

Feb. 7-14, 2024



Hi folks, it is amazing how God works, putting all the pieces of our lives together and making them fit together for our good and to His glory. Carl and I were working on that puzzle we said we would send you a picture of when it was finished. While working on it I would start to get frustrated, not being able to tell the difference in color, shape or lines that were similar for many parts of the puzzle. Carl went to the living room to get a heat pad on his arm so he could do physical therapy. He fell asleep, so I continued, determined to finish it. I was certain that what was left would just fall into place, but it didn't! Frustration soon set in, and I thought about giving up till later in the day. That was going to hold up the work. Tonight is church night and tomorrow we need to be in town to have our taxes done and shop. On Friday we are having dinner and game night here for 3 families as an

encouragement as we face a time of having to call a new pastor. It will give them time to share thoughts and concerns, and hopefully, have a prayer time too. OK, now to get back to my frustration over the puzzle; after a while, I realized that the frustration was of no value. I literally stopped and asked the Lord to help me see where pieces belonged, and to help me get it put together. I was wanting to get it finished so the picture could be taken and sent in this "Bits". After praying, my eyes were directed to details, and my mind was given clarity of thought that I did not have before. I couldn't wait for Carl to wake up so he can hear the testimony of God's working in this little project! This was a great reminder that if we put our frustrating life puzzle pieces into God's hands, He will give wisdom and clarity of thought, helping us to make right choices along the way, putting our lives together in and for Him. Then, when life is over, He will make us more, oh so much more, than a finished puzzle!..... Western PA has had more sunshine this February than any I can remember. I recall, as fall was ending and winter was coming on, praying about the

need for sunshine through the winter because we missed so much of summer's and autumns' sunshine due to Carl's broken arm. Come to think of it, God has brought us through another puzzling part of our lives. The strain of it was sometimes overwhelming for each of us, But God understood, and He carried us through. I hope we did not fail Him in anything. Do you folks realize that if Carl and I fall to sin, we fail to be to you what we ought to be. Even if our influence on you is just like a little brook, flowing through your world, it needs to be a brook that is carrying reviving, life-giving, spiritual refreshment. Sin in our life will hinder our people. I guess you are in the same position in life. Sin in your life will hinder what is flowing through you, from God, to others. I hope that makes sense. We had a snow storm a couple of weeks ago, and of all the things, a deer made its way behind the house and into the enclosure where the spa is (the spa we could not afford but God gave). It just walked in one way, stayed however long it wanted, then went out, going away another direction. I asked Carl how he knew for sure it was a deer. I really had to laugh when he explained that it left its' business behind! I would love it if that was a female looking for a safe place to have her fawn in the coming weeks, but she would not think it was too safe when the pump kicked on and circulated the water in the spa. Can anyone explain why some of us get to *ooing* and *awwwing* over cute little fawns and their mamas, then turn around and cheer for the hunters of the family who get their doe or their buck in hunting season?!!! It's the same way with farm families and their cows and calves, or sheep owners with the spring lambs (lambchops), and fragile chicks and pullets (baby turkeys or Thanksgiving's main attraction on the dinner table), etc. Enough of the funnies! Bye now; sending a batch of love for each of you, in Jesus' name. The Earleys

Scripture on mind and thoughts:

Memory Verse: Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. Proverbs 16:3

Verses to Ponder: Isaiah 26:3; Luke 10:27; Romans 8:6-7; I Corinthians 2:16; II Corinthians 8:12; II Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 2:5-8; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 4:12; I Peter 4:1-2
