

newsletter



"I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness."



NO PLACE TO GO

My mother was born in Russia and escaped to the U. S. as a little girl with her family. The couple that raised her were like my grandparents but we called them Uncle and Aunt.

Uncle Henry and Aunt Mollie lived just north of us on the corner with a vacant lot between our house and theirs in my home town of Shattuck, OK. Their house is a two story house with the warm inviting look that says, "Come in." On the north and west side of their house are sidewalks six feet from the house. That six foot area between the walk and the house was prime flower garden territory (translates to being a Restricted Area). Many innocent dogs went from a state of placid napping in the cool of the flower bed to 60 mph in less than 5 seconds. If you get my drift.

Now here's where my brother and I come in. First of all we were cute. Well, people told us that. Secondly, some of Aunt Mollie's flowers were in clay flower pots. On the northeast corner of their house was another porch. It was here that Aunt Mollie kept her clay flower pots. Thirdly, clay flower pots break with an exciting and thrilling sound when dropped from the porch to the sidewalk below. My brother and I were deeply involved in this third step, that I have now painfully pointed out to you. Aunt Mollie and Uncle Henry also heard those exciting and thrilling sounds. They arrived at the height of our concert of pots with instruments of their own. Our last words; "Run, here they come!" I was faster than my younger brother and they only caught him. Mine came a short while later. There was no place to go.

No place to go? Ever felt that way with life? One of the things I appreciate most of the book of Psalms in the Bible is the honesty. David wrote most of the Psalms and he was brutally honest with God. He didn't sugar coat how he felt or what was happening to him. He said things like: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me? O God, I cry out by day and night but you do not answer. Why, O Lord do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"

These are but a few, and often David would end the Psalm with something like: "I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness."

You might be thinking, "What's your point, Tim?" My point is this, be honest with God. He knows how you feel. He knows how you may hurt or how angry you may be. What he wants is for us to tell him. It's in telling him that he can in turn help us. I think many of us have trouble in being completely open and honest with God. You don't need fancy words or pious smooth speech to talk to God. He really is waiting to hear honestly from you. It's okay to say, "God I am really ticked off. I'm angry and hurting and I don't know what to do. I need your help."

My friends that last phrase is the key; "I need your help." Try it. See if there isn't a difference in your spirit and experience a peace that only God can give that will guard your heart and your mind.

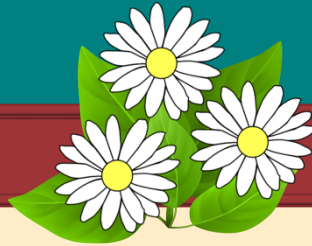
There's no fee, no limit on minutes. You have a God who wants to hear from you.

Because He Lives,
Pastor Tim



“The God of Miracles!”

May 2018



Randy Lind

I heard a word today that I have never heard before; it is “insuperable”. I had to look it up in the dictionary and if you were to do that you would find a definition something to the effect of “incapable of being passed over, overcome, or surmounted”. I was listening to Chuck Swindoll this morning and he was the one who used this word. Chuck was talking about those situations in life that we see no way out of. He talked about a God that was able to get us through insuperable situations. Well, this caused me to ponder.

More than once I have heard fellow believers say things like, “The Church needs to take on projects in which the only hope of success is a miracle of God.” Then I think about my life. How much do I depend on God? I have never once wondered where my next meal is going to come from, or where I was going to sleep at night. This stability and provision is, of course, a blessing from God for which I am very thankful. However, because of this blessing it does make me wonder how confident I would be in God’s provision in the face of insuperable circumstances.

I suspect this is a good reason for me to allow myself to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, as Roman 12: 2 indicates. And that renewal takes place as I spend time in His word. After all, he is the God that split the Red Sea, who healed the blind, lame and the leper. He

provided unending flour and oil for a widow and her son and slew 450 profits of Baal in an instant. He caused the sun to stand still and water to become wine. He caused a virgin to be with child and caused the God/Man, Jesus Christ to rise from the dead.

We do indeed serve a God that is able to overcome insuperable odds. He is truly all knowing and all powerful. Now, it could be a scary thing, for us weak, helpless humans to realize that an all knowing and all powerful being does exist. However, the greatest comfort is expressed to us, by this all knowing and all powerful being, through His Word. He tells us what the purpose of His amazing power is by explaining to us that He, God, is love. Love is the motivation for everything he does. Let us all find rest in the fact that our God loves us, beyond our imagination and he is able to lead, guide and bring us through insuperable circumstances.

His Blessing to You All,
Randy





Walk to a Lifeline

For we **walk**
by **Faith** and
Not by **Sight**.

