

## Squeaky says... Oh My! Lent is here!

Hi Everybody... I like being around Christians, especially you guys at the Tab. You know how to have a good time. But that creates a problem for me.

When I heard someone talking about Lent being an opportunity to break habits and self-centered living, I freaked out!!! I look forward to Sunday mornings when everyone goes over to the auditorium after coffee hour. That's my time to indulge my



**The Tabernacle's resident church mouse, philosopher and occasional complainer**

sweet tooth. I look around for the biggest morsels, hop up on one of those soft couches and suddenly I'm transported to Candy

Land. I have to confess I'm addicted to the orange scones.

My question is, do mice have to follow Christian principles if they live in a church? I think I already know the answer but could you help me out a little? How 'bout being extra careful during Lent to not drop crumbs on the floor.

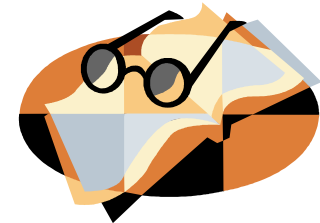
One more question, how long does Lent last?

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY

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## TIDBITS March 2009

**Learning to love GOD  
And one another**



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*John 13:34-35*

# Increasing our appetite for GOD... tidbits from Don & Linda Lees

Issue 17— March 2009



Norma Zengotita

Norma was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Thiells, New York when she was five years old. In 1990, she and her parents moved to Florida. Her father passed away in 2003.

When Norma was 19 years old, she invited the Lord into her heart but for a long time she struggled in her walk with Him. More recently she has become increasingly aware of the Lord leading her to confront those things that have been undermining her faith so that she can have an authentic, more intimate relationship with Him

Norma works for a law firm in Melbourne. In her free time she likes to travel, go antique shopping and attend art exhibitions. She likes to spend her vacations in quiet places where she can enjoy God's creation in nature.

The plight of the homeless and desperately poor deeply touches Norma's heart and she has been praying to know how God may be leading her to serve them. Norma admits to being very shy but longs to bond with her brothers and sisters in Christ. On Sunday mornings, you will find her in the Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour. Come by and be blessed by one of her big, cheery smiles.

## The Body of Christ—Don

Lent is a season that reminds us that a self-indulgent life is contrary to the life Jesus lived in revealing Himself as Emmanuel—God with us. In fact, Mark 10:45 records Jesus saying to His disciples, "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life (soul) a ransom for many."

This statement came as a response to an argument the disciples were having with James and John regarding their request to be positioned with Jesus at His left and right hand in His glory.

It's easy to criticize James and John regarding their self-centeredness but recently I realized I have been very self-centered in my dealings with a government agency. I didn't feel like my situation was being treated fairly, being penalized for someone else's mistakes.

I began to realize that at the core of my discontent was the question, "What's in it for me?" Very few times do I consider the ransoming of my soul for another's benefit. Jesus was rarely treated fairly because His demonstrated values and priorities were opposite of the self-centered culture for whom He was sacrificing His life.

God created us in His image, which means we have an inherent characteristic that must reach out to others and in particular to God, allowing our souls to be ransomed for His glory. Hebrews 12:3



## Practical Suggestions—Linda

One of the worst times for me to sink into self-centeredness is when I don't feel good. It doesn't even have to be life-threatening or painful. A simple cold can easily put me in a bad mood.

An effective way I have found to combat self-absorption is to declare God's truth. There are many Scriptures that tell of God's love and destiny for us and that brings comfort.

Another thing that has helped me is to practice the Presence of God. Years ago, when I was experiencing recurring bouts of depression, I discovered a powerful Scripture that changed my life. It is Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and are safe." I found that when I was in the Presence of God, I experienced relief from the terrifying thoughts that plagued me.

Since that time I set aside several periods each day to fellowship with the Lord. Out of that daily habit comes the encouragement I need to keep on keeping on when things are not going well in my life.

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