

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

FEBRUARY 2012

www.agoodneighbornews.com

VOL. 3 • NO. 8

9 HOURS of Uncompromised Faith

by Brenda Dwyer

The phone rang around 1:00am. I had been sound asleep, as had Bob. In the misty deliciousness of my dreams I wondered why my alarm was going off and why it was set to that particular alarm tone. It felt as if the Lord were lifting me out of my haze and somehow had me push myself from my completely prone position so that I could reach out and make the noise stop. I picked up the phone and realized (still with a very sleepy edge) that it wasn't my alarm that had awakened me – my phone was ringing and it was my daughter. I answered in a voice that (although I determined it not to) still sounded pretty groggy. "Hello?" I answered with trepidation (due to the hour). "Mama ... I need you to pray with me!" She was crying and had a hint of panic to her tone. A million thoughts raced through my mind in the blink of an eye. "What is it baby ... what's wrong?" I inquired as I found myself getting into a sitting position and ready to come off of the bed to race and get dressed. "Mama (her voice cracked & in it her heart broke) Jada is missing". Jada is my eldest granddaughter. My heart is unbelievably full of love for this little girl for reasons too numerous to list here. Jada reminds me of myself at her age in some ways – mostly because she is awkward in speech and she is clumsy in motion; (although a cheerleader) she is always the last to be picked for a "team" sport. She is a striking beauty but one of the things she gets the most teasing for is that she possesses a voice that does not match her in any way whatsoever ... it sounds as though it were as low as the lowest imaginable pit and every bit as thick so as to be hard to understand at times. She is 12 years old and does not possess "street smarts" to speak of. She is as innocent and naïve as the

day is long. All of these things flashed through my mind and so many more. "What do you mean Jas ... how long as she been gone?" I queried. (They

alerted ... as we spoke Jada's picture was already up on the monitors in their squad cars with a full alert. In Joliet city, Will County and the State of

could only "see" what it must have looked like to God. Since both of my brothers are ministers it was comforting to call them and alert them – they in

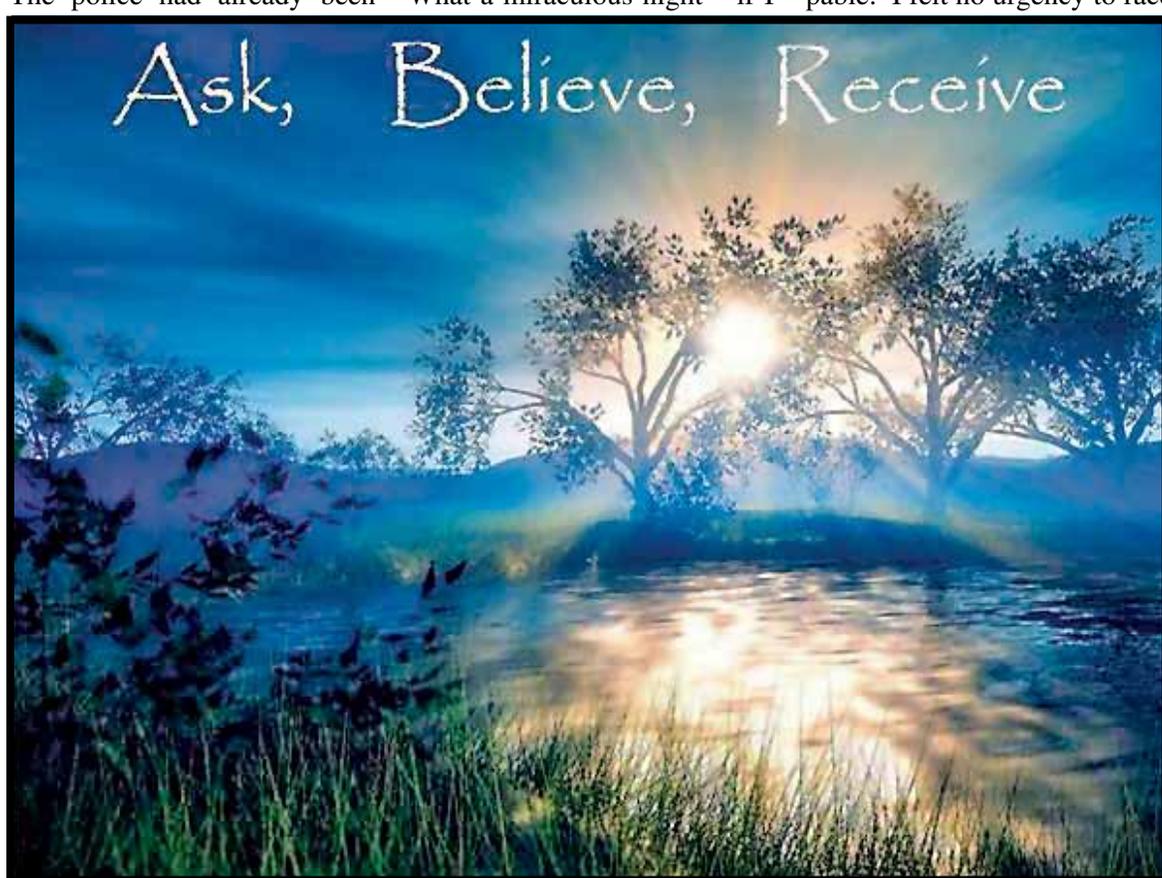
to Joliet nor did she ever ask me to. I felt that I was to stay tethered to my phone and reassure the "troops" via phone calls – those who were out looking for her ... do not be discouraged. These first steps are what you do ... just in case. I found that I was blanketed in peace that surpasses understanding ... able to even comfort and reassure Bob who has such a soft heart for our Jada. Jasmin and I disconnected our call as people were filtering into her home to be there for her and tend to whatever she and Scott might need. Jasmin stated later that this almost made things worse for her because she was trying to "grow her faith" in the face of the possibilities at hand and everyone coming in like that made it seem "too real" and gave her a sense of heightened alarm – she said it was almost her "undoing". Well, perhaps it was simply a moment of God's grace to alert us to things that needed to be "righted" – only He knows for sure, but Jada is back home safe and sound this morning. She got home right around 10am. PRAISE GOD!!! Where had she been? Well, that's the icing on the cake. She had been just a block or so away. One of her little friends, who had moved from their neighborhood due to divorce, had now moved back and Jada hadn't mentioned it to Jasmin yet. Combine that little tidbit with the fact that Jasmin had just gotten a new telephone number 2 days ago and this is how Jada's afternoon had played out yesterday: Jada came home from school and asked Jasmin if she could go to her friend's house to which Jasmin (who was in the shower at the time) replied that "yes" she could (thinking it was Jada's other friend who lived a couple of blocks away and who Jada played with daily). That



live in Joliet, IL – a three hour drive). "Since 4 pm our time" came her reply. In a way that is hard to put to paper with mere words, my spiritual wings unfurled and my soul connected with God – as I was speaking to my daughter I knew the Lord could feel my heart's desire ... bring Jada home safe Father. I prayed with my daughter over the phone. I asked her if she "felt" that anything was "wrong"; she said no but she just felt as if she didn't know what direction she should go. The police had already been

