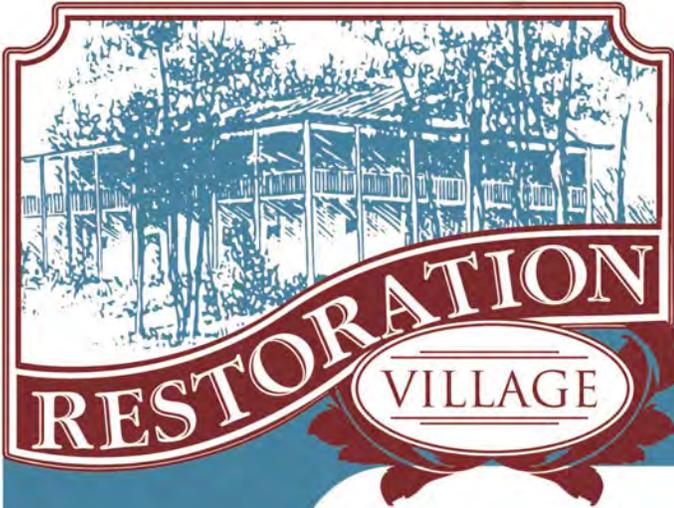


MAY 2014



ARE YOUR MARVELOUS WONDERS EVER SEEN IN THE DARK, YOUR RIGHTEOUS WAYS NOTICED IN THE LAND OF NO MEMORY? (Psalm 88:12, *The Message*) Ever forget where you put your car keys? Already running a little late in leaving for work and the keys aren't in the night stand, on the book shelf, in your jacket pocket, on the kitchen cabinet and then: you remember, they were left in the car because your hands were full bringing in groceries.

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## The Land of No Memory

I read that the average person misplaces up to nine items per day and those questioned for the survey averaged 15 minutes per day searching for the items they misplaced. In the past three years I have ruined two pair of eyeglasses because I forgot that I placed them on a stool in the closet and then sat on them in order to tie my shoes. Minor memory lapses are, according to researchers, a norm for all ages and are not necessarily a sign of a more serious medical condition such as dementia or Alzheimer's.

The breakdown occurs in two different, but related areas: we fail to activate our memory at the beginning, and then do not encode what we are doing when we put down the object(s). Encoding a memory, the hippocampus (a central part of the brain that is involved in memory functioning) takes a snapshot of the action and preserved in the neurons which can be activated later with a reminder or cue as what needs to be retrieved. In my own personal life when I cannot find what I misplaced and the 15 minutes of looking is surpassed I

usually call for Beverly (as if she knew) and eventually pause and retrace in my mind the locations I crossed prior to the loss. It works often even to the loss of a cell phone on the large valley acreage.

Often our busy lives are more about the fact that we walk into the house, we are thirsty or hungry, and our thoughts are on fulfilling a need and the car keys are put down in an attempt to solve the supposed "need" and did not pay attention to where we put down the keys. I do this a lot with tools when I put them down in the barn because I am already in my mind working on the next project. There are many things we forget and some are more important than others when we enter the *Land of No Memory*.

One of the Promises two years prior to a Restoration Village is found in Deuteronomy 6:10-15: "*And when the Lord your God brings you into the land... which you did not build, and house full of all good things, which you did not fill, and cisterns which you did not dig out, and gardens and trees which you did not plant, and eat and are full, then beware lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of captivity, out of the house of bondage.*"

## Village News

THESE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN PACKED WITH ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS as the Village launches into its 25th year. Repairs to the Chapel/Library were almost ready for the final phase of new carpeting when the construction crew noticed a new leak. At the present time they are digging out the side dirt in order to find and fix the situation causing the leak.



**The welding and doors for the bay area of the barn is occurring and the parking lot is emptied of automobiles once more.**



**The asphalt driveway is finished and welcomes all with a smooth ride to the lodge.**



**THE VILLAGE'S ADVOCATE REPORT FOR LAST MONTH:** Nine women and 10 children under age 18 were in residence; one resident transitioned out to an apartment; received 35 hotline calls seeking assistance; support groups met weekly including attendees who do not reside at the Village; two are in college; seven residents employed; and four began working on new goals. We so appreciate your support as we serve others to begin the restoration journey of their life.

MY WIFE, BEVERLY, IS NOT PRONE TO NOR SEEKS RECOGNITION, BUT I AM PROUD OF AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WAS BESTOWED UPON HER LAST MONTH FOR IT IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HER PASSION TOWARDS PROTECTING CHILDREN. In March, the National Children's Advocacy Center at their annual conference in Huntsville, Alabama chose and awarded Beverly with the "Outstanding Service Award" as the Victim Advocate of the Year 2014. Even in her acceptance of the award she graciously reminded all that it "takes a Village to raise a child, but it take an Army to rescue a child" as she thanked NCA, the other advocacy centers, the staff and volunteers and all involved in protecting children.

