

The Garden Gate

MY FATHER IS THE GARDENER...I AM THE GATE; WHOEVER ENTERS THROUGH ME WILL BE SAVED. *JOHN 15:1; 10:9*

A Not So Gentle Reminder

By *Abbie-fo Wilcox*

“Now Ab, stay away from that stuff. You don’t want to get near it. You’ll be sorry if you do!” my soon-to-be 80 year old father warned. “It’s terrible stuff!” I looked at the three leaved plant winding its way through the bushes I was helping to trim. It really was kind of pretty and after all of my pruning, it was the only green thing left. “Don’t worry”, I retorted. “I’ll be careful.” I thought to myself, “Here I am, 36 years old and I have never gotten poison oak. I’m sure I’m immune. Otherwise I would have gotten it by now. However, I will be extra careful around the plant.” I gingerly continued cutting around the oak, being ever so careful not to put my hand near it, using the pruners to remove dead branches around it. Every now and then my father would ask me if I wanted to borrow gloves or a sweatshirt to protect me from the poison. I insisted that I was fine, noticing that he was completely covered from head to toe despite the incredibly humid morning. I figured that I could escape the effects of the plant as long as I was careful.

The morning progressed and my sister and mom came to help in the “work day”. They commented that I had better be careful; the bushes were full of the poison oak. Pride was really driving me now and I assured them that I had successfully avoided any contact. Several wheelbarrow loads later, all of the clippings had been removed, and the bushes were successfully cut back. *(continued on page 2)*

Get your Garden Gate Electronically!

Did you know the Garden Gate is available by e-mail?

Save yourself the time of finding each issue on the table at the back of Friday mornings. Get the Garden Gate by e-mail the night before it is handed out. Save Side by Side money by cutting down on printing and postage costs.

Send an e-mail to sidebysiderochester@yahoo.com to indicate your preference to receive the Garden Gate electronically. It’s that simple!

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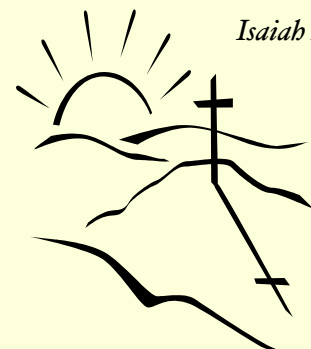
Dates to Remember

- October 2 & 30 - AM Small Groups Meet
- October 6, 13, 20 & 27 - PM Small Groups Meet
- October 9 & 16 - No AM meeting
- October 13 - Leader’s Meeting 9:30-11am
- November 3, 10, 17 & 24 - PM Small Groups Meet
- November 6 & 20 - AM Small Groups Meet

2009 - 10 Theme Verse

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiab 40:28



Side by Side
Morning - Rochester

Steering Committee
2009 - 2010

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A NOT SO GENTLE REMINDER CONTINUED

The next couple of days, I woke up and declared that I was poison oak free! I had navigated the infectious plant with success. I felt pretty proud of myself. And then it happened...I woke up in the night with an itch on my leg. I didn't think much of it until the next morning. There on my leg appeared a small red bump, much like a mosquito bite.

Another bump surfaced during the day and still more and more. My mother-in-law laughed at me as I declared the outbreak wasn't that bad. "Oh, you just wait." she said, "Poison oak will be bothering you for the next 6 weeks!" Six weeks of sheer irritation for barely touching the plant (actually I think I touched the wheelbarrow handle that had the sap on it) when I was so careful to control my exposure?!! I couldn't believe it.

Sin is like the poison oak. We can be so careful and so sure of ourselves thinking that being around it won't affect us. In the Garden of Eden, Eve was warned by her father not to go near the tree of life. But she, like me, went near it. I bet she thought that it wouldn't affect her, as long as she was careful.

Eve was wrong in her thinking in three ways. First, she went near the tree and in "only admiring" its beauty she falsely thought she could avoid its poison. Second, once she exposed herself to the tree by eating the fruit, she pride fully thought that she had navigated the poison. Third, Eve believed that the lack of immediate effect made it acceptable for others to partake in her foolishness and thus she convinced Adam to also eat. The result: consequences that have spanned the ages.

Nine weeks later I am still experiencing an occasional spot of Poison Oak. I never thought it would last this long. I bet that Eve never in her wildest imagination thought that her exposure would last until today and beyond.

Garden Gate Information

The Garden Gate is published six times per year. The Garden Gate is passed out at the first morning meeting of the month and then mailed to those members who don't pick theirs up. The Garden Gate is e-mailed to all night members as well as those morning members or alumni who have chosen to receive the Garden Gate electronically. Past issues are also available on the website.

If you would like to change your delivery method please contact the Garden Gate editor, Cheri Milligan at cherim@kualumni.org. If you would like to contribute to the Garden Gate please e-mail Cheri by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Contributors

ABBIE-JO WILCOX

Abbie-Jo is originally from Holland, Mi. She moved to Rochester, Mn with her husband Ryan in 1996 "just" for medical school. Twelve years later, they are still at Mayo, where Ryan is half way done with his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology. They have two daughters: Adelyn age 6 and Nellie age 3.

Happy Birthday!!



October 4 Jill Thompson
 October 8 Cami Kirksson
 Rebecca Lindell

October 10 Ruth Brennan
 Morrey
 Stephanie Jones
 October 17 Faith Thomas
 October 24 Leslie Finnoff
 Abbie-Jo Wilcox
 October 26 Kaori Manabe

 November 6 Celeste Issa
 November 7 Mary Hanson
 November 8 Stephanie
 Collura
 November 17 Yuka Ohtani
 Jess Swetz
 November 21 Alisa Copeland
 Kayoko Takumi
 November 22 Yukiko Kurita

Baby News

Congratulations to...

Tanya Florin and Heath Chung and big sister, Lucy - who welcomed Rowan (7 lbs, 4oz) and Phoebe (5 lbs., 3oz) on Friday, Sept. 18th.

Lori & Wilson Daugherty, sisters Caroline & Charlotte and brother Carter, who welcomed Corinne Elizabeth at 3:15 Wednesday, September 23rd. She weighed 7lbs 3oz and is 20 1/4 inches long.



*Side by Side
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*Steering Committee
 2009 - 2010*

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What is Side By Side Rochester?

Side By Side Rochester is a group of women who desire to grow in their walk with the Lord while supporting one another as medical spouses. Being married to a doctor brings with it a unique set of circumstances. We are here to pray for, love and encourage one another through whatever those circumstances might be, while spurring one another on in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

Our goals are as follows:

- To build Christian friendships through fellowship.
- To be a place of prayer and support.
- To challenge women to study and apply the Bible to their lives daily.
- To learn more about God and the Bible while growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To provide a safe atmosphere for children where Biblical principals are modeled and taught.

While striving to meet those goals, we are committed to nurturing and upholding these truths:

We believe in one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. Through his sacrifice, we can have eternal life and a personal relationship with God. The purpose of Bible Study is to help each of us grow in that relationship through study and fellowship.

The women of Side By Side come from all over the United States and from countries all over the world. We have different backgrounds and were raised in different denominations, many having never attended a bible study before!

We extend you an invitation to join us!

THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP...I THESSALONIANS 5:11

The Garden Gate
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Meeting at Autumn Ridge Church
for the 2009-10 year
and in members' homes

