

Co-Community Spiritual Director's Thoughts

Joshua Face it. Many of us in Emmaus are getting on in years. Next week will see my 64th birthday. When I first heard that Beatles song on the Sgt. Peppers album in 1967 I thought, "Yup. 64 is really old, all right!" Well, here I am! Some of us here are getting on in the race of life and the question is - Are you going to finish strong? Have you heard of Caleb? He was the other half of Joshua and..

Caleb was quite a man who at 85 was as strong and vital as at the beginning.

At this age people have been on Social Security for around twenty years and are wondering how long they will remain independent. Caleb was asking his pal Joshua, "Give me this mountain!" (Joshua 14:12) That is finishing strong!

Finishing strong was important to the Apostle Paul.

He writes to the church in Corinth: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." (1 Co. 9: 24) Paul always was fascinated with athletic contests. All of the training and self-discipline was to obtain a crown of laurel leaves that would last for only a few days. Paul says that everyone who finishes this race will win the eternal prize that never fades BUT YOU HAVE TO FINISH STRONG!

Let's see how Caleb ran his race.

He had been born a slave. But down in his heart, communicated by his parents and community, was this distant hope of a Promised Land, of a new life beyond the reach of Pharaoh, a life given by the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.

Then out of the desert comes this Moses, confronting Pharaoh on his throne and bringing the command of God "LET MY PEOPLE GO!" Then on Passover night, darkness and death swept over the land and Caleb found out what it was like to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. He was baptized into Moses as the people passed through the parted waters of the Red Sea. In the wilderness Caleb fed on the manna from heaven and drank water from the riven rock.

Caleb was one of the twelve leaders, one from each tribe, sent as spies into this new land of promise. Ten of the spies told terrifying tales of giants in great walled cities, claiming they felt like grasshoppers! But not Caleb or his friend Joshua! Where the others saw giants, Caleb saw the greatness of God.. When others found fault and fought, Caleb followed the Lord. Through all the forty years of wandering as the old generation died of faithlessness, the vision of this new land and new life drew him and his good friend Joshua on and on.

Now at eighty-five, Caleb could look Joshua in the eye and say, "I have faithfully followed the Lord."(Joshua 14:8) Amazing to note that Caleb has traveled with the people who were faithless, spending 38 years of his life as one by one they fell in the wilderness yet he never says, "I told you so!" Caleb could have wandered with the rest complaining, "We don't HAVE to be wandering aimlessly going nowhere. We COULD BE kicking butt and growing grapes BUT NOOO!" All Caleb has to say at the end is about God's glory and grace through 38 years of desert wandering and 7 years of war in Canaan. There is a reason he is so vital. When we worry, fret, strain and sweat using our own strength and will, it drains our lives. Why worry about tomorrow? But today, every day, give everything you have to what God has for you to do. Give Him the glory). While we live, it is God that keeps us alive; by his power he protects us from death, and by his providence supplies what we need in life. His patience alone prolongs our days on earth. (Cont.)

We have reason to say, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness!" (Lamentations 3:21-23)

Caleb was determined that he would finish strong. He told Joshua, "Give me this mountain!"

George Muller and his wife opened their home to 30 orphan girls in 1836. They had some small change, three serving dishes 28 plates, one jug, four mugs, one grater, four knives, and five forks. They never asked for donations, depending on God to provide as he saw fit.

By 1870 there were three great houses with over 2000 children, all off unsolicited donations. He wasn't through yet. In 1871 at age 70 his first wife died so Muller married again and felt a new calling. Muller began a 17 year career as a traveling evangelist taking the name of Jesus over 200,000 miles to every corner of the world including India, the Middle East, S.E. Asia, China and Australia.

Caleb at 85 said, "I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; ...NOW, THEREFORE, GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN!" (Joshua 14:11,12a)

Caleb knew the struggle would be long and hard but he had his eye on the prize..

He had the same vibrant faith as Joshua - "It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said." (Joshua 14:12b) Caleb never took God for granted. He didn't depend on the fact he was as strong as he was 45 years ago. He was as strong as he was because of God alone. As long as he was on God's side he was going up the mountain God had promised. "If God is for us who can be against us?"

We can be so tempted at this age to say, "Enough is enough. I have worked and labored. The Lord has blessed. Now it is time to do what I want to do. It is time to retire from the race." Beloved, the race is not over.

What about you? Keep your eye on the prize. The mountain is before you along with God's promise. I don't know what your mountain might be. God has given you life and strength such as you have. God has brought you to this place and time with the promise, "Never will I leave you or forsake you." (Deut. 31:6)

God's blessings as you finish strong!

Pastor Bill



The August 10th Gathering is Chrysalis night. This is an opportunity to see the Chrysalis folks as they lead us in the evening service. They will have music for us, provide Next Steps (same as Fourth Days) and assist with rest of service. Hope to see everyone there supporting our young folks.

Tom Dever; Chrysalis Representative

A Message from your Community Lay Director



One of my responsibilities as a maintenance supervisor is to write job descriptions for new positions in our organization. The main parts of the description are the expectations of management, the job profile, and the responsibilities within the position. Then there is a section for a list of skills, specifications, educational requirements, and any other necessary qualifications for the position. And then, of course, the section that has everyone’s interest: the pay and benefits. While I was forming in my mind what I felt was the necessary information, a thought came to me. What if Jesus had written a formal job description to become a Christian? What would our resume look like? What was the job profile? Who would Jesus call and what would be their qualifications? Ability to: persevere storms while on a sinking boat...survive only if you learn how to walk on water...go without food and to be fed only if you believe...endure long hours being constantly persecuted, even blinded, and later healed by your faith. You are promised you will someday feast at the Lord’s Table. You will sit at the feet of the Master. You would learn all that you would need to know to save mankind from themselves and their way of life.

Does that sound like a job that would interest anyone? Maybe if I mentioned the pay and benefits it might make a difference. No pay. All the love that you could ever imagine. The most important ‘benefit’ of all, Eternal Life.

Jesus said” Follow me and I will make you fisher of men.”

Anybody interested in going fishing?

Reminder that November 13-16 is set for Men’s Walk #47

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. Matthew 13:47

Kairos dates of Interest



Ross Correctional #29
August 7-10

Pickaway Correctional #5
August 14 -17

Are you wanting to bake some cookies! Homemade cookies are needed for each of the Kairos dates. Contact: Greg Stout for details.



2014 Gathering Dates start at 7pm

September 14	October 12
November 9	December 14

Come worship and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!
 As they sat down to eat he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! Luke 24: 30-31



Email address change please note that I decided after much working getting this newsletter together to adjust to a different email address weller.kay.a@gmail.com I will continue to use my old one but have discovered that to simplify and on advice of an expert with computers to change. Also, any newsletter items welcome, a message, suggestion, or art that would enhance the newsletter please share. Fourth Day message are always a welcome.

Do you know that Christ is counting on you! Your Emmaus Community is counting on you to come and worship. Reminder bring a dish to share afterwards !!!

Because of your unfailing love, I can enter your house;
 I will worship at your Temple with deepest awe. Psalms 5:2

