



SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Dear fellow travelers on the Emmaus road

I am now going to give you a test to determine what era you grew up in. It is a simple test but very telling. It has nothing to do with your eyes (You are obviously able to read this!) or your coordination. It isn't a stress test to determine the condition of your heart. It is a test of your memory.

Simply this – **GIGO**.

Do you have any recollection of what that means? (HINT - At one time it was THE catchphrase in the world of computers.)

NO, DON'T LOOK DOWN! That isn't fair! Take a minute and try to remember. If you were dealing with computers in this area you will have dealt with the acronym based on this phrase. You shouldn't have been around long enough to have Alzheimer's yet. Well, maybe the beginning stages. (What was my point? Oh, yeah.)

The phrase is

Garbage In, Garbage Out.

That makes absolutely no sense in today's computer world unless you are a real geek who writes original programming code. Today you just put what you want into a computer and it comes out jst Lik u typ iT. Back in the day, if you wanted a computer to do something you had to type original programming code like FORTRAN IV into a machine that output cards with holes in them. A card reader then read the holes and told the computer what the code said and what to do. No, really! It was like that! If you made the smallest mistake in the code on hundreds of cards, like missing a parenthesis or comma, the computer would just print error messages. Then you knew you had put garbage in and the computer was giving you garbage out. That was on a good day. When your code was OK. If your code was off base in the first place, then, ... don't get me started. The memories are too painful. My idea of hell is being alone in a windowless room with an endless program to punch in.

What does this have to do with Easter?

Everything.

People are putting garbage into life and expecting to get goodness out.

People are putting lust into life and expecting to get love out.

People are putting gambling into life and expecting to get prosperity out.

People are putting personal ambition into life and expecting to get lasting relationships out.

People are putting greed into life and expecting an unselfish society to meet their needs.

Things have gotten to the point that all most people in our society can see is the garbage. They have no idea where to find real life or even that real life is possible. They are living death.

But what else could you expect? Punch cards aren't used anymore but the saying is still true – **GIGO. Apart from God, the way you punch It n iz tHe wAY IT iz goin 2 com OuT.**

I watched a movie recently that really spoke to this, "Up In The Air" with George Clooney. I know, the language in the movie was out of line as were the relationships but they were exactly the point. George plays a hired gun, flying all over the world firing people for a living. He is up in the air figuratively as well as physically, with absolutely no relationships and only an efficiency apartment to call home. He is never there. He even gives motivational speeches on the need to "empty your backpack" of everything non-essential, which to him is everything but himself. Then he meets a woman in an airport bar and the relationship becomes increasingly serious. At the same time he plays a crucial role in saving the marriage of a niece whom he has never really known.

These two events bring him to the realization of how empty his life is and his need for others. However things work out such that he is left alone again, up in the air. It is too late. He has put too much garbage in and there is only the possibility of more garbage out.

Easter is all about the fact that until you die, it is never too late. Jesus died on the cross to give you and me a completely new start in life. His death on the cross removes all the garbage we have put into life and even the garbage we still deposit now and again. You might say GIGO is still operational but in Jesus it now means

Garbage In, Grace Out.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS CONTINUED

The thief on the cross next to Jesus knew just how true this is as he heard Jesus say, **“A person is made right with God through faith.” (Ro. 3:28)**
“Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43) Because of the cross of Christ and the open tomb by faith
But first that thief had to say in faith, we have this new relationship with God – GIGO.
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42) **Garbage In, Grace Out.**

Saul was busy putting the garbage of hatred and self-righteousness into his life and trying to get out of it a relationship with God. Then the risen Jesus threw him down into the dirt of the Damascus road, blinding Saul's eyes but giving sight to his soul. After a few decades of discovery, the new man Paul was able to write with conviction these few but mighty words of truth

Have a blessed Easter!
Your Co-Spiritual Director
Bill Kelley

GREETINGS TO THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Well spring is here and it's time to start enjoying our great Ohio weather and all the things God has in store for us. Speaking of things, it was nice to see the ladies from Walk #58 at the March gathering and to hear how their fourth days are going. I look forward to seeing you all a lot more, not only at the gatherings, but also serving at the walks this year. All of our community has the opportunity to serve, as I have said before not only on teams, but on the walks. Remember, we have five walks a year, and everyone should be able to give at least one day during the walks back to our Lord for all He has done for you. We have over 3500 people in our community, so we should have an abundance of people wanting to serve, but for some reason it don't work out that way. Remember how you were served on you walk. Speaking of serving, another way you can serve the community is by serving on the board. If you would be interested in a position on the board, see Jeff Cheeseman, Sue Neves, Rick Smith, Juanita Jenkins, or any board member and let them know you are interested and they will be more than happy to sign you up. I would like to bring up about cell phones on the walks. Sponsors, you must let your pilgrims know that there is no place on the walk for cell phones. When a pilgrim comes to the walk, they must forget about the outside world and be willing to focus on God. If they feel they can't, then maybe it's not their time to come. They must be told if there is an emergency, they will be contacted by someone on the team. Also team members must realize that they are expected to follow the same guidelines, whether it's at the walk or in team meetings, cell phones are not to be in use. I know we are in an age of high tech, but all you need on your walk is a willing heart. We all need to be here for the right reasons, so please consider serving on future walks, the pay is out of this world. God bless you all, John

EMMAUS PRAISE GATHERING

The next Emmaus Praise Gathering is May 16th. Any and all singers, performers, readers, etc. are welcome to participate. Please contact Sue and Vic Neves (farmmama@netzero.net) or call 937-767-2976, 937-241-1020 or 1025 (cell) if you are interested in giving of your talents for the Praise Gathering. And to God be the glory!

