



MUSTARD SEED

Kalona Mennonite Church

In Pursuit

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I, Dawn, must confess that I am a recovering control freak. Though, this week I would say that the recovering part would be in itty, bitty letters that would require a powerful microscope in order to see them. It would be the truth to say that I like an orderly life. It is a stress reliever for me to have things in their proper place and also for things to happen in a timely manner. So God must have an incredible sense of humor. He has given me a husband whom I dearly love, but who really doesn't care if things are in their proper place and considers a set time to be a target that has a minimum leeway of an hour on either side. Granted, over the years we have both adjusted. I can be okay with some things out of place and I don't stress out as much about time schedules. And Curt puts more things

away and has tightened up his set time leeway.

The trouble this week is that I relapsed in my controlling ways. Not completely, but enough to make my blood pressure rise. As I look back over the last week I can see that it was the little things that were my downfall. The bigger problems I tended to turn to God and say, "I can't do this." My stress and anxiety went up with the smaller things that I felt I should have been able to control. My pride and lack of humility got in my way time and time again. Not only that, but the verse from I Peter 5:6-7 would cross my mind from time to time, but I didn't take the time to meditate on it and pray about it. I turned away from the power and blessing that God was trying to give me through His Word.

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Special points of interest:

- *We are told to take the WHOLE of our care to God.*
- *Congratulations to all the new graduates*
- *Because I came respecting their beliefs, they respect mine.*

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Control Freak





(Cont. from page 1) I like the amplified version of this verse, because it leaves my pride less wiggle room to lead me astray. Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you, casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.” We are not told to just take some of our cares to God. We are told to take the WHOLE of our care to God. For me, not taking all the little snags in my life to God was an act that was prideful and lacked humility. It was sin in my life. It took my focus off God. Proverbs 16:25 sums this attitude up: “There is a way that seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way to death.”

Even though I spent a lot of my week in the misery of my control freak mindset, something good came out of it. God didn't leave me there. He kept after me. He kept bringing I Peter 5:6-7 to my mind.

He sent people, thoughts and devotionals my way to lead me back to Him. Last night I was reading a chapter from the book, The Knowledge of the Holy, by A.W. Tozer. In it Tozer states “Our insistence upon seeing ahead is natural enough, but it is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress. God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives, the moment we turn in faith to Him.” The scriptures he put with this statement are Isaiah 42:16 and Isaiah 45:2-3. I encourage you to look into these passages and see the promises God has put there. God promises to lead us to places that we don't know anything about and He has blessings in these places for His followers.

How can I follow God if I am not focused on Him? How can I follow God if my mind is on all the little things in my life that aren't going the way that I planned? But wait, God promises to take me to places that I don't know about. I can't plan to go there. I don't even know they exist. The only way I

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can get there is to give up my control to God. Granted it isn't easy. But I desire to do it. (Can you see the letters of 'recovering' growing bigger?) I know I may relapse from time to time, but I hope it will be less and less often and to a smaller and smaller degree. But I also know that God will be there to set me back on track and keep drawing me closer and closer to Him. Isn't God incredible!

As always, in pursuit, Dawn.

GOLDEN CIRCLE BREAKFAST, May 21st





WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

Greetings and now for the news:

Katie Stalter has left Washington DC and is starting a one year term working for the International Rescue Committee in Kenya, Africa. She will be working in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, which has over 50,000 refugees. Katie is the daughter of Karen Stalter.

Derald Bender was on his early morning pastry delivery route, which starts at about 3:00 AM, and was listening to WHO-AM Radio. So Van & Bonnie were talking and Van said "you just can't find a good apricot pie anymore." So Derald hears this and calls WHO and talks with Van and tells him that the Kalona Bakery has them. So several weeks later Derald is in Des Moines at a food show and personally delivers a nice fresh apricot pie to Van Harden during his radio show. Needless to say the Kalona Bakery received a lot of good free advertising that day. Good job!

Tony Hostetler, who recently graduated from EMU, is getting ready to leave for Peru, South America. He will spend 3 weeks there in the Cross Cultural Program. Then back to Kalona for the summer and on to Harrisonburg, Virginia in the fall to work and live in that community. Let the adventure begin!

The Golden Circle Spring Breakfast was attended by about 65 KMC'ers. The guest speaker was Gary Dolphin (Voice of the Iowa Hawkeyes). We all got a good summary of how the Iowa football & basketball teams were shaping up for the coming season. Aline Schipper and about 7 of the Venture girls helped serve the breakfast. Also a big thanks to Diane Schrock who organized the yummy breakfast, with the help of others who furnished the egg casseroles and coffee cake. It was a very entertaining morning and thanks again to all those who helped put it together.

Paul Batcheller received a "Top Cops" Award in Washington DC. He was nominated by and works for the Iowa City Police Department. Paul was one of only seven who received this national award. His wife Kara also made the trip along with Paul. Congratulations!

Congratulations to all the new graduates: High School: Mid-Prairie—Kyle Bontrager & R.J. Bontrager. Iowa Mennonite – Carlie Bender, Kara Schlabaugh, Mollie Ferguson & Malachi Bontrager. Home School – Michelle Lehman. College: Hesston College – Jodi Ferguson, Kelsey Schrock & Josh Snyder. Eastern Mennonite University – Tony

Hostetler. Bluffton College – Jonathan Wyse. Post-graduate: Drake University – Joel Koerner. Associate Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Beth Miller & Amanda Beachy. St. Ambrose College – Catrina Schrock Miiller.

Jim Bachmann has moved from Marion, Iowa to Coralville. This has been a very good move because not only is he closer to Art & Fern where he spends weekends, but he also knows a lot of the residents where he now stays at in Coralville. We are glad for all of you.

Mollie Ferguson (KMC) and Emma Yoder (East Union) collected used shoes for "Soles 4 Souls", which will be sent to those in need around the world. They had big boxes located at IMS, KMC & East Union Mennonite Church. Together they collected almost 500 pairs of shoes. Good job girls!

Well that's it for this time. Remember everyone involved in Vacation Bible School.

Blessings to all, Ed V. & Carol



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We are on the web:
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Gary Dolphin speaks at Golden Circle Breakfast



A Note From Erica

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