

The Silent Honor

This world has seen many fathers
Who have performed many great and noble things.

Strengthened a nation,
Silenced fears,
Relieved suffering
And changed the course of history.



Yet the most great and noble father I have known
Lives within the walls of my own home.
He performs no extraordinary tasks,
No miraculous feats;
He just does what is right because
It is right.

He needs no adulation,
No praise or glory of men.
He just goes about doing good because
That is how it makes him feel.

But there are those that see his goodness.
They are his children.
Indeed, they may not always see
But they know
That this silent honor is what they will pass on
To their children.

They know that true greatness needs no praise
It is found in the day-to-day living of unwearied goodness
They have seen their father give.
Such goodness is truly a remarkable thing,
Far greater than any glory found in the annals of history.

For one day the child will say:
'He is my father'
And know it is an honor.

© Joseph D. Jensen The Silent Honor
Read more: The Silent Honor In A Father's Goodness, Fathers Day Poems
<http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/holiday/poetry.asp?poem=109#ixzz1O6yuLW8r>

with thankfulness Happy Father's Day!

Missions Report

Correspondent Rhoda Snader
submitted by Heidi Whitman



A Day in the Life of a Missionary Family

Javier comes out to the Linguistics Center to translate with LeRoy because it's difficult to get much done in the Mixtec Highlands (Mitlatongo) with all the responsibilities they require of Javier out there.

We live in our house near the Linguistics Center. And a busy house it is! I (Heidi) get up, have a long draught of lime water with diatomaceous earth, to deal with any worms I may have encountered in the last 24 hours. I'll have a disinfected mango, pineapple, and banana smoothie later.

I teach David (6) kindergarten and he learns a letter a week. Then I rope Andrew (8) into sitting still long enough - actually I've long given up on the sitting part since movement seems to motor his brain - to do his flashcards and read to me and check and fix his reading workbook. Then I check Elijah's (10) homework and help him understand it better. Serena (14) and Jasmine (12) want my to check their finished work soon after. Hurry! They want to go play with their friends!

They have it made. They can run or bike down the dirt road and play at their friend's house, or their friends play here, or they go to the Linguistics Center. The friend that lives furthest away is only about a mile! They make forts in the unused land nearby, jump on our trampoline, make their own movies of Lego cars driving by, play Stick Gunner, and write stories together. They have to be home for supper at 7:30 PM now that it's daylight savings time.





At 3:40 PM Evan (18) and Caleb (16) come home from Oaxaca city, where they go to a small, English-speaking missionary high school. They are usually exhausted from the 40 minute drive, the heat and dust. They are very hungry, too.

We are savoring our last days with Evan. He has a ticket to fly to PA on June 10th. He hopes to find a job and make some money. Evan has been accepted to Biola University and wants to study International Business. He wants to reach other areas of the culture that need our Jesus. We are so excited for him, yet grieving that we will be without our respectful, loving, tactful, and responsible oldest son! Caleb is coming with Evan to PA to work too. Our visas to be with Wycliffe in Mexico make it illegal to make money here.

One of my favorite days of the week is Saturday. I walk to the market and buy the week's groceries. I buy most of the fruit and veggies at one stand, where we know each other by name. I enjoy chatting with my friends, too. When I'm ready to leave, I tell the owner and he helps me carry all the food out to the main street where motor-taxis (motorcycles with a cab and backseat) wait. I get a fresh-air ride home for only 5 pesos/50 cents and the driver helps me carry the heavy baskets of potatoes and mangos, etc. into our yard.



The rainy season is beginning. The children love to run in the rain in the street and play in the mud and water that runs down the dirt road! Rain is so welcome after 6 months of dry season.

The rain of God's Spirit is also SO welcome and refreshing after the hard warfare we've been through, and still experience, but God's love makes it all worth it.

Are you getting any of God's rain?

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Rockville Mennonite Church
210 Cupola Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344
610.273.9577 rmchurch@ptd.net
Editor: Twila Ranck
submissions received at
twila@familiescatalog.com



Mary Weiler shared tips about friendships at the Ladies Tea, May 10th, using the metaphor of flowers and bees. Reprinted here are a few of her thoughts.

1. Bee Genuine.

Be the person God created you to be. He designed each of us unique and special in our own way. You may not have certain talents or abilities that someone else has. But if you're not content with the gifts God gave you, you are inhibiting your friendships. What kind of flower are you in God's flower garden? Are you a beautiful orchid, a delicate lily of the valley, or a fragrant lilac? Each flower variety has its own distinctive beauty. So our lives can reflect God's beauty as we fashion our lives after Him Ephesians 5:1-2 'Be imitators of God...as dearly loved children and live a life of love just a Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.'

2. Bee Transparent.

Picture a beautiful rose. If it refused to open and wanted to remain only in the bud stage, you could not capture its full beauty. Are we unwilling to open ourselves fully because others may see our faults or weaknesses that we'd like to hide? Are we open enough to ask our friends to disclose our blind spots? James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.'

