

Loon Area Christian Ministry

July—August—September, 2010

Ladies First

Dear friends,

Well, it was bound to happen. This year I hit the big 6-0! I knew Skip and my kids wouldn't let this opportunity pass by without doing something great and they did not disappoint me. Skip arranged for Linda, friend and manager of our thrift store, to take me to Concord for a girls' day out. This included facials, lunch and a little shopping. As I was relaxing on the table getting my 1 ½ hour beauty treatment, I said to my skin expert, "I know why I'm here." "And why is that?" she asked. "They want me out of the way for whatever is happening tonight for my birthday." I chuckled.

On the way home I told Linda, "There is only one thing that could make this day more perfect than it already is. I wish all of my kids could be with me this year on my birthday." She had to be laughing hysterically on the inside. That night Skip took me to one of our local restaurants where he said my daughter Betty would be waiting with her family and we would have dinner. "Sure..." I thought to myself.

I walked into the restaurant to see so many friends standing there yelling, "Surprise!!!" A few steps into the door I spotted Betty and then my eyes (as big as saucers, I'm sure) saw my other daughter Michelle and my son Mike standing there with huge grins and open arms. I was overwhelmed with joy and walking on air the rest of the evening. Good going family!

Always wanting to be a helpful wife, I noticed Skip's car was acquiring a lot of mileage (182K to be exact). I found the remedy for getting rid of old cars is simply to get into an accident and make sure the car is totaled. I did a good job with this one! (There's got to be an easier way of replacing our cars). I got out of it with only bumps and bruises and Skip is now driving a cream puff of a car that he found on Ebay and drove home from Nashville. It's a year older but with considerably less mileage (50K vs. 182K).

Our summer services have started at Loon Mountain and I will begin the puppet skits this week. If anyone knows of a good web site or book for puppet skits I would appreciate hearing from you. Always looking for fresh material.

Lastly, I said good-bye to an old and dear friend this

month. I had my double toe removed. OUCH! Nothing can prepare you for that. When I was born the doctor offered to fix it but my father thought it was cute—thanks, Dad! Skip says I born with a defect but now I'm perfect. Boy do I have him fooled!

Blessings! *Joyce*

Personal Note from Skip

Joyce's b-day was great fun! It was payback time. On my 60th the two of us went to the restaurant on the mountain for what I thought was going to be a quiet dinner. As soon as I approached the entrance to the dining room however, I was met with a chorus of voices shouting "surprise!" coming from a large collection of friends. "You've got to be kidding," I said incredulously. It was an evening complete with joke gifts (vis-a-vis a walker outfitted with skis) a band and dancing—a great time! Sooooooo, we can't let Joyce off on her 60th I thought, and thanks to the rest of her family, we didn't.

Loon Mountain

The mountain opened this past weekend for the summer/fall season. Added to the attractions this year will be a zip line ride over the Pemigewasset river that runs alongside Loon's base area. Future plans are to add a number of other zip line runs extending almost half-way up the mountain. For those who like flying through the air in a harness suspended from a cable it's great fun.

We started our summer services on June 27th With a relatively good crowd for our first Sunday (32) accompanied by great weather, it was a good experience. Recalling God's faithfulness to me in the midst of my "domestic travails" of almost 30 years ago drove home the message on God's healing of Hezekiah in 2 Kings. After working on that message for close to a month, it wasn't until I was actually delivering it that it all came together—a fortunately rare phenomenon that I found both unnerving and gratifying. Judging from people's responses, it appeared to be of help to many, for which I'm thankful.

"The Book"

A milestone! I just finished with the first of five people to be featured in my book on ski resort ministers. It

turned out to be twice as lengthy as I expected (100 pgs instead of 50) and took me twice as long (a whole year) but I was pleased with the results. I expect that sense of self-satisfaction to be shortly replaced with one of humility, for it's now in the hands of a professional editor—an answer to prayer. When I finished, I told my subject, Rev. Dann Masters, that I now had to find a professional editor. “Do you have to meet with him face-to-face?” He asked. I thought for a moment. “Not really, considering the internet and emails,” I responded. “Well,” he said, “my brother is an editor.” Come to find out that brother James has his Ph.D and worked editing newspapers and magazines his whole life. I called him up and he agreed to do it. Now if I can just persuade him to do the rest of the book. . .

Encore Thrift Shop

This past week we had our annual employee banquet in recognition of our wonderful staff, many of whom are volunteers. Our (relatively) new manager, Linda Mac-Intyre and her husband Scott put together an enjoyable evening. Linda mentioned that we gave away a little over \$2000 worth of clothing and furniture to those in need, besides the annual \$3000 in scholarships, Scott made 81 runs to pick up furniture donations and our volunteers contributed a total of over 1900 hours this past year.

Financial Report

(Received from Encore Thrift Shop, Real Estate Income from the sale of donated properties, individual donations and weddings. In order to save space, I usually don't include the breakdown, but thought you might like to see the relative sources of our funding and have done so this time. The shortage from Encore is normal this time of year)

January-June, 2010

<u>Source</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Encore	27,600	22,000	-5,600
Real Estate	10,200	8,500	-1,700
Donations	14,253	14,465	212
Weddings	<u>300</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>700</u>
Totals	52,353	45,965	-6,388

Across the Desk

(Taken from Men of Integrity, June 28, 2010)
Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

A medical doctor who utilized his skills in Ethiopia for more than 60 years, Nathan Barlow dedicated his life to helping people with mossy foot. Mossy foot is

a debilitating condition [that] causes swelling and ulcers in the feet and lower legs. The subsequent deformity and secondary infections make people with mossy foot social outcasts equivalent to lepers.

I met Nathan shortly before he died. His daughter attends my church and brought him to her home from Ethiopia when his health started to fail. After only a few weeks, he couldn't handle being in the States. The people he loved were still in Ethiopia, so his daughter flew him back home so he could spend his last days there.

Once, Nathan got a toothache and had to fly away from the mission field to get medical attention. Nathan told the dentist that he didn't ever want to leave the mission field for the sake of his teeth again, so he had the dentist pull out all of his teeth and give him false ones.

This amazing man was the first to help these outcasts, and he spent his life doing it. Yet no one really knew about him. It surprised me that such a man of God would faithfully serve for so many years, despite minimal recognition.—Francis Chan with Danae Yankoski in [Crazy Love](#)

(From Our Daily Bread, July 13, 2009)

To call God and us unequal partners is a laughable understatement. And yet by inviting us to do kingdom work on earth, God has indeed set up a kind of odd-couple alliance. God delegates work to human beings so that we do history together, so to speak. Clearly, the partnership has one dominant partner—something like an alliance between Microsoft and a high school programmer.

We know well what happens when human beings form unequal alliances: the dominant partner tends to throw his weight around and the subordinate mostly keeps quiet. But God, who has no reason to be threatened by us, invites a steady and honest flow of communication.

I sometimes wonder why God places such a high value on honesty in our prayers, even to the extent of enduring unjust outbursts. I am startled to see how many biblical prayers seem ill-tempered. Jeremiah griped about unfairness (20:7-10); Habakkuk accused God of deafness (1:2); Job conceded, “What profit do we have if we pray to Him?” (21:15). The Bible teaches us to pray with blistering honesty.

God wants us to come to Him with our complaints. If we march through life pretending to smile while inside we bleed, we dishonor the relationship. — [Philip Yancey](#)