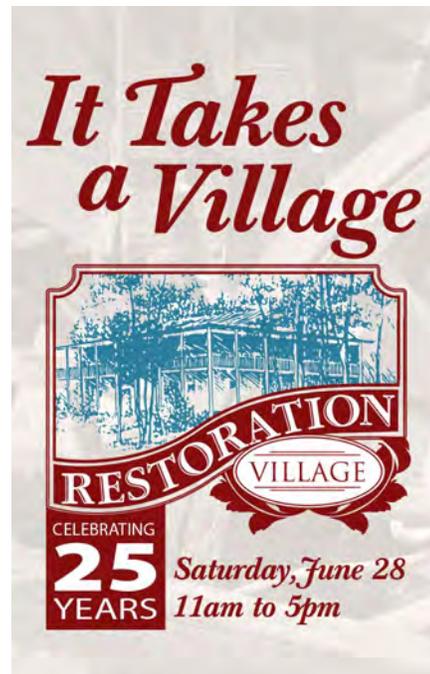
there are people who care about them and their futures. Thanks CrossChurch!



The children and their mother's line up for the annual Easter egg hunt before the full course lunch on a beautiful, sun-drenched Saturday prior to Easter.



A group from CrossChurch, Rogers, provided the volunteers, brought gifts for the children, and prepared a delicious meal for all to enjoy at the egg hunt. These types of events allow us to share a small bit about the Village, provide a good fellowship of activities for the mothers and children, and always is a way for us to emphasize to the residents that



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In June of this year, Restoration Village will have been serving the disenfranchised, the women and their children whom are in a crisis time of their life journey. For the multitudes that have passed through the portals of the Village, the changed lives, the never ending stories that have taken a different direction, many memorable miracles, and improvement upon the land and buildings, we are grateful to you who have chosen to share of yourself to aid in making it all come to pass. It is most important at this monumental occasion in history that together we make sure that God is not misplaced or forgotten in the ever growing and enlarging history of Restoration Village.

We walk by faith and not by sight. Several years ago in the earlier days of the Children's Advocacy Center and the Village, Beverly arranged for all the staff to take a day off. We all attended a ropes course in Springdale, Arkansas. One of the "Group Dynamics" was to learn to trust each other by standing backwards to a group of the others on a platform, and then fall backwards into the arms of others that were "supposed" to catch the one. In actuality, confronted with falling several feet backwards caused hesitation and apprehension to one to fall. The instructor told us a secret, "Close your eyes and fall." Amazing, we closed our eyes, folded our arms across our chest, and fell backwards. Faith is a lot like that – learning to fall with your eyes closed. Faith is not a planning event; it is an exercise in trust. The Promise we had was for the kind of property that God would be bringing us into, but the promise was not fulfilled for two more years. However, we kept looking and **trusted** in that Promise.

John Newton, the slave trader and writer of the song *Amazing Grace* in his autobiography writes often of "I soon forgot." When thrown from a horse as a boy, looking death in the face which so impressed him; years later he was to join friends on a boat to row out to a battleship, he was detained, missed the boat and it capsized

and they all drowned and he "was deeply affected;" he had a prophetic dream; the affection of his mother and her death when he was 7; to all of these and more he wrote such a solemn three word sentence, "I soon forgot." Later as a slave trader he was to write of a great storm and the crew and he despaired for their life and John cried out for mercy and writes, "**a day much to be remembered by me and I suffered it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748.**"

Part of the memory and the giving of Glory for these years are unto the Creator of the Universe and the One to whom has entrusted this work in Little Flock, Arkansas. We would be so wrong to forget that none of this would or could have been accomplished without YOU, without other Ministries, and without you being chosen by God to walk along beside Restoration Village these past 25 years. To us

the month of June is about "**a day to be much remembered**" for the deeds, the miracles and His blessings to those that have shared in this work, Restoration Village.

Faith is not a planning event; it is an exercise in trust.

ON JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, we extend to you an invitation to celebrate 25 years in the Promise Land here at Restoration Village. The day is orientated to fun activities for the children, for a breaking of bread in fellowship (that means a great prepared lunch on the grounds), tours of the buildings (it has come a long way in all these years), live music (one of our Board members and his band) and a short program to thank you and share the beginnings and the future. But most of all, it is that we do not forget the Lord who prepared the way and continues to insure the future. Already former residents have come forth to volunteer as tour guides for the buildings, and you probably may just hear a story of what used to be and where they are now. You can even invite a friend who knows nothing about where Little Flock, Arkansas is and has never heard of Restoration Village.

