



**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS**

**"Among the myrtle trees in a ravine.."  
(Zechariah 1:8)**

Among the devotional authors I read, none can get more meaningful insight out of what seem obscure passages than the classic author and pastor Charles Spurgeon. I was reading his devotion for the day based on this verse recently and just have to share it with you this month.

This short phrase is taken from a vision of Israel's condition in the years just after the exile in Babylon was ended but it also describes the condition of God's church today.

The church is compared to a myrtle grove flourishing in a valley. It is in a valley as opposed to being on a hilltop so it is hidden, unobserved, secret. If you didn't know it was there you would pass right by.

When I was a child growing up in New Mexico my Sunday school class went on a picnic. If you have ever driven through New Mexico, from the highway its beauty has a strictly arid, rocky quality. In fact some of my prize places to play were in caves formed from ancient lava. Yet we were taken to this hidden glen of rippling streams, green meadows and tall pines that was simply an oasis hidden away in the blasted landscape of the high desert. In fact when I tried to take my parents back there we never could find it again. That is often the way the church seems to be in the world. It is hidden away from worldly eyes until the time of her revealing in the splendor of Christ's return. For now, we have little honor or place but then we shall be revealed in glory as the children of God.

Not only are we hidden but we are also kept in quiet safety, because the myrtle trees in the valley are still and calm while the storms sweep over the

mountaintops above. The reason Carson City where my mother lives is such a pleasant place is that the storms gather on the tops of the Sierras and expend their energy on those heights, dropping foot after foot of snow (in good years) upon those craggy peaks while the people in Carson Valley live in peace. Then come spring and summer, those snow banks slowly melt, releasing their refreshing waters down to the trees and grass in the ravines and valleys. So too storms rage on the peaks of life while down their sides flow streams which bring joy to the city of our God, the myrtle trees flourishing by their gentle waters unshaken by the winds on the heights. How wonderful is the inward peace that is in the Body of Christ, the Church! Even when she is opposed and persecuted as she is in so many corners of the world she has a peace which the world can never give or take away, that peace of God which passes all understanding and keeps the minds and hearts of God's people in the knowledge and love of God. I pray that you have that peace today no matter what the world may be bringing your way.

Not only is there peace in this ravine or valley but also perpetual growth of the saints. (That's you!)

The myrtle is evergreen, she never sheds her leaves which themselves are filled with fragrant oil. The church herself even in her worst days has a vibrancy and life about her. In fact when the winter is most difficult and the snows and storms have come even down into her valley, she seems most green and alive. The leaves on her branches still bear their blessing of fragrant oil, recalling Psalm 133

"It is food and pleasant when God's people live together in peace!

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS CONTINUED

It is like perfumed oil poured on the priest's head and running down his beard.

It ran down Aaron's beard and on to the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Mount Hermon falling on the hills of Jerusalem.

There the Lord give his blessing of life forever."

The myrtle is a symbol of peace and an emblem of victory. The brows of conquerors were crowned with myrtle and laurel. Isn't the church also victo-

rious? We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. We live in the peace of God and fall asleep into the arms of God's eternal victory.

De Colores!

In Christ's love

Rev. Bill

Co-Spiritual Director

## GREETINGS TO THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Well here we are heading for fall and another season that God creates for us to enjoy. Isn't it amazing how God provides a wonderful year for us to enjoy from the new of the spring to the cold of winter. Soon we will see the beauty He creates with the changing of the trees from green of summer to the gold of fall. We had a great summer with beautiful weather and we just wanted it to last long enough for the picnic, but God had other ideas. The day turned chilly and a bit rainy, and I don't know if that is what caused low attendance at the picnic this year or whether people were just too busy, but the picnic had the lowest attendance I have ever seen. However those that were there were treated to good food and great entertainment. I want to thank Jackie Lee for all her hard work in preparation for the picnic and for the food she prepared. I also want to thank Jim Mayhugh and Homebound for the music they provided for all who were there. It turned out to be a wonderful day.

I want to make the community aware of some other changes going on at High Street. They are currently in the process of replacing the old wood tables in the dining room with new fiberglass tables and they have come to the community to ask us to share in this by helping to purchase some of the tables. We have been asked to provide the cost of five tables for a total cost of 517.50 or 103.50 per table. If anyone would like to personally purchase a table or a share group would like to purchase one to help out, please see me or any board member and let us know. After all, this is just another way we can show our thanks to High Street for their generosity shown to the Emmaus community in turning the church over to us for our walks each year. So if you are able to contribute, please give this serious consideration.