Illinois Jada had become an instant priority. Their mission was simple ... find this little girl and deliver her to her family. I prayed for the Lord to give Jasmin peace that surpasses understanding, to give the officers a heightened vision so as not to miss any detail, to be with all of the people involved and give them endurance. I told Jasmin to trust her instincts. As I continued to speak with my daughter over the next few hours we alternated taking calls and alerting prayer lines. What a miraculous night – if I

turn made phone calls (in the middle of the night on the behalf of one little girl who had gone missing) ... many people willingly climbed from their warm beds and transformed into prayer warriors. Ribbons of prayer were sent to God's ear from the East coast to the West ... Facebook lit up like a thousand candles as the message went out ... Jada is missing ... please pray. I finally asked Jasmin to try to get some sleep - it felt like the right thing to do - her exhaustion was palpable. I felt no urgency to race



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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM

by Brenda Dwyer

I can't even tell you the number of times I have heard someone say that even though they were surrounded by people they still felt lonely. Why? It's quite obvious – no one is connecting with them in a way that is satisfying a specific void in them. We can all relate to this. Every single one of us will have times in our lives that we can identify with loneliness. We are never alone, per say, but we can feel isolated and even

lonely whether there is no one else in the room or if the room is filled to capacity. Loneliness is a state of mind and perhaps a state of heart; however, it is what you make it. Loneliness can be used as a time of introspection ... more simply put ... it can be a time for mischievous folly or it can be a sullen time. When I am feeling lonely I like to go off by myself and

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My heart was anything but full of joy this morning. It was one of those mornings when anything and everything around me was crashing & burning. When I got into the office (still anxious to wash my hands after retrieving my keys from a pile of dog excrement – long story) I was about as downcast and downhearted as I could be. I wanted to fall to my knees and give up. Our operations manager told me to pick my head up and listen to the song playing on the radio ... it was called "Praise You In This Storm" by Casting Crowns. God is so good. There was no better gift I could have received in that moment. The song fit perfectly.

SALISBURY'S STAKE

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

For centuries, even the most skilled artisans of prose and poetry have been stymied in their attempts to define Love. Essays, odes, and epic tales of valiant honor and swooning maidens can't begin to put a finger on such an esoteric notion as Love.

Listen to a teenager for fifteen minutes. First, talking to their girlfriend or boyfriend, you'll hear, "I love you. I love you so much. I love you more. You hang up first. No, you. Okay, I love you." "I love double cheeseburgers so much." "I love Mr. Soandso, he's the best teacher ever! No homework all weekend!" "I love that movie!" "I love this blanket, it's so fuzzy." "I love that eye shadow on you!" We know that none of that even comes close to what love really sounds like, but it is a series of feelings about different things, and they're all positive. At least, from the teenager's point of view.

Are we any different, though? We throw the word around without fully grasping its meaning in many of the same ways. We love our spouses, our kids, some peace and quiet and downtime. We love certain holidays, certain friends, certain days of the week more than others. We love a good, hot cup of coffee, a sense of accomplishment, and our pets. But doesn't even that seem trite in comparison to what we were made for?

I've heard it said that love

is a choice, not a feeling. I don't think that's completely true. I've heard it said that God is love. I suppose that comes somewhat closer, but still doesn't capture exactly the heart of it. And, though I'm not going to come any closer to grasping a single definition than anyone else in history, I'd like to offer one more to the mix.

I think that Love is God. We are created in His image, yes? So we have a shadow of His feelings and notions impressed upon us. I don't mean to say that we should worship Love. I mean to say that, when we feel Love – positive, overwhelming feelings of happiness, joy, peace, contentment, affection – that is God inside of us. In the same vein, when we choose Love – forgiving someone even when they don't deserve it, helping someone when it's taking up time we could be doing something for ourselves, giving to someone less fortunate than we are – that is also God inside of us.

The word "Love" occurs 686 times in the New International Version of the bible. The New Testament words of Jesus reflect Old Testament notions, as well – "Love your neighbor as yourself" comes from Leviticus 19:18, and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and

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CHILD'S PLAY



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Bacon Wrapped Jalapeno Peppers

INGREDIENTS:

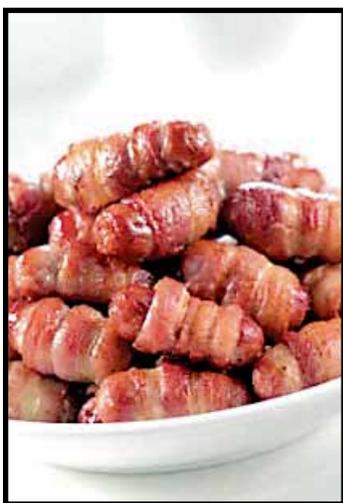
- 6 fresh jalapeno peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 12 slices bacon

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.
2. Spread cream cheese to fill jalapeno halves. Wrap with bacon. Secure with a toothpick.
3. Place on the grill, and cook until bacon is crispy.

From Our Kitchen

SUPER BOWL YUM YUMS



Bacon Wrapped Vienna Sausages

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound bacon
- 1 (16 ounce) package little vienna sausages or smokies
- 1 cup brown sugar, or to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Cut bacon into thirds and wrap each strip around a little sausage. Place the wrapped sausages on wooden skewers, several to a skewer. Arrange the skewers on a baking sheet and sprinkle them liberally with brown sugar.
3. Bake until bacon is crisp and the brown sugar melted.

