

Devotions - June 8-14, 2008
by, Nicole Kuzak
Office Manager, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

The following devotions were inspired by a book I read to help me prepare for the upcoming Quilt Auction. I have always been inspired by the beauty of handcrafted quilts and now I am humbled by the stories they all tell. The book The Quilt of Life has taught me that behind every hand stitched quilt is a beautiful story designed by a beautiful person.

Sunday, June 8

Luke 6:38 NIV

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

I know that I am presented with many things that challenge me and as a result, challenge my faith. My first instinct would be to succumb to the challenge, but as I ponder the situation I realize that as a mother, daughter, wife and many of the other hats I wear, I am setting an example to others. My reaction to the situation will be modeled to those that I am close to and will result how they react towards situations.

Monday, June 9

Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, said the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

God has a plan for every person that he placed on this earth. I know that there are times that each and every one of us needs to remember that. Our economy has affected many people by increasing prices and lowering wages or in some instances taking jobs away. God has a plan for your life. No, God did not want you to become unemployed but he will be there for you in prayer and help you turn to the next chapter in your life. When you are hurting, happy, sad, or even angry, pray because God will be there for you with his plan for your life.

Tuesday, June 10

Proverbs 22:6 NIV

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

As a parent of three teenagers, I thought this verse would be fitting. OK, I need to read this verse often to remind myself to let them stretch their wings a bit and begin small steps. When they are little we teach them how to hold their forks and remind them as teenagers to use their seatbelts and no talking on the cell phone when driving. I have raised my children as children of God and hope that they have a close relationship with God.

Wednesday, June 11

Isaiah 53:3 KJV

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

There were times that we all felt that too much was on our plates. We thought we were the only ones to deal with situations and we wondered how we would ever survive. Eventually we accept, heal and grow and we are able to help other people going through similar situations. God allows us to work with Him to help others in the ways that we were helped by Him and those around us.

Thursday, June 12

Ephesians 1:6 KJV

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Social anxiety has been happening throughout the ages, we just have a new term for it now. How we as Christians react to people with this disorder will change the lives of all involved. I have social anxiety and have been helped by many around me. People that comfort us and help us grow will always be there. What we all need to remember is, human companionship is attracted to us as our demeanor grows cheerful from delighting in Him.

Friday, June 13

Proverbs 27:17 NIV

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

God uses the rough edges of irritating people to shape and cut us into a pattern making us more like Jesus Christ. I am one to get frustrated by the rough edges of people, always questioning in my mind why people are like us. God is using them to make me a better person. I had never thought of that scenario. I worried about their relationship with God and I should have had Faith that God had it “taken care of.”

Saturday, June 14

Matthew 25:36 NIV

“I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

God has clothed each and every one of us, he has looked after us in our time of need. I know that I have lost many hours of sleep with the uncertainty of the financial future of our family. The economy is bothersome to me but I am constantly reminded by my husband that we have to let God worry about it. His shoulders are bigger than ours and he is in control of our “future.”