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR THE AGAPE ROOM

When bringing in Agape for a week-end, please place in appropriate bins or on the table for Agape Workers to sort. PLEASE DO NOT attempt to sort it on your own. When bringing in Table or Bedtime Agape, put a contact name and phone number so that you can be contacted and directed on where to pick up your left over agape. If you do NOT want your agape returned, indicate to donate left over agape. We will make several attempts for groups to retrieve agape, but then it is automatically donated.

PLEASE REMEMBER, PILGRIMS ONLY RECEIVE LETTERS IN A SUNDAY PACKET. They do NOT receive any other individual agape letters on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. PILGRIMS CAN NOT RECEIVE SUPER AGAPE DURING A WEEK-END, NOR IN THEIR SUNDAY PACKET. Super agape is anything larger then a lapel pin, bookmark, pen/pencil, etc, that does NOT fit in a letter envelope.

Thanks for all of your continued support for the pilgrims!
Agape Room

MEN'S EMMAUS WALK #39

Pilgrim	Church	Sponsor
Rashon Ancrum	Revival Center Ministries	Lindsey Ancrum
Tom Bender	Mech'sburg Christian Fellowship	Richard Oberg
Randall Bishop	North Hampton Community Church	Steve Levesque
Gerald Brookover	Mechanicsburg UMC	Harley Roston
Rene' Brown	St. John Missionary Baptist	Norman & Dedria Moore
Chris Casey	Upper Room Church	Sim Bowen
Danny Cope	North Hampton Community Church	Steve Levesque
Benny Cox	Restored Life Ministries	Charles Pendleton
Chuck Crable	First Methodist Church	Donald Passwaters
Michael Cunningham	Nation Chapel UMC	Pastor Cindee Johnson
Nathaniel Davidson	"My Church"	Sim Bowen
Jeremy DeHart	"My Church"	Sim Bowen
Jeff Dyer	High Street Church of Nazerene	Cindy Stone
Mitch Frey	Fellowship Christian Church	John Chambers
Mark Goheen	High Street Church of Nazerene	Jim & Lori Vineyard
Stephen Hale	New Hope	Dan Moss
Rick Hayes	Takin' the Streets Ministries	Staci Seelig
Bill Hill	Fellowship Church	Cindy Hill
Craig Hunter	"My Church"	Sim Bowen
James Kestner	Grace / St. John's Lutheran	James Pomputius
Kenneth Knipp	"My Church"	Sim & Corina Bowen
Tom Lauber	"My Church"	Sim & Corina Bowen
James Mikel	North Hampton Community Church	Rhonda Voorhees
Sam Oliver	Enon Church of Christ	Jay Braselton
Melvin Patrick	Church of Judah Family Worship	Russ Whyde
Gary Raymond	Takin' the Streets Ministries	Kenny Ronk
Alan Rebert	Missionary Baptist	John Baugh
Bryan Reed	New Life Church	Frank Campbell
David Robbins	New Moorefield UMC	John & Barb Baugh
James Shadoan	Memorial Church	Chip Comer
Cody Shuler	Oakbrook Community Church	Scott Shuler
Lonnie Sloan	Nation Chapel UMC	Pastor Cindee Johnson
Rodney Stewart	High Street Church of Nazerene	Dwight Dobbins
Tom Tressler	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Penny Thomas
Dave Warner	High Street Church of Nazerene	Jeff Cheeseman
Paul Whiteford	Marysville Church of the Nazarene	Dene Voorhees
Jim Willman	First Baptist Church of Trussville	John Chambers
Bill Wilson	Takin' the Streets Ministries	Kenny Ronk

LD	John Chambers	TL	Jim Mayhugh	ATL	Jacob Berner
Board Rep	Jim Yoakem	TL	JC Howell	ATL	Brian Fout
SD	Rev. Bob Scott	TL	Brett Boblitt	ATL	Rick Smith
CO-SD	Rev. Roland Wildman	TL	Dean Settles	ATL	Gene Bell
ALD	Norm Moore	TL	Jerry Jones	ATL	Phil Corns
ALD	Greg Stout	TL	Anthony Blackburn	ATL	John Keeran
ALD	Dene Voorhees	TL	John Wade	ATL	Mike Amos
LOG	Dan Warren				
LOG	Jeff Cheeseman				
MD	Steve Ryman				
MD	Dave Johnson				

High Street United Methodist Church
230 East High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit No. 27

Newsletter e-mail:
info@berners.com

Find us online:

www.spfldemmaus.com
www.highstreetumc.com

UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 7 PM

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP:

After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food.

If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.

2010 WALK DATES:

Women's Walks

- # 59 JUNE 24-27
- # 60 NOVEMBER 4-7

Men's Walks

- # 39 APR. 22-25
LD: JOHN CHAMBERS
- # 40 AUG. 12-15

HELP!

***We are in need of applications.
Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim!***

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!