

## **MARCH Devotional:**

# **How Sweet the Sound of Reconciliation**

### ***How Sweet the Sound...***

- † a choir who knows their notes and sings in tune, ☺
- † a checkbook which balances,
- † sibling rivalry which ceases (even for 5 minutes at a time),
- † family & friends laughing together again,
- † sins forgiven and relationships restored.

Whatever your individual situation, I'm sure you have known the joyful harmony of which I speak.

How often we tend to dwell, however, on the dissonance of life. How often we let differences, disappointments, disagreements and acts of malfeasance (be they human or number-oriented) nag us to our very core. Instead of allowing the Father's melody of love and forgiveness to grow in our hearts, instead of singing in tune with our Savior, and instead of allowing the Spirit of harmony to prevail, we give our hearts over to the painful, ugly, disappointing and jarring moments we have experienced.

Fortunately, our God of Grace does not dwell on the painful, ugly, disappointing and jarring things we do. Fortunately, He sent His Son to sing the only melody worth singing...that of Reconciliation...that of Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love: that of eternal forgiveness...that of Life Everlasting with Him.

In **Luke 15** we read the prodigal son parable.

The father was certainly wounded by the actions of both of his sons...willingly wounded, you might say—and yet he didn't dwell on the past. He didn't dwell on either of his sons' disappointing actions. Instead, just like our heavenly Father, he looked at his sons with a heart of love and eyes of mercy and grace. He celebrated the family's reunion and reconciliation with pure joy, and best of all, he looked forward to the future of their life together.

May the Lord enable us to be partakers in the ***Sweet Sound of Reconciliation***.

May He give us strength to forgive the people who disappoint and hurt us.

May He give us courage to look upon others with hearts of love and eyes of mercy.

And always, *always*, may He plant in our hearts the sure and confident hope of our future life with Him.

-Dr. Carol McDaniel