

Spring Devotion Time



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SMILE!

Do people see Jesus in you? When we lived in Kyrgyzstan many people there would recognize us as Christians because we smiled often, and that was not part of their culture. It was easy to answer by saying, “I have a happy heart because Jesus lives there.” What a way to open the door of opportunity to share His great love with others! So smile, put on your happy face for the person next to you in line at the store or someone you pass while walking, and let them know that Jesus loves them!

OF THE WORD

... the fruit of the Spirit is ... goodness ...
(Galatians 5:22).

Goodness is simply showing kindness to others. It is a generous giving of ourselves as well as our possessions. Goodness is the ability to identify with others and their needs and then, whenever possible, help without expecting anything in return.

Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers
(Galatians 6:10).

Our daily goal should be to do good things for others. But doing good means putting others first and we aren't always willing to do that. God, the perfect example of goodness, sent His Son Jesus to teach us how to love and serve others. Jesus, in His goodness, put every one of us first on Good Friday when He went to the cross. The Holy Spirit works in us, helping us to be Christ-like in spite of our human weaknesses.

Mustard Seed: *Living in the Spirit*. Authors: Marcia Gomulka, Dcs. Betty Knapp, Myrna Lou Meyer.
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GO! GOSPEL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY AND STORY

Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies Guild in Hayward, Wisconsin started making 60 tray favors at Easter and Christmas for one nursing home. In 1991, they added Thanksgiving and in 1992, added Halloween. By 1993, the Fourth of July was included.

In 1994, the final change was made which has continued to this date. Favors are made for Easter, Valentine's Day, the Fourth of July, Fall (replaced Halloween), Thanksgiving, and Christmas. A total of 166 favors are now made for each holiday and delivered to the two nursing homes and three assisted living facilities in Hayward.

Their President writes, "As our membership has aged in years, we can still continue to be productive. Making tray favors is not difficult, but doing this affords us the luxury of growing in fellowship (lots of talking is done) and the satisfaction of knowing that even 'old people' can do something to make life a bit more cheerful for those less fortunate. Over the 25 years we have worked at this project, not one woman has suggested that we quit. It is always, 'What are we going to make next?'"



Remember, it takes fewer muscles to smile than to frown and it may be the only sunshine a person will see all day!

Dear Lord, thank You for Your gift of love and a reason for us to always smile and share that love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

