

## Co-Spiritual Director's Thoughts



As the earth came alive with new life this spring I was watching a couple of trees in my yard. They had been planted a couple of years ago and for the first couple of years one tree thrived, bursting forth with wonderfully colored leaves. But this spring the tree looked as though the top branches were dead. It certainly looked as if there was not much life left in those branches; but upon closer inspection there really was life coursing up from the trunk into the branches. It was just taking a longer span of time for the top branches to show signs of life.

For two years the second tree had been having a difficult time thriving; the leaves were small and looked as though they would fall off at the slightest violent wind. The branches had so few leaves on them that I wondered if we would need to replace it. But somehow this spring the tree burst forth with the most beautiful lush green foliage and deep pink flowers. It is a tree that is just bursting forth with new life.

Two trees with two very different reactions to the same conditions remind me of what happens in our spiritual life. Two people can face the exact same circumstances but how they react and make choices often reveal their spiritual condition. After receiving new life in Christ some people thrive and have a colorful, vibrant witness but sadly after the first couple of years the excitement wears off and their life choices reflect the world's influence rather than God's influence in their life. They appear to have lost their first love and their spiritual life may even look dead but if we really look close, their life is still connected to the life-giving spirit of God. Therefore, God's life is still coursing through their being and in time their life will once again reflect God's way in their witness.

The second person may spend most of their life barely surviving. Their spiritual witness is hardly anything to talk about. In fact when difficult times come along, they allow life's circumstances to make their choices for them. Only when they finally accept Jesus as their Savior and commit their life to God does their witness burst forth with new spiritual life that flourishes and becomes life giving to others.

Rather than being like either of these two trees, Christians should strive to live as a tree planted by the living water of God; so that in season or out of season our witness might be lush and vibrant giving new spiritual life to others every day, no matter what we are going through. Our Emmaus Walk gave us a long drink of that living water and in our fourth days we stay connected to our life giving source by reading the word of God, praying together, meeting together in our share groups and coming to the gatherings each month.

Won't you spread the joy of God's wonderful amazing grace as you invite others to experience the once in a life-time Emmaus road journey with Christ? The witness of the disciples changed on the first night of the resurrection as sorrow changed to joy and questions were replaced with spiritual knowledge. Jesus truly has risen from the dead! He is alive!

Resurrection Blessings,  
**Carolyn Peacock**