

Good Sunday morning Church of the Apostles Family and Friends.....

Some of you are aware that I “worked” full-time as a caregiver to a retired school teacher named Emma, as I was going to school to become a licensed pastor and ministering in a two-church charge back in 2000 – 2006. During my time with Emma, I often took her to the Penn’s Valley Senior Center so she could socialize and take trips with folks her age to help keep her mind, body and spirit active. I often accompanied them and led Bible Study for them. Emma would bring many enlightening articles and pertinent information home with her so that her family felt a part of things and could continue conversations at home with her. Emma was suffering from Dementia.

I recently came across one of the articles the PV Senior Center sent home and thought you would all enjoy this. It is a true story. So sit back and enjoy:

### “THE ANT AND THE CONTACT LENS”

***The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.*** Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens.

‘Great,’ she thought. ‘Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry.’ She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn’t there.



She felt the panic rising in her, so she began to pray. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she might find her contact lens. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see

across the range of mountains. She thought of the Bible verse: *“The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.”*

She thought, ‘Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me.’

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, ‘Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?’

Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!

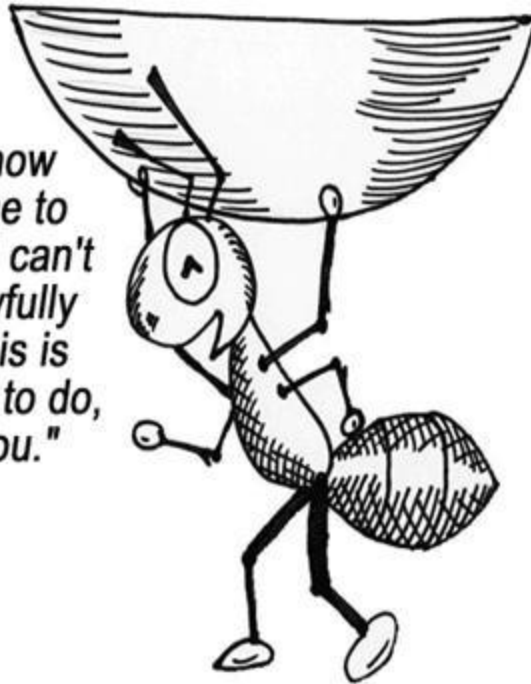


The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father, is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption: “Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and its awful heavy. But if this is what you want me to do; I'll carry it for you.”

Philippians 4:13 says: ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”***

I think it would do all of us some good to say, “God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if you want me to carry it, I will.”

*"Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But, if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."*



*"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Phil. 4:13*

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

Yes, I do love God. He is my source of existence and my Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. Without Him, I am nothing, but with Him..."I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

This is a simple text. If you love God and you are not ashamed of all the marvelous things God has done for you, share this with others.

Blessings and Prayers for the journey,

Pastor Narda

\*It has been a joy to be part of a group of our Apostles Family that dedicated their time and talents to a ministry of "keeping in touch" during this COVID-19 virus. We, by no means, feel we can just go back to normal, but since we are going back to worshipping outdoors on June 14<sup>th</sup> and safely, social distancing the week after; some of us have decided to stop the daily messages. Some may not. So for right now, I have decided to stop. I pray we will not need to start writing messages again if the virus becomes the serious threat it was, again. Thank you all!