

MOVING SPIRIT

September, 2003

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

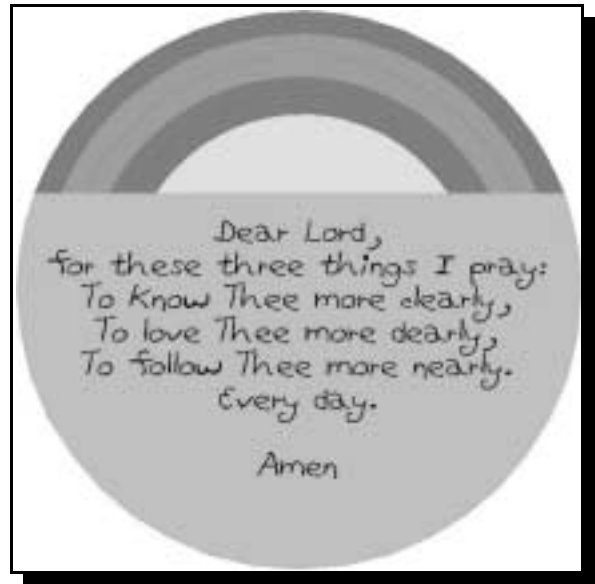
January is the least likely month for New Year's resolutions to be successful. Why? Because the annual cycle of the school year starting up after summer vacation has habituated us to September being the real month of "fresh starts."

Humans are peculiar. Just as Mother Nature says things are winding down, with fall on the way, human nature gets excited and enthused about new projects and re-beginnings. By the time winter hits, we are bustling about in full motion, caught up in seasonal celebrations.

The ancient prayer at the side is that of Richard of Chichester (1198-1253):

*Day by day, dear Lord,
Of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by day.*

The emphasis is on "more." Yesterday's spirituality is past. Today we must *renew* our zeal for a deeper love for God than previously enjoyed. The prayer embodies our ongoing quest for *spiritual renewal*. No matter how old we are, how far we've come with God, or how far we've wandered from Him, we all need "more,"



and through Christ "more" is available!

EVCC is at Eskaton to support you in your ambition for "more" in your life with God. Make a September resolution for *more* prayer, *more* Bible study, *more!* (Also, see inside for videos starting this month). -- Pastor David Hatton

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Parish Proclamations

The New Worship Service in the ALU has been well received. The consistent numbers of those attending have been the best indication of its success. Much thanks to the Music Room congregation for voting to change the service time to accommodate this new church service.

AND great gratitude to the nursing staff for all their assistance with residents who need help getting to the church service.

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New Video Series Starts Sept. 19th

On Friday, 9/19 at 1:00 PM in the TV Room, EVCC begins a video-series workshop called *Seven Keys to Spiritual Renewal*, featuring Steve Arterburn, Chairman and spokesman for New Life Clinics, the largest provider of professional Christ-centered counseling. There are 8 sessions total, held each Friday in succession. Come to the first one, an *Introduction*, to see if this is a series you would like to take in!

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Personal Pulpit

A true friend is an inspiration as well as a comfort, not so much by what he or she does for us as by what he or she incites us to do and to be, because of his or her example, his or her deeds, and his or her ideals. What others see in us to admire or to be grateful for is a result of what our friends, perhaps all unconsciously, have induced us to strive to become. -- Lyle S. Hoyt

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Old men shall dream dreams. Young men shall see visions. We all dream! When we add inspiration, we have a longing to find our part in the betterment of this world. Dreams lead to inspiration -- to vision with courage -- we recognize fear and overcome it. It takes courage to realize our visions and dreams. (contributed anonymously)

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Pithy Pieces

Sir James Stewart of Scotland, a famous New Testament scholar, wrote: "If we could but show the whole world that being committed to Christ is no tame, humdrum, sheltered monotony but the most thrilling, exciting adventure the human spirit can ever know, then those who have been standing outside the church and looking askance at Christ would come crowding in to pay allegiance to Him. And we might well expect the greatest revival since Pentecost."

Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstance. -- Bruce Barton

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Every man I meet is in some way my superior; and that I can learn from him. -- Emerson

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The dead go to their graves clutching in their hands only that which they have given. -- Anonymous

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The Christian knows that he has all time and eternity before him in which to explore the riches of the Divine Love, which he will never exhaust. He is therefore earnest, but unhurried. His present limitations do not trouble him for he has the everlasting years before him, and God beside him all the way.

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Cheer up now thou faint-hearted warrior.

