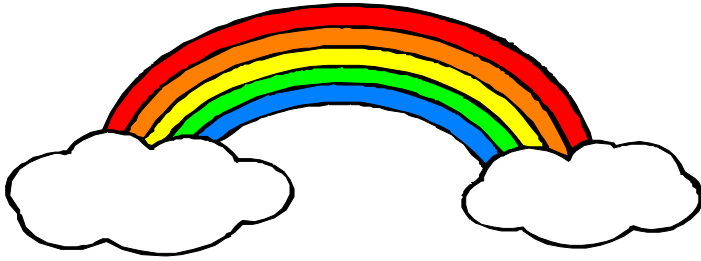


WOMEN'S WALK #54



Dear Emmaus Community,

Thank You just doesn't cover all the outpouring of love that I have received in the past month. I have received so many blessings that they are almost too numerous to count. God is so good!! A big thank you for all who sent cards and prayers on the death of my father. Even more difficult for me was putting my Grandma, who has lived with me, in the nursing home the following week. But as always the God's timing was perfect, to my relatives who were already coming in from California, to Grandma going in the nursing home, to my washing machine breaking down, and one of my cousins going into the hospital while she was here.

I became more and more convinced that Satan was just trying to attack before this women's walk and was determined to

"persevere." I knew that it meant that God had great things in store for this walk and He certainly did. To the making of the table assignments, to the inspector coming thru to okay the dishwasher, and especially to the double rainbow, just after the rainbow meal. God was in control and blessing this walk. Also to me, the blessing of my mother being able to be on the walk and receiving all the love and being helped with her healing thru her grieving process.

A special thank you to Harry Wallin and Cori Felpausch who had infinite problems to overcome during the walk and I am amazed at the "grace under pressure" that each of them had. A big thanks to all who helped in anyway before and during the walk. It was obvious to me that prayer was the uplifting message that kept us all going and in great spirits.

Some mighty and awesome things happened in the conference room and the pilgrims all had wonderful experiences due to the wonderful table leaders and their assistant table leaders. The spiritual directors were wonderful and the back table never had as much humor and love and support and for this I am very grateful. Especially when, just before my talk, I felt insignificant and worthless. The prayer room helped me immensely and reminded me that it was God's talk and made me feel loved and worthy, though humble. Thanks for the opportunity to serve which is always a blessing!!

Thanks again,
GLYASDI
Wendy Stanley

AUTUMN FAITH

Continued from P. 2

Still others hitch-hike on the fur of mammals, the feathers of birds, or the clothing of people. Some are packaged inside delectable morsels that birds or mammals eat and pass through their digestive systems so that the durable seeds are not only spread far and wide, but are also deposited pre-fertilized. All these plants exhibit faith that Spring will come; that temperatures will rise as the sun mounts higher into the sky; that rains will fall to moisten the fertile soil.

There are other plants that share all these strategies but add another. They have an energy store house, the root, that survives in the dark, moist earth. These plants exhibit faith that a warm, insulating blanket of snow will fall. Even if little snow falls, the soil cools more slowly than the air, being a fairly good insulator itself, and it only freezes to a certain depth called the frost line. These plants will be ready to spring forth when warm temperatures return.

The trees and shrubs have mostly finished their flowering, and their seeds are spread far and wide. They appear to have faith that some of them will find

just the right place to sink their roots. Even before the leaves had colored and dropped, the buds had already formed which will become next Spring's leaves and flowers. Look for them. Certainly they are a sign of great faith.

Some insects survive as eggs. Others survive as larvae in the dark, moist, warm soil, or in the leaf litter in the forest floor. Some survive as a pupa or a chrysalis. Some even migrate. The Monarch Butterfly is a notable species. From our area, they migrate across the Gulf of Mexico into central Mexico. As they migrate starting in the late summer, they lay eggs along the way. Some of these eggs will mature into butterflies before the frost, others will overwinter as pupae. The butterflies that emerge in the Fall continue the migration their parents started, going to a place they have never seen. If they emerge in the Spring, they will migrate north. The parents may never finish the migration cycle, but their offspring will. How do they do it? We don't know, but nonetheless, they return.

Let me conclude with two of our native mammal species.

Woodchucks have been storing up fat, eating every succulent green plant in sight, much to the chagrin of many gardeners. Soon they will enter

their burrows for hibernation. Their life processes will slow and their body temperatures will fall. They show faith that next March, (**NOT** February 2) when they emerge from their burrows, they will find an ample breakfast.

The mother black bear enters her winter den pregnant. She has fed heavily all Summer and early Fall, and has stored up a great deal of energy, which she will certainly need. She will give birth during the winter, and her cubs will nurse through the chilly months. They will emerge together, and mother bear will seek the banquet the Creator has prepared for her and her kind. The cubs will soon join in as they learn the menu from their mother.

I have only begun to scratch the surface of the lessons in faith creation will teach us if we pay attention. Please take time this Autumn to see the season through the eyes of faith. Eventually we will all approach what Society calls the Autumn of our lives. May we all be steadfast in the belief that Autumn is preparation not for winter, but for Spring.

