

A Word From the Publisher

I'm hoping everyone had a wonderful 4th of July! It's so special to be able to celebrate our country's birthday with a day off and a time to remember how thankful we are to live in the Great USA! I must say it was a little different having a holiday in the middle of a week, however it all worked out!

This past weekend, Roger and I enjoyed a trip to Thomasville, Georgia, to visit my sister Marci and her husband David! What a great time we had. Well, I don't know about the guys, but I know

Marci and I caught up with each other in many conversations. Of course, those conversations were full of laughter and a little cutting up. We always seem to just pick up where we left off. Somehow, most of our visiting is done in the kitchen and while snacking, of course.

We cooked up a nice dinner of chicken enchiladas (with jalapenos which Marci wasn't sure about) and a salad. We all enjoyed sitting around the table and talking about their upcoming beach trip with their children. Somehow we ended our night watching the NASCAR race. I guess that was my fault because I asked David to flip the channel to the race just to see what was happening and the next thing we knew it was almost 11 p.m. and the race was over.

After a wonderful night's rest, I enjoyed a cup of coffee with my sweet sister out on the back patio...before it got so hot! What a special time we had



just opening up to each other, face to face. We talk a lot on the phone but it sure is different to be face to face. How wonderful it is to have my sweet sister to talk to and confide in. I sure enjoy having time with her. How thankful I am to have her in my life and not so far away. I think we both can sense when one of us needs to talk to each other. I'm thankful we had a great trip and a good visit!

I know it seems my life is so busy sometimes that I just have to step back and take a breath. Life is busy but we must

not let it get so busy that we miss opportunities in life. Obviously, none of us are guaranteed another day on this earth, as to why we must live each day to its fullest. Stepping out of our comfort zone is not always easy but many times very refreshing.

I'm a pretty routine person much of the time, but I really do enjoy just getting in our car and driving somewhere. It really doesn't have to be anything fancy and certainly doesn't have to be overnight, but just a little change in scenery can sometimes make a big difference. Seeing an old friend, visiting family, eating something different with someone you love, etc. It really doesn't take much.

Again, I'm so thankful for my sister (and David) and so grateful for the time we get to spend together!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West