

A Message from Jeanette Schaffer
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*"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another,
for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." ~ Romans 13:8*

The outreach ministry has been extremely busy these past couple of months, which is very unusual for Spring time. Usually the moderate weather causes lower utility bills resulting in fewer customers. But not this time!!!

Amidst all the busy activity of working with all the people coming in, I am reminded of how very precious life is. I see the beauty of God in the individuals coming in, and am reminded of how each one of them is created in His image. In some instances I see a person walking in with a severe hardness on their face, and in the course of 20 minutes God gives me words to say to affirm to the person I'm working with that they are personally precious in His sight, and I see their faces soften as the understanding of that starts to sink in.

God.....our GREAT GOD, shows His glory and beauty in all creation through such a wonderful display of colors and textures, smells and sights and sounds, such as in tall towering trees, sunlight to bathe in, deep caverns to explore, flower gardens to soak in, lakes to dive in, the mystery of forests to have adventures in, countries to have exciting visits in, stars and galaxies to marvel at, and atoms and quarks to be amazed at. We would be foolish to witness it all and deny the existence of God. *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* Psalm 14:1. There are so many things around us that we may be reminded of how to take delight in the beauty of creation. But out of everything God has made, He made us the most marvelous. You have heard me quote Psalm 139:14 before, but it is one of my favorite verses; *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.*

And so when I look at one of these individuals sitting in front of me as they come into the Outreach for help, my heart is saddened at the chaos of some of their lives and all the heartache it brings them. At the same time though, I am encouraged because even if they don't know it, I know that person is so very very valuable to God. Being able to share that wonderful news with them is a delight indeed.

There is absolutely nothing that can change a life more deeply than the Truth of the Gospel, and no power on earth that can transform a heart as tenderly as the consuming Love of God. What a joy that we, as believers, get to carry that message to the world around us. Even in our own hardships, may we never fail to allow that message to burn within us and pour out of our very beings to impact those around us. In that I believe we can experience our own healing.

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