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WESTWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ladies Newsletter

Camouflage

By Amy McCracken

Changing leaves, falling temperatures and camouflage can only mean one thing...it's fall and more importantly to some it's hunting season! Although hunting season may not be important to many, it is a time when I get to sit alone quietly for hours and think and reflect on many things. The following, although not exact, are the thoughts that went through my mind while hunting earlier this month. Hopefully they will make you stop and reflect as well.

It's 5:00am and time to get up and get ready so I can be in place before the sun comes up. Sunrise is around 7:30am so I have to be in my tree (about 20 feet up) and all set by 6:30am. As I walk through the tall grass and trees the only sound I hear is that of the grass scraping on my boots. I make it to my stand, and begin to climb up. Once at the top I retrieve my bow, set up my chair and get my last minute preparations complete. It is now 6:20am and time to be still.

With the dark and quiet my mind starts to think of a million different things. The first was I hope the girls are being good for "B" (grandma for those of you who don't know) followed closely by prayers of thanksgiving for my girls, my family, and anything else that happens to pop in my head which usually takes about 30 minutes. It is a most welcome time of meaningful prayer for me. As sunrise creeps closer I can start to make out images of animals beginning to move about...although it is still too dark to really see what they are. As the sun begins to peek out over the trees I have the pleasure of watching the birds, bugs, & grasshoppers slowly waking. Oh yes, and the deer have started to arrive too. As I sit in the tree covered from head to toe in camouflage I see two large birds flying by. One flies over the tree while the other lands on the branch directly in front of me. Much to my surprise it was a beautiful owl-brown and white and simply stunning. I froze not wanting to startle it, but just to watch it for a while. However, I think he was just as surprised as I in that when he finally saw me...off he took. The beautiful bird was completely unaware that I was sitting in the tree when he made his decision to land. I then thought...no matter how much camouflage I wear God can always see me. Hmmmm...do I always act like He can? Probably not, but then I thought,...do I try and "camouflage" myself when it comes to showing Christ to others and letting Him show? Probably so at times.

These thoughts left for a while due to the deer becoming more active...but after they left (no I didn't shoot this time) the same thoughts came back to me. They had no idea I was here, but God always knows where I am. So I began thinking again, how many of us go through our daily lives like this? Wanting or hoping that no one can see us?

When it was time to head back for a while and grab something to eat (and a nap of course) I was still thinking...I don't see anything, but that doesn't mean that there isn't something there. That reminded me again of Christ who is always there watching even though we may not see Him.

That evening the same thoughts kept running through my head as I was able to watch the deer eat and play, a coyote trying to find something to eat, an armadillo rustling around in the grass, a bunny making his way back to his nest, raccoons grabbing a bite to eat and many birds getting ready for sleep. Finally, darkness came upon me and everything returned quiet again just as the day had begun many hours before. I quietly left.

This recap of the thoughts and actions of the day may not be meaningful to most, but I think that we should all be aware and try not to camouflage our lives—except when hunting of course. God can see you and wants others to see Him through you so don't try to hide or blend in. Take off the camouflage and let His light and love show to everyone you meet.

December Ladies Class

Judy Wood is organizing a ladies class that will begin in December. She is asking for your preference on which study you would prefer. Please let Judy know as soon as possible what you would like so that she can get the books ordered.

That you may believe: the gospel of John

Our Father in Heaven-Teach us to Pray

A Light in the Darkness - Elisha and Elijah

The shadow of the Cross, Discovering the Aroma of the Beatitudes

God, Pass by Me - the Names of God

Announcements/Prayer Concerns:

Expectant Mothers-Ashley Colbert (boy), Amber Davis, April Everhart & The King family for their adoption (girl)

Food Pantry-Peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, rice, cereal, tuna, canned chicken breast, canned fruit & soup

Care Packages-If you have military friends or family stationed in the Middle East, send their names/addresses and their relationship to you to Robyn Peery and a care package will be sent to them. A collection box is located in the foyer.

Prayers:

Davis/Nelson Family on the passing of Amber's dad

Gerald Hall (grandfather of Jacob Hall) has cancer and is under hospice care

Chad Brack (cousin of Gwen Smith) & others who were injured in Afghanistan

Robert Posselt for continued treatment for a ruptured disc

Tatum Flaming (friend of Frost's) Leukemia relapse

John Williams is home recovering from surgery & is undergoing dialysis 3 times/week

Alberta Blackburn (Rob's grandmother) is recovering from hip replacement surgery

Oral Semore has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

Soldiers: Jarrod Charles, Michael Kennemer, Jeff McGuffey

Upcoming Events:

October 23—Baby Shower for Ashley Colbert & baby boy from 2-4pm in the home of Jenny Vanover. Ashley is registered at Green Bambino & Babies R Us.

October 30—Fellowship lunch after worship & to welcome home Rhoda White! The Dees' small group will be providing the meal.

November 11 & 12—All ladies are encouraged to attend the Women of Faith seminar in OKC. There are 25 spots this year. If you put down \$45 to reserve your ticket by Oct. 16th your name will be entered in a drawing to receive your ticket for FREE! The deadline to purchase tickets (\$89) is Oct. 23rd. Please see Jenny Vanover or Stephanie Frost for more information or to reserve your ticket.

Ladies Bible Study—Don't forget about the Bible study "Fruit of Joy" on Wednesday's from 10-11am. Babysitting provided. (Babysitter Wanted—see Beth Dees)

If you have questions or comments or if you would like to contribute a piece to the newsletter please contact Amy McCracken.