

DISCIPLE'S PEN

About four years ago, my family and I were in a horrible car accident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It was raining very hard, a car lost control and hit us on the rear corner panel of our car which caused us to spin out of control and crash into the concrete divider. We bounced off the divider and came to rest in the far-left hand lane facing the wrong way. Praise God we walked away with only bumps and bruises. I had a fractured finger and a knot on my head. It causes me to this day tremendous fear to be in the car, especially when it's raining. I pretty much won't get in the car when it's raining. I refuse to go on the Turnpike and if I absolutely have to, it's not without extreme fear and overwhelming anxiety.

About 8 months ago, Gideon asked me to go with him to deliver a washer & dryer. He informed me that we had to get on the dreaded Pennsylvania Turnpike to get there. I began to pray hard that God would give me a way out of this trip. I prayed and prayed some more, "God please help me get out of this trip." A few hours went by and it was time to go. My thoughts were, "Ok Jesus, if you didn't answer my prayer, you must have a reason."

When we got to the delivery location there was help to unload the washer and dryer, so I began to chat with the lady who lived there. She introduced me to her mother who was 91 years old, sitting in a worn-out wheelchair with a flexible seat area. Her lower legs were very swollen and were unable to be elevated due to the design of this wheelchair. Her daughter expressed that she had been sitting there for years and her desire to have a reclining chair for her mother, to elevate her legs and for her to have a more comfortable seat. I immediately thought of the beautiful leather recliner in my living room that

we barely use. I offered it to her and she tearfully accepted.

After delivering the washer/dryer set we went home (yes, on that dreaded road) loaded up the recliner and went back to them. I pondered as we drove how much I wanted to see this precious little lady sit in the recliner. And when we got there, they scooped her up and put her in it. That recliner fit her like a big hug! She cried and thanked us over and over, and all the while we felt like we should be thanking her for the happiness we felt in our hearts

that she was finally comfortable. As we chatted for a little bit I noticed there was no other furniture in the house. I

asked the lady, how do you sit with your mother? Her reply was, I bring in a plastic chair from the porch. I asked if she would like to have a sofa if we could find one online. She gratefully accepted; I measured her space and we

began to look online and found a beautiful sofa offered for free. When we contacted the seller she said it's available and if you come get it today I'll give you \$20 bucks! So off we went, down the turnpike, picked up the sofa, and back up the turnpike to take it to them. It fit perfectly.

All said and done, we ended up making not one, but three up-and-down trips on the dreaded PA Turnpike that day!! Our hearts were full and thankful for the opportunity Jesus had given us to be His hands and feet that day to share His love and kindness with others, and the people we met were more comfortable and thanking Him as well.

God has a sense of humor!

- Karen Youssef



Birthdays

Jim Beyer 7/6
Cyndi Landis 7/12
Rich Sprague 7/19
Kaitlyn Jiminez 7/20
Layla Garrido 7/24
Annie Stewart 7/25

**COMING UP:
SOME SPECIAL
DATES**

Anniversaries

Cesar & Judy Garrido 7/1
Bill & Karen Fennell 7/24
Steve & Sandy Landes 7/26
Kendrick & Janey Garrido 7/29

JUNE WORSHIP



June 7 - We welcomed Duane Hershberger, speaking about good news. Jesus preached that the kingdom is near. When we get new information we have to change our minds. We need to organize our lives around Jesus' call.

June 14 - Rob Arner was back with a message from Isaiah 30. He referred to Elijah's experience of waiting for God's presence who appeared not in the powerful wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in the gentle whisper. There are two ways to respond; to experience God's blessing we choose to conform our character to that of Jesus.

June 21 - Robin Long and Marlene Derstine joined us for Mission Sunday, to talk about the mission and work of Mennonite Central Committee. They reported on areas served, from Ukraine and Gaza to the Congo. Robin spoke of her own experiences in the Congo while Marlene focused on the Material Resource Center in Harleysville, where local people serve by producing comforters, assemble various kits and assist when the meat canning crew arrives. During the Sunday School hour, the missionaries to South Asia that we support spoke about their work with the church there.