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Grandmas



by Brenda Dwyer

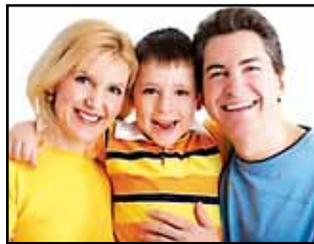
Never in my darkest thoughts did I ever imagine that one day my grandson would grow up and start making so many bad decisions. I realize that I am only on the outside looking in and yet I feel almost hyper sensitive to what I see playing out before my eyes on his MySpace, his Facebook and from conversations with his mother. Red flags are everywhere; they appear in the people that he has "friended", they blaze across the imagery that he has attached to his pages; they pop up like gopher heads in the snippets of conversation that I am still blessed to have with him. I want now, more than ever before, to be involved in his life ... to help him and encourage him with a quiet voice, a calm spirit and a full heart. My daughter almost died on two separate occasions

in her pregnancy while trying to bring him to term. Finally "D" day rolled around and he was un-responsive upon his arrival. I was rushed into an adjoining room and asked to coax him ... to urge him to respond – the entire time amazed as we watched his Apgar scores rise with every word. I suppose looking back and at the same time looking forward it seems that we are re-visiting that time in an altered reality kind of way. I want him to respond with every word ... I want to see that awakening, that awareness ... before it's too late. I want him to realize his potential for it is great, indeed. I want him to take the easy road to becoming the man God intends for him to be and yet, perhaps – since God's understanding is not our own – he must travel a path scattered with "stumbling stones" so that he will bear great witness one day to the grace of our Lord. I don't know ... I only know that when he calls, I will answer and he will always hear the voice of love on the other end. Grandparent-ing is truly grand in good times and not-so-good.

KIDz KORNER



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Continued from Page 1

all happened around 4pm. Jada knew she didn't have school the following day because the teachers had scheduled Parent/Teacher conferences. Jasmin had begun to really worry around 8pm because Jada always calls to say she is on her way home and no call came.

(What had happened is that Jada had inadvertently texted this message to her mother's old phone number mom, am at holly's and want to stay the night here ok. It wasn't until this morning when Holly and Jada woke and started playing games on Holly's phone that they noticed at some point that Jada had texted her message the night before to the wrong

phone number and just as they were about to call Jasmin to let her know – Holly's phone rang. A little girl they both knew from school was calling ... "Holly, is Jada with you?" Holly responded that, yes, Jada was right there. The little girl explained that the police were looking for Jada because Jas-

min had reported her missing. Holly grabbed Jada by the arm and went to get her mom. Holly told her mom what their friend

phone and I knew that she was home. "Nana, its Jada ... I'm home and I'm sorry." "I made a mistake and texted mommy

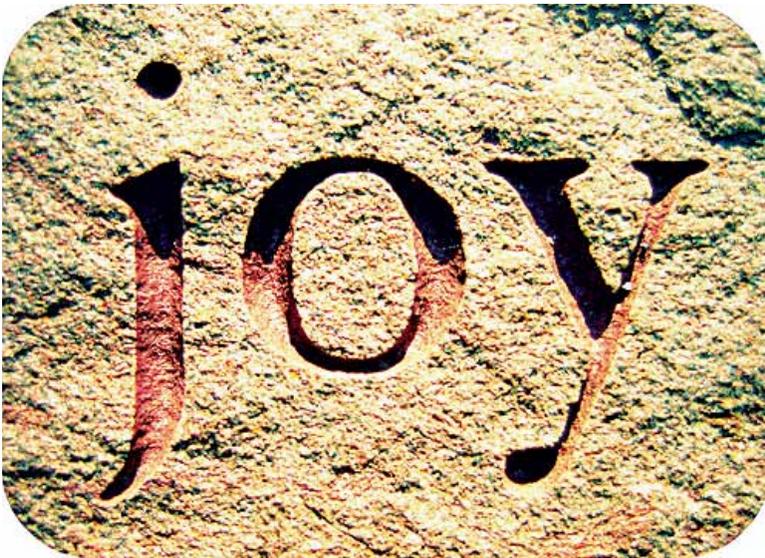
at the wrong number last night." "I was just at Holly's house." "I am so sorry Nana (and she began to cry) I didn't mean to worry you and Papa Bob." "I love you both." "M o m m y told me you

had a lot of people praying for me." "Thank you Nana." "I love you and I am sorry."

As you can imagine, my heart overflows with gratefulness to God whom I have witnessed repeatedly is worthy of heart-felt praise in good times and bad and is always there when I need Him most. He il-

luminates darkness and provides peace. Why even before I closed my eyes to sleep around 4am this morning I was singing the old hymn "It is well with my soul" knowing that it would be the perfect lullaby for Bob and I to drift off to sleep with.

rang around 10am; it was Jasmin. We had already talked several times this morning trying to develop a plan of action for the day. She said, "Mom, I have someone here that wants to talk to you" and the very next voice I heard had me praising God and crying with joy for answered prayer! Jada was on the



The words to the portion of the song I sang are as follows:

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.
 - o Refrain: It is well, with my soul, It is well, it is well, with my soul.

BEAUTY

"Aunt" Dallas knew who she was and what she wanted to be from a very early age. She was an only child raised by a father who earned his living as a Chemist and a mother who broke with tradition as a young woman and earned her Master's in Education by the time she was 26. Dallas would tell anyone who would listen that she would never have children and that she would travel the world, that she would never marry and last but not least, that she would visit every country in the world before she died. She graduated from high school at the ripe old age of 16 and began college shortly thereafter. She entered university when she was 19 and studied Geology as her major. She would later switch her interests to include music, entomology and (oddly enough) the study of authenticity. She worked at a variety of jobs throughout her life; always on a contractual basis. She traveled the world and learned 9 languages; 6 of which she was fluent in. Although she claimed to never have a desire to birth children of her own, children were sprinkled throughout her life like tiny candied confetti. She would befriend children who were either orphaned or living in dire conditions giving all of them as much as she had to offer as they passed through her life. Most of them stayed in contact with her (perhaps) more diligently (for decades) than they would have had she been their birth mother. She never married and never "fell in love" yet she was one of the happiest, most fulfilled people I have ever met. She was a beautiful woman. I can remember looking at pictures of her when I was at my grandmother's house. She had raven black hair that was in a "movie star" do and her lips were full and pouty and seemed to POP off of the page. Her eyelashes were long and even if her lips weren't smiling – her eyes always seemed to be. The most stunning thing about her though was her personality – her spirit. She was always smiling, always helping, and always ready to share the most interesting stories of fascinating people she would meet. Dallas was some relation to my father (I'm not sure which) but we always referred to her as "Aunt". He said she was quite the tomboy growing up which was always hard for us to imagine since she presented herself as a true girly girl the entire time I knew her. Even when she traveled to Africa/Egypt/Pakistan/Istanbul or anywhere else in the world and had her picture taken with her "bush" pants on she always looked like a model. The only piece of jewelry I ever saw on Aunt Dallas was a small gold cross her parents had given her when she was baptized. She was the sweetest, most beautiful woman I have ever met; everyone who knew her felt the same. We are all one-of-a-kind, that's for sure, but if I could be more like any one person I've ever met ... I would like to be more like "Aunt" Dallas.

