

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



WAITING FOR THE SUNSHINE

It was a cold morning, Almost a frost, and this gallant monarch butterfly was attempting to stand. The slightest breeze strikes his sail-like wings and blows him onto his side. I imagine his clawed feet digging into the hard concrete, the muscles of his little legs straining to pull himself proudly upright time and again. I thought, "Are you waiting for the sunshine to warm you?" Carefully picking him up, I placed him on a bench in full sunlight. Miraculously something started to happen. Slowly the wings opened, then shut, opened and shut. Rather than sit still, he moved, turned, and circled so the sun warmed, first one side of the slowly moving wings and then the other. Finally, after about thirty minutes, he paused. It was like he took a big breath and, with a vigorous flutter, was airborne. Twice he circled, crossing quite closely in front of my face, and was gone. He left me feeling almost tearful with the wonder and thankfulness of experiencing God and his creation in joint action and a reminder of Jesus' words, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."** (John 8:12) We know light also gives warmth. See and feel the sun. Flick the switch and see the globe light up. Move close and feel the warmth.

When Jesus is part of your life, he offers "light" to help you find your way through the "dark" times and a warming love. When loneliness, despair, anger, feelings of loss, unhappiness, and the hardships of daily living bring a chill into your life, His greatest desire is for you to trust him and let him wrap you in his warming love and care.

I picked up the butterfly and put him in the warm sunlight because I cared and could. Even more so, Jesus wants to pick you up and bring you into his warmth because he cares and can. He wants to warm your life so you can, when the time is right, when you are confident of his caring love, you can fly and soar through life, the life which he wants for you.

I hung around watching the butterfly to make sure he would be safe. Jesus has promised to "hang around" not just for thirty minutes but forever. **(Matthew 28:20)**

The butterfly moved and changed his position to allow the sun to warm. Sometimes we may need to move. Move our attitudes to Jesus and others who offer help. Change the angle of our sense of self-reliance and be willing to accept Jesus and what he wants to provide.

For those of us already feeling the warmth of Jesus, we are responsible for inviting the lonely, the unloved, and anyone we see "cold" to share Jesus' warmth. Talk to him about sharing his love and warmth.

God bless and stay warm,
Kevin.