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"You are
His Glory"

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

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

**Get that
application
in TODAY!**

Blossoms from Bloom

Beloved,
*"Oh, the weather
outside is frightful.
But... Ohhhh... so
delightful! And since we've
no place to go...Let it Snow,
Let it Snow, Let it Snow!"*

I love winter! I love the tingle of crisp air as I inhale through my nose and expand my lungs with *the breath of heaven!* I love knowing that each white snow flake is uniquely different as God gently sprinkles them from above. I love to see God's red cardinal dance on a snow covered pine branch with his majestic splash of color! I love the songs of hope and glad tidings that come with the winter season that fills the heart with so much JOY that it brightens the facial expressions of even the hardest of hearts. But, I think what I love most about winter is the fact that it forces humanity to slow down...to be still...and to rest.

I grew up on a farm in Highland County and whether we liked it or not, chores had to be done everyday! The cows had to be fed, watered and milked! Winter had to either become my friend or my foe.

I remember one ghastly winter day on the farm when my sister and I were doing our evening chores of carrying bales of hay to the outside feeding mangers. I lucked out and had to hand carry mine out through the moat of sludge that surrounded one manger. I was doing a superb job of managing to stay upright through the muck when suddenly my boot got stuck in the middle of the moat! I couldn't go forward or backward! I remember thinking *great!* There is no way I can throw this hay into the manger...and there is no way I can set it down on this muck! The only way I could continue a forward motion was to pull my foot out of the safe protection of my boot and carry on the task that my Dad expected me to get done! So, that's what I did! I straightened up my 5'4" stature, took a deep breath, and with a set jaw I yanked my foot out of my boot and... Ummm-hummm... walked through the sludge in my socked foot! I guess I need to add to my winter "love list above" that I love the protection of thick, wooly, winter socks, too! :o)

That evening as our family rested and nestled around the cozy fireplace that Dad

had built for us to enjoy...we listened...as each of us shared the happenings of our day. I have to admit, my sister and my barnyard story was the hit of the evening! I remember the twinkle in my Dad's eye as he appreciated the determination it took to get the job done that cold, winter's day! He was proud of us! And seeing the love radiate from his eye, that night, was all we needed to let go of any disgust or frustration we may have felt. It was simply a life happening! And, one that brought us all a good laugh!

As you read this article a new year will have begun! The weather outside is bitter cold, and challenges come with every day. Of course, we have all voiced our New Year's resolutions and we are *pumped up* and ready to face them! ARRRHHHHHH!

Each New Year, I choose one specific area of my life I want to improve upon. I start the effort like a runner in a marathon activated by gun shot, surging with energy, and ready to win the challenge. Only to find in less than a month that the
(Continued on page 2)

MUSINGS FROM MAURICE

THANKS!

Become a fan on

facebook

Do you remember the magic slate? You could draw pictures and write words and phrases on it, then lift the transparent film and watch what was drawn or written simply disappear. In 1960 a new toy was introduced that basically replaced the magic slate. It was called an Etch-A-Sketch®. Do you remember it? Did you have one? Do you still? (If so, it's a real antique.) With the Etch-A-Sketch® you turned two knobs. One moved the curser up and down and the other moved the curser right to left.

To clear the picture all you need to do is turn it over and shake it, and your drawing or message will disappear, and the Etch-A-Sketch® is ready for more of your creativity.

Just so, our lives are written on God's tablet. If you accept God's grace, He will blot out the words we have said, the thoughts we have entertained, and the deeds we have done. Our sins have been removed by God's grace. As the psalmist put it, "... **as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sins from us**" (Psalm 103:12). Yes, the consequences of our actions may remain, but our sins themselves are not longer listed (recorded). God has removed them completely.

We are just now recovering from our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. But the real center of our Christian faith is the amazing grace offered to us by God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which was made possible, because Jesus came into the world as a human. He became the sacrifice to atone for all our sins.

If we were to ask about a past sin, God would say, "What sin?" Let's make a resolution as a new year beings, to regularly thank and worship God. May God bless you in the new year!

Maurice

(Continued from page 1)

wind is out of my sails and I'm ready to give up! What am I **not doing** that is making me feel defeated? And then, the Spirit whispers, "*Be still, Cindy, and know that I am God.*"

I have come to realize that our Father in Heaven is our number one cheerleader! No one wants us to succeed more than He! With our every success He beams with glory! He is on the sideline of our every day, cheering us on! With great enthusiasm His Spirit woos us, with arms stretched forward, spread wide with welcome He knows when we are weary. He is ever ready to scoop us up, wrap His loving arms around us to replenish and refuel our energy levels. All we must do is, *be still*, take a break from life, and come to be with Him!

