

# REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

## MY LIFE STRUGGLE

It has been five years since I had a momentous encounter with my spouse, my Lord, and myself in an ME weekend. Though the encounter continues to give my spirit the fire to endlessly seek God and His will, I cannot rightly say I've been entirely transformed. Sure, I attend weekly worship as much as I can. I've never missed the food line and the fellowship that has somehow encouraged me to hang on as I see others change before my eyes. But if there is something that really sends butterflies to my stomach, they are reflections; and those worships at reunions are simply too lengthy when the best I could do was an .Our Father. or simply a Hail Mary!

In the past, my life hardly made room for God. I didn't even try to get to know Him, much less draw closer to Him. Even as I opened my heart to my new found life in God, at times, my past "pagan-ish" life seems to persist.

***"What I do, I do not understand, for I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."*** (Rom 7:15, 19). However, as I opened my heart to God in our worship, I felt God's love pierced my heart as tears streamed down my cheeks, unimpeded by embarrassment, as I experienced His warm embrace covering my whole being.

How proud I am of that short-lived communion with Him, yet humbled by the under-served love and attention towards me, a sinner. Intoxicating rivers of peace overwhelm my being as His love and serene presence penetrate my heart.

Ah, the realities of being human. Confusion abounds. Once removed from the confines of our worship, frailty rears its ugly head. Priorities suffer. My prayer life fails.

Have I not witnessed enough of His love and compassion? Why am I so intoxicated by the world? Today amidst my inner struggle to be with God, my faith may still falter at times but with a community that loves, supports and prays with me, I am emboldened to face my days and years ahead that someday I will be the man who truly serves God and His people with my whole heart, mind and spirit.

I may have not competed well. I may not have finished the race. I struggled with my faith but the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. He rescued me from the lion's mouth, from every evil threat and will bring me safe to His Heavenly Kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen

2005 ISSUE