11 Cor. 5:7



Working Together in Christian Unity

Glenn Koster May 2018

I grew up in the 1970s. Okay, so I am getting old. One of my favorite songs growing up was *“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love.”* It was written in the late 1960s by Catholic priest Fr. Peter Scholtes when he was a parish priest at St. Brendan’s on the south side of Chicago. He was looking for an appropriate hymn for a series of ecumenical, interracial events but found nothing. He sat down and wrote this now-famous hymn in one day.

The first line says, *“We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.”* The first line of the second verse states, *“We will work with each other, we will work side by side.”* This has truly been the reality that Charlcie and I have experienced on my walk. We have had people of all denominations come alongside us: Baptist, Church of God, Lutheran, Methodist, and many who are non-denominational.

But what bothered me recently was an anecdote that someone related to me. A Baptist minister, in a large Southern city, had been asked to join a ministerial alliance. His response set back Christianity many decades. He said, *“I’ll join when you uninvite the women preachers, the colored preachers, and the Pentecostals.”*

When I heard this story, I was floored. Not only does it stand against everything the Bible teaches, but it is in direct opposition to what Charlcie and I have experienced and how we as the Body of Christ must act.

Whether we like it or not, we are on a world stage. How we behave as believers is viewed very carefully by the rest of the world. In many cases, it can (and will) make or break a decision for Christ.

Perhaps Joni Eareckson Tada said it best when she stated, *“Believers are never told to become one; we already are one and are expected to act like it.”*

As Charlcie and I venture across America, we have been blessed by Christians of many different *“varieties”* and now count many of those we have met as our friends. We have yet to encounter any fellow believer who is not willing to work together, particularly when it comes to seeing to the needs of *“widows and orphans”* as we have been called to do.

There are many children in May who will not be able to experience the joys of giving a Mother’s Day present to a mother whom they love and cherish. There are many who desire to be mothers who have never been able to hear those three words (*“I love you”*) from the mouths of their children.

If there is one thing that we must learn as believers to *“Do Well”* it is to live in unity and harmony as believers. This has long been the teaching of the Church of God. May we use this month to once again put that into practice.





Faith Journey

“Walking the Plank!”



By: *Glennis Joy Lamb*

“With Lovingkindness Have I Drawn Thee”

May 2018

Graduation is just around the corner, **May 5th** to be exact! There are many details to attend to before **“I walk the plank.”** I am definitely not sure I’m ready for this, although it was the goal all along, I even managed to finish my bachelor’s degree in record time, two years! But the uncertainty of what it means to finish this segment of my education and push on to the next, leaves me feeling insecure and uncertain.

When you start a journey, there are plans to be made, preparations to take care of, and usually many details to attend to. There is a satisfaction that comes and for me, a feeling of security in attending to the details of a regular routine, that is brought on by the beginning of a journey. But I am now facing just the opposite. *How do you end a journey?* The safety net of all the things that feel good and comfortable are now fading away and soon everything around you changes. I like feeling safe and secure, and I like routine. I don’t like change so much!

I like things in their place. Let’s get real here. If you always put an object back where it belongs you can always find the “said” object when you need it. But I live in a fallen world and not everyone agrees with me. So, I do the next best thing and organize my little part of the world, putting into place the routines I covet. Graduation is taking away the nice neat little routine that I have been enjoying these past two years. The simplicity of my daily routine is expanding and being replaced by loftier goals and new objectives. One of the more difficult aspects of this change is a change in who I am accountable to. Different people with unfamiliar expectations.

As with all things in my life I put a smile on my face and talk with the new authorities in my life as if I’ve always known them. Underneath I am crumbling. I am internalizing all my desperate feelings and uncertainties about the future. I am smiling as I talk, but sizing up these people in my mind as I ponder how to respond to them.

I see graduation as a type of **“walking the plank”** experience. I am fixing to fall off into the unknown and I am frightened by the uncertainty of what I will face. Yes, I’ve successfully made it this far but there is a long road stretching ahead of me and I can’t see the end. It’s filled with uncertainties.

Often, when I get a new book I read the first chapter then turn to the back of the book and read the last chapter. I hate the suspense of **“not knowing”** how a story is going to turn out. After I have the beginning and end read, I read the middle chapters to see how the end came about and what actions were needed to get to the climax of the story. Wouldn’t it be nice if real life were like a book and you could flip to the end to find out how things turned out? But we are still in the process of writing the story of our lives. The story will most likely take many twists and turns before the climax to the story comes and the book has to be written before it can be read. So, I am in the process of adding new chapters to my life’s story.

