

EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO & PITTSBURGH, PA.

www.ecr-acpe.org

September 2003

Frankly Speaking

Looking for Beauty

There are places where we expect to encounter beauty. A few years ago my wife and I drove from San Francisco to Yosemite. We expected to encounter beauty and we were not disappointed. Driving into the valley among the redwoods, with spectacular waterfalls pouring into the upper valley is only the beginning. To stand in Yosemite Village at the very head of that valley is a mystical experience. Even amid the commercialization that comes with tourists, it is still possible to feel the quiet beauty of this special place. On the way out of the valley the road passes directly under El Capitan, a monstrous stone mountain that stands sentinel and beckons to climbers to scale its flat, sheer vertical face. When we take trips to exotic places: the mountains, the ocean, to tropical islands, we expect to be met with beautiful vistas. But there are moments of beauty that often ambush us in the midst of our everyday lives. Too often, I suspect, we remain preoccupied with what we are doing, and because we do not expect to see beauty in this time and place, we miss it. A couple examples come to my mind.

I was at work a few weeks ago in the early evening when my next appointment took me into the main corridor the hospital. This hallway lies east and west, with the main doors of the hospital situated at the west end of the hall. Two of these entry doors are motorized revolving doors that rotate continuously if there are people moving toward them. As I stepped into this hallway and looked westward, the sun was just setting. As the horizontal beams of the sun struck those revolving doors, it threw flashing shafts of rose-colored light down that long corridor. It was dazzling! It was also hard to see, as you looked down the hall into the blinding light. This is the choice we often have to make: Do we respond in frustration to the blinding effect of the light, or do we marvel at the beauty of the moment? For some reason, at that moment, I was able to see and respond to the beauty.

Some years ago there was a summer evening when I was home alone. It was one of those blue-sky evenings with a few cumulus clouds standing tall in the sky. I noticed one in particular which stood off to the south with its head shining brightly in the evening sun. It occurred to me that it would be fun to get in my airplane and head south and fly around this little cumulus cloud. Soon I was airborne and headed south, climbing. My plan was simple, to aim for about the middle of the vertical reach of the cloud, and pass east of the column, turn west around the "backside" of the cloud, and then fly north around the west side of it and back home. It was bigger than it looked and farther away than I could imagine. In fact, it was enormous! By the time I was circling the cloud, I was sixty miles from the airport and ten thousand feet high! But what an exotic moment that was. The body of that huge cloud was shining in the sun as it stood, looking as solid as stone in the turquoise evening sky. Floating around the body of the cloud were little horizontal wisps of cloud that stretched out in a gauzy softness. For a good part of an hour it was "my cloud." No one else was around. In a few hours it would cease to exist, but at that moment it was real, it was beautiful, and I felt thrilled to be embracing it.

One more story: This summer, my wife, Dinah and I have watched a pair of doves raise their young in our back yard. They nested under the eaves of our sunroom. One day, Dinah walked out onto the deck and noticed that the two baby doves were on the ground underneath the nest. They sat there for several hours, and the parents brought them food and hovered over them. Dinah was becoming anxious, because it would soon be time to let our dogs out into the yard. Thinking that it might be necessary to assist them back into the nest, she stepped out into the yard and began to approach the baby birds. Suddenly, without warning, both the babies flapped their wings and took flight to the nearest tree! Dinah was thrilled. She is a great lover of all things living. She felt she had played some part in launching the career of those two little doves. At her approach, the babies discovered what they might not have known till then—that they could fly, and they were safe. Beauty unexpected.

It is so easy to miss baby birds, clouds that come and go, and fleeting shafts of sunlight. When we are watching and expecting it, we often find beauty in the most unexpected places. Sometimes, those of us who work in hospitals question why we would choose to spend our lives ministering and teaching among the sick, injured, and dying. There is much pain, it is true. Yet when we are open to it, there are rare moments of beauty that dazzle us. We have one chaplain who does a lot of our night duty. Time and again, I hear her say in her morning report to the staff, "... They were just a sweet family to be with." Even when she walks through the tragedies and losses in the middle of the night, she tunes in to the beauty in the character and courage of those with whom she ministers.

