

September
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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The Wait is Over... Let's Go Flying!

But they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Patience has never been my strong suit. Do you remember the old catsup commercial where the expectant user would tip the bottle and wait as Carly Simon's song "Anticipation" played? Not me- I'm more likely to whack the bottle, eat my fries and move along. That said, I hope that you, like me, are really REALLY ready to return to our metaphorical walk down that path to Emmaus. Time to whack that bottle! However ready we all were, the pandemic forced discretion and hard choices by our leadership. So, we went on hiatus- in the hope like the great philosopher, Winnie the Pooh articulated: "Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day."

"But... they that wait upon the Lord... "

We are, of course on God's time and our joy certainly is that the right time has returned- our patience rewarded. The Billings Walk to Emmaus is going to happen! When we as a community of faith consider patience, we likely think of the church season of Advent. Advent, of course, is the season of expectant waiting and preparation before the celebration of Christ's incarnation-Christmas-and a personal time to prepare for His promised return. I think that analogy holds up well as we have been in an extended "advent" of patience, preparation, but also of resolve that we as believers are committed to go forward. That we as servants are anxious to do all we can to be hands and feet to enable seekers to experience what was a life-changing weekend for so many. That we as pilgrims are ready to return to feel the joys of fellowship and to be reminded of the gift of Grace celebrated at the Emmaus weekends. I can think of so many songs- "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus", "O Come O Come Emmanuel", "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord".

"They will run and not be weary, they will walk and not be faint"

We are so fortunate to have a group of leaders whose faithfulness and diligence has been so important to keep the fire burning. They have had their commitments of time, talent, and energy extended 3 years and like the rest of us are ready to light some candles. It falls to us as the 4th Day community to fall into step beside them to offer our help and participation in any way in the many roles vital to enable the weekend. There are doubtless many people we all know who could be refreshed, invigorated, and empowered with new purpose by attending a W2E weekend... pray about giving them the gift of sponsorship. The hiatus we were on might well have been the time for God to nudge us to share the gift we were given by the people in our lives who cared. From our theme scripture from Luke 24:32 "They said one to another, weren't our hearts burning within us?" Another song reference: "It only takes a spark to get a fire going..." How about it, Sparky?

One of my guilty pleasures is to keep an old Cessna that I use to "blow some dust off" and to find perspective and attitude adjusted by altitude. When I take my airplane out for a flight, lined up on a runway, after checklists complete, the last thing I say to my passengers (or to myself, if solo) is "Let's go flying!"

But they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles-

4th Dayers, the wait is over. Let's Go Flying!!

**DeColores!
David Oltrogge W2E Class of '87**

BIBLE FIRSTS

What is the first color mentioned in the Bible?

Genesis 1:30

Who built the first city?

Genesis 4:17

Who was the first-born son of David?

1 Corinthians 3:1

Who baked the first cake?

Genesis 18:6

What was the first talking animal in the Bible?

Genesis 3:1

What was the first miracle performed by Elisha?

2 Kings 2:14

Who was the first person to be tied up?

Genesis 22:9

Where were the disciples first called Christians?

Acts 11:26

Matters of the Heart

In the early hours of August 9, 1942, the USS Astoria was hit by a Japanese cruiser, sweeping nineteen-year-old Navy Signalman Third Class Staples overboard. Dazed and wounded, he only remained afloat thanks to a rubber lifebelt he had put on before the explosion. Hours later, Staples and the other survivors were rescued, and Staples examined the lifebelt that had saved his life. To his surprise, it had been manufactured by the Firestone company in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, and it was stamped with a series of numbers.

When he arrived home, Staples told his mother about his recent ordeal, and she told him about her new wartime job at Firestone. In excitement, Staples showed his mother the lifebelt that had been manufactured at that very plant. Staples later wrote about what happened next: "She leaned forward and taking the rubber belt in her hands, she read the label. When she looked up at me, her mouth and her eyes were opened wide with surprise. 'Son, I'm an inspector at the Firestone. This is my inspector number'...My mother had put her arms halfway around the world to save me."