Remember, the gathering is coming up on October 11 and I would like to see as many of you as possible come and enjoy fellowship with your Emmaus family. Please keep Shelly Canan and her team, along with the pilgrims of walk 58 in your prayers.

In His service, John Baugh

## SPECIAL AGAPE MUSIC AT GATHERINGS

We would like to encourage those groups or individuals who would like to nominate themselves for Special Agape Music for the upcoming Emmaus Gatherings (starting in October). This would involve starting the gathering by leading congregational singing (about 4 songs), and then singing/playing 2 agape songs interspersed throughout the gathering when requested by the Community Lay Director. Agape can include: playing/singing with live instruments, singing to CD recordings (Karaoke/ Accompaniment tracks), or even acapella singing. There will also be opportunities for singing/playing/reading/speaking at our Praise Gatherings which are usually in April and December.

Please contact Sue and Vic Neves if you are interested.

e-mail: [farmmama@netzero.net](mailto:farmmama@netzero.net) phone: 937-767-2976

## WOMEN'S EMMAUS WALK #57

Pilgrim	Sponsor	Pilgrim	Sponsor
Brandee Adams	Lori Vineyard	Bonnie Kettlehake	Joe Chapman
Anna Blackwell	Dorothy Higginbotham	Tammy Kushmaul	Evelyn Evans
Doris Blevins	Sim & Corina Bowen	Julie Latham	Mary Caputo
Nita Boyd	Jacob & Silke Berner	Jennifer Leonard	Melody Leonard
Grace Brown	Reva Hutchins	Carolyn May	Peggy Jones
Joyce Burger	John & Mary Ahlborn	Dawn McKee	Shawn Clark
Shirley Carmichael	Joe Chapman	Gail A. McKinley	Peggy Jones
Stacy Christian	Crystal Burgel	Tonie Miller	Nancy Feltner Teresa Fout
Shelly Clemens	Nancy & Doug Feltner	Rosa Moltz	Steve Moltz
Carolyn Cook	Melissa Fowler	Roxanne Muwwakkil	Joe Chapman
Lula Cosby	Reva Hutchins	Donna Reichard	Sue & Vic Neves
Joy S. Draime	Barbara Cornelius/ Walter Mock	Bonnie M. Roush	Linda Jumper
Marcia Dunn	Dan & Sue Bostick	Parady Ruf	Rhonda Crist
Robbin Ferriman	Michelle Rockfield	Robin Scruton	Rhonda Voorhees & Shelly Canan
Melanie Hess	Alma Glenn	Rachelle Skinner	Johnnie & Sharon Wil- liams
Angelic Hill	Sim Bowen	Tina Soles	Lindsey Ancrum
Julie Jones	Nancy Feltner	Tish Turnmire	Shawn Clark
Ginnie Keller	Shawn Clark	Hallie Whitley	Glenn Whitley
Anna Kennedy	James Kennedy	Nicole Yoakem	Jim & Betty Yoakem

### Team Roster

<b>Lay Director</b>	Shelly Canan	<b>Board Representative</b>	Jo Ann Horrocks
<b>ALDs</b>	Dottie McHenry; Joyce Penwell; Rhonda Voorhees		
<b>Table Leaders</b>	Silke Berner Corina Bowen Amy Canan Judy Delledonne Kasi Gardner Sara Levesque Mikie McMahan	<b>Assistant Table Leaders</b>	Libby Hammond Alli Voorhees Michelle Riedinger Christine Smith Michelle Welch Kim Casey Verna Reed
<b>Music Directors</b>	Kelly Crain; Kim Bachman		
<b>Logistics</b>	Teresa Ehalt; Dee Moore; Lisa Mayhugh		
<b>Spiritual Directors</b>	Carolyn Peacock; Cindee Johnson		

High Street United Methodist Church  
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Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Springfield, OH  
Permit No. 27

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www.spfldemmaus.com  
www.highstreetumc.com

### **UPCOMING GATHERING!**

**Gatherings:**  
**Sunday, October 11, 2009 at 7 PM**

#### **FOOD & FELLOWSHIP:**

After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food.

***If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.***

### **2009 WALK DATES:**

#### **Women's Walks**

#57

November 5-8  
LD: Shelly Canan

### **PLEASE HELP!**

***We are in need of applications. Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim!***

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:8