PERPETUAL PROMISES

by Uncle Bill

There are few things that you can rely on anymore; one certainly though, is that change is inevitable. Most people dread change, and understandably so. It's the disruption of our conceived normalcy. Leaves change colors in the fall, and we look in amazement at their beauty. A caterpillar will go into its cocoon and come out as a beautiful butterfly, and these things we expect. When it comes to our own lives though, change isn't just an act... it's an emotion. It's natural for us as human beings to dread the unknown; it's a protective instinct that goes back to our very beginning. As a former Sailor, we watched the ocean looking for changes, and when we saw it, we had to be prepared. Some changes you can't see coming, and those are the ones we fear the most. People will often downplay their fear by saying they "roll with the punches", and while some have the ability to do just that, others will hide from the world and wait for the storm to pass. This doesn't make those that hide weak; it simply means that it's their own inner voice telling them how to deal with the change that is affecting them. People change, the seasons change, and one thing is certain... you're NOT promised another day. We need to live everyday as if it truly IS our last. We need to laugh, learn and love. We need to say what needs to be said, and do what needs to be done. Our biggest change is yet to come, and it's the change of this existence into the next... what is the "ocean" telling you?

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IT'S THE
"HELP US NAME
OUR MASCOT"
CONTEST!**



In keeping with the many Events we have hosted since opening our new store at 524 S. Main Street in Middlebury, IN it has been suggested (far too many times to ignore) that we should have a mascot. Well, we agree. Our mascot is just as cute as it can be ... like any new pet this cutie pie needs a name and that's where YOU come in. We are depending on you to come up with the perfect name!

This contest is open to all ages. The only rule is ONE NAME PER ENTRY PER PERSON – so, you only get one chance at this. Best of luck! The winner of this contest will receive a \$35.00 cash prize as well as a picture with our new mascot in the March edition of our paper! What are you waiting for? Get those entries in!

You may email your entry to Brenda@agoodneighboronline.com, snail mail it to Brenda c/o A Good Neighbor, LLC 524 S. Main Street Middlebury, IN 46540 or fax it to 574-825-1368. Have fun!



Happy Valentine's Day

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- Pampered Pet Boutique - 230 N. Morton Street
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- Shipshevana Harness & Supplies - 815 N. Van Buren Street
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- Insignia Promotions - 135 Easy Shopping Place
- Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 59045 CR 13
- Joshica's Planet Canine - 4411 Wyland Drive
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- Tip-n-Toe Nail Spa Parkway - 17 Plaza 56199 Parkway Ave. Suite 10
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A WORLD OF WONDERS

by Monica Clark
HEARTSONGS

Ah, February, a good time to think about heartsongs. What, you may ask, are heartsongs? Well, my friends, heartsongs are those things in your life that inspire you, warm your heart and make it sing, or at least beat a little faster. Heartsongs are the memories or observations that make you smile.

A soft June night in Killarney, Brad's hand covering mine on the balcony rail as the mist fell and softened the craggy peaks of the MacGillycuddy Reeks. The fog thickened and covered the mountains as if the sky had reached down and tucked them in for the night.

The raw April day Chris and I played hooky and toured Chicago. We stood on air in the glass box at the top of the Hancock Building--which I promise, made my heart beat faster! We strolled through the near empty Millennium Park and walked under the great "Cloud Gate" (aka the "Jelly Bean")--the giant silver blob that captures Chicago's skyline in its gentle, sloping curves. A day filled with the magic of the city: spectacular views of Lake Michigan, historic architecture, tulips and daffodils, but what I remember most is

Chris's smile.

These are the things that make my heart sing, but heartsongs aren't just places. They are people, too. Like Glendon and Phyllis, who will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary later this year. On the days Phyllis works, Glendon gets up early and cooks her breakfast. Then, he packs her lunch. Shhhh! Don't tell anyone, but he writes her love notes on the napkins. Hours later Phyllis opens her lunchbox and unpacks her love letters. Her face lights up and I see the face of a young bride, a quiet, knowing smile and the shy acknowledgement of a love that has weathered the years. That, my friends, is a heartsong.

A third-grader I know, a sturdy rough-and-tumble kind of fellow, loves sports and is a gifted athlete. He is all boy, but as a kindergartener, he noticed a classmate who desperately needed new shoes. It bothered the boy to see the little girl in such need of something as simple and basic as a pair of shoes. He talked about it at the supper table, weekly updates of the shoes' sad decline. Finally, with some help from his mom, he did something about it. He

bought the young girl a new pair of shoes. She never knew how they got into her locker, but they were very much appreciated. There it

is--another heartsong.

Every Christmas there are angels: Toys-for-Tots, police officers shopping with kids, volunteers at the food banks, churches and businesses collecting donations for underprivileged kids, but this year there were department store angels--people who visited Kmart stores and paid off strangers' layaway accounts. The idea started in Michigan and the movement spread across the country like wildfire. A simple act of kindness. A symphony of heartsongs.

In the throes of winter slogging through snow and slush, skating across unexpected ice patches, driving to work in the dark and, maybe, driving home again in the dark, it's easy to forget the those heartsongs. Despite what the news people, pundits, and politicians try to tell us, there is still kindness and goodness in the world. Remember, listen, and create your own heartsongs.

