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"Encourage
One
Another"

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

**Women's
Walk
in
June!**

**Men's Walk
coming in
September!**

Blossoms from Bloom

Beloved,
As I write this newsletter, the weather station is, once again, beeping an alert that severe storm warnings are being issued for our area. Another wet week lies before us and dark, dreary days loom overhead. The pounding rain dictates what we can and cannot do, forcing us into confinement and postponing our outside work to another day. The repetitious saga has broken monthly rainfall records, and the devastation from violent storm patterns is taking its toll on our emotional well-being. I can't tell you how many people I have heard say "I just need some sunshine!"

We understand what they are talking about, don't we! Sunshine is a *powerful* energy source. It ignites the battery of our body, produces ambition, warms the core of our being, and makes every aspect of our lives take on a bright, healthy perspective!

So, what do we do when *rainy days* dampen our spirits?

I had a student saunter up to my window last week, he was drenching wet from running through the rain to get into the college. He had a jovial twist to his mouth when he walked up to my window and asked me this question, "Hey, Cindy, did you see the old man with the long, white beard outside? He's got a *great big boat* and he's calling animals in two by two!" :o)

As I looked at this fellow whose

wet head and soaked clothing resembled someone who had just climbed out of a water dunking machine...I exploded in laughter at his silliness! I felt the monotonous, stale, lifeless undertones of my day shatter as his gift of joy was shared.

This guy was quite the trouper! There was no complaining coming out of his mouth! He had every right to grumble...but instead, he displayed pure happiness! My heart embraced his cheerful countenance, soaked up his light-hearted outlook as his joyful spirit radiated "Sonshine" into my little world.

Beloved, as Christians, we have the same powerful energy source as the sun. God displayed the power for us at Pentecost. It is our dearly loved Holy Spirit. This precious gift that was given when Christ was taken up to heaven can electrify and revive our daily lives even on the dreariest of days. All we must do is exercise the power of God's presence and keep our batteries charged!

I must confess that my batteries have been a little sluggish of late. Sometimes I get impatient wanting to see results from my daily witness. I had just told a co-worker about a month ago that I had worked at SSCC for fourteen years and the impact I hoped I would make for Jesus in the office had seemed futile. I truly felt I had been ineffective and was seriously asking God to show me what He wanted me to do and where He wanted me to go to be of better service to Him. I was weary and used up...zero charge.

We had a speaker come to Southern State who had worked long term with the poor and underprivileged of our region. The purpose of her presentation was to empower us to better serve them and her talk was exhilarating! People came out of the seminar noticeably touched by her words. I had hoped to attend but at the last minute I was not able to so I had asked a student (who I had planned to sit with) to report back to me the highlights of the speaker's presentation.

When it was over she came to me red eyed and blowing her nose. She was reporting back! And, I couldn't wait to hear what she had to say! I was on pins and needles as she gulped back tears and giggled occasionally looking into my face as she tried to get her words to come forth.

"I hope I can get this out!" She finally blurted to me between sobs and giggles!

I sat back in my chair and she took a deep breath. She told me the speaker had asked the audience this question. "What is the most important thing you can do for an individual who comes from poverty or brokenness to this college to seek help?"

Her answer: "Simply offer them the smile of kindness and encourage them!"

Bewildered, I thought to myself... *that's it?* And... *why are you crying about that?* Seeing the blank look in my eyes she giggled all the more as her tears
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Tabor Talk

I got a text message from my son last Saturday evening. The message was short and to the point: "Pops? Are you still here?" He wanted to make sure I had not been taken up in this great Christian "up-rising" called the rapture. The nation, and I suppose the world, has been abuzz lately with the word of an 89-year-old preacher who claimed that he had so thoroughly studied the Scriptures that he was convinced that the rapture was going to occur last weekend.

Mr. Camping and many of his followers had gathered at his headquarters in California to "go up together." The obvious elation at the prospect of Jesus returning "for His own" and being included in that group prior to last Saturday was overshadowed by the fact that His return did not occur as predicted (by Camping) and the disappointment was readily seen on the faces and in the voices of many of his followers.

