Dear Lexie,

A Time to Plant

We are blessed to live in a corner of the world where we can fully experience seasonal changes. In just a few weeks the National Mall and many of our streets and yards will burst with blossoming flowers of every color and size. In fact, my favorite time to visit Washington DC is during the Cherry Blossom festival, when hundreds of flower-filled trees decorate our nation's capital.

The Road Less Traveled

As we celebrate every year the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we rejoice together in a great weekend celebration with family and friends...

Living the Question

"You don't think your way into a new kind of living: you live your way into a new kind of thinking." - Parker Palmer in The Promise of
Guest:
Rosello Castro, Pianist
Ben & Swen Solis, Duet

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Unclaimed Property
Kathy's Story

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A time to plant

We are blessed to live in a corner of the world where we can fully experience seasonal changes. In just a few weeks the National Mall and many of our streets and yards will burst with blossoming flowers of every color and size. In fact, my favorite time to visit Washington DC is during the Cherry Blossom festival, when hundreds of flower-filled trees decorate our nation’s capital.

This display of color and life reminds us of our Creator, a Creator who so beautifully designed everything around us and has given us seasons and time. As spring comes around we see life spring up from the seemingly dead and beauty come out of the remains of a cold dull winter.

Solomon reflected on this when he wrote,

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted.” Ecclesiastes 3:1,2

But as spring comes around we are also reminded of another event, the greatest celebration of life ever known. As we gather in remembrance, we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In His death He paid the price for our sins and as He rose from the dead he granted us abundant and eternal life.

Yet I want to challenge you to also plant this spring. Plant seeds that will produce fruits of eternal life. This a prime time to reach out to our friends and family, neighbors and colleagues, and invite them to join us as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus on the final weekend of the month.

We may never know the full extent of the fruits brought forth by the seeds we plant, but in God’s infinite wisdom and timing we can trust that when “spring” comes around many of these seeds will burst into a rich, full and eternal life in Jesus Christ.
Resurrection Weekend – Bring a Friend

http://www.hope4washington.com/resurrection-weekend-bring-a-friend

March 21, 2013

“WATER IS THICKER THAN BLOOD” DAT Feature: We Have This Hope!!

As we celebrate every year the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we rejoice together in a great weekend celebration with family and friends. Though we often invite people to join us through conventional means, this year we are making an extra effort in inviting our friends to be a part of this celebration. We want to use this event as an opportunity for all of us to invite our friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ.

In order to make this even easier we have prepared 1500 door-hangers, just over 1,000 will be distributed on March 16th after second service to our local community. We invite you to dedicate an hour of your time in helping us distribute this invitation in our community. But wait! We ordered another 500 extra door hangers for you to distribute in your own local neighborhood as you invite your friends and neighbors to celebrate with us.

But we didn’t stop there. We also made an extra 500 PERSONAL INVITATIONS for the events. These invitation will be made available so that you can invite your close friends, family, and neighbors to church this resurrection weekend. We pray that you may use these tools and seize the opportunity to share the good news of His Resurrection and His soon return.
upcoming events

Annual Family Fun Festival
- Location: Community Center
- Date: April 14, 2013
- Time: 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.
- Features:
  - Live entertainment
  - Face painting
  - Food and drinks
  - Games and activities for all ages
- Admission: Free

Free Workshops & Activities:
- Money-Saving Tips
- Health and Safety
- Home Improvement Demonstration

Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Location: First Baptist Church
- Dates: June 10-14
- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Admission: Free

All are welcome!

Sligo
Community Adventist Church

Door-Hanger
back
Coming in April – First Monday and Book Club meetings DAT Feature: We Have This Hope!!

“You don’t think your way into a new kind of living: you live your way into a new kind of thinking.” — Parker Palmer in The Promise of Paradox

Once, when Jesus was walking the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee, he came upon two men, Simon and Andrew. Jesus gave them an offer they apparently couldn’t refuse: “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And just like that they went. Farther up the beach the trio came upon James and John mending nets with their father and the hired men. Jesus called them too, and they dropped everything and went with him.

We’ve read these verses so many times their sharp edges have worn off. We don’t see this incident as unusual anymore. But the fact is that four men gave up their jobs to follow someone they did not know to places they’d never been in order to do things they couldn’t conceive of doing for purposes they couldn’t imagine.

