

Women in the Church Newsletter

As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those in the household of faith



Bible Study Nugget:

Becoming a Woman Who Loves by Cynthia Heald

Chapter 7: Love in Action

In this chapter, we are reminded of what Jesus told his followers-"I want you to love one another as you have seen Me love." It is an encouragement to read and study about this love, but it is not enough just to think about it or discuss it. The declaration demands action, not a weak verbal response. Love that actively demonstrates the sacrificial love of Christ is what the Lord desires.

The Scripture verses in this chapter focus on ministering to others in tangible, compassionate ways; and as we have all witnessed, it isn't always an 'easy' or 'pretty' situation in which we're called to go. Christ has told us what kind of love should be communicated in certain conditions, as well as what needs to be present in our own lives when we minister to others. As we pray and abide in Christ, may we be enabled to lovingly and willingly lay down our lives in countless ways-just as our Savior did.

It's not too late to join one of the 4 Bible study groups!



Matt Lamos-
Belgium

Flavien & Inyange
Pardigon-
Various countries,
currently in US

Murat "O"-
Belgium

Blue Ridge
Presbytery-
Church planting

SAVE THE DATE!

Women's
Spring Event:
May 4th
8:45am-12pm

Be sure to check out the display in the Nic prayer room and read the thank you's from our missionaries!



WELCOME

John Thomas Carter

son of Dustin & Makenzie Carter

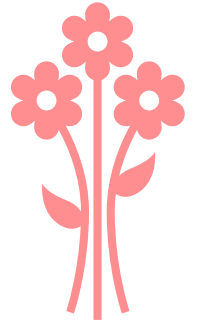
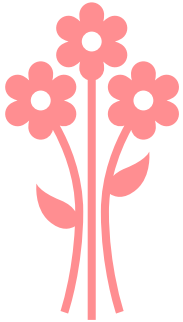
A huge **THANK YOU** to all who have been providing food for the various needs! It's very encouraging to see The Body working together!

Do you realize that you have a gift to share?

The Mentoring Group is currently working on ways to be intentional in our relationships with the next generation. Ideas are forming: from washing dishes together, grocery shopping, to a special dinner.

If you're interested in participating, large or small, please contact **Sarah Reid** for more information.

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TESTIMONY CORNER BY PAT GUTHRIE

GUESS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A MISSIONARY AT HEART AND THIS STARTED IN MY CHILDHOOD BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT. OUR MOTHER USED TO HAVE MISSIONARIES INTO OUR HOME FOR MEALS AND OVERNIGHTS WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES MADE LASTING IMPRESSIONS ON ME. THEN THERE WAS CAMP, WHEN AGAIN, I WAS EXPOSED TO MISSIONARIES AND THEIR STORIES OF CARRYING JESUS' LOVE INTO ALL KINDS OF PLACES IN THE WORLD. ONE YEAR AT CAMP, WE WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES INTO "FULL TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE." I HAD RECEIVED CHRIST WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, SO THIS NOW WAS A FULLER GROWTH FOR ME, AND I RAISED MY HAND. I'M SURE NO ONE SAW THAT BUT GOD. I FELT SO WONDERFUL AFTER THAT, OF COURSE NEVER KNOWING WHERE GOD WOULD LEAD ME.

COLLEGE YEARS CAME, AND THE CALL WAS EVEN LOUDER. I PARTICIPATED WITH OTHERS IN STARTING A LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR POOR CHILDREN, AND WHEN MARRIAGE CAME, THE CALL CEASED TO GO AWAY. WESTON AND I WERE BOTH SCHOOL TEACHERS, BUT BOTH WERE INTERESTED IN MISSIONS. ONE DAY WE SENT IN AN APPLICATION TO THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF WORLD MISSIONS SHOWING OUR INTEREST. SOME YEARS LATER, WE RECEIVED AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO BRAZIL TO A LITTLE INTERIOR SCHOOL TO TEACH MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN. WESTON HAD A GOOD TEACHING JOB, BUT BY THIS TIME WE HAD TWO SMALL CHILDREN, BECKY - 5 YEARS AND DAVID - 14 MONTHS. WE HAD NO MONEY TO CARRY OUT ALL THAT MUST BE DONE, SO IT WAS AN INNER STRUGGLE FOR MY HUSBAND ESPECIALLY, WHO BY THAT TIME WAS A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL. HE FINALLY YIELDED AND WORKED IT OUT IN HIS MIND, AND GOD WAS WORKING TOO, GATHERING SUPPORT FOR US AS WELL. IN AUGUST 1968, WE ARRIVED IN A DUSTY LITTLE TOWN CALLED CERES, BRAZIL WHERE THERE WAS A SCHOOL FOR MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN. THERE WE LABORED FOR THREE YEARS, AND WOULD HAVE GONE BACK, BUT THE MISSION BOARD WAS NOT PLACING ANY MORE MISSIONARIES AT THAT TIME.

SINCE THEN, THAT MISSIONARY HEART HAS REMAINED IN ME, WITH A SHORT TERM TRIP TO RUSSIA IN 1991 FOR THE MOSCOW PROJECT - SINGING WITH A CHOIR OF 150 AS BACK-UP TO LARNELLE HARRIS AND HELPING TO DISTRIBUTE 1,000,000 RUSSIAN BIBLES. IN 1992, I WAS IN UKRAINE, TAKING WITH ME MY BELOVED SISTER, DEBBIE KELLEY. THERE WE SERVED IN STREET, HOSPITAL AND EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS AS MIMES, TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS AND HIS LOVE.

NOW IN MY LATER YEARS, I CAN'T RUN ABOUT THE WORLD ANYMORE, BUT THE DRIVE TO CONTINUE TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS IS STILL IN ME. I'M SO AMAZED THAT THAT COMMITMENT AT CAMP SO MANY YEARS AGO WAS SO WONDERFULLY FULFILLED BY THE LORD WHO HAS HIS PLANS FOR EACH OF US, AND HAS MADE MY LIFE SO FULL AND INTERESTING. **HE IS FAITHFUL!**