

March, 2010

Volume XIV, Issue 3

Lake of the Ozarks



MARCH GREETINGS: *“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.” Matt 26:26 “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Matt 26:28,29 “...assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” John 6:53-57*

February 27, 2010 was the Super Sabbath. We were blessed with good weather, good speakers, good fellowship, and good food. About 80 people attended. We thank all of you who helped to make it a wonderful success and blessings to all!

I don't know about you, but I am soooooo looking forward to March and spring. I hope that in the next newsletter I am talking about the dogwood and redbud trees blooming and maybe even the tulips. I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that the horses had really heavy winter coats and got them earlier than usual and I wondered if that meant a cold winter. Well, now they are shedding those winter coats; therefore, I think that is an indication of spring.

The little squirrel that I watched earlier this year building her nest is proving to be a real challenge to me. She keeps getting into the barrel where I keep the sunflower seed.

On a personal note, I apologize for being late with the newsletter. My husband had three-way by-pass surgery on Wednesday, February 24. We thank everyone for their prayers, support and cards.

This is the month that most of us will be observing Passover. The destiny of those who share the body and blood of Jesus on Passover evening share an eternal destiny that, to our weak and feeble minds, is incomprehensible. It is important to take the Passover symbols because our eternal lives are at stake. Every one who takes part in the Passover ceremony has eternal life guaranteed by the promise of Jesus. Can we ask for any higher assurance?

If you have already responded to the inquiry about receiving the Ozark Letter, thank you, and it is **not necessary to respond again**. I just don't want to remove anyone from the list who does want to receive the Ozark Letter. In a previous newsletter, you were given the option of how you would like to receive this newsletter ...i.e., email, snail mail, etc. Or you may opt to not receive this newsletter at all – **you must make a positive reply to continue receiving this newsletter** – the exception is those living in Canada or foreign countries. I will assume that they do want to stay on the mailing list, but should you want to get the newsletter via email, you will need to make a response. Thank you for your participation in this matter and I am always looking for articles to put in the newsletter. You may mail us back the top portion of the next page with your response or you may contact us by email at mmcg.org@gmail.com with your response. Csh*****

2010 HOLY DAY CALENDAR

- March 29—Passover (Lord’s Supper observed the evening before, March 28 Sunday, after sundown)
- March 29—Night to Be Much Remembered (Monday)
- March 30 - April 5—Days of Unleavened Bread (Tuesday-Monday)
- May 23—Pentecost (Sunday)
- Sept. 9—Feast of Trumpets (Thursday)
- Sept. 18—Day of Atonement (Saturday)
- Sept. 23-29—Feast of Tabernacles (Thursday-Wednesday)
- Sept. 30—Eighth Day Festival (Thursday)



Please answer the questions below so we can better serve you:

To receive *The Ozark Letter* in the mail, check box and sign here: _____

Check here to receive *The Ozark Letter* via this e-mail address: _____

Check here to cancel (stop receiving *The Ozark Letter*).

Please return this portion to MMCG, PO Box 92, Eldon, MO 65026

DANIEL'S GLOVES

The following was taken from the Internet. I had an "experience" at a Wal-Mart just recently and I did not respond as this suggests. I don't know that I will have another opportunity, but I pray that I do have another opportunity and that I do the "right thing". (editor's comments)

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying a well-worn sign that read, 'I will work for food.' My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: 'Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square.'

Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the store front church, going through his sack.

I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

'Looking for the pastor?' I asked.

"Not really," he replied, "just resting."

"Have you eaten today?"

"Oh, I ate something early this morning."

"Would you like to have lunch with me?"

"Do you have some work I could do for you?"

"No work," I replied "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."

“Sure,” he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions. “Where you headed?”

“St. Louis”

“Where you from?”

“Oh, all over; mostly Florida..”

“How long you been walking?”

“Fourteen years,” came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, ‘Jesus is The Never Ending Story.’

Then Daniel’s story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He’d made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences...Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona... He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought.

He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

“Nothing’s been the same since,” he said, “I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now.”

“Ever think of stopping?” I asked.

“Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me, but God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That’s what’s in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads.”

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: “What’s it like?”

“What?”

“To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?”

“Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn’t make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people’s concepts of other folks like me....”

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, “Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I’ve prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.”

I felt as if we were on holy ground. “Could you use another Bible?” I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite....”I’ve read through it 14 times,” he said.

“I’m not sure we’ve got one of those, but let’s stop by our church and see”. I was able to find my new friend a Bible that

would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

“Where are you headed from here?” I asked.

“Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon.”

“Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?”

“No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that’s where I’m going next.”

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we’d met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

“Would you sign my autograph book?” he asked...“I like to keep messages from folks I meet.”

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have for you,” declared the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you; Plans to give you a future and a hope.”

“Thanks, man” he said. “I know we just met and we’re really just strangers, but I love you.”

“I know,” I said, “I love you, too. The Lord is good!”

“Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?” I asked.

“A long time,” he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed...He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, “See you in the New Jerusalem.”

