



**"In the beginning..."
To help remember your original goodness**

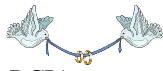
GENESIS MINISTRY

June 2010

Long Overdue Newsletter ~ Surprises from our Creator

"God has shown us what is good: what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"
Micah 6:8

It is with humility that we write this long overdue newsletter. As in everyone's life we too have a very full schedule and we thank our God for the many opportunities He has placed in our path. We are deeply grateful to our God for the generosity of our benefactors. Know of our heart filled daily prayer for each of you and yours. *'Those to whom much has been given, much will be required.'*
Luke 12:48



God is a master of surprises. In January a young couple contacted Dennis via our Genesis web site. They were interested in becoming Catholic. We, along with our RCIA team, prepared them, they came into the Church April 3rd and Dennis will witness their Catholic covenant marriage this August 21st – Praise God!

Suffering Grace?

Today we live in a culture that seeks instant gratification. If it feels good – do it. This calls us to selfishness. We are more concerned about how we feel, how we are doing: it is all about me, me, me. Suffering on the other hand is something we avoid at all costs. When we are afflicted with suffering, we do everything in our power to remove the suffering or numb the pain. The question that comes to my mind is do we have it right? Ultimately society asks the question – why am I suffering or why me? Society continues to ask that question about suffering. I have been pondering this for years. Recently I have had more time to reflect on this topic as I recover from shoulder surgery on May 14th. The normal recovery is five months so I need your prayers as my life activities change for a while.

A number of years ago a book was written 'Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?' The real question is, why do good people suffer? We realize we are really asking the question, is suffering evil? The answer is yes. We see this as we hear people say things like 'I'm sorry your recovery is slow' or 'Sorry you are suffering. Is "yes" the correct answer?

What I'm gradually learning and beginning to appreciate is what the Apostle Paul says: "In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church" St. Paul is saying suffering is redemptive when it is understood in the light of Christ and God's love for humanity. If our suffering is in communion with Christ then our suffering is good and not evil.

Pope John Paul II wrote: "Human suffering evokes *compassion*; it also evokes *respect*, and in its own way *it intimates*. For in suffering is contained the greatness of a specific mystery." And "Since I too have shared the experience of illness several times in recent years, I have come to understand more and more clearly its value for my Petrine ministry and for the Church's life itself," "to contemplate with faith the mystery of Christ crucified and risen, in order to discover God's loving plan in their own experience of pain. Only by looking at Jesus, 'a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief' (Isaiah 53: 3), is it possible to find serenity and trust."

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_11021984_salvificidoloris_en.html

JP II deals with these questions in the above link location with much greater expertise and wisdom than I ever could. I suggest reading it when you have time so you might be more able to respond to the questions of suffering.

I praise and thank God that He has gifted me with an opportunity to begin to learn some of the mysteries of redemptive suffering. We pray for each one of our benefactors to Genesis Ministry and our joint mission of bringing the truth of God's love to all. We pray for you to join us that God will bless those who need his mercy most.

Get Involved

**Genesis Prayer Group
meets every Monday
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

in our home.

Recent Series:

- ◆Ralph Martin's DVD
'Fulfillment of All Desire'
- ◆Intercessors of the Lamb on
'Empowerment of the Holy Spirit'

Beginning July 12th:

- ◆Christopher West's CD
'Theology of the Body'

God is leading us to grow in holiness and how to use His gifts.

**Every second Tuesday
5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Sts. Peter & Paul
Meals program**

Triads are set up for prayer in the back of the room. We have some who come regularly for prayer and we always witness God's healing love and presence.

All are welcome to join us for prayer triads at Sts. Peter & Paul Meals program or Prayer Group any time. If you know anyone interested in coming, please contact us.



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Update on Yvonne



Yvonne, the young woman in Kenya, Africa whom Genesis has been sponsoring (tuition and board) since 2006, is about to become a lawyer and presently is preparing her presentation and oral examination. She will soon accomplish her goal to help better the lives of women and children in her country.

Welcome Home

Our daughter, Jeana, has found a job and moved back to St. Louis this week. She will stay with us until her family can join her from Wisconsin, pending the sale of their home and a job for her husband, Scott. Their sons, (our grandsons) will arrive by the end of July, to get settled in before school starts.

What's new with Deacon Dennis & Elizabeth?

Dennis is retired, which means he does not get paid for the ministry he does. He continues to serve as Permanent Deacon at Sts. Peter & Paul parish in Soulard, pray for individuals in our home and the Catholic renewal Center, ministers over the phone and email and Mr. fix-it jobs for others. **Life is full as usual.**

Elizabeth volunteered at St. John's Mercy Medical Center as a Eucharistic Minister in 2008 & 2009. Last year the Pastoral Care Office called and invited her to work as a Chaplain Assistant four days per week. Each day she encounters 25 – 35 patients plus staff who pour out their concerns. This has been a blessing for her and those she ministers to as she sees Christ loving them even when they don't know Him. All of our lives are about planting seeds and letting God water and cause the growth.

How Can You Help?

Please pray for Genesis Ministry and our Board which will be meeting on July 17th to pray and listen to ways in which God is calling Genesis Ministry to serve those in need. Thank you to all of those who have made us part of your giving plan.

Tax deductible financial contributions can be made payable to:

Genesis Ministry and mailed to:
7800 Robin Meadow Ct
St. Louis, MO 63119

Prayer Box

Pray for the leaders of our nation, corporations and churches to be more Christ like.

'If my people humble themselves and pray and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them and pardon their sins and revive their land...'

2 Chronicles 7:14-16

We see more violence as jobs and financial concerns burden many. Genesis Ministry experiences many needy situations brought to us for help. Recently we gave a used bike to a young father who needed transportation to work and paid for a car transmission to be rebuilt for a large family struggling financially. Small steps but to them it was huge.

When we put all of our faith and trust in God to lead and direct our steps like Julienne of Norwich we can say *'All is well'*. Let us continue to pray for each other to have the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit fanned into flame and set this world ablaze one step at a time.

SPIN Marriage Retreat ~ Twirling Success

Dennis lead Elizabeth in Theophostic prayer and she was freed of her fear of not being heard and listened to. This allowed her to say yes and go forward with a marriage retreat that Genesis board had discerned in the spring of 2009. After six months of meeting every Tuesday with two team couples the first SPIN (SPiritual INTimacy) Marriage Retreat happened April 16 & 17, 2010. Couples were asked to complete an evaluation and shared the following:

Significant part

- ♥ 'getting to spend quality time with my spouse and learning tools to get through hard times'
- ♥ 'The personal demonstrations were most helpful'
- ♥ 'We came to the Altar for the Sacrament. We must continue to pray to reap the benefits'
- ♥ 'This is what I really need to enter into to have parts of my marriage healed because of wounds of my childhood'

Would you invite friends?

- ♥ 'This is a gift that is meant to share'
- ♥ 'Yes, to anyone interested in learning more about Spiritual Intimacy and growing as a couple. This is the best.'

Our plan was to have a more in depth seminar on healing prayer following this retreat but Dennis' surgery has postponed this.

If you know of a need or a concern that you believe Genesis Ministry could assist, please call us or email us at **chitwood@genesis-ministry.org** or **314-246-9282**.