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"Live
your
dream"

**QUICK
MESSAGE**

**Women's
Walk
in
June!**

**Get that
application
in TODAY!**

Blossoms from Bloom

Beloved,
Do you have a dream? A hope that you wish would or could somehow, someway come true?

I do. I have always dreamt of one day having a fabulous abode with all of the conveniences of the home. It is a beautiful dwelling, full of light, and a place where each of my children and grandchildren will want to come, for any occasion, and there would be enough room to make everyone comfy and happy to be there. Doesn't that sound great! I always thought so, however, this month when my dreaming was at its peak...the Father whispered to me, "Cindy, you must *quit dreaming to live, and live the dream.*" I was dumbfounded when I meditated on the thought and wondered...*what* could He mean by that?

We have just celebrated the Easter holiday, a time set aside to remember the dream of our loving Heav-

enly Father. His dream, to my amazement, paralleled with mine! He longed for his children to be around him! He wanted them to be near and to find comfort in living a life within His domain. The difference in our dreams...His was selfless...mine...selfish!

For generations the Father worked through many faith-filled leaders to bring His dream to a reality but eventually realized the only way to make the dream come true, was to offer a complete sacrifice. We know the history and the fulfillment of the dream. The picture of what Jesus endured for us has just been painted afresh in our minds eye as we remembered Calvary this Easter. The blood of Jesus still drips... drips... drips as we recall the beating He took for us...the

crown of thorns He wore so we wouldn't have to...the nails that were pounded into the flesh of His hands and feet that should have been our own...the agony of hanging for hours, pushing the weight of his body up with the nail fastened in His feet so He could breathe then hanging by His wrists when His legs became too weary to stand. He did this for *you* and *me*. What a dream...what a love...what a sacrifice...just so we could be together as a family...in His house!

In John 14: 1-3 Jesus speaks to us: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may also be where I am."

"Live the dream." What the Lord wanted me to grasp was the importance of my life reflecting Jesus. Having an elegant home is
(continued on page 3)



MOMS—Hardest jobs in the world!

JOY FROM JOY

Spring has arrived! We have just celebrated the crucifixion and resurrection of our precious Savior. As we have entered the Spring of the year we have all done it with much gratefulness. We are sick of cold, snow, ice, dreary days and outlandish heating bills. We are thrilled to see the flowers blooming and some warmer days. Now I may be the only person in the world that feels this way but, in all honesty I hate rain. I prefer snow to rain. I just hate the rain. This is a real problem for me in the Spring, and this Spring has certainly been no exception. I like sunshine, brightness, warmth. I don't like dreariness.

Now I know that rain is very important. I know that God made the world this way and that we have to have rain. I understand all of the results. Flowers, corn, beans, wheat I know it is necessary, it is just not one of the necessities of life that I happen to enjoy. However, I love the results!

This month we will celebrate Mother's Day! Next Month we will celebrate Father's Day! This always reminds us of the commandment "Honor your father and mother." Parenting reminds me so much of Spring! What a joy when God blesses us with those precious little lives. Babies are so precious. So cute! We hold them, cuddle them, feed them and change their diapers. Really not much different than when we played with our dolls. We meet their basic needs and stay in a state of wonder watching their little bodies grow and their personalities take form. But.....they all grow up! Then we go thru the two and three year old stages where we fight the battle of the wills, then comes that lovely "why stage." Why? Why? Why? By the time we reach the 4s we are thinking we as moms deserve purple hearts. Just as life is getting better it is time to start school. Now the reason moms really cry when they send their little tykes off to school the first day is because we know they are now stretching their wings. They are going to pick up ideals from someone besides us. Others will start impacting their opinions and behaviors, and on top of that, some kids' thoughts of them will become more important than ours. Up to now we have been their parents and best friend, now we lose the best friend and become "the parent" fast!!! At least we had better. They will have many friends but only one mom! Moms, we have such responsibility. We must teach our children many things. How to eat, dress themselves, potty train them, to share, respect, what they can touch and what they can't, how to safely cross a street, on and on it goes.... All of this is our responsibility. There is, however, a greater responsibility than all of these! We MUST teach them how to get to heaven. Our very greatest responsibility is to teach them how to get to heaven. Everything else we teach them is temporary. If they live to be a hundred, it is only good for their lifetime here on earth, but what we teach them spiritually is good for all of eternity. If we teach them everything else and they gain great educations, great careers and wonderful marriages even, and don't teach them the wonderful plan of salvation... we have failed them miserably. You see, sometimes in the life of moms there are rain storms. Just like the beautiful flowers of Spring, if we are to see our children blossom into beautiful children of God we must go through sometimes what we don't enjoy. It means lots of love and strong discipline. It means, along with telling them all they are doing right, we teach them what they are doing wrong. It means consistency and from the time they start school until they reach adulthood, it means we no longer have the privilege of being their best friend. We can gain that back after they are adults, but as youth they need us to be moms. That means we are not always popular. That means when they make decisions of which the crowd approves and God doesn't, that we have to say "no". It means consistency no matter how tired we are. It means that regardless of all else that is going on in our lives we must find time to teach them that daily devotions are important and that church attendance is not negotiable. We must model for them Proverbs 31. Through the rainy days of life we have to model, not just give it lip service, but model for them that God is our strength everyday of life. How we trust God is how they will learn to trust God. If we tell them to trust God and

with every little crisis that comes along, act as if God couldn't possibly take care of this one, what do you think they will really think of God? Or your faith?