Maybe these weren’t the first people Jesus had called. Maybe he’d been turned down flat by others, but he would not be deterred from his mission, so he kept at it until he got a response. The entrance requirements for this job were simple: if he called and you answered, you were in. The proof that you were the right person was that you jumped at the chance. Not everybody did. Jesus said later that many are called, but few are chosen, which might suggest that Jesus himself had a particular type of person in mind, someone that he would recognize once he saw that person.

But there’s another angle to the story in the way John’s Gospel tells it. In his version John the Baptist is talking to two of his disciples the day after he has encountered Jesus for the first time. John makes it clear that he did not know Jesus, but that he was baptizing in order to draw Jesus out to be revealed to Israel. When he saw the Spirit descending on Jesus he knew he’d found the right one.
The next day, standing with two of his disciples, he watched Jesus walk by, and he said, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ And immediately these two trailed after Jesus until he turned and asked them what they were looking for. ‘Where are you staying?’ they asked, discreetly angling for an invitation. ‘Come and see,” said Jesus, and so they spent the rest of the day with him. That initial meeting was enough to convince Andrew, who brought his brother Simon, back to meet Jesus.

The day after that—and John is specific about this—Jesus headed to Galilee. He found Philip, who was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown, and simply said, ‘Follow me.’ Philip went looking for his brother in order to tell him that he’d found the one of whom Moses and the prophets spoke. Nathanael was skeptical. “Something good coming from Nazareth?,” he asked. Philip didn’t argue but simply said, ‘Come and see.’ And when Jesus saw Nathanael he commended him for being a straight-up fellow, someone who wasn’t trying to be something he wasn’t and who wouldn’t be swayed without evidence.

On the third day, says John, Jesus took his disciples up to a wedding in Cana and saved the party by providing the best wine when asked. In three days, by John’s account, Jesus formed his group and performed a miracle that revealed who he was to the disciples.

For me the interest in this story lies not in the conflicting details in the gospels of where, when, and whom, but in the mindset of those who were called and chosen. What were they thinking? How did they overcome their prejudices? How did they learn to see and hear what others had ignored? This is all the more remarkable, given the fact that, as anthropologist Edward Hall notes in his book, The Silent Language, “once people have learned to learn in a given way it is extremely hard for them to learn in any other way.”

Perhaps they heard and saw and acted, despite their questions, because in acting they understood they would live their way into the answers.
As many of you know, I lost my mom last year. Since I had the dubious honor of being named the personal representative, I have been busy settling her estate. This task has been made even more difficult by the fact that I am the last person of my immediate family—the last one standing if you will. As I was working my way through the mountains of paperwork my brother-in-law recommended that I visit the unclaimed property website. “You never know, maybe there’s something there your mom didn’t know about.” I pictured a huge warehouse of luggage, property and goodies that had been separated from their rightful owners.

And so I went to the website. Sure enough when I typed in Mom’s name I found that—indeed—she did have some unclaimed property. At first there was something exciting about this prospect. I mean maybe this was something big that she just forgot about! Or maybe Daddy had some heretofore undisclosed investments. I filed the necessary paperwork and waited for my fortune to arrive.

As I have gone through this whole process—of endless calls and financial statements that don’t make sense—I, too, have felt like unclaimed property. Set adrift without the moorings of those who know me best, how will I find my way? Who really knows me? Who shares the slices of life that define who I am? The answers have come through relatives and good friends and the love of my husband. At the repast, I wondered back to a table of friends just to say hello and thank them for their support. There, they gave me a precious gift: they recalled stories of my family—and made me laugh! Through shared memories they reminded me that my family lives through me.

It also strikes me that we all feel like unclaimed property from time to time. Stepping on the crowded subway, running from one commitment to the next, it’s easy to feel worthless and unloved. Our schedules and busy-ness often mask the feeling that somehow we are unclaimed property. But that’s not so. Through the eyes of faith we know this is not true! In Romans Paul tells us, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angles nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
As it turns out, not one of us is unclaimed property. None of us is sitting in a huge warehouse of nameless “stuff”. For we have been redeemed: made whole with meaning and purpose! And nothing in can separate us from this redeeming Love.

What happened to Mom’s unclaimed property that was to become my fortune? Let me put it to you this way: I’m not going to be rubbing elbows with Bill Gates anytime soon.

By: Kathy Johnson

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