“I’ll be there!” was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, “When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?”

“You bet,” I shouted back, “God bless.”

“God bless.” And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them.....a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

Then I remembered his words: “If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?”

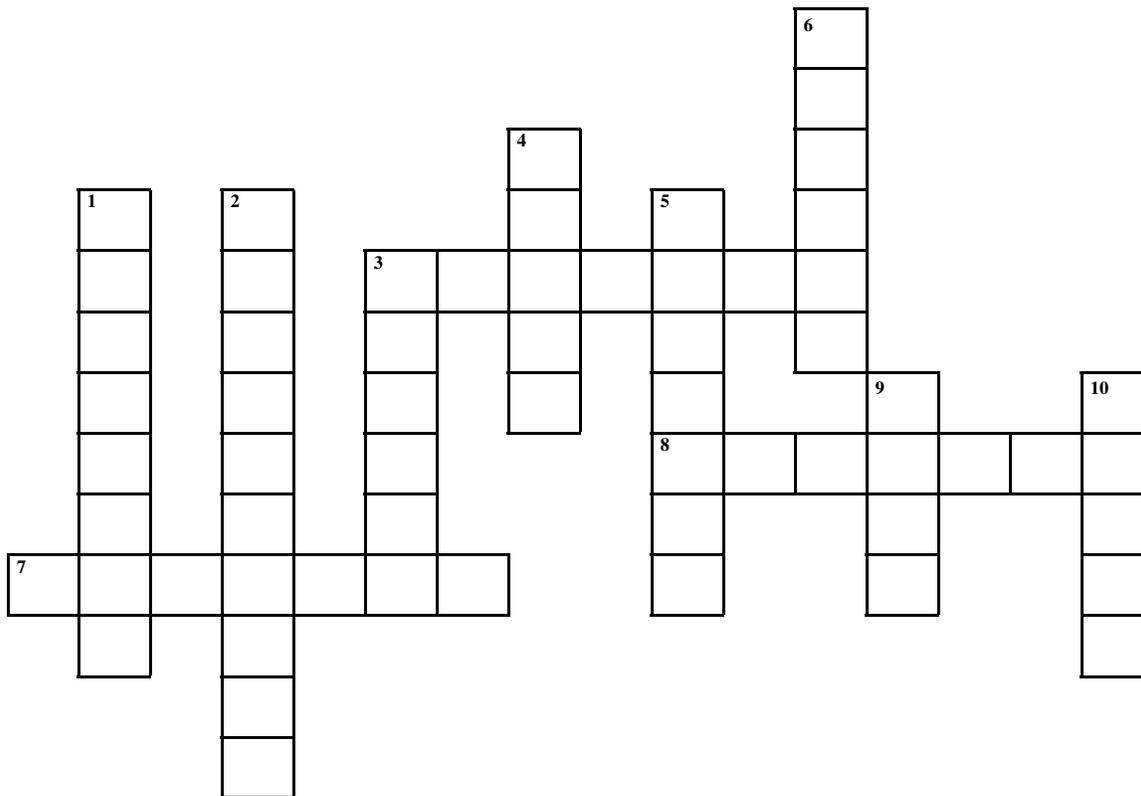
Today, his gloves lay on my desk in my office....They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. “See you in the New Jerusalem,” he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will.....

“I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.”

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

Jesus encouraged His followers to pray to God with sincerity and not for show. He gave them a simple outline of a prayer that has become known as the "Lord's Prayer". He did not intend that we only use this prayer when we pray, but that we would include some of the things in this prayer in our own prayers. This prayer shows reverence to God, dependency on God for our needs, desire for God's Kingdom to come, thankfulness, an awareness of our sins, a desire to be forgiven and to forgive others, and trust in God to lead us.



"Our (3 down) in heaven, (1down), be your name, your (5 down) come, your (9 down) be done on (4 down) as it is in (6 down). Give us today our daily (10 down). (3 across) us our debts, as we have forgiven our (7 across) and lead us not into (2down), but (8 across) us from the evil one. (NIV)

MID-MISSOURI CHURCH OF GOD

PO Box 92, Eldon, MO 65026/ mailing address. Actual physical address is: 602 East North Street. Phone: 573-392-1232 or 573-498-3775; Email: info@mmcg.org **Website:** www.mmcg.org The Mid-Missouri Church of God (MMCG) holds Christian Sabbath services each Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at 602 East North Street, Eldon, MO... A Bible Study and song service is scheduled at 10:30am before Sabbath services. Potluck meals after services are planned for the fourth Sabbath of each month. A weekly Bible study is held each Thursday at 6:30pm. It is best to call ahead and confirm times if you are traveling any distance to visit us (see the phone numbers above). Occasionally we will cancel local services to attend en masse elsewhere. Come and enjoy the fellowship! Also, the first Wednesday of each month the ladies meet for a "get together" and you can contact Martha Roberts at 573-496-3203 or Charleen Gitthens at 573-392-5965 for location and time if you plan to attend. You can also check the events calendar on the website.