

November 15, 2017

Dear Friends,

Last month at an outdoor birthday party a friend's diamond wedding band dropped off her finger into the grass under the table where we were all eating. Not wanting to disturb everyone she quietly bent down to look once and then resurfaced with a serious face. "I've dropped my wedding ring."

My mind went to how much it might cost to replace the ring, the new value of the property we were sitting on if the ring wasn't found, and the heartbreak of losing a treasure like a wedding ring.

Many years ago, I was with a youth group at River Country near Disney World. We were playing water volleyball in the lake that surrounds the Magic Kingdom. My wedding band never really fit well, and while I was playing it slipped off my finger into the water. I solicited the help of the group to find my ring, but it was never found.

Weeks later Ann's dad cut a piece of pipe the width of a wedding band and I wore that for 10 years...until Ann bought me another one for our anniversary.

I saw on my friend's face the same heartbreak I had when I lost my wedding band.

I turned on my phone's flashlight and all the others around me, including her husband, did the same.

"I got it!" she said. The ring had sparkled in the light.

As she placed the ring back on her finger I asked, "Did the value of the land we are sitting on just go down?" She laughed.

Mission Discovery teams work on many construction projects...land of great value. But the value of the land is much higher than the purchase price because of "the diamonds" on the property.

"The diamonds" at our children's home in Haiti are the children rescued from slavery. They are loved with the passion of Christ! We have "diamonds" in Jamaica, too! On a beautiful piece of property in the mountains outside of Montego Bay sits the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. The great value there is found in the staff, who equip the deaf for a future in the workforce of Jamaica. Precious gems reside at the Hope Center in White River, Arizona, where teenagers are rescued from the grips of substance abuse and suicide!

I've returned to Walt Disney World many times. Every time I can't help but think of my wedding band on the bottom of that big lake. The scripture says where your treasure is, so is your heart. I have to say a bit of my heart is in that lake. The scripture encourages us to store our treasures in heaven where moth and rust will not destroy.

A wedding ring is a treasure that we will not be able to take to heaven.

In heaven are people and Jesus. So I will invest in the lives of people and Jesus. It's been the journey and focus of every Mission Discovery work, whether it's sponsoring a child through our Hold the Children ministry (HoldTheChildren.org) or building a building where a child will hear the Good News of Christ and have an education that prepares him for the future.

Thank you for investing your treasures in heaven through our work.

And next time you're at Walt Disney World would you look for my wedding band?

In His Service,

Manny Bushanon

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