

Ashland Area Emmaus Community Newsletter
July 2020

Due to the restrictions of Covid-19 we will not be having any Emmaus activities this month.

An Encouraging Note from Your Community Lay Director

This year I decided to build a frame around my in-laws blueberry bushes. I recruited my family and we used PVC pipe for the frame and zip tied the netting once we covered the frame. While we were placing the frame over the blueberry bushes, we heard all kind of birds chirping. One bird sounded like he was using Morse code with his beep-beep-beep pause then beep-beep-beep. They must have not been happy, but I was so proud that this year I would be able to keep them out and move more freely picking the blueberries. I was excited the blueberries were finally getting ripe.

My mother in law called and said there was a bird inside the cage. We went over, but the bird was gone. She thought maybe it was on the outside and her eyes just deceived her. We checked the entire cage and did not see anywhere the bird could have gotten in. Then a couple days later she let us know she was in the garden and one bird was inside the cage and several other birds were lined up outside, like we usually see them line up on the power lines. She said she felt like our blueberries were being robbed.

Even though I was aggravated that all our work may have been in vain, I had to laugh at the image of one brave bird handing blueberries out to all of the other birds. He or she was successful in overcoming a barrier to feed others. Then I thought of Galatians 6:9 Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up. I thought that little bird persevered and accomplished what we were hoping he/she wouldn't accomplish.

We can learn from this story in a couple ways. One way to look at it is, let us not grow weary in doing good for others during the barrier of the COVID 19 pandemic we must

(Continued on page 2)



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persevere. Another way is to be vigilant in continuing to check for little holes or flaws in our lives that may let the enemy sneak in and rob us of our Joy. Let us stay in His word and pray He helps train us keep up our guard against that we may not realize is the enemy. I have asked our Community Trainer, Sandy Ott to share an encouraging word with you. I hope you enjoy it.

DeColores,

Cindy Poling

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“Memories of Pappaw’s Garden” by Sandy Ott

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9** Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Matt 13:3-9

Summer time with farmer’s markets, the aroma and taste of fresh produce, always brings to mind my childhood where I spent much time at my grandparents home. They always had a huge garden filled with corn, potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, cabbage, onions: all the needed vegetables to carry them through the year. As each crop matured, my Mammaw would bring out the canning jars and the giant pot she used to heat them so they would seal properly.

Every year, my Pappaw would plant bib lettuce. Now, if you’ve never planted it, this lettuce requires a “bed” of fertile loose soil because you are supposed to just sprinkle the seeds onto the top of the soil and lightly cover them. And, because the seeds are barely covered, the bed is also covered with a screen to keep birds and other animals from taking the seeds before they take root. He would not let us help him because when we sprinkled the seeds more ended up out of the bed in the grass than in the prepared fertile soil.

One year, my sisters and I were running and playing in the yard around the house while Pappaw was preparing the lettuce bed. Two of my sisters were chasing one another and weren’t paying attention and ran barefoot right through the bed that Pappaw had just spread seed on! He was not happy, but he decided he wasn’t going to try and redo the bed. Seriously, who wants to try and pick out tiny seeds and start over.

As it turns out, when the lettuce started sprouting and growing, everywhere my sisters’ feet hit the ground the lettuce grew thicker and quicker! You could literally see the footprints in the lettuce.

Continued: “Memories of Pappaw’s Garden”

From then on, Pappaw would have us walk through the lettuce bed and tramp it down so the seed would be firmly planted.

That’s how we as Christians must be diligent in our relationship with Jesus, and in planting seeds of faith in others.

We can’t leave our seeds of faith just scattered around where the enemy can pick it out or scrape it away. We can’t let it fall through the cracks, on hard places, where there is not enough nourishment to grow. We have to be purposeful and plant our seeds of faith in the prepared soil of a softened heart that God has made ready for a crop of faithfulness.

Spend time with Jesus. Read his Word. Pray and ask him to show you where to plant your seeds. When you do, He will keep tending the crop, tamping down the seeds in your own heart and the hearts of others for a great harvest!

Be sure to “can” the moments of each harvest to remind you of all God has done for you because you may need them during leaner seasons to sustain you.