FARM COUNTRY MOOS

by Loretta Miller

The house is pretty quiet right now with the 4 preschoolers outside inspecting the crumbling snowman which only had a lifespan of one night. It was cold yesterday then this morning when we awoke there was rain pelting on our sunroof window. It sounded pretty cozy but the poor snowman didn't stand a chance. I let my woodstove in the kitchen die out on warmer days like this. My husband takes care of the coal stove in the basement and I usually take care of the woodstove in the kitchen on colder days. I love to hear the crackling of the wood and watch the steam billowing out of the cast iron tea kettle on the stove; makes me feel warm inside. Velda just came home from my mom's house so (yippee!), she can do the ironing while I get on with my writing. Talking about my mother, here's something my husband came across last night and I think it's worth sharing with you. It's called the power of grandparents: Children have a very special relationship with grandma and grandpa. That's why grandpar-

ents can be such powerful allies in helping keep a child off drugs. Grandparents are cool, relaxed. They're not on the firing line every day. Some days a kid hates his folks. He never hates his grandparents. Grandparents ask direct, point blank, embarrassing questions that you're too nervous to ask like, "who's the girl?" "How come you're doing poorly in history?" "Why are your eyes always red?" "Did you go to the doctor?" "What did he say?" "Here I've got just the medicine you need, etc., etc." The same child who cons his parents is ashamed to lie to grandma. Without betraying their trust, a loving, understanding grandparent can discuss the danger of drugs openly with the child she adores and should. (Personally, I was shocked to read that.) The average age of first time drug use among teens is 13. Some kids start at 9. 1 out of 4 American kids between 9 and 12 is offered illegal drugs. 22% of the kids receive the offer from a friend, 10% named a family member as their source. Illegal drugs are linked to in-

creased violence, to AIDS, to birth defects, drug related crime and homelessness. As a grandparent you hold a special place in the hearts and minds of your grandchildren. Share your knowledge, your love, and your faith with them. Use your power as an influence to steer your grandchildren away from drugs. Grandma, grandpa, talk to your grandkids. Your kids do and should appreciate you. To God be all the glory and honor. Phillip, our 7 year old has a habit of eating cereal before he goes to bed. Some nights it's simply not allowed depending on what was for supper. He's always a little skittish when asking for permission to eat cereal. I guess last night he figured the answer would be "no" because he came to me with an over ripe banana and a woe-begone expression on his face. He said, "mom, may I eat this banana?" He said, "I looked all over the pantry and this is the only one left and not only that ... look ... he's dying!" "So may I eat it?" I had to hide my grin before I said, "yes, I guess you may".

JUST A THOUGHT

by Uncle Bill

I have this reoccurring dream where I wake up, and every second of the day is absolutely perfect. Nothing goes wrong and nothing makes me upset. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and all is serene. Then, shattering the silence, my alarm goes off and I slowly open my eyes. I know what you're thinking, "Then reality hits you, and your dream is over". The funny thing is, in the past... that would have been true. Now, I try to live every day as if that dream is real. I know bad things happen, I've just learned that there are some things I can't control, and to dwell on them does me no good. Will it matter tomorrow? What about a year or two from now? The point is... I spent too long worrying about how to live, instead of just "living". There's no secret to this, it's really simple. Close your eyes and talk to God. Ask him to forgive you of your mistakes and sins. Ask him for the peace that only he can give, and the healing of those "scars" you carry. This is one dream that is easily obtainable, and one that you can carry for eternity.

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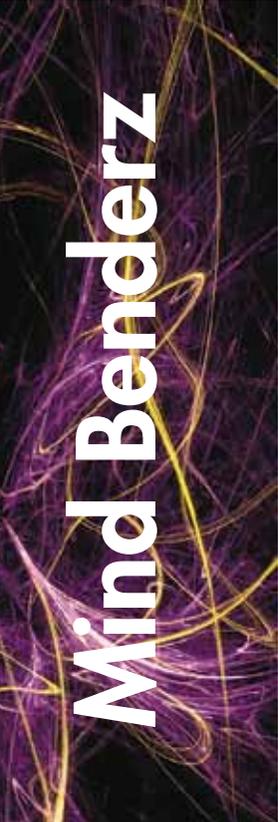
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SUDOKU OBJECTIVE

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9



9	8					4	6	
	6			5	7		8	2
				8		9		
1				2			7	
		6		7		5		
	4			6				9
		5		4				
8	7		2	1			9	
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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to New Year's Eve.

SRYCTLA LBLA

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ANSWER: Crystal Ball

8	1			5				
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			2					
7	8			1	6	2	9	3
				3			1	5

WORD SEARCH

G	C	A	B	S	S	S	P	A	C	E	D	V	R	H
R	E	R	A	Y	S	M	V	E	U	J	G	A	T	E
O	C	T	N	K	U	A	A	G	E	D	A	U	M	N
W	L	N	S	B	L	P	T	L	F	L	O	W	E	D
S	U	A	P	R	O	P	E	R	L	Y	N	L	S	S
B	E	D	S	Y	Y	R	E	F	L	O	A	T	S	H
C	F	L	L	G	S	O	Y	C	O	M	R	R	S	D
W	O	L	E	L	U	X	E	M	H	E	N	U	A	S
R	A	S	E	A	S	I	D	L	P	O	H	E	S	T
A	G	V	T	D	P	M	I	M	I	I	D	A	T	A
P	O	S	T	T	E	A	E	T	I	L	W	S	U	T
N	O	T	I	O	N	T	N	L	E	S	O	I	N	U
R	D	A	Y	S	D	E	R	H	T	M	T	L	T	S
S	W	I	F	T	M	L	A	A	A	T	A	K	E	H
A	R	R	O	W	Z	Y	R	T	Y	S	D	O	N	T

