

Squeaky says...

Hi Everybody...

Why is it that I'm always getting challenged in my most vulnerable areas? I try to hide my wimpiness with a macho fa-



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

çade. You know, shoulders back, head held high, with a little Tabernacle strut. But

someone caught me on camera recently in a most humiliating position and now I'm busted. In my defense, I'd like to explain.

When I learned about the theme of this month's Tidbits (ok, I eavesdropped), I decided to be the first one to try to exercise courage. I had seen the mousetrap, fully loaded, that Jimmy placed in Fellowship Hall. Though I desperately wanted that cheese, I always walked around that trap in a very wide circle.

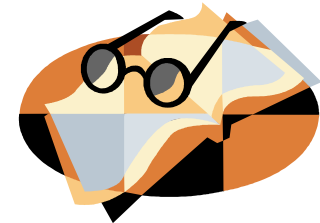
Well, the other day I decided to go for it. Granted, I protected myself a little bit with the helmet. But, you gotta give a guy a break. It was my first time to enter the "no return zone." Obviously, I survived but I will let the results of that scary encounter totally up to your imagination.

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY

1616 Ferndale Avenue Melbourne,
Florida 32935

TIDBITS
July
2008

Learning to love GOD
And one another



TABERNACLE
COMMUNITY


John 13:34-35

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

Issue 9— July 2008



MAY HEINLY

May grew up in Hong Kong, then moved to Canada with her family. From there she came to the United States to further her graduate studies. She has lived in the states for over 30 years and has been at the Tab since 1992.

Reading, music, designing jewelry, and photography are some of May's many interests. She loves to capture the beauty of God's creation on film, whether it's scenery or people.

This Summer, you will find May serving in the kitchen during Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings. She volunteered for this job because of the importance she places on Christian fellowship. "The time sitting in church once a week does not let you get to know people," says May. She also has a passion for praying for people and helping the helpless.

May lives with her son, Gavin, who is a senior at UCF.

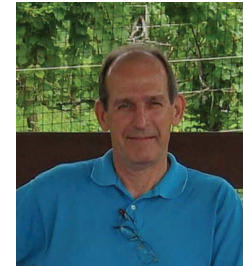
The Body of Christ...

We don't hear a lot of teaching about courage but, when I observe how Jesus interacted with people during the week preceding Passover, knowing His destiny, I see tremendous courage. When He was confronted by the scribes, lawyers and Pharisees regarding His authority (Luke 20), He knew that the turmoil of His arrest and crucifixion was near. However, He continued teaching in the temple. He provoked that opposing group and the entire assembly with parables that clearly described His rejection and the failure of the religious leadership.

Then in Luke 21:7, in response to the comments about the temple, He said, "The days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another." The disciples asked when these things would happen. In the remainder of the chapter, He describes the trauma they would experience. In verse 19 He tells them, "In your patience possess ye your souls."

For me to effectively exercise patience during unsettling events, I need to have an awareness of God's sovereignty over me. Courage to trust God is a choice for me to make and act upon. It's difficult to let the Holy Spirit impart patience and faith to endure trying times but GOD is requiring me to do that on a daily basis.

I am discovering that my real desire is for GOD's Presence and comfort and, with that, comes the patience and faith through His grace.



Practical Suggestions... I have always thought of courage as attempting something risky, like skydiving. But lately, I've come to realize that it also takes courage to exercise faith.

Since I was a child I have had periods of depression caused by a chemical imbalance. When I first became aware of God's love for me in my 20's, I was coming out of one of those depressions and I assumed that I would never have to suffer that kind of emotional pain again. So, the next time depression hit, I was confused. I thought God abandoned me and I went through agony trying to figure out what I had done wrong.

Finally, I turned to His Word for the truth. I discovered that He will never leave me, that He forgives all my sin, that He loves me and so much more.

It took courage to believe God's Word when my emotions and thinking didn't line up with the truth. There is only one anchor when life's circumstances swirl around us and that is the truth of God's Word.

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY

1616 Ferndale Avenue Melbourne, Florida 32935

E-mail: dlees@leewardenterprises.com