We will often remember a story like the above before we recall many of the scriptures we have read. Never minimize your story and how it may affect others. More pointedly, **take your story of what the "Walk" meant to you and how it changed your life to a few of your family and friends and watch how God takes over and works in their lives.**

The Best Day of My Life

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, the hardships because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high, and a happy heart. I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't know. Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special they are, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

The worrier is mastered by circumstances.

Next time a sunrise steals your breath, or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, say nothing and listen as heaven whispers, "I did it for you."

Honk if you love Jesus...text while driving if you want to meet Him.

We use duct tape to fix everything...God uses nails.

If you think you're too small to make a difference, you haven't been in bed with a mosquito.

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice cream fall from the cone.

The Greatest Exchange Ever Made

A young boy had a problem of being consistently late for dinner. One day, his parents warned him to be on time or else he would get only bread and water for dinner. This time, though, the boy arrived later than ever and found his parents already sitting at the table.

Quickly, the boy sat at his place and noticed the meal before him: a slice of bread and a glass of water. Silence filled the room as he stared at his plate. Then suddenly, he saw his father's hand reach over, take the boy's plate, and set it before himself. Then the father took his own plate of food, smiled warmly, and set it before the boy.

When the boy grew older, he said, "All my life, I've known what God is like by what my father did for me that night."

When Jesus went to the cross, He exchanged our plate of sin and suffering for His plate of righteousness and rewards. He voluntarily took what we deserved upon Himself and gave us incomparable riches through our faith in Him.

In the history of the world, no greater exchange has ever been made. So thank God today for sending His Son to take away your sins and give you eternal life!



What's the Greatest Hope of Heaven?

New Testament scholar A.M. Hunter relates a story in one of his books about a dying man who asked his Christian doctor to tell him about the place he was heading. His doctor fumbled a moment for the right words, and then heard a scratching at the door.

"You hear that?" he asked his patient. "That's my dog. I left him downstairs, and he's come up because he heard my voice. He has no idea what's inside this door, but he knows that I am here. Isn't it the same with you? You don't know what lies beyond the door, but you know that your master is there."

When it comes to what heaven will be like, there's much more we don't know than we do know. But one thing is for sure: our Master is there. And because of that, everything else is incidental. That is our greatest hope of heaven.

What Growing Old Really Means

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
2 Corinthians 4:16

A new member of the bridge club showed up one afternoon wearing a beautiful gold locket. Another player approached her and said, "That's such a lovely piece. Do you keep a memento in it?"

"Yes," the woman answered. "It's a piece of my husband's hair I keep to help me remember."

"Oh, I'm so sorry," the player replied. "How long ago did he pass away?" The newcomer quipped, "Pass away? Oh, he's still alive. It's his hair that's gone!"

Someone once said, "Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many." And with so much focus today on doing whatever it takes to stay young, many people completely miss out on a biblical understanding of what it means to age. They miss the fact that their gray hairs, baldness, wrinkles, and aches all have a purpose in the plan of God.

So what is the right biblical understanding of aging? Well, as we see in today's passage, aging is a lifelong tradeoff of the physical for the spiritual. Young people may have more physical vitality but are usually less mature spiritually. As we get older, however, we may lose our physical strength, but we grow spiritually and become more equipped to invest in other's lives.

Be willing to make that tradeoff. Don't despise growing older. Instead, embrace your aging as a sign that while you may lose physical vigor, you're growing each day in your spiritual strength! Pray and ask God to give you a right understanding of aging as a lifelong tradeoff for something much better than physical strength.

W2E Kick-Off

THANK YOU to all the good folks who attended the Walk to Emmaus Kick-Off on September 17th. God blessed our community with a beautiful day as we gathered in North Park.

Old friendships were renewed and new friendships were formed. It was a joyful start to the preparations for the Walk weekends that will take place in January, 2023!

THANK YOU to Susan Garcia, Carolyn Story, Sherry Dompier and Dave Oltrogge, our beloved musicians, for leading us as we sang many of our favorite songs from the Walk weekends.

We are grateful to Pastor Pat Lewis, from First United Methodist Church for blessing us with the sacrament of communion.