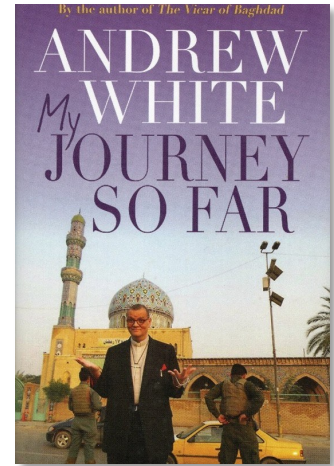
June 28 - Rob Arner was back with us with a look at Isaiah 36 and 37. When faced with a hopeless situation we wonder what to do. The bad news is that we can't make it better, but the good news is that God can. He is always working behind the scene and has control of human history. We must not rely on what we see but on what God said. God's promise to David that his kingdom will continue found its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

FROM THE LIBRARY: My Journey So Far, by Andrew White

We frequently talk about God sightings in our Tuesday and Friday prayer meetings, and whenever else we get together.

This little 5½" x 8½" 221-page book is "brilliant", as the British often say. Andrew's passionate, lifelong commitment to Jesus and his willingness to follow His guidance faithfully wherever it took him is truly inspirational.

Andrew begins Chapter 1 with, "My earliest memory is of being told how much Jesus loved me. I was brought up in a Christian household and my parents took every opportunity to reveal the love of God to me. Jesus was part of my life right from the beginning, and I loved Him as much as He loved me." Andrew wrote that he could not have been much older than 2 when he began praying every night, "*Dear Lord Jesus, I love you so much. Thank you for loving me so much, too. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayers.*"



How would you describe your own life's journey from your own viewpoint? Andrew describes his journey in 22 chapters, each only around 10 pages long:

An Unusual Beginning, Turbulence, Just Like Heaven, Called by God, The Academic Hothouse, A Prophetic Word, Life-defining Events, A New Life, Several Landmarks, Sent to Coventry, To the Middle East, Return to Iraq, The Road to Alexandria, Relief and Reconciliation Go Hand in Hand, Back to Coventry, Brought Back to Life, An Oasis of Healing, Don't Take Care: Take Risks, A Normal Day, The Bigger Picture, My Choice, and Very Special People.

I have always believed that, if you had a strong interest and sincere passion about something, you should make a significant contribution on a national basis to whatever that might be.

Andrew raises the bar much higher than I did and makes significant contributions to resolutions of conflicts, reconciliations and achieving peace on an international basis, especially in the Middle East. Testimonials on the back cover of Andrew's book support that.

Paul Bremer, former Presidential Envoy to Iraq: "This well-written book is full of Andrew's light humor and deep Christian faith ... and continued work for the poor and forgotten."

Reverend Canon J. John: "His story so far is a rollercoaster of a journey. This account will infuse faith, hope, and love."

Rabbi Melchior: "Canon Andrew White has devoted his life to the true mission – to assist, comfort, and save lives of human beings in the most difficult places of conflict."

Grand Ayatollah, Baghdad: "He is not just a spiritual leader for Christians, but for of all of us – Iraqis, Sunni, Shia, and others."

Each of us has already been on our own unique spiritual journey with God our Father, Jesus our Lord and Savior, and our Comforter, the Holy Spirit. What can we do to reach out to others to find common areas where we can all serve God better together?

- Karl Strauch

THE SHARING TABLE

On June 3 we held The Sharing Table. A special visitor was the sister of Gideon Youssef, who had come from Allentown with her friend, the wife of the minister of her church. They were interested in helping with the meal but found there was nothing for them to do. They were invited to join the meal and could share the table with Gideon and Karen.



**Monday Nights
In August
Concert Series**
7:00 PM karensplace.org

8.3 - Laura Breece Band with Liz Collins
8.10 - Eddy Mann with Wendy Schettig
8.17 - JJ Beauvais Band with Art Salvagno
8.24 - Once Called Saul with Colin Wessel
8.31 - Patrizsha and the Soulterior Motives

KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place outdoor concert series will again be held each Monday night in August from 7 to 9 pm.

PARTING THOUGHT

We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be
All that we have is yours alone, a trust O Lord, from you.
And we believe your word, though dim our faith may be
what-e'er for yours we do, O Lord, we do it unto you.

- William W. How

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the August issue of
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