

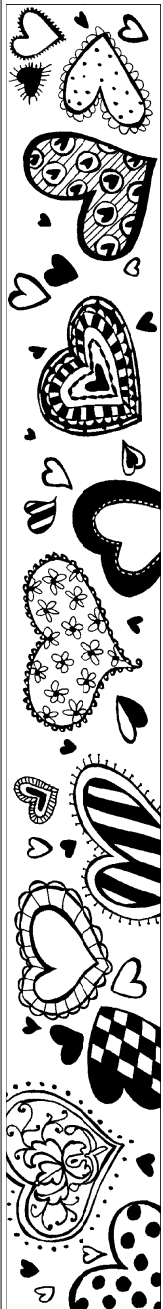


INFO

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY, 2009

WORDS FROM THE PATH.

BY PASTOR BEN MURPHY



February is what is known to most as the “blah” month in the calendar year. January has its New Year’s Traditions and festivities. March usually roars like a lion. I can remember a fellow worker at General Motors saying to me 30 years ago, “When I think of March, I always think of wind!” That is generally a good description of the month. But February has no luster to it at all. February will be cold. It will be gloomy looking. It will be justblah! (Humbug!)

But of course there is that one little spark of life in February known as Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day or Saint Valentine’s Day is of course celebrated on February 14. In our country, it is the traditional day on which people express their love for each other by sending Valentine’s cards, or presenting flowers, or giving the infamous boxes of candy. The encyclopedia Wikipedia says that our day called Valentine’s Day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High

Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

Everything about Valentine’s Day has not always been rosy however. How many of you men can remember those horrific times in grade school when we had to take valentine’s to everybody in the class? Fourth, fifth and sixth grade in those days were terrible for young boys. My mom would send a valentine card for every girl (and boy) in class. And every card, remember, had those little one liners. “Be my valentine.” “Won’t you please be mine?” “Take me I’m yours.” “Dig me.” “Look good” and on and on. Most boys especially had to endure three years of embarrassment with those silly cards and corny sayings on the cards and candy. (When you spend four years in the fifth grade, it’s that many times worse! That’s a life sentence!)

Funny how I look back on the “dread” of Valentine’s Day then, and how the meaning has changed over the years. What once was the worst day of the year has become the day that I look forward to more than the

other 364!

You see, I married my Valentine on Valentine’s Day, 1970. What a day to remember that was. We happen to have one of those old-fashioned, Illinois winter snow storms on Valentine’s Eve. We had nearly two foot of snow on the ground. Travel was almost impossible. But the surprise of the evening was the amount of people who showed up at the Heights Church of God in West Frankfort. Believe it nor not, in a church that would seat about 120 comfortably, there were actually people standing. Diania and I have never forgotten the dedication of family, friends, and church members who turned out on one of the worst nights of the winter. After all the music and I do’s and (wish I didn’ts and so on) Diania and I headed for Interstate 57 to go on a brief honeymoon to St. Louis, Missouri. In those days, I was a truck driver and thought I could conquer any driving situation. What I couldn’t conquer was not only the already two feet on snow on the ground, but

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Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr—Chair

Phyllis Belcher

Sue Ellen Fleming

Diania Murphy

Charlotte Rice

A NOTE OF THANKS

First Church of God,

To the wonderful people of the church. I thank you so much for your kindness in my time of sorrow, it has meant so much to me. I would especially like to thank Betty Hall, and Jo Stewart for being there for me, and Pastor Murphy for calling me when I needed it. I'm not up to sending thank you cards right now, so I hope this will do for now.

Once again thank you all so very much. God Bless each and every one of you, and please, please keep me in your prayers.

Love,
Audrey Short

**BIBLE QUIZ**

Second Kings, chapter 5, tells of Namaan, an army commander who had leprosy. A certain prophet of the Lord sent a message to Namaan, telling him to go wash in the Jordan River seven times. Reluctantly, Namaan did so and was healed.

Choose the prophet's name from the list:

- A. Micah
- B. Elisha
- C. Elijah
- D. Judah

Answer: See 2 Kings 5

VALENTINES TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

Acceptance – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.

Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.

Life without needless fears – Don't let your kids see you as

a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.

Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.

Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

“WORDS” CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

the blizzard conditions out on the interstate. We made it to the first exit, Benton, Illinois, and I was able to see the exit ramp enough to leave the interstate. As we exited off the highway, directly in front of us was the Holiday Inn. I slid the '68 Camaro into the parking lot. I went in and asked the clerk if he had a room. He answered with some snide remark like, “Are you kidding? No body in their right mind would be out in this weather. How many rooms do you want?” (Why do I always get the jerks?) But we were there, and there we spent our honeymoon/ Valentine’s Day special night, in the Benton Holiday Inn.

So for 39 years now, I have had that one special Valentine. God gave her to me back in 1970 and I love her just as much, actually, much, much more than I did on that snowy, cold, winter evening.

Since, then, I have been very blessed to have many more Valentines added to my list. My daughter Dawn is so special a Valentine to me. She was not born on Valentines Day. She was actually given to me again from above, on Fathers Day, 1971. Now that’s special! And she has since given me three more very special little valentines by the names of Hannah, Rachel, and Sophie Grace. The remarkable thing in all of this is that all the five afore mentioned are blondes, and I still love them just the same (though it can get trying at times.)

I have two more very special valentines as well. One of my “kids” from a church I pastored in

Alabama became my daughter-in-law a few years back. Emily (maiden name Hart. How’s that for a valentine?) was always one of my favorite youth in the Longview Church of God Youth Group. All of those kids were great to be around. But Emily always glowed in a special way. Little did I know that son Derek would add her to my valentine list. Then in turn, they gave me the fourth special valentine, Ella Scott Murphy. She is the youngest and smallest of the grand-valentines, but she packs a “wallop” when she cuts that toothy little grin of hers and says, “Paw Paw!” I think back to those days in grade school and how I dreaded Valentine’s Day, and now, how much excitement and love there is through all my special valentine’s.

But there is one more very special valentine or love in my life. My mother has now reached the age of eighty eight, and she has been a valentine longer than all the rest. Even though she made me take those horrible cards to school, she is special. I think of all the teaching and training that she offered on how to treat girl friends, a wife, a daughter, and grand children, and the education is invaluable. Another gift from God is the fact that He has allowed her to be with us all these years and given us so much of her vast knowledge on how to treat other people!

So during all the “blahs” of February, this one special day quietly pops up in the middle of the month. It is a day that we tell someone special, or those persons so special, “I love you!” We do it with cards, gifts, candy, words, and

still, even with those silly little candy hearts with the little two or three word corny sentiments on them. In what ever manner we choose to show love to someone, it makes the month of February just a little bit warmer inside our hearts.

One last thing. Valentine’s Day is not without its humor. I would be missing a great opportunity to lighten your day if I left out the following.

Valentine's Day One-liners

- Love may not make the world spin around, but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy.
- Here's to love - the only fire for which there is no insurance.

Worst thing you can say on a first date

- I know we just met and this might seem a little sudden ... but could I borrow five hundred dollars?
- I don't see my ex-girlfriend that much ... thanks to the U.S. Department of Justice."
- Wait till my wife hears about this!
- I had a good time tonight. I'd love to see you again in six to eight months with good behavior.

Have a “warm” February and remember to always *“stay on the path with Jesus!”*

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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First Church of God

Sunday:

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Youth Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Adventure Club Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Adventure Club	7:00 p.m.

True Love Grows

Through sunshine, rain,

Through smiles and
tears,

Through sickness,
health,

And passing years,

True love still grows

More firm and sure,

More deep and strong,

More sweet and pure.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers
and Poems

This month:

- 3 WCG Meeting
- 4 Ministry & Programming Council
- 8 Pastor's Wife Appreciation Day
- 11 Finance Council Meeting
- 14 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 15 Singspiration, PM
- 18 Christian Ed. Council Meeting
- 22 B-day / Anniversary Dinner
- 24 Easter Production Committee

March:

- 3 WCG
- 4 Ministry & Programming Council
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11 Finance Council Meeting
- 14 Men's Fellowship Breakfast