I sat in my advisor’s office (and very unlike me) I struggled to get out the words that addressed my fears. I didn’t feel ready to graduate and enter the next phase of my education. I had listened carefully to every word this man had said that day in his lecture and I knew beyond a doubt I was not ready. He was so confident and for two years, he taught every class I had taken from **memory, no notes**. There are times I can’t pull out information that I know as well as my own name. Sometimes I just do something **“goofy”** like the time I put April 7th down for the bombing of Pearl Harbor, instead of Dec. 7th, of course I’ve known the date since I was a kid, my mind had wandered off to some things I was needing to get done by April! Sure, if I’m in the middle of studying something and I particularly like it, I

might be able to spat out some information but not like this guy. I have gone through much turmoil in my spirit as I’ve wrestled with my upcoming graduation. In his usual confident manner, he assured me I was ready.

After I left my advisor’s office, I pondered the words he had spoken. He seemed confident that I was ready to move on. I’m glad someone was because I sure wasn’t. I had faith in this man for several reasons. **First**, I believe God works through that word we don’t like — *authority* — to guide our lives. **Second**, he has proven trustworthy over the last two years. **Third**, and most important to me, he is passionate in his walk with the Lord. I’ve learned more from his life than I ever did from the books he required me to read.

Dr. Bitner has a habit of weighing his words before he speaks. I have seen the value of guarding your words, but for me the application is a little hard! I have determined that even if I have to **“die trying,”** I am going to learn to think carefully before I speak. He is dead serious about right and wrong and has taught me that little things matter. He prayed for me one time and I still recall what he said. I was distraught and was carrying the weight of the world on my shoulders that day. *Smile on the face, fear on the inside*. The words that caught my attention was when he simply asked the Lord to help me to **“do well.”** I am certain he had no idea how those words would impact me, but the Lord knew what I needed to hear that day and his prayer was **spot on**. Every time I wanted to give up and quit, I remembered his words and I repeated them over and over to the Lord over the next few weeks. The Lord saw me through when there was no human way for me to accomplish all that was laid before me. I still marvel at God’s grace during this time of pain and deep need in my life.

Now all that is familiar to me is being taken away. I have new advisors, different professors, and new goals to achieve. Recently, my advisor/professor did one last thing for me; he challenged me. He seems to know what makes me tick. He told me to take my educational journey **“little by little one step at a time,”** working slowly towards the final goal. I am always in a hurry. I want things done the **“right way”** and I want them done now. I am constantly looking towards the finish line and trying to find the shortest way to get there. **“Little by little,”** once again words he knew I needed to hear. I’ve been mulling it over in my mind and have found that it **“calms me”** to slow down and see life’s journey step by step.

So, how do you face the end of a journey? I imagine on graduation day I will struggle. It will become real then. I am sure my family will sidetrack me, taking my mind off the obvious; the end of my journey. Then, I will most likely, **“walk the plank then rest in the Lord, put on my happy go lucky smile, and sail into the future.”**

“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him, fret not thyself.”
Psalms 37:7



*In Christ’s Love,
Glennis Joy*



Getting to Know “Charlcie Koster” May 2018

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Charlcie Koster. She is an incredible lady with a love and passion for serving the Lord. She cares deeply and passionately about others. She has a wonderful testimony, is a humble and kind hearted woman, and when I’m around her she always makes me feel loved. She takes serious, “to work for the night is coming” and is energetic in her life’s ministry.

Charlcie was born in 1955 and spent the first Sunday of her life at First Church of God here in Hutchinson. Her grandfather Brother Ogle had previously been the pastor here. She didn’t leave here until she left for college in 1974. She packed her bags and moved to Houston, Texas to attend Gulf Coast Bible college where she got a Bachelor’s Degree in Christian Education. She married, had two sons, and stayed there a total of twenty two years.

Brian David Koontz is Charlcie’s oldest son. He works at Yoder Meats in Haven and is unmarried. Brian is a kind hearted happy go lucky man. Her second born son is Daniel Alan Koontz, he is married to Jeanne. Daniel and Jeanne graduated from Sterling College with their Bachelors Degrees then went on KU where they both graduated with their Master’s Degrees. They have two sons, Aiden who is 9 1/2 years old and James Charles who is 4 years old. James got his middle name Charles from Charlcie as his parents wanted to bring honor to the mother and now grandmother they loved. They reside in Hutchinson.

