

Monday Coffee Cup...

February 15th, 2010

A bit of encouragement to bring a jolt of

Snow Day!



Now this is the way to write! I'm nestled under a snuggly blanket on my couch, enjoying a crackling fire and my cup of hot coffee. Ellen is still sleeping, after a late night last night, and Igor—our boxer—is snuggled up next to my feet, dozing in front of the toasty fire. Outside the snow just continues to fall—and there is little to no traffic on our road this morning. So it is quiet and quite peaceful on this 15th day of February.

In contrast, my husband is somewhere between Moscow and Singapore at the moment, making his way to the hot muggy climate of Indonesia—a far cry from our nearly blizzard conditions today! I miss him, but know that he is in strong, beyond-capable Hands, and simply look forward to that phone call that tells me he has safely arrived. He will have many experiences between that next anticipated phone call and the following, I am sure. I look forward to all that God will allow him and his team to see and do as they take the Gospel of Christ to an unreached area of the world. "May Your Name be glorified and known as a result, Lord!"

Well, while I'm not a huge fan of winter, I must admit there is something about a fresh snowfall... I used to love to walk out on the "Josephus Bowl" on Southern Seminary's campus, just after a new blanket of snow, and simply LISTEN. There always seems to be a profound peace and collective hush that accompanies that glistening white covering, and that I love! For a moment, life seems to slow its pace and enjoy a slight breather... at least it feels like that to me—if only for an instant.

Then along with the brief respite from our life's sense of necessary bustle, there is the pure unaltered "clean slate" that confronts us when we look out the window. I used to hate to mess up that blank canvas by traipsing through the snow to make snow angels or spell my name in footsteps... Though I did like to play in the snow, it was that initial breaking of the smooth white plain that made me hesitate a moment before jumping in to play. Don't we do that in life, in some ways? Sometimes I think we hold back from trying new things, for fear we might "mess it up" or disappoint ourselves or someone else in the process. And yet, if we refuse to step into the fresh fallen snow, we miss the joy of playing in it—we miss the full experience. So why not leave your mark? And why not take in the full experience along the way? Don't miss what God might have for you for fear you might mess it up! He is more than able to keep you from falling & messing up His plans—if you will follow His lead in the process!

*And let us not forget the other powerful reminder that comes with the snow... a reminder that brings much life— As King David prayed, we, too, can pray with confidence: "**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow**" (Psalm 51:7). In Isaiah, God promised, "**...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool**" (Isaiah 1:18). That's some strong cleansing power!! And it's yours for the asking!*



Today, as you see and experience winter's snowy gift, I pray you will also be reminded of 2 things: (1) Don't be afraid to get out and experience all that God intends for your life, not letting fear of "messing it up" hold you back; and (2) If you know Christ, then your sins have been washed clean—as white as snow... That's worth rejoicing about—no matter how you might feel about the snow!!

*Snowed in...
~Carlee*