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DAYS
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DON'T
ECHO | EGYPT
ENDS
EYED
FLED
FLOATS
FLOWED
GATE
GETS
GLAD
GOOD
GROWS
HELD
HUSH
ITEM
JAWS
LAVA
LEAP
MALE | MENTION
MESS
MIST
MOON
MOST
NEAT
NOTION
NOVEL
OILS
PEEL
POST
PROPERLY
RATS
RAYS
SEAS
SILK
SMALL
SMELT | SNAIL
SPACED
STAIR
STATUS
STUNT
SUSPEND
SWIFT
TAKE
TEMPER
TRAY
TRUE
WAIT
WITH
WRAP
YOUTH |
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ACROSS
1. CAT'S SCRATCHER
5. SEVENTH ZODIAC SIGN
10. FISHING, PERHAPS
14. HALO, E.G.
15. COMPANION OF ARTEMIS
16. BOLTED
17. GROUP OF JOURNALISTS COVERING THE SAME TOPICS
19. JUSTICE BLACK
20. AIRCRAFTS THAT CAN LAND ON WATER
21. EVITA
22. CHIP DIP
23. CHINESE DYNASTY
24. ___ MASTER'S VOICE
27. "WANNA ___?"
28. SUB-SAHARAN SCOURGE
31. A CHORUS LINE
33. 365 DAYS (PL., 2 WDS)
35. ___ LIST
37. CASHEW, E.G.
38. INSECTS BETWEEN LARVA AND ADULT STAGES
39. START TOO SOON (3 WDS)
42. ALLOCATE, WITH "OUT"
43. CONFINES, AS IN JAIL
44. PISTOL, SLANGILY
46. UNDERTAKE, WITH "OUT"
47. "-ZOIC" THINGS | 48. ASSAIL
50. SHREWISH WOMEN
52. PAID POST WITH MINIMAL DUTIES (PL.)
56. SUNDAE TOPPER, PERHAPS
57. WRITER WHOSE CHARACTERS SYMBOLIZE A DEEPER MORAL MEANING
58. "DEAR" ONES
59. CITY ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER
60. 100 CENTAVOS
61. "___ ON DOWN THE ROAD"
62. CHAOTIC
63. KNOCKED OFF, IN A WAY | 21. TUMORS ON MUCOUS MEMBRANES
23. TONI MORRISON'S "___ BABY"
24. PILGRIM TO MECCA
25. TERMINAL PORTION OF SMALL INTESTINE
26. THOSE WHO INVOLUNTARILY REPEAT AND HESITATE WHEN SPEAKING
28. FULL DEVELOPMENT
29. ABOUT TO EXPLODE
30. MONEY IN THE BANK, SAY
32. INTENTIONALLY (2 WDS)
34. BIG GALLOOT
36. DIGRESS
40. "FOR ___ A JOLLY ..." (2 WDS)
41. BOUQUET
45. ART ___
48. PAPER MONEY
49. PAINT THINNER, BRITISH
50. CHEAT, SLANGILY
51. "MI CHIAMANO MIMI," E.G.
52. PIVOT
53. CAMBODIAN CURRENCY
54. "___ QUAM VIDERI" (NORTH CAROLINA'S MOTTO)
55. HOUSE
57. MONEY DISPENSER (ACRONYM) |
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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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		47						48			49			
50	51					52						53	54	55
56						57								
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

MOMENTS MISSED



The moments I miss the very most are the ones we never had the chance to share ... I wish you were still here because as I grow older I find myself more curious about the important things that, as a child, I never gave thought to. I wonder what advice you would have given me (time and again I find myself wondering) about my children and my grandchildren. I wonder how you became the man you were. I wonder what your motivations were. So much we never discussed and that, dad, is what I miss the most. What I miss the most are the moments missed.



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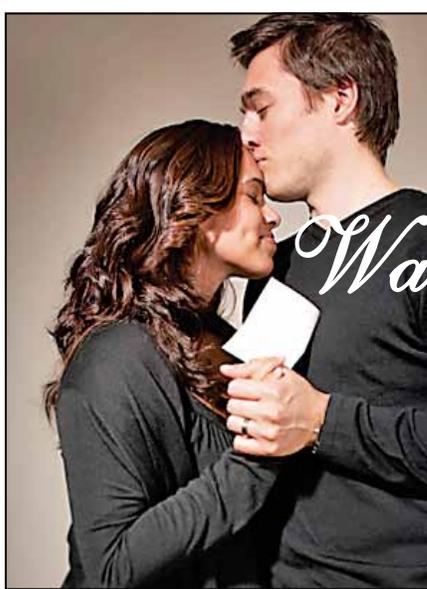


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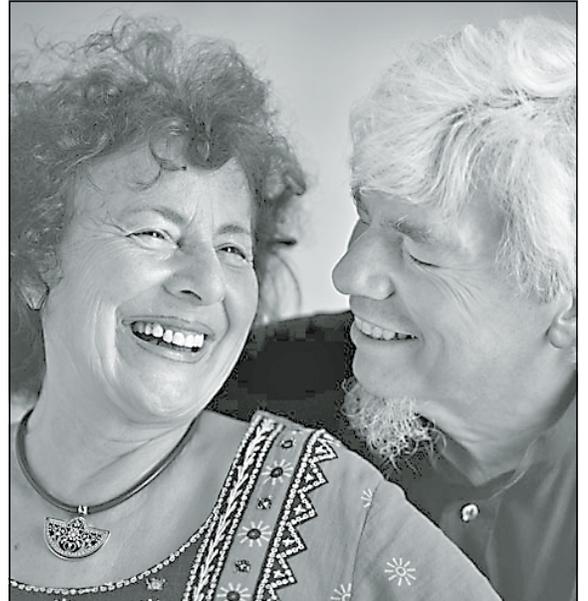
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No one wants to turn up the thermostat only to find that the furnace won't kick on. Having your furnace serviced on a regular basis is key ... call today to sign up for our annual service plan! Why have one more thing on your plate to remember? We will make the maintenance of your furnace easy for you. Should you be caught unaware though ... no worries! We are here for you! Our trained service technicians have fully stocked trucks that help to insure a shorter "down" time for you. Give us a call!

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

PET TOE NAIL TRIM FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County
 Date/Time: Monday, February 13, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
 Description: Pet toe nail trims provided for a \$7 donation. Proceeds to benefit The Humane Society of Elkhart County
 Location: Martins Pet & Garden, 116 W. Jackson Street, Elkhart
 For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225
 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

PET SHOWCASE ADOPTION EVENT (PUPPY LOVE & KITTY KISSES)

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County
 Date/Time: Saturday, February 11, 11 am – 2 pm
 Location: Carson's, Concord Mall, 3701 S. Main Street, Elkhart
 One Day Adoption Discount (February 11): Select a Valentine heart at the shelter for a 15% – 50% discount on the adoption fee (with an approved application).
 For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225
 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

"CAT IN THE HAT" PET SHOWCASE ADOPTION EVENT (CATS ONLY)

