

March
2022

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times

Important Dates!

MEN'S W2E, #80
January 19 - 22, 2023

WOMEN'S W2E, #81
January 26 - 29, 2023

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Help Someone
Become A
4th-Dayer

Waiting

If you have traveled lately, there is a very good chance that you had to deal with delayed or cancelled flights and a lengthy **wait** in the airport. Weather delays, staff shortages and other issues seem to be common these days. It's so hard to **wait** when there are places we want to be and things we want to do!

It seems like we have been **waiting a long time** for our next W2E weekends. Our hearts are yearning for the fellowship, blessings and joy of those gatherings. I recently read this devotional by Leland Gamson in an issue of "The Upper Room". This story resonated for me as we **wait** for our weekends to arrive.

"We're calling because we need your prayers, Pastor. We are trapped between flights in Chicago because of the snowstorm." Our pastor asked, "Are you inside where it is dry and warm?" "Yes," I replied. "Do you have access to water and food?" Again, I said "Yes'". Then he asked, "Are you sick?" I answered, "No." He said to me, "Then you aren't really trapped, are you? I'll pray for you to be of service to the Lord where you are." We prayed together and my attitude changed almost immediately.

I bought children's books at an airport store and offered them to families with children. My husband struck up a conversation with an older man wearing a Korean War veteran's hat. Later we offered to wait in the food line for others. It became easy for us to approach others, knowing we were all in the same situation. Additionally, several worried-looking, stranded passengers accepted our offer to pray with them. The 16 hours in the terminal went rather quickly when we made ourselves available to others. We were not trapped. We were in the right place at the right time to reflect the love of God.

Friends, during this time of **waiting**, we are all in the right place at the right time. May each of us be witnesses to God's loving presence right where we are. May we reach out to those who need reassurance. May we lighten the load that someone is bearing. May we connect with someone who desires a closer relationship with our Lord and invite that person to attend the next Walk to Emmaus. None of us know God's timing or why it seems to take so much longer than we'd like sometimes. But rest in the truth that **He is faithful** and His plans for us are perfect!

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Karen Poling
Women's Lay Director, W2E #81

Bible

Trivia

1. What combative man ran to meet his brother and kissed him after a long time apart?

Hint: Genesis 33:4

2. What prophet outran a king's chariot and its team of horses?

Hint: 1 Kings 18:44-46

3. In the plains of Mamre, who ran to meet the Lord?

Hint: Genesis 17:1; 18:1-3

4. What man ran to meet Abraham's servant at the well?

Hint: Genesis 24:27-29

5. Who sent Chushi to run to David with the news of Absalom's death?

Hint: 2 Samuel 18:21

6. What encroacher to the throne of Israel found fifty men to run before him?

Hint: 1 Kings 1:5

7. What man, a servant of the prophet Elisha, ran to meet the woman of Shunem?

Hint: 2 Kings 4:8-37

It's Been Set!

Your Board of Directors have set the dates for the next Walk! Mark it down. The Men's Walk is January 19 - 22, 2023. The Women's Walk is January 26 - 29, 2023. Time to make your initial visit with potential pilgrims. If you need brochures contact Larry Atkins at stoneboat@gmail.com.

Better Than Biscuits

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate butter-milk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."

A Farmer and His Banker

A farmer went to meet with his banker and announced that he had some bad news and some good news. "First, the bad news...I can't make my mortgage payments. And that crop loan I've taken out for the past 10 years—I can't pay that off, either. Not only that, I won't be able to pay you the couple of hundred thousand I still have outstanding on my tractors and other equipment. So I'm going to have to give up the farm and turn it all over to you for whatever you can salvage out of it."

After a few moments of silence, the banker said, "What's the good news?"

"The good news is that I'm going to keep on banking with you."

With so much bad news in the world today, it's often true that the good news you receive does very little to make you feel better. Yet the greatest news of all, that which is found in Scripture, is that one piece of Good News that can counteract any bad news you'll hear.

What is this Good News? It's the simple fact that if you're in Christ, He's saved you. He's brought you out of the depths of sin and despair and has raised you up to be alive with Him. That's fantastic news!

So whenever you feel overwhelmed by bad news, remember that Christ died for you, and in Him, you have eternal life!

Spiritual Thoughts

Faith is not so much receiving from God what we want but accepting from God what He gives.

God can make our tears a rainbow.

The Bible is the only book that comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comforted.

God never promises us an easy time. Just a safe arrival.

To change the way you respond to life changes is determined by what you believe or not believe about Christ.

Walking by faith is acting in obedience to God even when you cannot see the outcome.

Forgiveness is not based on the magnitude of the sin, but the magnitude of the forgiver's love.

What we count as a mistake, God counts as potential.

How's Your Love Life?

"How's your love life?" The first time Father Charlie asked me that, I thought, you know he really should not ask that because it is personal. He told me he was asking about my love life with Christ. This gave me joy knowing I had a personal love life with Christ. This started me on my journey with Christ. Shortly after this I made my Cum Christo Weekend. The best thing about His love is that it is unconditional. Sure, He wants us to do our best and to love Him with all our heart, but no matter what we do, He will always love us unconditionally.

As a parent we have unconditional love for our children. Some days it is hard to remember that, but whatever they do we will love them unconditionally. Some day we hope they know that we loved them unconditionally, so they can love their children the same way.

February is kind of known as the month of love. We send cards and gifts to those we love. This love is unconditional because we don't expect anything in return. We do it because we love the people we are thinking about.

Prayer is another unconditional love. We pray for people that we love and care about. We do not need them to know we are praying for them, nor do we expect them to thank us for praying for them. Patsy told me I needed to make a list of all the people I pray for, so I don't forget anyone. So many people need our prayers of unconditional love.

"For God So Loved the World That He Gave His Only Begotten Son". God loved His son unconditionally, but He loved us so much more that He gave His son on the cross for us. Through the love of God, and our love for each other, we can bring peace and joy to the world.

May the peace and joy of the Lord be with all of you.

Tim Guenther

The Deal

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair..."

To which his father replied... "Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"