Charlcie met Glenn at Wal-Mart when he got in her check out line to purchase Christmas lights. They immediately struck up a conversation. Later when Charlcie went to the Cosmosphere to attend the company Christmas party, she ended up in the food line behind Glenn. They once again struck up a conversation and talked as they went through the line. That night he saw her after the party and walked her to the car. Charlcie went home and googled his name and found out he worked at Eaton and was writing for the *Prairie Tattler*. That made her want to know about him. Her friend Denise came up to her at work and told her that she had talked with a man named Glenn who was intrigued with Charlcie, and Charlcie said to Denise that she was intrigued with Glenn. That started what became known as the “coffee dates.” They would go out for coffee together and talk. They were married October 20, 2012 and have been married 5 1/2 years.

Charlcie started teaching Sunday School as a sophomore in High School when a retired missionary named Mary Jane Brandner approached her and asked, for her help. In college she continued to help with Children’s ministries while getting her Bachelor’s Degree in Christian Education. She enjoys teaching 4th-6th grades the most. She has also helped with Bible School and sings on the Praise Team. I have seen Charlcie serving in many different areas with a quiet loving heart including teaming with Glenn to lead the Life Outreach program.

Her favorite vacation with her boys was a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Every two years she likes to get together with some old college friends and take a vacation. When her boys were growing up they met one year in Tennessee and stayed in a cabin with a creek running behind it. One of her favorite things about that trip was watching her boys float down the creek where Aunt Scarlett was waiting. Aunt Scarlett would catch them, throw them back onto the river bank and the boys would laugh, run up the creek, and float back down, over and over again. They also went to the Dollywood Amusement Park which was laid back with a lot of Christian Country Musicians singing. She liked doing the simple things like taking a train ride through the Smokey Mountains. The Dixie Stampede was also a highlight of that special trip with her family.

Charlcie was saved and baptized at the age of eight. The pastor at that time was Brother Williams. When I asked Charlcie what her favorite thing about First Church of God is, she said with much emotion, “I Grew up here!” She loves being on the Praise Team. She loves each and every person who attends the church as they latched on to her, they hug her, and when she walks in she feels their kindness and loving warmth.

And what does her husband have to say? Glenn said with much emotion, “she’s my world!” She has never met anybody that she didn’t like or seek to help. She’s truly amazing. If she finds someone in need she wants to help. He went on to say that he couldn’t do or accomplish the things he is doing without her by his side. He ended by saying, “She’s my everything!”

Charlcie’s favorite scripture verse is:

*“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you!”
1 Peter 5:7*

Happy Mother’s Day to a woman who exemplifies Christ!





May

2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10 <small>www.papersofmemories.com</small>	1  Prayer Group 9:30 am.	2 	3 	4 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." Isaiah 43:1  <small>© The Birth Garden</small>	5 
6 Common Ground 9:45 am. 	7  Jesse & Mary Newton	8  Prayer Group 9:30 am. Josh Martinson	9  Terry George	10 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and HE PRAISES HER: "Many women do noble things, but YOU SURPASS THEM ALL." Proverbs 31:30	11 	12 
13 	14 	15  Prayer Group 9:30 am.	16  Terry & Julie White	17  Jesse Newton	18 	19 "I sought the Lord, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4  <small>© The Birth Garden</small>
20 Common Ground 9:45 am.  Tim Yates	21 have you prayed about it as much as you have talked about it?  <small>www.thebeautywithin.com</small>	22  Prayer Group 9:30 am. Council Meeting 6:30 pm.	23 WHATEVER YOUR HAND FINDS TO DO, DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. Ecclesiastes 9:10, NIV 	24 	25 	26 
27 Common Ground 9:45 am. 	28  Susie George	29  Prayer Group 9:30 am.	30 	31 "Be devoted to one another, in love. Honor one another, above yourselves." -Romans 12:10	"Motherhood is not a hobby, IT IS A calling. IT IS NOT SOMETHING TO DO IF YOU CAN SQUEEZE THE TIME IN. IT IS WHAT GOD GAVE YOU time FOR."  <small>-Neil L. Anderson</small>	

“Hurry or Achievement?” May 2018



I am always in a “hurry” and always looking ahead to the final goal. I do my best to find the shortest distance from A to B. Recently, I shared with Cindy that my Advisor told me take things “*little by little*” or “*step by step*,” and to just keep slowly plugging away at my goals. As I let his advice sink into my heart I found that there was a comfort in not feeling like I have to “accomplish” everything today, or right this minute. This past week has been the most relaxing weeks of school that I’ve had since going back. Cindy sent to me the following thoughts taken from Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts Devotional*:

“When asked what his biggest regret in life was, a well-known pastor replied, “Being in a hurry.” He went on to explain that he would start the next thing before fully finishing the last and he could not see one advantage he had gained from hurrying. He did see a thousand missed opportunities or broken things that were the result of always rushing.