Not only has Christ travelled the road, but he has slain thine enemies. Dost thou dread sin? He has nailed it to his cross. Dost thou fear death? He has been the death of Death. Art thou afraid of hell? He has barred it against the advent of any of his children; they shall never see the Gulf of perdition. Whatever foes may be before the Christian, they are all overcome. There are lions, but their teeth are broken; there are serpents, but their fangs are extracted; there are rivers, but they are bridged or fordable; there are flames, but we wear that matchless garment which renders us invulnerable to fire. The sword that has been forged against us is already blunted; the instruments of war which the enemy is preparing have already lost their point. God has taken away in the person of Christ all the power that anything can have to hurt us. -- Charles Spurgeon

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Praise's Portion

THANKSGIVING and PRAISE!
Thank You God for everything ---
the big things and the small,
For every good gift comes from the God
the giver of them all ---
And all too often we accept
without any thanks or praise
The gifts God sends as blessings
each day in many ways;
And so at this Thanksgiving Time
we offer up a prayer
To thank You, God, for giving us
a lot more than our share . . .
First, thank You for the little things
that often come our way,

The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray,
The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need . . .
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
of little, daily graces
That come to us with sweet surprise"
from never-dreamed-of places ---
Then, thank You for the "miracles"
we are too blind to see,
And give us new awareness
of our many gifts from Thee,
And help us to remember
that the key to life and living
Is to make each prayer a prayer of Thanks
and every day THANKSGIVING!

--Helen Steiner Rice

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Prayer's Priority

"Prayer is a radical conversion of all our mental processes because in prayer we move away from ourselves, our worries, preoccupation, and self-gratification-and direct all that we recognize as ours to God in the simple trust that through His love, all will be made new."

--Henri Nouwen

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Prayer enlarges the heart and tells it is capable of containing God's gift of Himself. -- Mother Teresa

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My Prayer As I Grow Older

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from

craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make the thoughtful but not moody; help full but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all... but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind from the recital of endless details... give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing, and love of reversing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others, but help me to enjoy them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory but a growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so. -- author unknown

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Poetry's Place

TODAY IS A FIELD

Today is a field to traverse,
From one side ... to the other.
To SEE the sky, and beyond.
To KNOW the heat of labor, and shade of rest.
To ROLL in the grass.
To FORGIVE the past.
To TRUDGE the valleys, TREK the hills.
To SEARCH the caves.
To DEVELOP the stride.
To INCREASE the strength.
To LEARN from the ants.

To SMELL the flora ... and the stench.
To FEEL the sun ... and the storm.
To HEAR the birds ... and the cries.
To MEDITATE, on the soil of a freshly dug grave.
To LISTEN, to WATCH, to WAIT for God.

Today is afield to traverse;
From here ... to the Creator.

--John E. Knight (Missionary to Asia)

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ALL IN A WORD By Aileen Fisher

T for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.

H for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.

A for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.

N for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to remember.

K for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.

S for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds.

That spells THANKS---for joy in living and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

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Pearls of Prudence

The every-day Christian has a seven-to-one chance over the Sunday practitioner.

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Love that goes up is worship
Love that goes outward is affection
Love that stoops is grace.

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Luck is the crossroads where
preparedness and opportunity meet.

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The only gift that can put us in a millionaire's bracket is the gift of ourselves, of our time and our effort.

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Our chief aim in life is to find someone who will make us do our best.-- Emerson

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Vacant lots attract rubbish; so do vacant minds.

Do you love life? Then do not squander time for that is the stuff life is made of. -- Franklin

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Preparedness

For all your days prepare,
And meet them ever alike.

When you are the anvil, bear.

When you are at the hammer strike.

-- Edwin Markham

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Pleasurable Pastime

Be Careful What You Pray For ...

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through so he prayed:

"Dear Lord, I go to work every day and put in 8 hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through, so please allow her body to switch with mine for a day. Amen."

God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish. The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman. He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their

lunches, drove them to school, came home and picked up the dry cleaning, took it to the cleaners and stopped at the bank to make a deposit, went grocery shopping, then drove home to put away the groceries, paid the bills and balance the check book. He cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog. Then it was already 1 P.M. and he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust, and sweep and mop the kitchen floor. Ran to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home. Set out cookies and milk and got the kids organized to do their homework, then set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing. At 4:30 he began peeling potatoes and washing vegetables for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper. After supper he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed. At 9 P.M. he was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love which he managed to get through without complaint.

The next morning he awoke and immediately knelt by the bed and said, "Lord, I don't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's being able to stay home all day. Please, oh please, let us trade back."

The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, replied, "My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were. You'll just have to wait nine months, though.

You got pregnant last night."

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Precious Principles

Every time we encourage someone, we give them a transfusion of love.

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Even the storms bear a message of encouragement for us: deeper roots make for stronger lives.

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WILLIAM TEMPLE, a great Anglican archbishop of the 20th century, defined the church as "the one institution in society which exists for the sake of those who are not its members. As important as is the church's institutional life, the church is never more true to itself, and to God, than when the followers of Christ go forth into the world, as servants of a servant Lord."

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Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And a pleasant land.
Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Help to make earth happy
Like they Heaven above.

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Past Pathways

There's a touching but unsubstantiated story about the *Praying Hands* by the German artist Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528). It is told that his creation was in appreciation of a brother who, to support Albrecht's education, went to work in the mines where his hands were deformed. If the tale is true, it makes the *Praying Hands* all the more precious to our thoughtful contemplation.

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Original Praying Hands by Dürer

