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TALES FROM THE OLE WEST

Have you heard of the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's "rite of passage" to become a man? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone in the woods. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not to remove the blindfold until the sun rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is considered a man. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each boy must come into manhood on his own by the same experience.

The boy is naturally terrified. All kinds of thoughts would be going through his mind. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beast must surely be all around him. Maybe even some humans might do him harm. The wind would blow the grass and the leaves would make sounds and the stump might even feel as if it were moving, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It

would be the only way he could become a man.

Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been watching over him the entire night, protecting his son from harm. All the son had to do was to reach out to his father.

We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

The moral of the story is that just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He is not there.

"We live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

I sat on that stump and I was blindfolded. I have shared this story in a talk and I will share a little of it now. When I was born I was not a high priority in my parents' lives. I'm not sure of the reason why; that is not important now. I was sick and given three days to live. My parents gave up on me, and that is when God took control and put me into

the hands of my great aunt and uncle. They nursed me back to health. From that time forward, they reared me, brought me up in a Christian home where I was able to find Christ and the story continues on and on. My Father, Jesus Christ was sitting on that stump next to me, watching and caring for me and I didn't even know at the time that he was there. My story is just proof that just because we don't see him doesn't mean he isn't there. I know he was there to protect, guide and to save my life without my asking. I wasn't old enough to see, hear or even be aware of my existence. But it was through prayer and our Lord's grace that I was lifted up from death's door and placed in a loving home; that I was able to survive. I wasn't in control, I wasn't able to ask the Lord for his grace, but I believe that I was in His control and through His grace and not from anything I did that I am able to be here today. Ephesians 2:8-9 says *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and* (continued on page 2)

WE LIVE BY FAITH

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

**THE SEPT.
MEN'S
WALK?**

**Will it
happen?**

Tales (continued)

this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

This was my rite of passage. Now the question is, what am I going to do about it? Sounds like the end of an Emmaus Walk. The Lord gave me life; gave me hope before I even knew I could reach to Him. It was when my blindfold came off, I became a man and accepted Christ as my savior that I knew what my mission should be. I had the faith, but as it says in James 2:17, *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

It took a few years to actually put my faith into action. I had to go through a learning curve, and I might add that I am still learning, still curves ahead, to see what my actions should be, and how my talents should be applied.

There are many people, places and things in which we could put our faith during our lifetime, but we must prioritize our lives, and put our faith in God and Jesus Christ above all else. Jesus said: *"Do not let your heart be troubled: trust in God, believe also in me"* (John 14:1).

Happy Trails,

Jim

MUSINGS FROM MAURICE

Believe it or not, September is here! When I was growing up, September always brought the beginning of school. Yes, that was a long time ago!

I know I've shared an incident that happened in my high school days at a gathering, I need to give a little explanation. When I was a high school freshman we had a substitute teacher for homeroom, who asked for the names of those who were absent. One of the wise guys in my class reported that one student, who was absent, was "Harvey Keck." There was no such person, but he was listed on the absentee list. His name appeared a few times during our four years of high school. And he almost made it in the yearbook. Some of us pooled our resources and bought him name cards for graduation, and we had to choose a middle name (I still have my copy). One classmate planned to enroll him in college, and have him audit some classes. I don't know if that ever happened. I do know that at our senior awards assembly, a classmate pretended to be "Harvey" and after reciting "Rinder-cella," was given his diploma.

What brought that to

mind was the possibility of auditing a college course. I've never audited a class, but I understand that some people do it. I'm all for learning for the sake of learning, but here's the part of auditing a class that would really bug me. It comes from a college catalog: "The amount charged for auditing a class is the same as taking it for credit, but audited classes are not counted as part of a student's enrollment status." In other words, you take the course, reading what you want and doing homework as you want, but you don't get a grade and don't get any credit toward graduation.

I wasn't able to spend tuition money on classes that didn't count. Facts and information are important, but I didn't want to invest time and effort into something and not get credit for it.

To me, auditing a class is a little like what James was talking about in the first chapter of his New Testament letter. **"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!"** (James 1:22). When you audit a class, you can listen, but you don't have to do what the professor says. You don't have to take the test to prove you know what's going on. You don't HAVE to DO anything.

Have you ever met peo-

ple who seem to be auditing the Christian life? They may go to church and hear the sermon, but they may as well be in the middle of Rocky Fork Lake. They never even try to put into practice what the Bible says. Or, if they read the Bible, they treat it like a piece of literature. They never bother to act on it.

The Bible isn't like a college catalog. It doesn't have a provision for auditing the Christian life. Every day is a test to see if we are putting our faith into practice in real life. Ready? There will be a test!

