



May 1, 2011

Dear Friends,

God continues to bring healing and restoration to many children and women on Our Father's Farm. We thank Him and you for your continued support (prayers and gifts). May God bless you!

Two Hearts Beating As One

Imagine yourself walking on a wide path through a beautiful forest. Sunbeams break through the canopy of branches lighting your path. As you walk, you become aware of just how alone you are. The beauty around you fades as fear overtakes you. The forest becomes quite frightening. Looking ahead, you see a Man dressed in a shepherd's robe. As your eyes meet, He smiles. That smile is no ordinary smile, for it speaks volumes. His eyes are no ordinary eyes, for they hold eternity captive. "Who are you?" you ask.

"You don't know Me?" the Stranger answers.

"I don't believe we've ever met."

"Actually, we have but it was before you were born," He answers, His voice like the sound of many waters.

"What is your name, kind sir?"

"Emmanuel."

"Emmanuel—God is with *me*. Why would God care about me?"

"I care because I am Love. My child, you weren't created to walk this journey alone. You need Me...whether you realize it or not."

"I've lived a long time without you. Why should I change now?"

"If you choose to live this life alone then the result is that you will live for all eternity alone—in darkness and pain. Hell was not created for man. We created it as a place of torment for Satan and his angels. Please don't choose to go there. And go there you will, if you choose to live this life without Me."

You think long and hard about His words, for there is something deep within telling you to believe, to run to Him. But pride and the desire to live your own life and other such destructive forces suddenly make their presence known. You decide to sit on a nearby log to clear your head. And all the while, the Stranger prays patiently for you to accept His invitation.

After much thought, you decide to allow Him to join you on your journey. He welcomes you with a joy that is astonishing. You're not aware of ever doing anything that would merit such a celebration. Not really understanding such love, you place your small hand in His very large one and your new life begins.



As you walk hand in hand, you are captivated by His beauty and intrigued by His unconditional love. Life is good. But strangely, the excitement you thought would never fade does exactly that. You find yourself easily distracted by the colorful butterflies, intriguing flowers and fascinating surroundings. When a magnificent monarch crosses your path, you let go of His hand and run after it. Chasing the elusive butterfly, you lose your way, but your new-found Friend remains true. He follows after you, praying day and night for your return to the One who loves you the most.

Summer turns into fall without so much as a glance from you. Winter comes and goes. Spring time finds your Friend and Shepherd still watching and praying for your return. He refuses to give up on you. You are the apple of His eye even though you forgot Him.

The butterflies no longer entertain you. The dreary, spring rains depress you. Your steps grow more difficult with each passing day. Nothing fascinates your heart. You sold yourself into slavery without even knowing it. One hot summer day, you stop to rest under the shade of an ancient oak tree. Sweat pours down your face and back. Life is difficult. "I am alone," you whisper to yourself.

Ever so faintly you hear, "You're not alone. I am as close as the air all around you."

You look behind you. The path you took was full of zigzags, circles, departures, and returns. "I miss You," you whisper. Wiping your tears, you stand. To your surprise, the Stranger stands before you. You look into His eyes—He still loves you! "I am always with you," He whispers.

"I'm sorry, Emmanuel. I forgot about You. I thought I knew how to live the Christian life, but I can see that I haven't been very good at it. Would You teach me Your ways?" you ask.

"I would be glad to," He says holding out His arms to you. "Except you become like a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of God."

You run into His outstretched arms and He scoops you up and holds you close. Safe in His arms, He resumes the journey that the Father chose for you. In this manner, you soon gain heaven's perspective on life and learn well the ways of the kingdom. The seasons come and go, but this time you remain true.

"I could stay in Your arms forever," you say.

"You could, but it would not be wise because you would grow lazy and weak and unable to walk. I must put you down now so that you will mature and grow strong in spirit."

Fear fills your heart as He puts you down. You immediately take His hand that you might not fall prey to distractions or wander off again. It isn't long before you realize walking beside Him isn't the safest place to be. After all, the Serpent might be hiding in the tall grass. Not fully trusting Emmanuel, you keep silent and hide away your fears.

The days are much better than before and you grow quite comfortable with your Friend. One fine day, as you turn to look at a delightful daisy growing nearby, the Serpent slithers out of hiding and suddenly strikes you. Falling back, you cry out for Emmanuel's help.

"I am right here, My beloved." He sweeps you up in His big, strong arms.

