

**THE PERSEVERANCE PRESS
CROSSROADS EMMAUS FOURTH DAY GROUP**

Volume No. 29, Issue No. 3

Date: March 2010

Well, since last month's article, even more has happened.

I have been elected to a committee for the Presbyterian Church's Mission Presbytery and I am very honored. My first meeting with the committee was Friday 2/5 and Saturday 2/6 in Austin. Wes seemed to be improved to the point that he felt he could stay by himself for that short time. I had arranged for two of my mother's sitters to come in and check on him during my absence. I traveled to Austin on Thursday evening and arrived at my meeting on Friday morning at 8:30. All cell phones were turned off during the meeting to avoid interruptions. At around 3 p.m. I checked my phone for messages and had two voice mails. As I listened to the frantic voice of one of the sitters, my fellow committee members could see that it was not a happy message. I left the meeting to attempt to telephone the sitter. When I returned to notify them of a problem at home, they had already prayed for me, and the safety of my loved ones. What a wonderful group! As it turns out the sitter called to let me know that Wes had yet another episode of his defibrillator hitting him repeatedly and was back in the hospital. I took an early departure from my meeting and scurried home to Victoria. Once again, we spent a couple of days in MICU and then one day in a regular room and then home. This time the company representative for the Medtronic pacemaker/defibrillator came to observe and reset the device. He felt he had it somewhat aligned but the doctors decided we should go back to Houston to have the device checked by the cardiologist who installed it. The appointment was made for Monday 2/15.

Now, in the meantime, Wes began having anxiety attacks fearing the defibrillator was going to hit him again. The doctors gave him three medications to keep him calm and sent him home with instructions to use all three if needed. All he wanted to do was take all three and sleep and he slept through every night and every day – very calm. But he was not having any panic attacks; he was just very, very calm.

I went to M. D. Anderson for my second IV infusion on 2/11. This time I was more prepared. I had sitters staying with Wes for the duration I would be gone and I began taking Tylenol before the infusion began and took it regularly until the following day. The IV went without too much of a hitch and I felt fine until about 2 p.m. the following day when the fever came on and I was walking sideways instead of upright. Believe me, sideways is not a good way of walking! But by 5 p.m. that day I was feeling more normal and began to prepare for our journey to Houston again for Wes. I had the presence of mind to contact the cardiologist in Houston to see if I should come prepared to stay overnight. I was told that I definitely should. So I made arrangements to stay overnight for one night and packed enough clothing for that one night. My sweet sister-in-law traveled with us and I don't know what I would have done without her. She pushed my sleepy husband in a wheelchair to his appointment and then to the check-in at St. Luke's where he was admitted to have the pacemaker/defibrillator replaced.

Well, now the fun began. They could not open the pocket to remove and replace the device until his clotting time for his blood had reached a certain level. He is on a blood thinner called Coumadin and it had to work its way out of his body. Tuesday came and his blood was still very thin. Wednesday was the same. Thursday it was almost to the level they wanted and so that evening at 7:30 p.m. they took him to surgery to replace the device. Then the blood thinner had to be restarted and leveled again before he could be released to come home. At last on Monday morning we were told he would be released to home. However, the physician assistant had to write instructions and give them to the nurse before discharging. So, we waited again. At 1:45 p.m. we were finally starting down the hall to go home. We took our time and arrived in Victoria around 4:45 p.m. exhausted but happy to be in our house. Oh, and those three medications to “calm him down” were discontinued before his head hit the pillow of the hospital bed on the first day!

His sons were all with us throughout this ordeal and during one of their visits they told him about laying on of hands for healing. He said he wished somebody would heal the neuropathy in his feet. Without hesitation, David told him if he believed God would heal his feet, they would be healed. Wes said he believed but felt like a hypocrite for asking for anything after not having much to say to God for so many years. We all spoke to that issue and assured him God loved healing hypocrites. David asked him if he could raise his arms but I nixed that because of his surgical wound. But I suggested that Wes place his palms on him and we prayed. It was a powerful moment. I know this was only a small beginning but it was definitely a beginning!

Now, I’m believing that even more powerful things will begin happening for Wes. I haven’t asked him about his feet, but he will tell me if they have changed in any way. God is so awesome!

I love you all!

Janie Zeplin

SPIRIT CORNER

Each month as I study what I am going to write for this month’s article I want to make sure that it is an article that everyone will enjoy reading. So this month I am going to quote an article from my devotional book written by Zig Ziglar. In case you are not familiar with Mr. Ziglar, he was very popular back in the 1950’s. He was one of my favorite authors. Christmas of this year my youngest son gave me a Zig Ziglar devotional book, so I am going to quote one of his daily articles that really impressed me.

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, or sworn deceitfully. PSALM 24:3-4

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, many people get to the top by climbing over others on the way. They want to be “King of the hill”, and nothing or nobody is going to stop them. But in the spiritual world, the goal isn’t to stand in power in front of shareholders; it’s to stand in humility and inner strength before the Lord. In the awkward time between his anointing and his coronation as king, David had many opportunities to take shortcuts and compromise his integrity. Saul chased David and his men through deserts and towns, and on several occasions, David could have killed Saul and taken the throne immediately. His most trusted and loyal followers urged him to do just that.

But each time David refused to rush success. He trusted God to accomplish his purposes in this timing. Through times of being misunderstood, attacked, and betrayed, David had “clean hands and pure heart.” He trusted God even in the darkest days, and he kept telling the truth. One of the most significant features of David’s life was the loyalty of his men. In him they saw a man they could trust, a man who spoke the unvarnished truth and followed God with his whole heart. Even before David became king of Israel, his character won the hearts of his men. So whether you work or are retired, remember this article, I think it is one of the best lessons that we all can go by. Always have consideration for your fellow person at work, church, or all those you come in contact, each and every day. Look at all you meet with a smile and greet them honestly with a hello, good morning or have a good day.

**DeColores
Jerry Wheeler**

**Gatherings: Pot Luck Dinners beginning at 6:30
March 19, 2010 First United Methodist Church Victoria, TX
(Babe Chicks)**

*****If your church would be interested in hosting one of the other 2010
gatherings on the third Friday of the month, please let Jennifer Kidwell know.
You can contact her by phoning 979-332-1877 or by
email: jennakidwell@yahoo.com. The months available are: June, July,
October, November and December.**

Board Meeting:

March 23, 2010 FUMC Ganado, TX 6:30 P. M.

EMMAUS OFFICERS 2009 – 2010

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Kathy Ahlstrom, Secretary
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Donald & Jean Wehmeyer, Immed. Past Lay Director
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Lora Mount, Agape Letters
Les Ellison, Trailer
Wayne Myers, Closing Walk Events
Karen Hable, Child Care
Sarah Ritchea, Music
Janet & Jack Tudor, Candlelight
Janie Zeplin, Reunion Groups
Susan Hurt, Newsletter
Bill Rakowitz, WebSite
Mike Kinsey, 2010 Men's Walk #1546
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