I just had the awesome privilege of being at my nearly 91 year old mother's bedside as she took her final journey to be with the Lord. Over the last 51 years of my life my mother taught me many things. All of the life skills that I have mostly were taught to me by my mom. She was my role model as a parent. My father died when I was only 7 weeks old so actually she was the only parent I had and was both Mom and Dad to me. There were times over the years that we didn't necessarily agree. As a youth, my mom stood firm. When I didn't understand the whys of her decisions, her decision still stood. I am sure there were some rainy days for my mother, but as adults we were very close. Over the years mom taught me many things, but mostly I remember this: Mom taught me a family altar is important. We need to pray together as a family. She taught me that when something was wrong or challenging not to complain but rather to lock yourself away in your secret closet of prayer. Church is important. Mom had us there every Sunday morning for Sunday School and Worship Service, Sunday Night and Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. Mom instilled in us that a personal relationship with Jesus was the most important thing in our lives. Today, I miss my mother tremendously. I miss seeing her, taking care of her, sharing with her and laughing with her. Most of all I miss reading the bible and praying with her. I look back over my life and mom fit the bill. Proverbs 31 describes my mother. Someday it will be my turn. I will get to leave this world and spend eternity with the Lord. I hope if I have failed in every other way as a mom, my kids can look back and say "Mom taught us how to get to heaven. She taught us you really can trust God with everything in this life." If I can accomplish that, then it is enough!

Happy Mother's Day! And Moms and Dads remember that what we teach them is up to us, what they do with it is up to them. Remember we lost control of their responses way back before they started school. We really never had control of their will. God gives us all a choice. We must do our very best and pray that they will make the right choices! May God Richly Bless Each of Your Families!

Joy

BLOSSOMS FROM BLOOM (continued from page 1)

not what is going to impact my family. What will matter is my living the dream of the Father before them and getting those in my family into "His house" for eternity.

"Ya know, I had no idea how much time I spent day-dreaming until the Father brought it to my attention. Dreaming can be a beautiful happening...as long as God is in the center. Dreaming can also be an avenue and tool of the adversary if it takes us into the far country where we lose sight of the purpose that God has for our life.

Beloved...What are the dreams that you are dreaming? Are they numbered like the jar of M & M candies that were displayed in the Priority Talk when you went on your walk to Emmaus? Is there still room for your **number one priority**? Or, have you lost sight of what is most important because the dreams outnumber the purpose. If so, it's time to shake loose and regroup! When we do, His purpose for our life becomes clear, and the dream that once seemed so important becomes insignificant in the light of His glory and grace.

He wants you to know...that He loves you desperately! :o)

Cindy

Think About It.....

John 4:5-42

"How odd of God to choose the Jews," someone once said. To which another replied, "But not so odd as those who choose a Jewish God but hate the Jews."

I have never understood anti-Semitism, especially among Christians. Whatever else our Savior was, he was a Jew. Jesus was a Jewish prophet in the great line of prophets dating back centuries; he was a rabbi who knew and taught the Jewish scriptures; he honored the Jewish law (albeit sometimes by reinterpreting it); he observed the Jewish holy days. Apart from his Jewishness, the life and ministry of Jesus makes no sense. As Christians, we are not only spiritual descendants of the Jews, debtors to the Jews, but we worship a Jew.

Jesus the Jew seems to have accepted the Samaritan (non-Jewish) woman in today's story, suggesting that soon the "true worshippers" had to be Jews. And the woman seems to have accepted the Jewish prophet who told her everything she had ever done. Both Jesus and the woman erased traditional ethnic and religious lines and had no problem doing so. It was later Christians who drew those lines again.

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Contact Forward Movement at 800-543-1813 or visit
www.forwardmovement.org



Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus
 Wilmington United Methodist Church
 PO Box 191
 Wilmington, OH 45177

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
May 10
 Singing starts at 6:45pm
 Bring a snack to share afterwards—
 when Emmaus meets, EMMAUS EATS!
 Don't forget to wear your NAME TAG!
 This helps everyone to learn your
 name much more quickly!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why Is It That

- We scramble for a front row seat at a concert, and a back pew seat at church?
- We look forward to that late dinner date on Friday night, but not getting up for church on Sunday morning?
- We call Jesus our brother and God our Father, but find it hard to introduce them to our family?
- OUR sins seem so small, and THEIR sins are so big?
- We are rarely late for work, but usually late for church?

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	PIANO	SONG LEADER
MAY	Dulcimer Trio	John Glaze	Peggy Larkin
JUNE	Kathy Holbrook	OPEN	OPEN
JULY	Rick Geddes		

AUGUST
 SEPTEMBER

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? As you can see, the months are filling up. We typically have two music specials at a Gathering and need a song leader and an accompanist. Although "piano" is listed, we can have guitar accompaniment...or any other instrument able to lead group singing.

To volunteer for a monthly Gathering contact JENNIE HARNER at 937-987-2518 or harnersewing@yahoo.com.