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TALES FROM THE OLE WEST

I spend a lot of time watching television. It is getting harder and harder to find good quality television. Lately I have found myself watching shows that involve hoarding of some kind. Stashing stuff in a barn, storage lockers, and back yards or even in the house.

Some of the stuff has a lot of rust, missing parts and it looks like it would fall apart if touched. Some people find some value in this stuff and buy it. They are turning trash into treasures and rust into gold.

We like to hang on to these treasures because of sentimental value, a feeling that the item is a part of you not just an independent object. It might have been in the family for years and you want to hang onto it, even though it doesn't work or is outdated, because it was part of the family. An old record player, an eight track tape player for ex-

ample, might still work but there are new and improved technologies that

have replaced these things. Shows like American Pickers, which happens to be one of my favorites, Storage Wars, auction shows, just to name a few, turn hoarding into a positive experience. They are able to revive someone's old junk and turn it into somebody else's new treasure and the hoarder or the hoarder's family can reap the reward. But the hoarder must be willing to share and let go of his so-called treasures. Then there are the people who just collect things as a hobby and pile them into their homes with no type of organization, just piles of stuff, until it becomes a fire or health hazard. These people, with this type of tendency and behavior, find it extremely difficult to make decisions and end up avoiding having to make any by keeping everything. They may think it is something they may need tomorrow, but when tomorrow comes they can't find it, or tomorrow never comes, and it just goes to waste. I think all of us have some type of hoarding in us. I personally like to collect old records; they are lined up on shelves in the garage. What am I going to do with them? I sometimes go through and find a song or an album that I would like to record to a CD but I can get that same music from the internet. I will end up passing them on to my daughter, when I am gone, then it will be her treasure and she can wait for some Pickers to come along. I can't leave my wife out of this. She also collected cookie jars, baskets and a few other charming things that our daughter and her family will have to deal with. Does it have a purpose? Is it a hobby? It's all in the eyes of the beholder.

This brings me to the question about our Christian Faith. In 1 Timothy 6: 6-10 it says, "Yet true religion with contentment is great wealth. After all, we didn't bring anything with us when we came into the world, and we certainly cannot carry anything with us when we die. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation (Continued on page 2)

Keep or
Throw?

**QUICK
MESSAGES**

**LD/ALD
TRAINING**

Apr. 21

1:30 pm

Tales (continued)

and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."

Do we sometimes do the same thing with our faith? Do we keep it for the rainy day and not share it with others? Keep it in storage inside ourselves and not spread the love of God with others? In 1 Corinthians 10:24, "Don't think only of your own good. Think of other Christians and what is best for them."

By sharing with others we can keep the clutter out of our lives. Our insides won't turn to rust and broken pieces, they will keep fresh and new. We will be doing as our Lord and Savior calls for us to do.

John 1:3-4 says "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men."

Our treasures need to be stored and shared in Him, and not stored in the barn or in the closet. And Matthew 6:19-21 tells it all. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust

destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

So what are the treasures that we pass on to family, share with friends and all those that we come in contact with? We need to share the most priceless treasure of all; Jesus Christ.

DeColores! Happy Trails!

Jim

Community Chair

Musings from Maurice

MUSINGS from MAURICE

Lent (a period of 40 days leading up to Easter, not counting Sundays) is a time to be reminded that we fall short of God's will. We also need to know of God's mercy and forgiveness, and that there's a way back to Him. The Bible tells us the way back can only be found in our repentance. Repentance doesn't simply involve being sorry for what we did wrong yesterday. It involves today, tomorrow and every day thereafter (sounds like our fourth days to me). Regardless of the depth of our sin, genuine repentance brings total forgiveness.

We must not make the mistake of allowing forgiveness, readily available upon

our repentance, to lessen the seriousness of our sin. Be-
cause God, in His mercy, is willing to forgive, doesn't mean we can trivialize sin and deliberately indulge in sin because we know God will forgive. Paul warns us in Romans 6:1-2: "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (NIV).

The cross of Christ is not a doormat to wipe our feet clean just to tread back into the mud again. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:4-5, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions

- it is by grace you have been save" [NIV (emphasis mine)]. The cross of Christ cleanses and redeems us in order that we may be brought into fellowship with Him.

Repentance is not just about yesterday's guilt, but is a change of mind that addresses tomorrow's temptations in advance. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter, remember we caused Him to suffer on that cross. He died there for you and for me. Let's try to be less responsible for that suffering and more Christ-like in our lives.

