

our name is our mission

Sisters of the
Living Word

In everything God works for the good of those who love God...

Romans 8:28

When we are in a situation where we have more questions than answers, it takes faith to accept that "in everything God works for the good of those who love God." What we consider wasted experiences can become sources of growth; that is if and when we discover we can learn from them!

The Israelites went in circles for 40 years before they finally understood!

When we get too comfortable it seems that is when things get stirred up. You know, "Just when I knew all the answers, they changed the questions."

The mother eagle teaches her little ones to fly by making their nest so uncomfortable that they're forced out of it. Next they are pushed off a cliff edge. Can you imagine the eaglet's thoughts, "*If my mom is doing this to me, what is out in that larger world?*"



Partners in Prayer

September &
October 2011
Our Journey . . .
Continues . . .



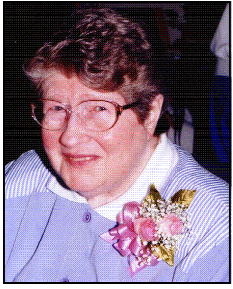
Who we are and where we are at this moment in time has been sculpted by both our comfortable and uncomfortable experiences, our relationships, and maybe most important, how we have used the gifts implanted in us at creation. In God's wisdom, God knows the challenges we face will give us opportunities to grow even closer to being the person we were created to become.

For instance, those tasks we dread may develop our skills, endurance and sense of responsibility. And those people who rub us the wrong way, well they actually invite us to be more like Jesus!

Paul says, God "understands...and knows what is best for us at all times." Ephesians 1:8 Maybe instead of asking God to change things, we can be thankful for the experiences - good, and not so good! And through it all, whether we feel like where we are is uncomfortable or whether we feel like we are being pushed off a cliff, if we need help - "If you need wisdom...ask God."

James 1-5

"If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me..." Deuteronomy 4:29



REFLECTIONS FROM
ANNAMARIE COOK, SLW

*Foundress of the
Sisters of the Living Word*

Recently, I became intrigued by a hymn of the Medical Missionaries about the wonder of God in our lives. Especially as the summer months bring a time for retreat and possibly a little vacation, it is good to ponder the blessings in our lives: the miracle of life, of Spring, of our vocation, of friends who have entered into the fabric of our lives, of sunsets and sunrises, of particularly memorable moments that remain fixed in the background of our minds waiting to be called forth.

Sometimes it is good just to stop and look at all the blessings that have been ours and to raise grateful hearts to a God who is never "far from us," who is constantly weaving our life's pattern and who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

"Gosh, that is close," I can't help uttering as I ponder that statement.



So as the summer months proceed along their course, or maybe, just at any free moment that you may have, may the Holy Spirit enlighten you to be able to see the life of grace and bounty that have been yours. May we all be better for that stopping and looking!

Dancing With God

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word.

I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back, or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully.

The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G": I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God, "u" and "i" dance." God, you, and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday.

May you abide in God, as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

And I Hope You Dance !

June 1989

Author unknown



Dancing with God evokes a wonderful image of a graceful couple gliding on a glassy smooth surface. Whoops, enter real life! Smooth, steady, predictable...hmm, not the real world. In scripture, God doesn't say, "Stay put and I will handle it all." No, what we do hear are common biblical statements such as "Go forth!" or "Follow me." We are asked to participate in the miracles, such as when Jesus rubbed mud in the blind man's eyes and then said, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash," or when the disciples were asked to gather the crumbs so that Christ could feed the multitudes.

Our lives are in a constant state of change. Chairman Mao very accurately observed, "You can't swim in the same river twice."

We are constantly uncovering different aspects of ourselves and those around us. We are impacted by the ever-changing history of the world around us as well as the world we enter "after we get pushed off the cliff" like the eaglet.

In all of this, we are asked to have faith; faith before we get to the cliff's edge and faith that whatever comes next, God's promise to be with us always will be kept. Yahweh told Abraham, "Go forth from the land of your kinfolk and from your father's house to a land I will show you." Nothing happens until Abraham moves. We are called to journey with Jesus traveling with God as our focus rather than navigating by a man-made map.

In her book *Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now*, the poet Maya Angelou recalls her grandmother, who raised her in the little town of Stamps, Arkansas. She describes her as "a tall cinnamon-colored woman with a deep, soft voice," whose difficult life caused her to rely utterly on the power of God. Angelou envisioned Momma "standing thousands of feet up in the air on nothing visible," as she would draw herself up to her full six feet, clasp her hands behind her back, look up into a distant sky and declare, "I will step out on the word of God." Angelou continues, "I could see her flung into space, moons at her feet and stars at her head, comets swirling around her. Naturally it wasn't difficult for me to have faith. I grew up knowing that the Word of God has power."

Excerpt from *America*, May 30, 2011

What a gift Maya Angelou's grandmother gave her, the gift of seeing unconditional faith in action. "Step out on the word of God" certainly beats dropping off the edge of a cliff or navigating the not so smooth and constantly changing road of life. "Step out on the word of God"- that sounds like the dance step that leads to eternal joy.



We want our lives to be about life.
We want to be with people who are working on life, and build connections that help us help each other.
We want to hear songs.
We want to make the choices and take the risks that make possible the next generation.

Gary Gunderson, *Leading Causes of Life*

RECALL NOTICE

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as **S-I-N**, as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service, free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is:

P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the **B-I-B-L-E** (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention! GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Creator any time by 'Knee mail'! Because He Lives.

***All living and deceased Associates,
Partners in Prayer,
relatives, friends and benefactors
of the Sisters of the Living Word
will be remembered at Mass
every Tuesday.***

Please send your favorite prayer or scripture reference to be used in a future newsletter. With your input this newsletter will have a depth and richness like a quilt made out of our spirituality. Email to jbuehlman@yahoo.com with SLW in the subject line or mail to the SLW Center to my attention. Thank you!

Josette Buehlman, ASLW



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