



Good News

From Around the Plant

March 2011

Made any mistakes lately? I know I make more than my share. Not living up to other's expectations or your own? We *all* do that.

It all started in the Garden of Eden when Adam decided to do what he wanted to do by eating the forbidden fruit, the only thing he was told not to do. He was told by a loving God, the One who provided a perfect life, a perfect environment for him and gave him one simple request *not* to do... but Adam thought he could get away with it, that God wouldn't find out, that he, Adam, could be in control. But like so many others in the Bible who tried to "slip one by" God, it didn't work. Then he tried to pass the blame. As a friend used to say, "Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on".

One of my all time favorite signs to put outside my old church was given to me by a former pastor and simply stated, "God knows." That pretty much covers it. Doesn't matter whether it's good or bad, you can rest assured - God knows. But unlike us, He is slow to anger and quick to forgive. Thank Heavens!!

It's so normal for us to live what we ourselves know is not the best life and think we're not good enough for God and not good enough to go to church. So we just stay in that "groove" and don't try to change. We think "those people" (that attend church) are all perfect - or think they are.

Let's put an end to that myth right now. Dear Abby said it years ago - "Church is not a haven for saints, it's a hospital for sinners." Not that there are no hypocrites in church. But again, God knows our hearts. Not one of us is too good to stay out of church - or too bad to go in.

God's love is much different than ours - it's unconditional. Many of you have dogs. Think about how you can mistreat that dog, taking your bad day out on him, and then when you apologize, he comes right back and licks your hand as if nothing had ever happened. *That's* unconditional love. Nothing we can do can make God not love us.

Our sense of caring on the other hand is very conditional. We say, "so-and-so would be a good person if they would *just* do this, or would be *this* way, instead of the way they are." Trouble is, we all have our own problems and defects, but only want to look at those of others. Jesus talked about "seeing the speck in another's eye but ignoring the log in our own."

"Okay, Dan," you say, "is this story going somewhere?" Yes it is. The point here is that God meets us where we're at. When we're ready to admit that maybe we *don't* have control of everything and recognize God for who He is, Creator and Sustainer of everything, and that He wants to have a loving relationship with us, He welcomes us.

There is a famous painting that hangs in many churches depicting Jesus standing outside the door of a home preparing to knock on the door. It is an illustration of a verse found in the book of Revelations, Chapter 3, verse 20 which says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

What that means is that Jesus waits at the "door" to everyone's heart, knocking, waiting to be allowed in. But He will never force His way in. He only goes where He is welcomed. It's hard for us to open that door, to let Him in and yield to Him.

We want to be in control - like Adam - to be the masters of our own destiny. It's our human nature. But when we 'slide over,' and get out of that 'driver's seat' and let *Him* drive, life becomes so much easier.

Again, God loves us no matter what we've done or said. He gladly allows U-turns. It's never too late. Give it a try!!

Now for the March trivia question: **Who does God direct to make coffee, men or women?**

Call the UAW Local 3303 Chaplain hotline with your answer – **extension 2694**

Peace,
Dan Pulliam, Chaplain (Hot Mill Mtc.)

THANK YOU

To all my UAW brothers and sisters: I want to thank all of you who have supported my daughter, ***Emily Leyland***, in a recent blood drive that produced 151 units of blood. Unfortunately the Central Blood Bank was unable to process everyone that wanted to donate that day, but they have offered a makeup date for anyone who is interested in donating:

Monday, March 14, 2011

1pm – 7pm

St. Michael the Archangel Hall

Additionally, I want to thank all of you who participated in or donated to the “Spaghetti Dinner” fundraiser with your time, food, money, baskets...etc. Your kindness and generosity is immeasurable.

Lastly, but most importantly, I thank you for your prayers for Emily and my entire family, without them we would not be where we are today. I ask for your continued prayers for Emily as she enters her second round of chemotherapy this Monday, March 7, 2011.

In unity,

Hank Leyland

North Processing