**Weekly Devotional 2-14-2012 Showing Love**



First off “Happy Valentine’s Day” to everyone and if you are single “Happy Single Awareness Day!” Keep your eyes, ears and heart open love always finds a way!

Out of respect for this day and the true meaning of it I say a humble prayer for all of the Christians and martyrs who have loved for Christ and layed down their lives being what it really means to be a Valentine.

I forgot to write a devotional last week. All of last year it was pretty easy to keep up with it and write them because I was so alone and had so much time on my hands. Rather than stray to temptation and things that would get me in trouble in my boredom I chose to write that is how these devotionals came to begin. I love to write it is a piece of me, a part of me, it is a gift that God gave me a long time ago and has been the vessel of transportation for me to be able to get out my inner most hurts and pains and joys and thoughts from life out.

The Bible tells us in James 4:8, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” I feel that is what I do when I write it is when my thoughts are flowing out on the paper that I feel closest to Him, and He to me.

As I stated above last year I was completely alone and only had school and work to contend with. This year things have did a complete one-hundred and eighty degree turn around my daughter and my grand-children were able to move back home with me, thank be to God and the love of my Papa Mel (RIP). This is an answered prayer that I have been praying for three years. However, I did not realize how I would have to change my schedule around to try to fit family time in an already full schedule with school and part-time work.

There is nothing more precious in the world than family even if you have hard times and struggles inside each and every one of us there is that unique but similar thread of existence; we all came from the same *loin cloth* so to speak. We are all family! Family can be beautiful and family can be tumultuous look in the Bible and see that. For those who are not familiar with the stories they are stories such as Jacob and Esau and their mother Rebekah in Genesis 27, 28, 32, 33, now the boy’s mother was really the instigator here one would think what kind of a mother would do such a thing, favoritism happens in families. Read about Joseph who was favored by his father in Genesis 37. Read the book of Ruth about love enduring even if you are not “*blood”* family, and there are so many more stories of real people with real hurts, but the most important story of all; God’s love for us in the giving of His Son Jesus Christ.

We are all in this together we are born, we live, we die, no one gets out of this world alive. There is a life after this one in which we will all be held accountable for everything we have said and did in this life. We should all love and care for one another. You should help those less fortunate than yourself. If you are able to give; give to others when the time presents itself to do so.

 Today I challenge everyone reading this whether you are reading it today on 2-14-2012 or whatever day you are reading it, I challenge you to make a difference in someone’s life who is less fortunate than you. I challenge you to give; if you can give money find someone who needs it and give some to them, if time then give time to someone in a nursing home or a hospital, give a hug, a smile an ear to someone outside of your comfort zone.

When you do that then you are truly celebrating Valentine ’s Day the way God expects us to do it, with the love and the compassion that Christ showed us!

Love Alwayz,

Michelle