

THE PERSEVERANCE PRESS

CROSSROADS EMMAUS FOURTH DAY GROUP

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This inspirational piece was contributed by a pilgrim from Walk #1622.

A king who did not believe in the goodness of God, had a slave who in all circumstances, said, "My king, do not be discouraged, because everything God does is perfect, no mistakes!

One day they went hunting and along the way a wild animal attacked the king. His slave managed to kill the animal, but could not prevent his majesty losing a finger. Furious and without showing his gratitude for being saved, the king said, "Is God good? If He was good, I would not have been attacked and lost my finger." The slave replied, "My king, despite all these things, I can only tell you that God is good and he knows "why" of all these things. What God does is perfect. He is never wrong!"

Outraged by the response, the king ordered the arrest of his slave. Later, he left for another hunt and was captured by savages who made human sacrifices. At the altar, ready to sacrifice the nobleman, the savages found that the victim did not have one of his fingers, so he was released. According to them, he was not complete to be offered to the gods.

Upon his return to the palace, he authorized the release of his slave that he received very affectionately. "My dear servant, God was really good to me! I was almost killed by the wild men, but for lack of a single finger, I was let go! But I have a question: if God is so good, why did he allow me to put you in jail?"

"My King, if I had gone with you in this hunt, I would have been sacrificed instead of you, because I have no missing finger; therefore, remember: everything God does is perfect. He is never wrong."

Often we complain about life and negative things that happen to us, forgetting that nothing is random and that everything has a purpose. Every morning, offer your day to God; don't be in a rush. Ask God to inspire your thoughts, guide your actions, and ease your feelings. And do not be afraid. God is never wrong!

Gatherings: Pot luck dinners beginning at 6:30 P. M.

February 17, 2012	First United Methodist Church	Ganado, Texas
March 16, 2012	First United Methodist Church	Port Lavaca, Texas
April 20, 2012	First United Methodist Church	Palacios, Texas

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BOARD MEETNGS: Beginning at 6:30 P. M.—March 27, 2012-FUMC Edna, Texas

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THE ART LINKLETTER SHOW, "KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS." WHAT A WONDERFUL SHOW IT WAS. IN MY COUNSELING PRACTICE I AM HONORED TO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND THEY DO SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS. THEY ARE TRULY A GIFT FROM GOD AND I AM BLESSED DAILY.

I HAVE BEEN SEEING THIS PRECIOUS 5 YEAR-OLD-BOY WHO HAS NEVER KNOWN HIS FATHER. HE AND HIS FAMILY HAVE MANY CHALLENGES AND THE BLUE SANTA PROGRAM WAS THERE FOR THEM THIS CHRISTMAS. MY LITTLE GUY WAS SO SURPRISED THAT ANYONE WOULD BRING HIM GIFTS, AND I WAS SADLY REMINDED OF HOW OFTEN MANY OF US TAKE OUR LIVES FOR GRANTED.

KNOWING THAT HE HAS NEVER KNOWN HIS FATHER, ONE DAY I WAS SURPRISED AS HE CONTINUED TO TALK ABOUT HIS DADDY. I ASKED HIM TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS DADDY AND HE SAID, "MY DADDY'S NAME IS GOD AND HE LIVES IN HEAVEN."

.....OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR WORLD THAT THEY MAY KNOW LOVE, PEACE, HAPPINESS AND THAT THEY MAY KNOW THEIR DADDY WHOSE NAME IS GOD AND LIVES IN HEAVEN.

DE COLORES

GINGER

Men's Walk 1646 Update

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good! As of the end of January, we have 28 pilgrims registered for the men's walk on February 23-26. The team is in full swing to get all the final preparations made to make this the greatest walk ever!

First, and foremost, we need the Crossroads Emmaus Community to begin praying for the pilgrims who have answered God's call to participate in the walk. We all know that God called each pilgrim by name even before we knew who was registering. Now that they are responding to His call, we need to cover the pilgrims in prayer. One of the ways that you can do this is to go online to the Crossroads Emmaus website and sign up for a time on the prayer vigil.

Next, we need the community's gifts of agape for the pilgrims. These gifts are a simple expression of your love to the pilgrims. The more the merrier as we will load the pilgrims up with all the loot that we can receive.

Lastly, in the next day or two we will be asking for the community's support with specific items of agape that we need to complete the walk. Please take a look at the list and let us know how you can help out.

Additional pilgrim applications can be sent to the Southwest Conference office until February 9, after which time they will need to be sent directly to Fritz Wilke (1911 Sweetwater Rd, Pt Lavaca 77979 fritzpwilke@yahoo.com). Correct pilgrim fee is \$230.00.

Pilgrims will begin arriving at SRC at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23 which is when the prayer vigil begins. Candlelight is Saturday, February 25 at 8:00p.m. Come support the pilgrims with your participation in Candlelight.

A big THANK YOU for your support of this walk and the pilgrims that will experience God's love in a new way.

De Colores!

LUCK, COINCIDENCE and GOD

“Good Luck” is a phrase used mostly in parting from one person to another. I have always used this term wishing the other person best wishes, good journeys or many times, when the chances seemed to be stacked against that individual. It was sent to that individual much like saying, ”God’s blessings”.

Isn’t “Luck”, God’s blessings, simply put? Maybe Good luck is God’s Luck and Bad Luck would just be the lack of God’s Luck. If you watch movies that are centered in the times of early England, you will hear the English wish a traveler “God’s Speed”. I have always interpreted this to be a wish of God’s blessing in their journey, and that nothing go wrong on their journey. And shouldn’t modern Christians send someone off with God’s speed, or God’s blessings.

Sometimes, unfortunately, people do not associate their luck with God. They put their beliefs, in good luck charms, the numbers or the stars.

I am sure you have heard people say something happened as a coincidence. This I feel is another term of the non believers, or if this is too harsh a term for you, at least maybe the people who do not live for God all the time. How can anybody believe that things “just happen”? Things don’t just happen, God happens. Maybe it is a God-incidence or maybe when God chooses to remain anonymous. (That is a reading I found some time back.)

Psalms 139-16 tells you that all of your days are written in the book of life before you breathe your first breath. As I read this I feel God already knows what is going to happen to you and although he gives us freedom of choice, he already knows the outcome. And I feel God knows all you do and how you do it. Sometimes that ah-haw moment comes to remind us that God is there watching over us and he needs to remind us (or my case, me) that he is still there watching over all the blunders I make. Sometimes he just reminds me that he is still there.

Maybe we just need to think God’s Speed, or God’s Blessings and remember that God is always there for us; maybe we just need to remember to be there for him.

God’s Blessings,

DE COLORES,

Les

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