

Ashland Area Emmaus Community Newsletter

August 2020



**No in-person Emmaus activities until further
notice**

Message from Our Community Lay Director

Do you ever lose things? I feel like for the past several months I have lost or misplaced so many things. Once I had found them, I realized they were right there all the time. I do believe out of all the things I thought I lost recently, I miss my mind the most.

COVID 19 has caused us all to feel like we have lost so much. Like maybe our concentration has been a little foggy and so has our glasses as we try to adjust our masks. But through all the fog, God found a way to speak clearly to me last week. Lil Dyson's son Gerald and my son Jeromy used metal detectors to help me find my older son Josh's middle school class ring that he had lost 10 years ago. It was buried under about 3 inches of dirt. Our metal detectors allowed us to discover the ring, it had been there all the time. That brought me so much joy. It looked brand new and it meant even more to us now, than it did when Josh first got it.

I know we all feel like we have lost so much. Like our monthly gatherings, fellowshiping over a meal, singing praises, taking communion together and even circling up. All this may have been lost for now, but it is still right where we left it. Once we are able to find it again, it will be even more valuable, more precious, and more meaningful to us than ever before. Let's not live in a fog, but let us have the mind of Christ as we wait and trust Him.

Your AAEC board will be meeting this month via zoom to kind of act like those metal detectors. We want to see what turns up as we seek God's guidance. He may want to use us in ways we have never thought about before. While we are gathering our thoughts for the meeting, I have asked one of our faithful community member Karen Wood to share a devotional with you. I hope you enjoy it.

Decolores.

Cindy Poling, CLD

The Ashland Area Emmaus Community would like to extend it's most heartfelt sympathy towards

Scott Wilson and family, for the passing of his father, John Wilson

&

Martha Rice and family, for the passing of her mother, Margaret Gordon

MAY THE
constant love
caring ^{OF} friends
SOFTEN YOUR SADNESS
MAY
cherished
memories
BRING YOU
moments of comfort
MAY
lasting peace
SURROUND YOUR
GRIEVING HEART

Devotional Aug 2020


The Journey

In 2016, Dave and I took temporary jobs in Phoenix Arizona. We planned to take six days to drive the 1900 mile journey. Four hours into the trip we learned we would have to be there by Friday instead of the following Monday. It cut our time frame in half. After twenty-eight hours of driving divided into three days, eight or nine quick meals that were anything but nutritious, and two nights spent in strange rooms on unfamiliar beds, we arrived exhausted and bone weary. The trip was successful but left much to be desired.

The West is filled with vast and wondrous terrain. It is surprising to learn that a desert is anything but level or smooth. I have often thought about what it was like before there were roads. There were faint paths filled with rocks, crevices, dried brush, wild shrubs, long inclines and rough declines. It had to have been dreadful to maneuver in the days of old. It is incredible to imagine that families would travel the wilderness on horseback, in covered wagons, and on foot with only a dusty trail before them. How easy it must have been to lose their way, or worse, lose hope. So different from our journey. With only the scarcest of necessities, the uncertainty of what was ahead, the possibility of sickness or even death, families continued on. The decision to go west was driven by the hope of a better life. The people were determined and brave. Many found their strength and encouragement in scripture. It is a comfort to realize the verses that were probably used to see them through are just as encouraging and uplifting today.

John 14:27 promises the gift of peace even in the hardest of times.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.” In Philippians 4:19, we are reminded that all of our needs will be provided. “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

A hazy, golden-hour landscape of a desert canyon. In the foreground, a prominent, dark rock spire rises from the ground. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a soft, orange glow from the sun, which is visible as a bright, diffused light source in the upper left. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Life's journey may take us at times into unknown territory. In those moments be reminded God is the same yesterday, today, and Forever. He is with us ALWAYS. Find comfort in knowing God lends his strength to us in the hardest of times. Isaiah 41:10 states, "Fear not for I am with thee: be not dismayed for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Though the road may be unfamiliar, take comfort in knowing we do not walk alone and we have the promises of God to guide our steps.

De Colores

Karen Wood