

Update 22, written August 23, 2017

**Supplies for the ministry:**

Over the years many of you have given supplies for the ministry. Sunday School supplies, Vacation Bible School supplies, craft supplies, fabric, medical equipment, wound care, ostomy and incontinent supplies etc. These have been a huge blessing to the work here.

Shipping to Ukraine will continue but with mom moving off the farm, God has blessed me with a new spot. Peggy has kindly allowed us to store supplies at her place so, effective now, I am asking that you use the address below as the location to mail or drop off supplies.

Peggy Lewis 37249 Meredith Drive Lebanon, OR 97355

Home ph: [541-258-1521](tel:541-258-1521) email: [wp3c@comcast.net](mailto:wp3c@comcast.net)

God blessed Mom with some great buyers. After 44 years of investing into the farm, she really hoped for a family who would love the place as much as we did. Just as of 3 weeks ago, God provided the Larson family and she sold the farm. Mom is now busy with the final details of packing up and moving.

As of now, Mom's new address is: Marilyn Johnson

406 Summit Ave. Gearhart, OR 97138 Cellphone: [541-405-0466](tel:541-405-0466)

**“...character transformation,  
though dependent on grace and God's empowerment,  
requires a lot of hard work, vigilant oversight, rigorous thought, self-discipline,  
and a life marked by repentance.**

**It also entails surrendering to a God who is more concerned with our character  
than with our comfort.”**

Summer is peak outreach season and for me that meant being involved in 5 camps in the past 9 weeks. I don't regret it and if I were to do it again I doubt I'd change a thing. In the not so distant past, I remember spending summer days in the hospital recovering from surgery...so I am glad to be healthy and grateful to be involved. And, I fully agree with the 'coach's voice' inside that urges me to hold nothing back – 'give it your best and leave it all on the field!'

But, I hate who I am when I get tired. The color drains out of life, leaving everything steel gray. Usual inconveniences become giant irritations and unexpected problems become major tragedies. My brain is sluggish and cranky. I bark and I bite. All the ugliness inside that I have not yet allowed God to deal with comes out. Even I wish I would go away.

The week before last I 'hit the wall.' I knew it was from pure fatigue but logic was of little help. I was mad, sad, exhausted and the chorus line from my *Poor Me* song ran through my head - "Why was I here? What good was I doing? What's the point? How much longer?" Why didn't God choose someone else? " Had someone shown me the exit door, I would have walked through it. Already now, it seems kind of funny but it certainly wasn't at the time.

A week went by and I felt better. I had pulled in, allowed myself a lot of sleep and time to be alone. But, I *so didn't* want to go anywhere last Monday. Even though at this last camp – Vacation Bible School at our church – I had the fewest responsibilities, a big part of me just wanted to go crawl under a rock.

I had 25 excuses in my holster and was ready to use them. But, the thought of letting the VBS director (Lena) down wouldn't let me. I had promised her and knew deep down that this (to participate in VBS) was something God wanted me to do. Mine wasn't an amazing prayer. I just told God the truth – I can't, and don't even want to, but You can.

**"Yet in the midst of ten of my failures,  
God is gracious enough to give me one victory, and that one victory is so sweet  
that I lose all taste for anything else.  
I have found that God's presence, visits and mercy are much more wonderful  
than my sin and limitations are horrible."**

And, He did!! God provided a ride 4 out of the 5 days....saving my strength and time. God provided 2 amazing helpers who basically took over my main responsibility – the kitchen. So, all that was left for me to do was to take photos, apply a few Band-Aids and support Lena as needed.

VBS ended Friday and on Sunday morning after church a grandma came up to me. I had seen her come nearly everyday with her grandsons. She was smiling, extremely grateful and overflowing with complements. Even though I understood what she told me, I was confused and surprised. What she saw and how I had felt didn't match. So inwardly I was arguing – 'You saw what? When? Are you sure? How did God do that?! How did God take my '*I can't and even don't want to.*' and turn it into a blessing for you?"

**"I may indeed get it wrong far more often than I get it right-  
but oh, the glory when, in spite of me,  
God shines through and does something so wonderfully out of this world!"**

**A year ago...**

He has been on my mind. Ever since April, nearly everyday I think about Dad and what was happening a year ago. I also wasn't there to say good bye to my aunt who died shortly after Dad did. I miss them and the roles they played in my life and thinking about them has been good.

Although we were far a part, they deeply influenced me and I wonder about my influence on others. I don't have my own but I do have 'kids.' Has my role in their lives been for good? I am far from my nieces and nephews. Have I influenced them towards God, even from here? Transitions happen with age. What does that mean for me? I want to finish life well in God's eyes – how does that look? No answers yet, just questions. Good questions that are rolling around in my heart.

There is a pause in my schedule now so I am going to use it to take a 2 week break. I am looking forward to it - another gift from God.

Blessings, June

All quotes from "The Beautiful Fight" by Gary Thomas

1. Vacation Bible School - On Monday we had 42 kids and by Friday there were 62!
2. Starting the day with silly exercises
3. Crafts
4. Even in the heat, we played lots of games!
5. All week we learned about Joseph and how he trusted God.
6. Thank you for supplying the construction paper, markers, crayons, glue, balloons and balls!