I want to go on record as one who agrees with the idea of a rapture of the Christian church. Like Camping, I believe the Bible teaches that Jesus will return for His followers and take us home with Him. But unlike Camping, I do not believe that specific predictions regarding the actual date of such an event are either biblical or helpful. The Bible tells us that it is not for us to know the time or the season when that will occur (Acts 1:7), and that even Jesus, the One who will be returning for His own, when He was here on earth, did not know when the end would occur (Matthew 24-25, especially 24:36).

So why do people like Harold Camping predict such things? While I cannot speak for Camping himself, I do know that the reason people want to do that is so that they can be the purveyors of "good news" to those who follow Christ. In a world of hopelessness, when the economy seems to be turning south, when unemployment and gas prices are on the rise, and every day our headlines are filled with pessimism, the thought that Jesus might be coming back for His own can be a great encouragement to his followers. They have something (soon) to anticipate. The hopefulness of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy is a motivation to get ready and to help others get ready too!

But therein lies the problem. Author Doug Mendenhall writes in a parabolic form about a phone call he received from Jesus, asking if He could visit the Mendenhall home. When Doug consents, he discovers that Jesus does not mean next week or in a month, but that he is calling from a convenience store just around the corner, and he will be there in eight minutes. After rushing around and straightening up, making sure that the Bible and Christian magazines are clearly placed on the coffee table, that all objectionable television programs are turned off, and everything seems to be straightened up and "ready" for Jesus' visit, Mendenhall proclaims that "getting ready for a visit from Jesus is more than an eight-minute job!"

So it is with everything associated with Christ's return. It involves more than just cleaning up your act between now and the time when someone predicts He will return. Oh, and another thing: Just because someone predicts it and it does not happen does not mean it will not occur. That's like the fellow who was speeding down the tollway, enjoying his trip one day, when he realized the rental car he was driving did not have the I-Pass sticker on the window. He had completely forgotten to stop at the toll booths along the way, and once he remembered, he figured they would not expect him to pay the \$5.00 in tolls he had missed. But he did not expect the bill he received a few months later when they charged him not only the \$5.00, but \$20.00 each for the five toll booths he had bypassed! In those months he thought for sure that he had gotten away with something. But along with the bill, he received pictures of the car he had been driving, with the license plate clearly seen, and a copy of the rental agreement supplied by the rental car company. He knew he was caught.

The same thing is true about the Lord's return: we may not know when it will happen. We may not be able to predict it, or mark our calendars in red letters with the date. But it will happen. And the Lord in His Word challenges each of us to be ready for it when it does.

Robby Robins was an Air Force pilot during the first Iraq war. After his 300th mission, he was surprised to be given permission to immediately pull his crew together and fly his plane home. They flew across the ocean to Massachusetts and then had a long drive to western Pennsylvania. They drove all night, and when his buddies dropped him off at his driveway just after sun-up, there was a big banner across the garage—"Welcome Home Dad!"

How did they know? No one had called, and the crew themselves hadn't expected to leave so quickly. Robins relates, "When I walked into the house, the kids, about half dressed for school, screamed, 'Daddy!' Susan came running down the hall—she looked terrific—hair fixed, make-up on, and a crisp yellow dress. 'How did you know?' I asked.

'I didn't,' she answered through tears of joy. 'Once we knew the war was over, we knew you'd be home one of these days. We knew you'd try to surprise us, so we were ready every day.'"

My friends, it is a fact - Jesus will return. The question is a simple one. Are you ready for Him when He does come? Getting ready for Jesus' return is something you will not have eight minutes to do.

God bless...

Chuck

GETTING READY FOR JESUS!