"I did nothing wrong. I stayed with You this time. I don't understand."

"Not all of life's tragedies are a result of sin, My precious child."

He carries you until your wound is healed, which happens much quicker than you ever thought possible. The day comes when He announces that it is time for you to walk again. Tenderly, He sets you on your feet and says, “You have grown in spirit and in truth. It is now time to follow Me. Step behind Me and wrap your arms around My waist and press your face into My back. When I step, you step. When I stop, you stop. Where I go, you go.”

This will be so much safer, you think. The first two or three steps are a bit awkward, but you quickly fall into His cadence and relax. That is when you realize you can’t see where you are going. “I don’t like this,” you say.

“My beloved, you are called to walk by faith and not by sight.”

“That requires me to completely trust You.”

“Exactly.”

Life goes on—your small feet stepping into His very large footprints. You walk this way for so many years that it becomes as easy as breathing. Then, one day, you look back and notice that your footprints had grown to the exact size of the One you followed. It was impossible to distinguish between them.

The seasons come and go. Friends loved and enemies embraced. Children raised, grandchildren born. Joy and sorrow, peace and conflict, but through it all, you kept your face pressed against His back and held on. You learned how to be a friend of God.

The day comes when you are old and feeble, barely able to push yourself out of your favorite chair. Everyone has left, for life has drawn them away in so many different directions. But you are not alone. “Emmanuel,” you whisper.

“Yes?”

“I love You.”

“I love you, too.”

“It was worth it all,” you say, your voice cracking.

“I know.”

You take a deep breath. Your nearly blind eyes suddenly see clearly. Sitting upright, you smile. Standing before you is no longer a Stranger, but your precious Savior and Friend. Tears fill your eyes as you say, “You are still with me, my dear Friend.”

He nods and takes your frail hand into His very strong yet gentle one. Wrapping His other arm around your waist and pressing His cheek against your wrinkled one, He helps you to your feet. Smiling broadly, He asks, “May I have this dance?”

“Of course. You lead and I will follow,” you answer. You dance your way into eternity.



*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4*

TESTIMONY FROM 12 YEAR OLD KASSI:

We have a very beautiful young lady living on Our Father's Farm named Kassi who loves animals. She makes several trips each day to visit our chickens (all 55 of them). She shared this story with us: One day last week, a hen named Agatha was sitting on the nest that she wanted to collect the eggs from. Afraid of being pecked, Kassi tried everything she could think of to get Agatha to move but she wouldn't budge. Finally, she took a step back. She remembered how God talks sweetly to her when He's trying to get her to do the right thing. So she stepped close and said, "Beautiful, beautiful chicken." She repeated this over and over as she slid her hand under the hen retrieving the eggs and Agatha didn't even try to peck her.

ENCOUNTERING GOD TRAINING WEEKENDS: cost \$40/\$70 couple (on Our Father's Farm)
May 21-22 Part 1 Encountering God Training (so sorry, but this class is already full.)
May 28-29 Part 2 Tree of Life Training

July 16-17 Part 1: Encountering God

July 23-24 Part 2: Tree of Life

July 30 Advanced Training \$20 (you must have attended Pt. 1 & 2)

Space is limited so please register early or for more information, please contact: bev@harvesthome.org

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

May 12-14 Lancaster, PA: Living Hope Community Church...717-304-1500

June 2-4 Amherst, NH, Household of Faith. Office: 603-672-0808

Aug 5-7 Lake Tatuk, B.C. contact: Cindy Lauze at: LauzeC@spsd.sk.ca

Sept. 16-18 Tom's River, NJ: Church of Grace and Peace...contact: Judi Valencia jvalencia@graceandpeace.org

BACKYARD BIBLE CAMP: June 27-July 1 Camp for children ages 8-14. This camp is offered at no charge. *Feel free to invite your unsaved friends and neighbors.* To register, email Rhonda at: rhonda@harvesthome.org

Thank you all so very much for your support.

We continue praying for the supplies and finances to complete the Healing Ministry Building.

Please visit our online bookstore and website: www.harvesthome.org

You can make donations through our secured site.

We also have a facebook page: Our Father's Farm/Harvest Home

Harvest Home, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501 (C) (3) organization (#43-1723890)
Our Father's Farm is an outreach of Harvest Home *Your gifts are tax deductible.*

For more information about this ministry, please contact:

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