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County
 Date/Time: Saturday, February 4, 11 am – 2 pm
 Location: Martin's Pet & Garden, 116 W. Jackson Street, Elkhart
 For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225
 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Humane Society of Elkhart County Volunteer Association will meet Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 pm in the Education Room of the Humane Shelter, 54687 County Road 19, Bristol. Any adult interested in volunteering at the Shelter or with various fundraising projects, adopt-a-pet events or educational programs is invited to attend this monthly meeting.
 For more information, contact Bernice Simms, Chairman, at 264-7264.
 Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

by Brenda Dwyer
 Oh my head! I think I will scream if one more person asks me to get on Facebook! I am "on" Facebook I just never sign in. Facebook is the biggest form of self-exploitation out there. I tend to be a bit of a private person; hence, I could care less about airing my day to day, moment to moment living on a public domain. Last time I signed onto Facebook per a request by one of our kids I decided to

all ages using vulgar language and/or graphics/videos to express their opinion as well as a mixture of other disgusting dialogue/content that I won't even touch on here. Sure, there were some nice things as well

when they are away from home with friends and where they are or even if they are home alone. Some of these kids are as young as 7 years old and as old as 17. Where are their parents? It made me think back on



the website for the missing children in our nation and I just shook my head in sadness. I also wondered if the parents of the really young Facebookers are even aware of the content their children are able to access when on Facebook. While I was on I decided to make a brief stop to see "look around" and see what everyone was doing. I wish I hadn't. First of all there were refreshing tidbits, cute little photos of family or people from church but then when I looked around a bit further (looking at both "friends" and "friends of friends" as well as my old high school classmates), I found many entries that were of questionable content and realized I was witnessing a completely different side of people than what I was familiar with. I couldn't believe how harsh some people can be. I saw a few "bullies" while I was on ... a few teenagers threatening other teens ... people of

but I came away considering our youth (and some of their parents) and wondering how in the world they can "share" so much of themselves with little or no regard as to HOW they express their feelings. (Let's not even get started on the pictures they post for public consumption!!) The greatest concern about Facebook is that it is obvious that there are many, many young people out there who are so obviously putting themselves in possible danger with the very content of their postings. They reveal far too much about themselves including where they live ... many of them will even reveal

what my own grandchildren were up to - which was immediately followed by a phone call to their parents. It's a sad day when the parents, themselves, are setting a less than desirable example ... don't get me wrong; it could have been a lot worse considering that I am fairly overprotective when it comes to those I love but I just think that since we are dealing with a public domain that a bit of due diligence is probably a real good idea. Well, when it's all said and done, you know me ... it's just one more thing to pray about. Remember this though; a little responsibility goes a long way.

DESTRI OF NOCHAM[®]



A GLOSSARY FOR THE STORYLINE "DESTRI OF NOCHAM" CAN BE FOUND ONLINE @ www.agoodneighbornews.com

by Brenda Dwyer
 The day broke bright and promising. Destri stretched and laid peacefully upon her bumosh, content and anxious for the day. For as long as she could remember she would always wake expecting wonderful things to happen. When she was very small she would imagine that her mother would come back to her but as she grew she would imagine what her mother would have wanted for her and she would set her heart and mind to making it happen. A soft, caressing wind blew in puffs between the leaves above causing the leaves to dance in merriment. Destri sat up and listened as the earth spoke to her. The winds spoke of a mild day, the ground was content; well watered and lush, the fauna were abundant and feeling frisky. Destri could hear the marvens' happy song in the distance. Cretaj suddenly appeared just beyond the trunk of the tree and smiled down at her small charge, "Destri this day will be full for you child;

beware of how you trod upon the soil." "Steal yourself for great things little one for a village will surely plant its hope in you on this day." Destri loved Cretaj; she had challenged her to always look beyond the obvious and it had served Destri well. Cretaj bent down, hugged Destri's right shoulder and stepped away to tend to the day. Habath came by next and urged Destri to take part in the day ... the sun was just peeking above the edge of the earth. Destri bounded up and headed for the forest. She had awaited this day for too long. Terzin followed Destri as they headed deeper in towards their destination. Once there, Destri gathered stones and put them in a small circle. The next few cipas were spent piling stones higher and higher until they were even with Destri's chin. Destri then pulled out a small sword from her lumpsh she had spent many, many veens working on. The beautiful silver caught the light gleaming in through the thick canopy overhead. Destri raised

the sword above her head and struck it hard upon the top of the stone circle. The circle did not break and Destri, thereby proclaimed this new land to be Nastra; land of the forlorn, the forgotten, the broken whom have overcome and conquered their deepest fears so that fear no longer exists. Nastra would be the land that would embrace those looking for reward at the end of great pain. Nastra would be a mother-land; a land of nurturing, healing and empowerment. Destri stepped back and felt the light fall upon her and she imagined her mother smiling. Terzin rubbed against Destri's ankles causing Destri to sink to the ground and nuzzle the small creature. The glister's tunech was more beautiful than ever and Destri felt it was a sign. Just then Destri could hear a vistrillin sound in the far distance and her pulse raced. She lifted Terzin to her shoulder and ran as fast as she could toward Nocham. To be continued ...

THE MEMORY BANK

by Bill Raybuck

The "month of love" is upon us. I remember Valentine's Day for my Mom meant three things... a bottle of her favorite perfume, a card, and chocolates. Mom didn't like Roses, (something my Dad always loved, saving him thousands of dollars in their time together) but if there was a flower she did like, it was baby blue Carnations. Sometimes my Dad would be the hero, and get all those things, and my Mom would be thrilled. Dad loved his sweets, so when he would get Mom a box of candy, he made sure it was big enough that he could ask for a few, knowing she had more than enough. She caught on to this pretty quick, and developed a "habit" that drove my Dad crazy. She had her favorites, usually being orange cream, and raspberry creams... so to find these elusive little treasures, she would turn them upside down and crack open the bottom with her thumb. This would "ruin" them for my Dad, it "dried them out", and took the surprise out of it. I look back and laugh, because every time he'd reach for that box, she would have the biggest smile on her face. Their marriage wasn't perfect, they had disagreements... but they were

loyal and true to one another to the very end. Everyone has habits or quirks that drive others crazy, but seeing past these things and looking within will cause the heart to grow fonder. There are many types of love, and for some; Valentine's Day is the confirmation of that feeling. Advertisements promise a diamond is forever, I like to think deeper than that. It is a rare gem, unquestionably one that most believe is the ultimate symbol of love itself, hence the engagement ring. I believe that love is an emotion and a valuable one at that. If you work at love, it will shine brighter than any polished stone, and the value is truly immeasurable. Remember... love is to be given and shown every day. One day a year doesn't fulfill its promise, or do it justice. It can make you sing, weaken your knees, and fill your eyes with tears of joy, so regardless of how you chose to spend Valentine's Day, make it a special event that continues on from that day forward. Make lasting memories that you can place in your "Banks", and with each deposit you'll feel your heart grow in the "account" we call life...



