

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS ... AND URGING SPONSORSHIP

This article came to Karen Weller through "Verse a Week Club" via e-mail, and it got her thinking, as you can see.

"The plans of the diligent surely lead to advantage, but everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty."
Proverbs 21:5

Well, we finished packing my brother and sister in law's things into the moving truck last weekend. Due to the several moves we have made, we were familiar with what is involved in a move, especially packing a truck to make everything fit. I am glad we were there to help. It became very obvious that if everything had not been carefully packed into that moving truck, it would never have fit. We nearly filled the entire truck.

It has occurred to me that our lives are like this. If our lives are not ordered, we will wind up crowding out some important things. Like packing a truck, ordering our lives takes careful thought, consideration, and planning. If we don't order our life, it will seem too full to put what we need into it, yet not have all that much in it due to wasted space.

Isn't it ironic? If I pack things hastily into my life with little or no discernment, it gets crowded out with poverty, with "empty space." If I am diligent in ordering my life, I will not be impoverished, but have room for devotional time, family time, wife time, ministry time, work time, administrative time, and whatever else is needed. So, by what principle do I order my life? There has to be a method or scheme to pack the boxes in neatly, using the available space wisely.

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight (Prov 3:6)."

We usually think of "acknowledgment" as a recognition of someone or something. In Hebrew, it literally says, "In all your ways, know him." Knowing God means much more than just

knowing he exists. In Hebrew idiom, "knowing" often implies a certain level of intimacy. In fact, to "know" someone was the Hebrew figure of speech for sexual union, where two become one physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Knowing God intimately means being his "bride," (Hos 1-2; Eph 5:21-32), or being his "child" (Hos 11:1; Gal 3:26-27). When you know someone this well, it affects a change in your life. In this intimacy, we begin to think and act like him. In other words, we live a "godly" life.

The only way we can truly emulate God's character is by "knowing" him intimately. When we know him, then we can order our lives according to him. He would then make level paths for us (Prov 3:6). We will be much less likely to stumble and trip if we "know" him in all our ways. It is interesting to note that the word, "way" and the word "path" are actually synonyms of each other. You could very well translate this "In all your paths (or roads) know him." We should "know" him in all areas of our life.

So, when you are on the road to work, home, church, to a friends, or anyone else, imitate God's righteousness, grace, mercy, justice, kindness, and holiness. Don't try to pack things into your life that detract from God's character. Always ask the question, "Does what I am doing acknowledge my God?" If we order our life in this way, what is important will have no problem fitting on the truck.

Please be in prayer about sponsoring someone for either a Men's or Women's Walk. I know there are many times when I feel I can't pack anything else into an already busy schedule but when I pack God in first, everything else fits!

Currently we have 10 men and 15 women registered for the Fall Walks and room to grow! If you need registration forms please contact Karen Weller, 116 N. Ithaca St., Ithaca, MI 48847 or kweller@edzone.net, I can e-mail you a .pdf registration packet for you to print out.

May God bless you richly this and every week!

Karen Weller <<

LOST LAMBS

You may have noticed the words "Address Service Requested" on your last newsletter. This is the only way we find out if the newsletters we mail are ever delivered, unless, of course, you tell us. The undelivered newsletters are just thrown away unless we request address service. We request that service once a year. Here is a list of the people whose addresses were not correct. If you know where they have moved, please let us know so we can get them back on the mailing list. Contact information is in the Board Table on p. 2. If you want to mail information, we have a mail pick-up at Trinity U.M.C., see return address, p. 8.

Curt Baker of Grand Ledge, **Steve Barnum** of Pewamo, **Janna Bennett** of Lansing (48917), **Diane Benson** of Alma, **Jeff and Elizabeth Card** of Mt. Pleasant, **Haesan Choi** of East Lansing, **Clayton Church** of Lansing (48906), **Ken Cool** of Charlotte, **Michael F. Gavett**, of Jackson, **Thomas George** of Grand Ledge, **Jeff and Becky Howe** of DeWitt, **Mike Ivey**, of Lansing, **David Kent** of Saint Johns, **Doug Seelbach** of Alma, **Bob Shankland** of Clare, **Clarence and Pat Smith** of Saint Louis, **Michael and Danielle Spitter** of Lansing, **Doris Valentine** of Ovid, and **Trisha Winchell** of Carson City.

These people have been longer on the "lost lamb list." If you have any idea of their new address, please let us know. **Tony and Barbara Brandon** of Lansing, **Dan Cain** of Manistee, **Rich Coppess** of Lansing, **Dave Duncel** of Lansing, **Dan and Jackie Gamber** of Lansing, **Joel Gillison** of Lansing, **Jeff Howe** of Lansing, **Debra Jefferson** of Lansing, **Pat Kinnig** of Lansing, **Gary and Denise Marshall** of Brighton, **David Reynolds** of Lansing, **Ryan Rigas** of Lansing, **Ginny Walgreen** of Lansing.

