mistakes. Some ...will call them failures, but I have learned that failure is really God's way of saying, 'Excuse me, you're moving in the wrong direction.'"

Oprah Winfrey

## BLOSSOMS FROM BLOOM (continued from page 1)

they voluntarily submitted them.

And they never turned selves to Him! They knew it was there that the sweet taste of liberty could be found. They just kept feasting on Him...loving Him...trusting Him...honoring Him in their every day. And because of their faith, God blessed them with peace, joy and prosperity.

Beloved, even still, *Great is the Lord's faithfulness to America!* Lady Liberty still stands, holding out the torch of freedom to all. Her glorious witness and her crown of seven spikes, representing the seven seas and seven continents, remind us that there are *still* so many lives that need the touch of the Masters hand. Whom will He send? Will we respond, "Here I am Lord...is it I Lord?"

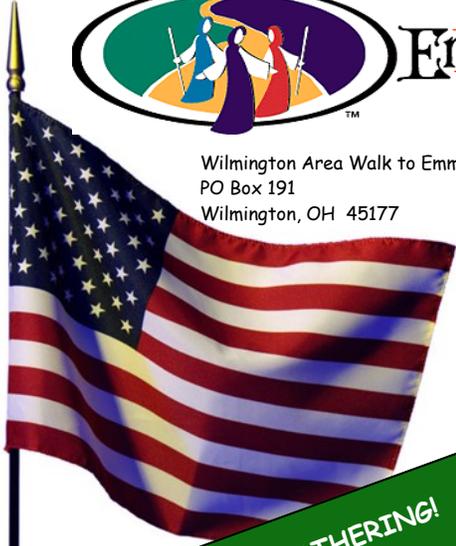
Listening for the quiet whisper of my Savior...

Decolores! *Cindy*



Walk to  
**Emmaus**  
THE UPPER ROOM

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus—WUMC  
PO Box 191  
Wilmington, OH 45177



**SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!**  
**July 12**

**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!

**WOMEN'S WALK #86 REUNION!**  
**6:00pm**

### THANKS!

Thank you to ALL who served in any way to make Women's Walk #86 an outstanding experience for 30 wonderful ladies! Whether you were on the live-in team, carried luggage, cleaned the wc, served a meal, provided special music, provided agape, organized agape, or any one of the many other tasks it takes to fill the weekend with love, you were appreciated and loved! THANK-YOU!

### Emmaus Choir

Did you know that we have started an EMMAUS CHOIR? We meet for 15-20 minutes after the Gatherings to practice and will sing at an occasional Gathering. JOIN US!

## MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

### MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
JULY	Christi Mitchell	Susan Thompson	(assigned)
AUGUST	Bronwyn Jones	John Glaze	Cliff Klutts
SEPTEMBER	Herma Current	OPEN	OPEN
OCTOBER	Sandie Wingo	OPEN	OPEN
NOVEMBER	Justin Tong	OPEN	OPEN

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.