

THE FELLOWSHIP

August 2009

Your World Recovered

Volume 12

The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery ministry. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited (no pun intended), than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.

This months edition of
The Fellowship
looks at
Chemical Recovery
and
Summer Vacation

A LITTLE SLEEP, A LITTLE SLUMBER, A LITTLE FOLDING OF THE HANDS TO REST-- AND POVERTY WILL COME ON YOU LIKE A BANDIT AND SCARCITY LIKE AN ARMED MAN.

Proverbs 6:10, 11



**We're
All
Ears**

DROP US A LINE

Faq@chemicalrecovery.org

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The Wind **SUMMER**

As a child nothing thrilled me more than school being out for summer. Conversely nothing brought on more terror than the beginning of the school year. And so, August for me was a mix of the ecstasy of summer and the dread of a new school year just on the horizon. It was the bridge

between heaven and hell. The greatness of summer was the idea of being on vacation. It was the getting away from accountability and school work. Summer meant good times. As an adult I have learned a very valuable lesson about good times and that is that I need to enjoy them but at the same time be careful in them.

The warning God gives concerning good times (recorded in Deuteronomy 6) is that these are the times when we tend to forget the Lord. Rough times bring us to our knees. Rough times are when we tend to be more sensitive to sin. Good times are when we get carefree with sin and forget about the pain the proud heart brings. As a kid it was during the structured school years that I was on my p's and q's, but with summer came an aimlessness and carelessness that, carrying into adulthood, set the stage for me using drugs, indulging in promiscuity, and having so much idle time that I was bound to get into all sorts of trouble.

This August I implore you: don't take a vacation from recovery of doing what's right, but instead use your freedom in Christ to do good. Visit the ocean and reflect on God. Read a book you are too busy or lazy to do during the rest of the year. Make more recovery meetings not less. Instead of doing what so many of us did during summers gone by (forget half the stuff we learned in school during the year) use it to learn about issues you suspect are important but never get in depth with.

I recently took this renewed mindset about summer and decided to apply it by going on vacation to Colonial Williamsburg. I chose this site because I not only wanted to get away, but I wanted it to be a time for my whole family to learn about history in a fun way. The trip made me appreciate God's providence and the beauty of the freedoms and rights he has bestowed on us. The trip was my way of incorporating learning and vacationing. A sort of schooling disguised as playing. It turned out to be the best vacation we had ever been on and we all thought we'd like to make it an annual tradition. A disciple is a student. Don't allow yourself to lose your learners heart. Truth, about all things, is our responsibility to seek out--in season and out of season.



Writers Needed

We are committed to getting out Gods message of hope to those in need of recovery. We present articles and commentaries that confront others to think about their lives in light of the events and times around them. We are looking for like-minded Christians who can write cutting-edge articles to aid in this endeavor.

To join us in this work, please email article@chemicalrecovery.org

Q: As it is coming into the Summer months, we are considering shutting down our CR group for the next three months to allow the attendees to spend more quality time with their families. Do you think this is a good idea?

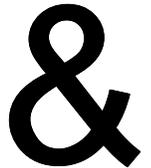
A: The Bible states in 1 Peter 5:8 that the devil prowls around like a hungry lion looking for someone to devour. If we want to experience total recovery from our addictions, we have to take this scripture and others like it seriously! Whereas I would agree that Summer is a time for vacationing, it is not appropriate to vacation from recovery. We have all seen the National Geographic programs that show a lion hunting for its next meal. It looks for the weakest, most vulnerable gazelle. Meat is meat. The lion wants an easy kill. In the same way, Satan is looking for the easy kill. He wants you to be off your game, he wants you to be so confident in your recovery that to miss a few groups is not going to bother you. He wants you to take your eyes off Jesus and place your confidence on your strength and abilities. Once that happens, he's golden and you're meat.

Back when I was using, I cared very little for my family, what they felt about my using and the quality times we were missing. I never remarked that now that the Summer had arrived, I would postpone my using until the fall and spend better family time. In reality, I probably used more in Summer than any other time of the year.

Some good advice is to look at the motives behind the decision. Proverbs 16:2 tells us that the Lord weighs our motives. Is this decision really to spend more family time. Why does this need to be an either / or decision. Why can't both be achieved by good time management. The 11 signs of relapse tells us that one of the first signs of a person heading towards relapse is a change from attending to not attending a recovery program. Once we stop working our recovery, we will eventually relapse and family time will mean little to us once more.

In the same way that it is the alert gazelle that lives to be the old gazelle, we need to take recovery seriously. We need to see as the gift from God that it truly is. Our vacation plans should not include time away from working on our recovery. Only through persistent total recovery will we realize the life God intends for us.

Have a question? Send it to faq@chemicalrecovery.org



A Passing Summer Thought

Funny how easily we jump into vacation mode. Those early in their recovery know that the thoughts, cravings and desire to use never take a break. Just in case you're having a hard time reconnecting with that reality, try taking a hiatus from your utility bills, credit card or mortgage payments. You're wonderful holiday will be quickly forgotten as you come crashing back to the real world of late fees and turn off notices. Recovery is not unlike any other service. If we forget about the bill we risk getting disconnected.

The Set-Up

There's almost nothing worse than the horrible feeling you get after realizing you've been ripped off. Even more so when you think about how easily it could have been avoided. In Genesis 3 we read about the mother of all scams and the first case of apostasy in the bible.

In the garden, the serpent slyly approaches Eve with a plan in mind. "Did God really say?" He asks, testing her conviction. "You won't surely die" he brazenly asserts contradicting and violating God's warning against disobedience. "Then you will be like God knowing the difference between good and evil" he concludes with an appeal to Eve's pride, tempting her with the very same sin of envy he himself committed against God.

In this ancient story we should recognize the now all too familiar blueprint used by Satan to ambush the unsuspecting and spiritually disconnected. Is it possible that we are being set-up this summer by a deceiving serpent? Where once we were keenly aware of Satan's tricks, are we now susceptible to being taken in by a seductive and contrary message? Instead of speaking the truth in love, have we ourselves gotten into a habit of listening to other voices that are leading us away from God's will, people and purpose? Have we of late, in addition to our faith, taken to believing other 'truths' outside of God's word that also seem right?

In God's garden there was only one rule. This summer are you sure about what God has said?



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