Just like my earthy Dad loved hearing the stories of his children at the end of every day, *our Heavenly Father loves hearing them even more!* So, let's take advantage of the quiet of the season to *be still*. Let winter become your friend, not your foe. Just know that God created the stillness of mother earth for a reason, to allow the rebirth of spring.

The obstacles that we face in the winter of our lives may seem overwhelming to us, but if those obstacles are allowed the quiet time to heal, the Father has a plan to create an *even more* beautiful you! If we simply stay the course, in the spring of our lives, people will see a beautiful transformation in us and God will appreciate all of the determination it took for us to accomplish the task He had set before us! You are His Glory! And, in you, He is well pleased!

Staying the course because just around the corner...lies victory,

DeColores, *Cindy*

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Sharing Your Faith

"Make haste to help me, O Lord of my salvation." Psalm 38
Our job is to witness to what the Lord has done in our lives. The Lord's job is to take our witness, grand or simple, and use it to get to the heart of the one hearing us. Many times a witnessing believer is surprised at how the Lord uses some simple incident or phrase to change a hearer's life. Witnessing is the most natural thing. You fall into conversation with someone who brings up a problem or concern. As you converse you remember how God helped you with a problem of your own. You share that incident. Even if you fumble with words and are certain you have made a grievous mistake, God will use your witness to encourage that person to come to him. As in this psalm, the prayer may be as simple as "hurry up and help me, O Lord!" It is not the perfection of witness by the action of the Lord that makes the difference. Ask God to provide you with opportunities for witness today. You'll be surprised.

"You are then a witness? To what? To your own infallible light and our own justice, which you have chosen. This is the exact opposite of everything Jesus ever did or taught."

Thomas Merton

From "Forward, Day by Day" Vol. 76, No. 4, used by permission

Contact Forward Movement at 800-543-1813 or visit www.forwardmovement.org



Happy
New
Year!

Kairos Prison Ministry of Ohio

Operates 3 major ministries:

- 1: Kairos (oldest and main ministry) Kairos experience starts with a 3 day short course in Christianity that is attended by 42 residents and provided by a team of 55 trained outside volunteers. Kairos Ministry is operating in Lebanon Correctional Institute, Ohio Reformatory for Women, Marion Correctional Institute, Ross Correctional Institution, Trumbull Correctional Institution, Toledo Correctional Institution, Ohio State Penitentiary, and Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville
- 2: Kairos Outside - a ministry for female loved ones (wife, mother, sibling) of incarcerated Christian men or women. Kairos Outside operates in Marion and is for loved ones in Marion Correctional. The experience starts with a 2 day Christian renewal weekend. The attendees continue their faith walk in their own churches and go to periodic reunions of Kairos Outside participants.
- 3: Torch - a ministry in Marion Correctional. It ministers to young residents—18 to 24 years old. A 2 day Torch Weekend is followed up with continued mentoring of the weekend "graduates."

MISSION: to help grow and nurture strong Christian communities within state and federal correctional institutions.

Kairos Prison Ministry grew out of early attempts to launch movements in prisons similar to the three-day movements in the sacramental churches of the free world. The ministry of Kairos was preceded by an ecumenical Cursillo movement in Union Correctional Institution, a maximum security institution in Raiford, Florida in 1976.

There are two Greek words for time. One of them is "kronos" which means linear time: hours, days, weeks, etc. The other is "kairos" used in a sense of time set by God for a particular occurrence. KAIROS was found to be a word of very special significance in the environment of the correctional institution where the word "time" carries so many special connotations.



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

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

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
January 11
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!



*If there is an *EXP* here, this is
your last newsletter! See pg 3.*



Food for Thought

Why Is It That

A \$20 bill looks so large in church and so small at the mall?
An hour serving God is so long and 60 minutes watching TV or taking a nap seems so short?
We get excited when a football game goes into overtime, but complain when the sermon goes longer than normal?
It seems hard to read a chapter in the Bible but easy to read 200 pages in a best selling novel?
We believe the newspaper headlines, but not what the Bible says?

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
JANUARY	Rick Geddes	Susan Thompson	Denise Gregory
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

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.