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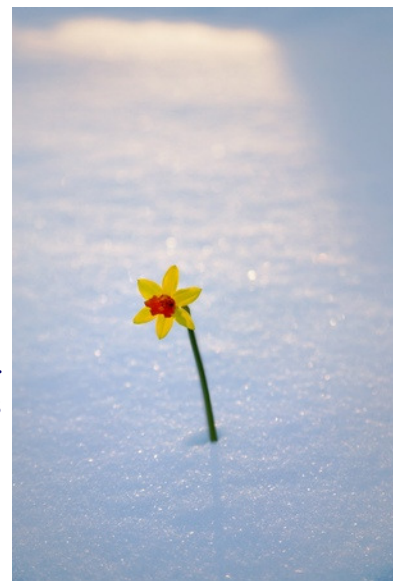
Volume 6 Issue 2

Look for the Best in the Worst

God turned the curse into a blessing. Dt 23:5

When Thomas Carlyle completed his manuscript on the French Revolution, he asked his neighbor to read it. Later the neighbor came to Carlyle's house, shaken and pale. His maid had inadvertently used it to light the fire! Carlyle despaired—two years lost! Writing it initially was daunting enough: rewriting it was unthinkable. Then one day, watching a stonemason build a wall, he observed it was going up one brick at a time. Inspired, he thought, "I'll write a page today and one tomorrow. One at a time; that's all I'll think about." It was slow, tedious work, but he persevered and the result outshone his original. Jon Gordon writes, "If you are concerned about the future...I know how you feel. I lost my job in 2001...the company sank faster than the Titanic...I thought it was the worst event of my life. I was two months away from bankruptcy. I had a wife, two children, a mortgage, no health insurance, and very little savings. I was a paycheck away from losing it all and...I had to make some important decisions. Eventually they led to the work I now do as a writer, consultant, and speaker. I went from Fired to Fired-up! My layoff led to my life's mission...what I thought was the worst...led to the best...When the wave hits we have a choice...allow it to crush us, or learn from it and ride it to a positive future. We can move forward with determination and faith that our best days are ahead."

The Word for Today



Anyone interested in joining a Fantasy baseball League should email Gary Smith at gsmith9477@aol.com as soon as possible.



This table meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 am at Mt Airy Inn. Pictured are Ralph Wolfe, Jon Wareham, Jamie Bisker, Dan Petty, Wanda, Jonathon Issler and David Sefcik.

Wild at Heart Update from Paul



This past weekend the Colorado boyz had their first Wild at Heart boot camp. 27 men answered the call, past all the usual distractions and excuses. Busy isn't the problem - priority is!

Let me tell you one of the stories that happened there.

Randy had a surgery 8 years ago that went terribly wrong. Overwhelming pain led to pain pills - oxycodone and the like - the BIG boys! Of course addiction battles followed and finally through perseverance and battle he broke free from the addiction. Which left him right back where he started - in constant of chronic pain.

Randy had come to the Wild at Heart boot camp we held in Maryland last October and had such a life transformational experience he and Hollis Hunt determined to bring this back to their home church. Last weekend they lead the charge up the mountain for 27 men ages 22 to 60. All weekend long Randy and Hollis poured themselves out and like Randy said, "for some of the men it was the first session, others made it all the way to the last session, but God got them all in the end." As Randy was pouring himself out on Saturday he very clearly heard God say to him, "GO WRITE!" So Randy did.

Shortly after this, during a break in the camp a few of his friends asked him to go on a mountain climb - to 10,000 feet elevation where at the summit there were three HUGE crosses that someone had formed out of fallen trees. Randy made excuses (remember his chronic pain) but finally agreed to go. Then he tried to stall and make excuses to escape but his friends kept waiting so he finally went. It wasn't long before he fell behind, having to stop often to rest and to try somehow to manage the pain. At one point he realized that he was in a spiritual battle - the enemy did not want him to reach the top. He prayed and walked, pleaded and walked, one step in front of the other, seeing it as a warring against the enemy. Finally 3 hours plus later he reached the summit, his friends were blown away.

They sat at the foot of the cross and suddenly in an instant Randy realized the pain was gone. Eight years of strength sapping pain - GONE! He was afraid to believe it was for real. Two days later it is still gone! This afternoon Randy was unpacking his stuff from the weekend and found his journal. He opened it up and was reading what he had written. He found a letter he had written to God - he has NO recollection of writing this letter - NONE! In it, he hands the wound he had been carrying for eight years over to God. All the anger, hatred, and pain by telling God that in whatever way He healed him from the wound - by helping him live with it, by healing him, in whatever way he was going to love and serve Him for the rest of his life anyway! Again Randy has NO recollection of writing this letter, but there it is, in his handwriting. Surrender!

What wound are you carrying around? Do you see what I see in this story? Randy going up that mountain to serve, his friends challenging him to go places he never would have gone by himself, surrender, a pilgrimage up the mountain to the cross, steps of obedience, mercy from a loving God at the foot of the cross, and finally a healing miracle for a prayer that Randy had given up praying. Do you see it?

Upcoming Events

2/2	Manhood MBA Begins	3/5	Leadership Meeting
2/5	Leadership Meeting	3/19	Serving Saturday
2/19	Serving Saturday	Nellie Project	Late March World of Outlaws Racing
	6/06	Waterboyz Golf Outing	