



## The August CFAMC Devotional Page



The summer of 2012 has given me two seemingly divergent facts. The first is that it has been the most difficult materialy of my life. The second...



... is that the world is absolutely overflowing with God's blessing. My new phone has a camera, and I have wandered around between work spots just snapping away, indulging my childhood dream of being a floral photographer. That photo was taken in June, just a block and a half from my house. Just walking around with a camera I can use at any time (I have taken about 300 photographs since late May) has helped me to grasp the greater reality. God is blessing just overwhelmingly; there is more abundance in His blessing than any of us can ever hope to keep track of. Apparently, He meant what He said when He said,

**John 10:10b – “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”**

And then I had to actually go inside and deal with doing a lot of work for which I was not being paid or being paid enough, as clients kept missing billing and a lot of systems set-up work for which payment would come later (finally is on its way, thank the Lord)... time to reconcile the reality of God's overwhelming blessing with the reality of a ridiculous amount of work, much of which did not seem rewarding and was draining me of energy.

I'm one of those people that will put their heads down and keep working... and so June, July, and half of August passed. Bill Vollinger rolled out to San Francisco in the middle of the month, and that was a highlight and pleasant change of schedule that refreshed me greatly (thanks for being a friend, Bill!).

It was at about that time that I began to notice something else... things started coming together for me in a number of different ways, things that had been kind of brewing in the background, things that God had been working on and working on and working on, sometimes for YEARS. And suddenly, there they were popping up, all without my effort – I had started something in the past because God had led me to it, and then I had moved on without further thought. My mind can only hold so much at once... but God, of course, had forgotten nothing!

September is here as I write this – I'm late writing this, but it took me that long to work out what I've been thinking about in the last half of August. God is constantly blessing, and constantly at work on our behalf – I could post a bunch of verses that I've been looking up, and I will share two with you.

**Acts 15:18 – Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.**

God, unlike us, never has wondered what He is going to do next. He knows, and has been doing it, steadily, irresistibly, from the beginning. We know that He will do what is right and what will glorify Him, but here is the part that comforts my heart. God has been working steadily from all time to all time on this:

**Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.**

I'll just add: God doesn't rest in doing this.

**Psalms 121:4 – Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

So, God has been constantly working on His glory and our good for all time and will continue to work for all His people – what a relief when our work can't seem to get anything done! To me this full realization unburdened my soul. But then, being a very work-oriented person, I thought, “Okay ... that doesn't mean I can just sit around and wait for God to do everything, does it?” Nothing in the Bible suggested that answer.

Last night, it came to me in two juxtaposed passages of Scripture.

**John 6:28-29**

28. **Then said they unto Him, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”**

29. **Jesus answered and said unto them, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”**

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

5. **Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.**

6. **In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.**

I have learned something infinitely valuable this summer; I have learned to take the questions about what to do in a given situation QUICKLY to the Lord. I have more opportunity before me than enough as fall approaches; I can't find my own way. And then there are the problems of just being human; grief, loss, struggle, and injury. Bill Vollinger will remember that I was walking on a cane when he visited; I have just gotten free of that late last week, and today, after a day of vigorous pedaling at the piano, my leg is still unhappy. But that is all right; these things are really God's way of reminding me to acknowledge Him. Because He has shown me all this, I have found, in the last quarter of this incredibly difficult year, rest in Him in the midst of it all. I know now that He is blessing super-abundantly, all around me, as testified by this stunner just a few blocks from my house...



... and that my work is to trust Him and to follow His lead in doing whatever He leads me to do with all my might. It has been a great summer... I pass what God has shown me to you so you can have a great fall!

