

08-14-19 Wednesday Musing

This past weekend I went on a mission day trip with other church members from Bethel UMC. We always have fun on these trips while providing the 'work-force' to put together various supplies in bags, buckets and boxes to deliver needed items to those suffering environmental tragedies, personal hardships and those in underprivileged situations. We give... because God gives.... We love... because God first loved us. We provide.... because God provides for us...

If you doubt God's provision for you... if you doubt His ability to provide for you.... Just peruse your Bible and you will find many places documenting God's provision for His people... the Bible is filled with them. Jesus... God – personified, said **“31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”** as recorded in Matthew 6:31-34... As children of God it is our duty to trust and obey God... God sees the totality of your life... He knows you inside and out... He knows your feelings... your physical makeup... your past... your present and your future... He knows your natural talents... your experiences and your spiritual gifts... God sees the whole of who you are... from start to finish... God is the same today as He was when He provided all that Joshua needed to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God promised Joshua that He would give him the land, and no one would stand against him... and He did... In the same way... the Lord will enable you to achieve whatever He has called you to do... if only you stand firm in your faith. **“33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”** (Matthew 6:33-34) The more you trust in Him... the more you will see your life from His perspective... and the stronger your ability to discern the right way to go... His nature as your provider is unwavering... His resources are unlimited... His love for you is infinite... and His power to provide is absolute... Our hearts ache under the pressures of this world... but it is only because we were made for another world... we are sojourners on this earth... just passing through... **“9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”** 1 Peter 2:9 This life is fleeting... this life is fragile... this life is but a vapors breath. The age to come is where all God's provision and care for us will ultimately make sense and come together as whole. We may not receive healing in this life.... But we will receive perfect healing in eternity... God's provision may be different than what you expect... we may not feel as if we have received answers to our greatest prayers in this life... but God answers all prayers... according to His Will... in His own time... not according to our expectations and our desires... but according to His Will...

We must remain strong in our faith... strong and courageous... because we will encounter obstacles that challenge our obedience to God's will... Such boldness isn't something we muster within ourselves... It is developed through reliance upon the Lord. Courage comes when our faith is stronger than our fear... In John 16:33 Jesus tells us **“33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”** And in Luke 22:22-24

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“22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! “

God is your provider... infinitely capable... willing and ready to provide all that you will ever need.... He will meet your needs as you learn to trust and obey Him and His will for your life. The more you reach out to Him... the more He will reach out to you...

As you bow your head in prayer this week continue to lift us our government leaders, community leaders and church leaders as well as those on our prayer list which are: Betty Loy, Family of Elizabeth Woodlief—Mother of Peggy Johnson, Bobbye Mebane, Nancy Thomas, Anna Gerow, Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Doris Massey.

Friends: Randy Davenport, Larry & Vickie Miles, Shirley Clodfelter, Family of Edwin Stewart, Families of victims of mass shooting in Gilroy, CA, El Paso, Tx., and Dayton, OH., Barbara Garrison—Mark Garrison’s mother, Children and Adults at our Southern Border. Please remember the families as well as the person listed.

This weeks sermon title is “Relationships Are Not Small Stuff”, and the Scripture will be read from Proverbs 3:21-32 and Matthew 6:25-34.

We love... because He first loved us!

Joan ☺