All of us have had those moments working with students, or patients, or families, or staff, when the character, courage, compassion, love, or humor of persons in the midst of great extremity can transport us into a place of rare beauty. Often these are fleeting and unrepeatable, but they do exist and we can share in them if we have our eyes and our hearts open.

Collegially,
Frank



Pastoral Concern

Daryl Hanson's wife, **Mary**, was recently released from the hospital after suffering an acute interior wall myocardial infarction caused by coronary artery disease. Please remember to keep Mary in your prayers as she continues her rehab.

Celebrations and Transitions

Welcome back – **Sue Breiner!** Sue was a member of our region until 1994 at Larue Carter Hospital in Indianapolis. She has returned and is now working at the Center for Spiritual Care, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Inc. Sue plans on attending the September conference so be sure to give her a personal welcome!



Certification News:

If you are meeting a committee at Hueston Woods, remember your presenter must receive your materials by September 18, 2003. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by e-mail saxtonm@sjrmc.com or by phone at 574-282-8904 or mary.burks-price@nortonhealthcare.org by phone 502-629-3152; FAX 502-629-3125



Calendar of Events

- **September 19-20, 2003** – East Central Region, ACPE Fall Meeting – Hueston Woods, College Corner, OH. (Details will be provided as they become available)
- **November 12-15, 2003** – ACPE Annual Conference-Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, WI.
- **February 5-7, 2004** – REM – Chicago, IL.
- **February 20-21, 2004** – East Central Region, Annual Meeting – Hueston Woods, College Corner, OH.
- **April 21-25, 2004** – ACPE Leadership Meeting (Board Commissions, Committees) Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, TX.

Information for the October newsletter must be received by September 26, 2003. Send to: Regional Business Office, 7672 Cottonwood Lane, Dexter, MI. 48130 Telephone: 1/800-336-5099; or E-mail lykbyl@aol.com

Members of the ECR:

September 2, 2003

Have you mailed your registration for the September conference at Hueston Woods? If your name is not on the list below I have not received your registration. **If your name is not on the list and you plan to attend the conference please e-mail me or call me lykbyl@aol.com or call 1/800-336-5099. Thank you for your quick response.**

Ackley, Steve
Alpers, Ruth
Altenbaumer, Mary
Amann, Martha
August, Steven "Tom"
Barnett, Lin
Bonner, Constance
Brand, Cal
Brandon, Larry
Burks-Price, Mary
Carpenter, Ralph
Ciampa, Frank
Culleen, Carrie
Deighton, Donald
DeMeritt, Carl
DeMeritt, Elizabeth
Farrar, Donna
Foster, William
Gilligan-Gillespie, Rhonda
Green, Carol
Hanson, Daryl
Hanson, Mary
Harris, Donald
Hart, Charles
Hoppert, Earl
Hurst, David
Impicciche, Frank
Kennedy, Sharon
Koch, David
Kyser, Susan
Letson, Ann
Long, Lonnie
Lyke, Joan
McCarthy, Maureen
McGeeney, Bob
Mitchell, James
Nininger, Kathy
Paulus, Jon
Persenaire, Bob
Peterson, John
Reddel, Gene
Rhyand, Lisa
Rowatt, Wade
Saxton, Mike
Scrivener, Mike
Shelden Ward, Pat
Shobe, Carla
Uken, Bob
Uy, Henry
VanDyke, Barbara
VanHarn, Karl
Viti, Joe

Viti, Joe
Woggon, Frank
Woods, Bonnie

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Lonnie E. Long
Robert McGeeney, Jr.

Regional Supervisory Candidates

Ruth Alpers
Carrie Cullen
Donald Harris
James Mitchell
Jon Paulus
Joe Roberts
Pat Shelden Ward
Tim Waits

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Director

Rhonda Gillespie, Accreditation
Lin Barnett, Vice Chair
Urias Beverly, Nominations
Billie Beverly, REM
_____, Board of Reps
Larry Brandon, Budget & Investment
Mary Burks-Price, Co-Chair Certification
Carl Buxo, Professional Ethics
Carol Green, Board of Reps
Earl Hoppert, Long Range Planning & Development
Robert Leas, History
BJ Myers-Bradley, Clinical Members
Kathy Nininger, Chair
Michael Saxton, Co-Chair Certification
Karl Van Ham, Standards
Celia Thurston, Research

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