Maurice Mitchell

New Community Members from Men's Walk #54

Steven Barber	264 Whiskey Hollow Rd	Bainbridge	OH	45612	937-763-0753
Brian Bourgraf	1526 Haws Chapel	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-382-1526
Robert Bruce	2081 Drummond Dr	Xenia	OH	45385	937-372-9541
Fred Butcher	1433 Cypresswood Ct	Columbus	OH	43229	614-332-7307
Rodney Collins	8924 SR 134	Lynchburg	OH	45142	937-402-8743
Chawn Cragwall	94 Fawn Ln	Blanchester	OH	45107	937-783-9967
Daniel Cutter	536 Imperial Ct	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-366-6284
Dale Everhart	169 Eastview Dr	Washington C.H.	OH	43160	740-335-1047
Jordan Foster	178 W Locust St	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-838-5605
Wade Griffitt	3656 Cabin Creek Rd	Vanceburg	KY	41179	606-541-3912
Steve Gundlach	548 Florence Ave	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-382-6849
Ray Hahn	3823 US Rt 50	Fayetteville	OH	45118	513-761-3921
John Henry	873 Williams Dr	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-382-8327
Matt Higgs	5669 SR 503	West Alexandria	OH	45381	513-464-1355
Adam Hollbrook	455 John Chambers Dr	Wilmington	OH	45177	740-703-0659
Wilbur Holley	2622 SR 132	Clarksville	OH	45113	937-608-3243
Carl Johnson	11 S Church St	Jamestown	OH	45335	937-675-2404
Ben Kirk	2896 Antioch Rd	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-725-4034
Charlie Laufer	3872 Westboro Rd	Blanchester	OH	45102	937-527-6830
Bob McCoppin	799 Berlin Rd	Wilmington	OH	45177	937-383-2727
Jason Moore	PO Box 303	Mowrystown	OH	45155	513-967-1780
Steve Mustain	1196 Ronlee Dr	Milford	OH	45150	513-831-3295
Donald Scott	25 N Church St	Jamestown	OH	45335	937-675-3829
Kevin Shepherd	612 S Columbus St	Xenia	OH	45385	937-372-2284
Anthony Skipworth	205 Park Ave	Hillsboro	OH	45133	937-509-3730
Scott Smith	612 E Baldwin St	Blanchester	OH	45107	513-628-3560
Jeff Warning	288 Sutton Ct	Lebanon	OH	45036	513-932-7869
Doug Wilson	4464 Washington Waterloo Rd	Washington CH	OH	43160	614-657-3742

Cut this page out and add to your Roster!

Generosity

You should not give in order to grow richer, but your resources will grow when you give more. What you receive in return may be spiritual or relational rather than material. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian life is that the more generously you give, the more God blesses you in some way. One of the reasons for this is that the same qualities that make you responsible and trustworthy also make you generous. But the primary reason is that God in his grace entrusts more to you so that you can be a greater channel for bringing his blessings into this world.

2 Corinthians 9:6—Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. (from God's Daily Promises for Men, © 2007 by Ron Beers, Published by Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus—WUMC
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH 45177

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
MARCH 13
Singing starts at 6:45PM!
Men's Walk #54 Reunion! 6:00pm
Bring a snack to share after the Gathering
Wear your name tag!

Watch your address label! In order to be fair to everyone, you will get one full year of the Emmaus Newsletter. The label clearly states the date of your last issue. To keep the newsletter coming in the mail, when your last issue comes, send \$6.00 to the address above, adding "Attention: Newsletter."

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MONTH	SPECIAL MUSIC	INSTRUMENTALIST	SONG LEADER
March	Sandie Wingo	Carl Guenther	Judy Sturgeon
April	Herma Current & Tony Harper	Amy Sexton	Sandie Wingo
May	Jerry Stanley	Mary Brown-Turner	Jennie Harner
Jun	Cindy Bloom	Judy Laycock	Julie Combs
Jul	Christy Mitchell	Jennie Harner	Bronwyn Jones
Aug	Nancymae Ogden	John Glaze	Christy Mitchell
Sep	Bronwyn Jones	John Glaze	Peggy Larkin
Oct	Peggy Larkin	John Glaze	Cindy Bloom
Nov	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dec	Community	John Glaze/Lynn Lowell	Bronwyn Jones