



I am back this pre-dawn to my precious morning MUG, simply sharing what is heavy on my heart of late, HOLY GROUNDS FOR THOUGHT, something Pres. Carmen said to me last week that rings true in the lives of many of us...LIFE GETS IN THE WAY! Sometimes, in our scurry to meet deadlines, those we put on ourselves, or the wicked pressures & the suffocations around us in grief, wars, turmoil. confusion, certainly politics, family dynamics, health, finances....we need to breathe deep "from the fragrance" of one of the finest scriptural "brews" ever: Ephesians 2:4-9.

Dear Friends in Christ...Greetings, just weeks "out of the gate," from one of the most exhilarating, productive District Spring Board of Directors' meetings ever, hosted in Roseburg, full of excitement, optimism, and focus on our upcoming 2018 Convention come July! I sat down days later with my spouse and was privileged to stumble on the live feed of Rev. Billy Graham's Memorial, seen round-the-world by at least a half century of followers. And for sixty-precious minutes, led by his son, Franklin, at the end, we were reminded of the "fragrance" filling our lungs and souls from Ephesians 2:4-9, Graham's favorite scripture, "**But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.**"

So it is, when LIFE GETS IN THE WAY, we are forgiven to slow down and reach for the Word that gives us solace, reach out to those who comfort us, reach inward and search our hearts that we are doing the right things for the right reason, and reach a point where it is alright, in the eyes of God, to simply sit, rest and reflect. And drink from the Holy grounds, good strong brew. We will be called at Convention, moving on in our Ephesians study, to be cleansed in Christ and bathed in that new slate....water & wine of the sacraments to ever bring us closer to the gift of God.

In the midst and presence of this Lenten season, we are grateful to focus on the cross and our personal inheritance...I came away from Roseburg, where we were surrounded by dozens of committed leaders working on our behalf and the preservation of this fine organization, realizing that each one carries her own special gift of commitment, {be it time, talents or treasures} that comes together to make the wheels turn and churn. And we work well under His guidance and blessings, recognizing that is what feeds us continually. The energy was palpable.

In small groups, we re-addressed our shortfalls, identified our personal mission statements, focused on immediate defined goals, and urged one another to take advantage of today's modern Communication devices...to hold one another close and in prayer. We celebrate the upcoming Mission Grant requests coming before us. We are so ever grateful for the women who have agreed to move up in vacancies created this next Biennium, 2018~2020 and serve the Lord with Gladness!

So, as Paul & Timothy said to the saints in Philippi.

Philippians 1:7: It is right for me to feel this way about you all, since I have you in my heart...for all of you share in God's grace with me.

Prayerfully...this FEBRUARY~MARCH 2018 HUG~IN~A~MUG

.... Yours, Pat Reck, Leader Development Chrmn.