3. Bee Honest.

Become a person whom others can trust. Are we being honest when we tell others 'I'm fine.' when inside we may be deeply hurting and need a friend to share our feelings with.

Ephesians 4:25 'Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.'



4. Bee Loving.

Think of your friendships in light of this quote from George Eliot. 'Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person having neither to weigh thoughts or measure words, but to pour them out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful friend will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.' I Corinthians 13:4-7. I Peter 4:8 'Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins.'

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5. Bee Compassionate.

Be a Good Samaritan. Bill Gothard's definition of compassion is 'feeling your hurts in my heart'. Gestures of kindness speak volumes. Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another.

6. Bee Hospitable.

Focus on important issues. If the house isn't prepared, make sure your heart is. When I see dust in my own house, it looks bad, but I get a different perspective in other's houses that may be dusty, etc. I know their focus is on their relationship to God and other people. Romans 12:13 'Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.'



7. Bee an Encourager.

An encourager is one who cheers you on and enables you to do what you thought was impossible. Quote, 'A friend is someone who will make us do what we can when we are saying we can't'. I Thessalonians 5:11 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'

8. Bee Available.

To have a beautiful attractive flower garden it takes time to pull the weeds, mulch, and fertilize it. So be willing to give up your time whenever necessary to invest in the deepening of your friendships. Sometimes it would be easier to give \$10. instead of 10 hours of your day. Galatians 6:10 'Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.'

9. Bee Friendly.

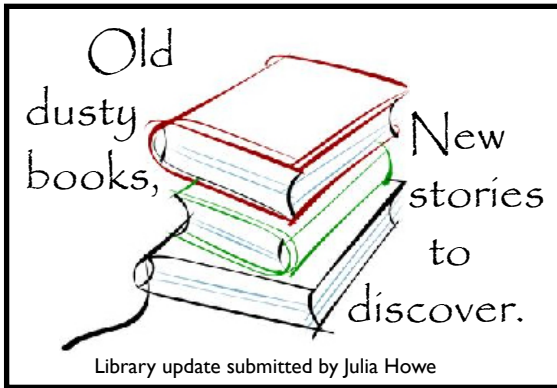
To have a friend is to be one. One mother shared recently how she told her daughter if you are feeling lonely, it's because you're not being a friend to someone. Don't keep your focus inward. Along with that - be a friend of God. He deserves our love. Jeremiah 31:3 'I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'

She left us with the challenge to bloom in God's flower garden to our fullest potential.



'Bee the best friend you can be to others.'

gleaned from Mary Weiler's notes and submitted by Twila Ranck.



Richer by India by Myra Scovel

The book cover states “The warm personal story of the lively day-by-day adventures of an American missionary family in India” Myra Scovel does indeed share her family story in a “warm personal” way.

Excerpt from the book:

“Do you think India will be anything like China?” I asked my husband. He always looks like a Viking when he stands at the rail of a ship. We had sailed from New York in late April. When we came up on deck that morning of May 16, 1953, the harbor of Bombay was resting upon the water like a jeweled ring on green satin.

“It will probably be very dull after China,” Fred replied. “You won’t end up in a concentration camp, and you won’t have the excitement of an occasional bullet flying through your house.”

“I can do very well without the excitement,” I told him. “After twenty-four years of being married to you, all I want is a good long spell of monotony.”

This is a story about a wife and mother, and her commitment to follow God wherever He leads. After having served in China for twenty-one years, they were finally settled in America – but God had other plans, a chance to serve the people of India. Her husband, a doctor, is asked to be the Professor of Medicine at a Christian Medical College in North India. To say the least, she does not find monotony in India, by the time they leave after six years of service, she is indeed “Richer by India”.



Mark your Calendar for Summer Bible School

June 26-30, 2011
Sunday thru Thursday.

Join in the fun as we mine for the TRUE GOLD!

There will be exciting games, activities, and food.

Volunteers are needed.

Contact
Jolene Stoltzfus
to sign up
for a posting.



Congrats to our Grads! coming next month.

12 Marks of a Spirit Filled Church



1. Faithful expository preaching on all of Scripture. II Timothy 4:2
 2. Compassionate church discipline. Galatians 6:1
 3. Expected conversions. John 3
 4. Intentional identification and use of spiritual gifts. I Corinthians 12,14
 5. Biblical leadership. Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
 6. Christ is central and above all tradition or identity.
 7. Evidence of the “one another” passages.
Many New Testament texts. John 13:34
 8. Corporate prayer for all things. I Thessalonians 5:17
 9. Meaningful worship. John 4:24; Philippians 3:3
 10. Generosity in giving tithe and offerings. II Corinthians 8,9
 11. Carry out the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20
 12. Known and respected in the community. Matthew 5:16
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13. Keep the facilities (meeting house) in good order.

Compiled by Pastor Leon
a reprint from a previous 'mailbox stuffer'