“Haste makes waste. The hurry makes us hurt.” No matter what our pace is we can’t outrun time. We can speed it up by pounding our feet harder making the minutes pound by faster. As we race to gain more we find we are leaking and soon running on empty. “Hurry always empties a soul.”

“Life is so urgent it necessitates living slow.” In Christ we find that to be urgent means we must be slow. He wants us to have a slow and steady reverence for Him. In Christ we find that time never runs out. Our days are no longer like a sieve that loses time but we find through Christ we actually gain time.

We are standing on the brink of eternity with endless time stretching before us. We have time to breathe deeply and to see the things that matter and are real. We have time to give glory to God, to laugh, to sing, and even to take times of rest. There is just enough time in each day to get the important things done without being wild or driven and without being hounded. There is enough time to grab our jacket off the hook and enjoy the outdoors with its fresh air and marvel over God’s creation.” (Voskamp)



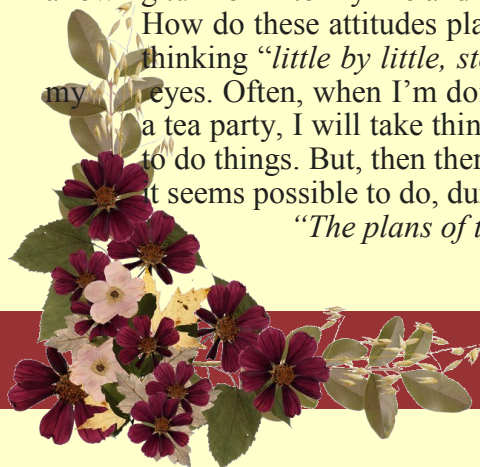
As I ponder the words of my professor and the article by Ann Voskamp, I realize that there is a difference between **hurrying** and **accomplishment**. The word “hurry” has several connotations attached to it such as, rush, haste, flurry, but also confusion and turmoil. We are in a state of exasperation which brings on things we would rather not have in our lives. Accomplishment on the other hand, means to achieve, perform, or attain, but it also implies “*to do well*” or “*to attain success*.” I know for certain I would rather have accomplishment in my life than to be defined by the word “hurry.”

Philippians 4:13 says, “*I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*” A week ago I was up in KC, at the college. I got permission to turn in all the assignments for a class starting during the month of May. I could graduate May 5th but wouldn’t get my diploma until this class was completed. I want my diploma on graduation day as my family will be there, thus the reason behind the request. So, with my usual flare I came home and like a “*ball of fire*” tackled my assignments. By Tuesday night I had read over 300 pages and turned in 12 assignments. Adding to that, for the class I’m presently taking I had listened to an hour and a half of lectures, taken a test, read the book of Romans through, and then wrote a summary of what I’d read. As I ponder the difference between **achievement** and **hurry** I’m trying to decide, where do I fit into all this? There is no confusion in what I’m doing, the goals are quite clear. But yes, I am in a “*flurry*” of activity which will pay off next week when this class starts and I don’t have to do any work, and my present class ends! I don’t have time to waste on allowing turmoil into my life and my goal is definitely to do well on each assignment.

How do these attitudes play out in the “*big picture*” of life? I remember sitting down at my computer and thinking “*little by little, step by step.*” Before I knew it, a mountain load of work had melted right before my eyes. Often, when I’m doing other things such as cleaning, working in my garden, or preparing ahead for a tea party, I will take things little by little, doing one chore at a time. That just seems like the natural way to do things. But, then there are the moments when life caves in on me and I have more to accomplish than it seems possible to do, during those times I must remind myself, “*little by little and step by step.*”

“*The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.*”

Proverbs 21:5 NIV



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Laine Alex Moore, Administrative Assistant
Glennis Joy Lamb, Administrative Assistant
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“Do Well”

Steps that will lead you to living “well” and exceeding in life.

- First: Little by little, step by step. Take each day as it comes doing the very best you can in the circumstances you find yourself. Every little victory will add up and pretty soon you will find you are living in victory.
- Second: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” II Cor. 12:9 NIV
As humans we are weak but we find when turn to Christ that He is strong and He gives us His power to overcome our weaknesses.
- Third: Give your very best effort in everything you do, taking time to complete each task to the best of your ability. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” Ecc. 9:10 NIV
- Fourth: Do everything with eternity in view. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...it is the Lord Christ you are serving” Col. 3:23-24 NIV

