



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

APRIL 2024

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Welcome to April! I pray you had a blessed, joyful Easter celebration and that the boundless love of Jesus fills your heart today. If life is slowing down and you like that, great. If not, find something to spice it up! If you are busy and you like that, "You go, Girl"! If you are like me, buckle-up your seatbelt, because busy is not a strong enough word!

Why Smile Through Pain?

"You have a beautiful smile!" "You always have a smile on your face!" "I knew you were here because I heard you laugh!" These are statements I hear all the time. Does this mean I am a happy, carefree Christian who has no problems or troubles? NO! Let me explain.

When my Mom reached a 'certain age' she looked to be unhappy all the time. I knew she had a loving, Christian heart, so I would ask, "Mom, what's wrong?" Her answer was always, "Nothing." I was perplexed. One day Mom's answer changed, "Nothing is wrong. Why do you ask?" "Well, you always have a sad face, turned down lips," I replied. Her response was, "Oh, when you get older your lips thin (actually they curl in)."

That got me to thinking. Mom always looked happier when she had lipstick on, so maybe that was the answer. Well, I got to that age and saw her reflection in my mirror. Don't get me wrong, I thought my

mother was wonderful and beautiful, a delightful Christian example. This was different, I looked unhappy! Was it thinning (or curling) lips? Yes! So what do I do?

I decided from that point on to smile at all costs. "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22) Ok, so my face looked happy, but my heart did not feel joyful! I still had issues, some physical and some emotional. So, what to do? Saint Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

That was a solution I could get behind. As I got busy studying God's word, I found numerous reasons to have joy in my heart. God created me and knows my every need. He sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross as our substitute so we could have eternal life with Him! He put me into a family of believers both at home and in my church. Wow, that is enough to make anyone smile!

God has given me so much hope that I draw on His words every day, using them to make my heart sing and my smile genuine. Romans 15:13 states, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Hope brings joy, joy brings a smile. Joy and happiness are not the same thing. James 1:2 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds", which means that I can still smile through the troubles of life, because God loves me, Jesus saved me, and the Holy Spirit dwells within me!

With joy in your heart and a smile on your face stay dry and watch the flowers bloom. Have a blessed month and I hope to see you at the convention. Christian Life committee members will be at the Friday

prayer and song service and at Saturday morning chapel. Please take a moment to say hi. Be sure to stop by the Christian Life table and check out the free goodies and look at the Retreat bulletin board. There will also be a table for prayer and quiet time (a chapel space).
Until next month,

I love you all,
Cathey

COMING SOON!

LWML CNH CONVENTION

APRIL 19-20-21 2024

For information, Contact your society president, Zone president or LaVada Terrell
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