PILGRIMS FOR WOMEN'S WALK #86

PILGRIM	HOME TOWN	SPONSOR
Darlene Bennett	New Vienna	Linda Cook
Wanda Currey	Xenia	Lois and David Hall
Nikki Estep	New Vienna	Matt Estep & Robin Smalley
Karen Everhart	Washington CH	Carol Roberts
Cheryl Geddes	Jeffersonville	Karen Balwit
Sherri Hooper	Leesburg	Debbie Taylor
Kacie Jenkins	Wilmington	Doug Jenkins
Teresa King	Xenia	Debbie Lynch
Diana Lemaster	Fairborn	Cindy Fisher
Dorothy Mockabee	Wilmington	Jim Spragg and Barb & Pete Little
Diane Moore	Clarksville	Dave Moore
Robyn Morris	Wilmington	Dave & Robyn Hinman
Janet Reese	Washington CH	Rob & Martha Scott & Shirla Coil
Darlene Roberts	New Vienna	Clara "Porky" Sears
Beth Shepherd	Xenia	Shannon Dunn
Jo Slocum	Blanchester	Dan Slocum and Barb & Pete Little
Mary Smith	Washington CH	Cindy Knauff & Rebecca Haines
Phyllis Smith	Goshen	Carol Tarter
Robyn Spragg	Wilmington	Jim Spragg and Barb & Pete Little
Judith Sturgeon	Wilmington	John and Jackie Wass
Brenda Wicker	Milford	Debbie Pegoli
Marie Williams	Pleasant Plain	Pat Reynolds

TEAM FOR WOMEN'S WALK #86

SD	Chuck Tabor	Means of Grace
Clergy	Maurice Mitchell	Obstacles to Grace
Clergy	Chuck Shonkwiler	Prevenient Grace
Clergy	Calvin Martin	Justifying Grace
ASD	Todd Toole	Sanctifying Grace

LD	Jean Ann Cloud	Perserverance
ALD	Lisa Haines	Priority
ALD	Sandy Quigley	4th Day
ALD	Nichole Avery	Grow Thru Study
Music	Jennie Harner	Keyboard
Music	Bronwyn Jones	Song Leader
AV	Mary Brose	
Board	Paula Erwin	

TL	Glenna Leeth	Changing Our World
TL	Martha Scott	Christian Action
TL	Debbie Harp	Body of Christ
TL	Kathey Carroll	Life of Piety
TL	Mary Ambrose	Discipleship
TL	Debra Lewis	Priesthood of All Believers

ATL	Chris Parks	
ATL	Vanessa Rice	
ATL	Jessica Davenport	
ATL	Tonia Ellen	
ATL	Dora Brady	
ATL	Claudia Fowler	

BLOSSOMS FROM BLOOM

(continued from page 1)

continued to roll! She said to me, "Cindy, that's exactly what you did for me when I came here! That's what you do for all of us!" Then I started to cry! She said, "Don't ever think that you are just the financial aid lady here...you are so much more for the Lord!"

I truly could not believe she was saying these words...answering my prayers...lifting my spirit...recharging my soul.

Beloved... this life that the Father wants us to live is so uncomplicated, so simple, that sometimes we can't wrap our minds around it!

Jesus asks us as he asked Simon Peter in John 21:15, "Do you truly love me more than these?" To which we answer "Yes, you know that we love you."

His reply to us, "Feed my lambs."

Again and again He asks us the same question He asked Peter, "Do you truly love me?" And again we respond, "Yes, Lord, you know that we love you."

Jesus responds to us, " Feed my sheep."

What is it that you can do to turn the light of day on in someone's dark world? Opportunities lie at every angle for us to brighten their day...to feed their souls. No offering is too small or insignificant! It simply requires you to be you...filled with the Holy Spirit allowing the "Sonshine of Jesus" to reflect through your life. Your connection with The Comforter can rip the curtain of depression in two for His beloved and bring radiant revival to their lives and magnetically draw them to Him! Don't ever doubt the power of His love working through you! :o)

It is such a privilege to feed His sheep and share the "Sonshine of His love!"

Decolores! *Cindy*



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

Please keep the entire walk in your prayers.

You can start praying for the pilgrims by name! Watch the web site for any additions to this list.

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.



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

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
June 14
 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!



THINK	ABOUT	IT
<p>"Give the needs of your mate priority. One parent put it this way: 'A husband and wife are apt to be successful parents when they put their marriage first. Don't worry about the children getting second best. Child-centered households produce neither happy marriages nor happy children.'" -Ann Landers</p>	<p>HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?</p> <p>No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.</p> <p>- Kirsten, age 10</p>	<p>"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."</p> <p>-Albert Einstein</p>

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
JUNE	Kathy Holbrook	OPEN	OPEN
JULY	Rick Geddes		
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			

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.