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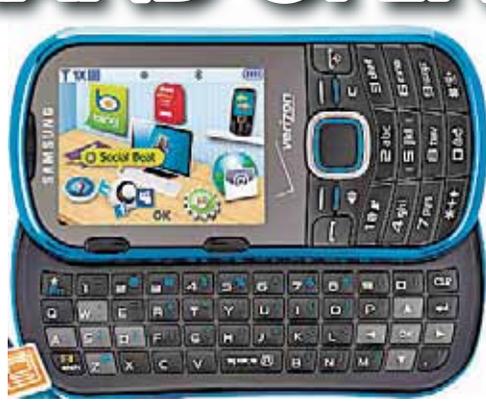
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MUSIC TO MY EARS

Rap, rap, rap. Rap, rap, rap. Twice, in quick succession came my wake up call. I was in a very deep sleep when it happened – so deep that even though I instinctively shot straight up and went to the door I found myself repeatedly groaning (which I NEVER do) because my body was nowhere near ready to jump up and be responsive that fast. Once I arrived at the door and dealt with the person on the other side by giving him the very best “you better have a good reason for waking me” red taser look I could muster at that time of the morning (with no result), I then trod down the hallway and through the house to go let the dogs out; still groaning and moaning the entire time. I felt so “off” that I had a fairly hard time getting into my usual morning routine. I had less than 40 minutes to complete the chores that normally take me at the very minimum an hour and 15 minutes. I was too numb to panic so I trod back through the house and slowly found my way into the shower; sadly, that didn’t even help. Once out of the shower I looked in the mirror and decided there wasn’t a whole lot that could be done in such a short time to make any

kind of a significant difference so I skipped the usual foundation and lipstick and went straight for the blow dryer. Let’s just say that nothing that transpired in that bathroom helped my mood

my keys were. After locating my keys I then turned my attention to getting out the door and into the car. Once seated in the car with my bags, coat, gloves and other misc. items necessary

nally opened the garage door and pulled the car out when (you are not going to believe this) I realized that the fob I needed next had decided to stop working. Well, it just so happens that when you

jam. So, I climb out of the car and walk over to the front porch so that I can WHACK the fob on the banister. Big mistake ... another fob on the same chain got in the way and fell to pieces before my eyes. I went to retrieve it and waa laa ... it had landed in a tiny little pile of dog excrement (I have no idea how that got THERE)! Ha! Ha! Oh what a beautiful day! Yay! ((not)) ... I felt so defeated and didn’t know what to think. Well, I drove to the office and was just getting ready to get out of my car when POP my fob fell apart again. (I wanted to cry!!) I had already tethered all of my miscellaneous items to my body in preparation of exiting the car and now I had to put it all aside and try to retrieve the missing pieces. I was not a “happy camper” at this point. Before this gets too lengthy suffice it to say that when I finally walked through the office doors it “just so happened” that a song was playing on the radio that had a medicinal effect on my soul and I immediately felt restored. Thank the Lord! Disaster averted! I didn’t lose my temper or fall apart in heap of tears, instead I went into my office thankful for hours to come.



at all with the exception of the fact that I seemed to have done away with the miserable moaning and groaning. I hurried to get dressed (now with a very wicked case of the yawns) and realized that I had no idea where

to do my job I realized that the garage door opener was in my other car and so I had to undo my seat belt ... throw my keys aside, find my keys to the other car and then make my way across the garage to retrieve the opener. I fi-

WHACK the fob real hard it will work again (I learned this from Bob) but I couldn’t WHACK it in my car because my car is fully computerized and I didn’t want to risk jarring something loose if I whacked the fob on my door

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SALISBURY'S STAKE

Continued to Page 2

with all your strength" is from Deuteronomy 6:5. These were what Jesus called the two great commandments – loving God, and loving others. "All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments," He said in Matthew 22:40.

Love is the great cause. Love is what should get us out of bed in the morning, guide our day, and put us peacefully to sleep at night. It's not a melody, a single line of notes to be played alone – it's a magnificent harmony, in which we immerse ourselves into the lives of others and they immerse themselves into ours, for the sake of the Kingdom. Listening to one musical instrument for any length of time is tedious, but imagine a well-practiced orchestra playing your favorite song...

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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM

Continued to Page 2

do things to cheer myself up. Sometimes I dance and sing and act silly with only my two tiny girls (my pups) looking on ... other times I will retreat to my favorite chase and pick up my Bible and hope to build character ... praying all the while that one of these activities will assuage my loneliness and be the platform to better things. All I know is that I always forget my "lonely" feeling and am soon firmly replanted into the day at hand. It's so much better than giving into a feeling of melancholy or depression. So determine to break the chains of loneliness ... may you find your way if you find yourself feeling lonely and may you have fun in the process.

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SPRING CLEANING CONTINUED TO PAGE 14

- Begin major Spring landscaping projects. Spring's the time to put in shrubs and trees, but check with your local extension office for specific planting recommendations for your area.
- Changing seasons, changing clothes. Hold a family wardrobe check as you bring out warm-weather clothing. Sort winter clothing for discards and donations before you store.
- Hold a garage sale! Declutter house and garage to turn trash into cash. Build your yard sale savvy here.
- Pick a weekend and enlist the family for Spring cleaning. Many hands make light work! Reward the team with dinner at a pizza parlor.
- Wash windows inside and out.
- While at the window area, check drapes and window treatments. Vacuum any dust; send dirtier drapes to the cleaners.
- Move furniture and vacuum beneath it.
- Arrange for a spring inspection of cooling systems. Don't wait for the first hot day! Air conditioning firms will give better service when they're not busy.
- When the weather warms, deactivate heat system humidifiers. Check the system manual for instructions on how to power down for the summer.
- Drain sediment from hot water heaters.

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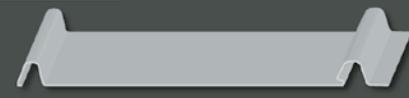
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COUPON CODE GNN
EXPIRES 2/28/12

Hours: Mon - Fri 8am-5:30pm • Sat 8am-4pm