Maurice Mitchell

PRAYER LIST

from August Gathering

The Workman Family

Ashley Lamb

Ron Dowler

Margaret McMonigle

John Harner

Jim West

Joe Smith

Vaughn Reynolds

Gail Wilson

Linda Richmond

Michael Sylvester

Evan Sylvester

Heather Dooley

Jonathan Cross

J. David Cross

James Cross

Joseph Cross

Joel Cross

Josiah Cross

Vera Ehler

Dennis Stewart

Johnny Wass

Christy Mitchell

John Waugh

Rob Scott

Martha Scott

Frances Butcher

Hollie Pelfrey

Pilgrims on Men's Walk #55—Sep 27-30

Live-In Team

Josh	Hahn	Fayetteville	Ray Hahn
Jim	Hildreth	Washington CH	Mike & Karen Wilson, Karen Hoppes
Jeff	Lanman	Sabina	David Maines
Jaden	McFadden	Hillsboro	Robin & Jim Smalley
Nick	Preston	Washington CH	Glenn Thompson
Heath	Roberts	Washington CH	Dale Lynch
Shane	Salyers	Wilmington	Heidi Salyers
Richard	Sutton	Blanchester	Dan Slocum
Cody	Vilvens	Milford	Ray & Shawna Hahn
Joseph	Williams	New Vienna	Earl Roberts & Georgialia Hannah

Bill Snowball	LD	Persever
Bob Brown	ALD	4th Day
Mike Daugherty	ALD	Priority
Mark Henize	ALD	Study
Danny Beis	TL	Chr Act
Charlie Lewis	TL	Priesthd
Pete Little	TL	Chg Wrld
Glenn Thompson	TL	Life in P
Vic Tissandier	TL	Disciplsh
Mike Wallace	TL	Body of C

BOLD indicates CONFIRMED pilgrim. Others have been invited

Board Positions Open

We have some opportunities to become a member of the Emmaus Board here in Wilmington beginning with the 2013 year. It's not difficult, although some positions require a little more attention and some responsibility, and, as far as time consuming, we meet the same day as the Gathering but we start at 6:00 P.M. The Board is the governing body to keep our Emmaus community adhering to the Upper Room guidelines.

Here are the positions which will be opening.

Secretary position: Taking notes at the meeting and putting together the minutes.

Kitchen coordinator: Making sure that the kitchen help is lined up for the walks, sign-up sheets in order and each meal is covered. Also that the kitchen is in order, before and after a walk.

News Letter: Coordinate the news-letter and get it sent out.

Women's Good Shepherd: Helping with finding share groups for the la-

dies.

If you have an interest and have any questions about any of these board positions, please see Jim West or any of the board members, and we will be able to answer any of your questions. If you feel the Lord speaking to you about any of this please say "yes" and let us know.

Help Wanted: We need Sponsors

If we have sponsors, that would mean that we have **PILGRIMS!**

I would also like to mention the up-coming walks. We need to begin praying for the up-coming walks in September and October. We need to lift up Bill Snowball as Lay Director for the men's walk in September and Kendra Young, the Lay Director for the ladies' walk in October.

Bill and Kendra have assembled God's teams. The team for Men's Walk #55 have started their team meetings and the meetings for Women's Walk #89 will start soon.

We need to be praying for the

Jim Bowman	ATL	
David Maines	ATL	
Dan Slocum	ATL	
Vernon Stanforth	ATL	
Phil Wilson	ATL	
Joy Stanforth	SD	Means of
Dave Hinman	ASD	Sanct Gr
John Glaze	BR	
Rusty Staten	MD	
Terry Staten	AMD	
Randy Riley	AV	

Men's Walk #55 on September 27-30th. **Community: we need sponsors and we need pilgrims.** I don't know if you realize it but men are sometimes a little reluctant to make a commitment, maybe they need a little more encouragement; (don't tell my wife I said that) so get out a stick and do some persuading. Of course pray about it first. As of now we have 10 new applications. In order to have a walk in September, we will need **18** new confirmed pilgrims by September 11. That will be here in no time. Ladies from Walk #88 (June), if you have a spouse you *(continued on page 4)*



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

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
 11 Sep
 Singing starts at 6:45PM!
 Stay in the GATHERING habit!!!
 Wear your nametag!
 Bring a snack to share!

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS: Watch your address label! When your "last issue" date comes close, if you wish your mailed subscription to continue, be sure to send \$6.00 to our Treasurer, Susan Thompson. You can also see her at the monthly Gathering. Remember, you can also read the newsletter online at our web site: www.wilmingtonemmaus.org.

HELP WANTED *(continued)* think is ready, this would be a good time to share the experience that you have just completed. Josh Adkins (937-218-1490) is the Men's Registrar and he would be glad to work with you, get you the information and process those applications. So, community, we need to get those applications turned in. And it's not too soon to begin getting applications turned in for Woman's Walk #89 in October. Debbie Mitchell is the Women's Registrar and is also willing to help you if you have any questions about that walk.

I would also like to mention that we do have a scholarship fund available. If anyone needs assistance whether it is a team member or a pilgrim, just let myself or one of the registrars know.

I would also like to say again, that if your phone number has changed since your original walk, **please** let Jim West or any board member know so that we can update our records. It is a real frustration to be calling for team members and the operator comes on and says "that number is no longer in service." So please let us know of any changes. Jim West, Community Chair

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	INSTRUMENTALIST	SONG LEADER
Sep	Bronwyn Jones	John Glaze	Peggy Larkin
Oct	Peggy Larkin	John Glaze	Cindy Bloom
Nov	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dec	Community	John Glaze/Lynn Lowell	Bronwyn Jones

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