

## PAT AND CONNIE KARN

Dear Friends,

I just purchased a framed, “word saying” for my sister who lives in Wisconsin; despite the Progressive Insurance commercials’ warning that having them indicates one is turning into their parents. I figured since she is almost 64 and looks and acts just like our mother did, it’s too late to worry about it. It says “I’m so blessed to live in a world that has Octobers”. If you’ve ever been to Wisconsin in October, you get it.

I think of October as a transition month. With daylight diminishing, high and low temperatures dropping like the leaves of the trees, we experience a gradual reminder of what is coming. God does that with seasons, age, even the bananas on the counter. We can’t stop the process, nor should we.

There is one process that works in reverse by God’s design. While all physical life has an appointed beginning and expiration, spiritual life has an appointed beginning with no end. The thing that both have in common is maturity. The

maturity of physical life leads to death while maturity of spiritual life leads to life.... abundant life.

If my body were a calendar, I would read October. I am of the age where the freckles of my youth are being replaced by age spots, the lines on my face which appeared only in laughter are now permanent wrinkles... with friends. Gravity is winning the tug of war! But doesn’t the word say that the Lord will “present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing?” Spiritual maturity leads to less spots and fewer wrinkles resulting in greater capacity to image the eternal Creator. Resurrection is winning the tug of truth!

How are we doing? Are we growing up while growing old? “The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their grey hair.” (Proverbs 20:29.) Just last week I did a baptism in Iron Creek Lake above Spearfish, SD. It was chilly! Connie and I then drove up over O’Neil Pass to get to Custer State Park to do a wedding rehearsal. The

aspen and birch trees were in full fall color. It was beautiful! I commented to Connie that I’d never realized just how many of them were mixed in with the pines of the Black Hills. They blended in or were hidden when green, but now, in full splendor, they are obvious and attractive. Are we?

As we transition through this life, are we standing out in the midst of the forest of the lost? Are we standing out for the right reason? Is it the beauty of Christ as His Spirit pours into and through us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify Your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16.) No matter what our age our behavior, words and countenance can read October if our splendor is His splendor!



## Black Hills Discipleship Update

A few weeks ago we had our quarterly BHDM board meeting. The fellowship with some of our favorite people and our opportunity to share with them what we've seen God do made for a great morning! It was suggested that we share some of those things in the newsletter so we'll give a little recap and a little update.

Our counseling schedule continues to be full. We've seen people come to Christ, Pastors discover God's grace, and so much in between. The uncertain times with fear, confusion and anger in abundant supply is taking its toll on the physical and mental health of so many. The peace of God is a precious commodity. In the past four weeks alone we've spent over 60 hours total with 11 different people between 18 and 27 years of age. The world is becoming a very intimidating place to young people. What an honor to share the hope we have in Christ!

We continue to do an intensive style of counseling/discipleship. What that means is our appointments are for either a full morning, afternoon or both. Some schedule consecutive days, (usually out of towners). When necessary, we see people in the evenings or weekends. The Lord is a great schedule manager!

Other opportunities have included a 3 day teaching retreat we did for our church over

Labor Day weekend, about a dozen pulpit fills, six weddings, two funerals and two baptisms. Connie does one on one discipleship for 6 different young women and loves it! I have three young men I disciple on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. I'm teaching a nine week discipleship training class to a group of high school homeschoolers and continue to co-teach the Wednesday morning mens study as I've done for 23 years. Connie is involved in a women's bible study which feeds her spirit and soul and we lead a small group bible study in our home every other week with some wonderful friends. We count all these opportunities as sweet blessings of the Lord!

We continue to work out of our rented office on Jackson Blvd and a free space open to us downtown. Our home or coffee shops work as occasional meeting spots. Our financial support has remained steady, increasing only when ministry costs increase. It has been fun to watch.

We are so grateful for all of you and we appreciate your partnership with us in this ministry of the Lord's. Thank You from the top, middle and bottom of our heart!

*Our love to you!*

*Pat and Connie*

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If you would like to know more about Black Hills Discipleship Ministries, please visit our website, [PCKMinistries.org](http://PCKMinistries.org). If the Lord leads you to partner with us financially, we do have a "donate" link on the site.