

**AUGUST 2008**

*Dear Ones,*

I don't hang out with people my own age except for a water aerobics class with half a hundred upwards-of-sixty-year-olds. ...and there we REALLY "hang out"! The wisdom tossed about is worth the price of admission. Last week a grandmother of six (me too) offered this: "What happens at Grandma's house STAYS at Grandma's house!" I copied that in BIG LETTERS and stuck it on our frig.

We all peddle our wares as we paddle our feet in the water. One woman, never missing a beat as she furiously pumped water weights, called out: "I've gotta sell my grand piano. Any takers?" Two hours later that piano had a new home.

There's no better marketing place in all of Tehachapi than this aerobics class so I announce musical venues I think will lift their spirits. Last night when I entertained for several hours at a local restaurant, seated at tables around the dining room were a few of my paddling buddies, tapping their toes, singing, and laughing at how different we looked with CLOTHES on! One woman quipped: "I've wrestled with my computer for four hours today! I NEEDED THIS!"

I love being an encourager and I love BEING encouraged. It is obvious that God does too for He says: "Hobnob with those who love and ENCOURAGE you...and all the more as you see Heaven looming on the horizon!" \* Do you think God chuckles at our "spin" on His scriptures? I believe that He does!

In an Email to her friend in Oklahoma, our daughter wrote down her "spin" on her dad and me: "Mom and Dad are good. Holy Cow! They're 80! Mom gets closer to the Lord daily and longs for Heaven. They continue to be on the go—affecting many." Now, that's ENCOURAGEMENT from one who knows us well.

I love putting my thoughts into verse. Here are some of those thoughts:

*I have a request; please note my deep feeling  
When you're angry with me, don't leave me left reeling  
God's way is discussion with love, face to face  
Matters so serious require love and grace.*

— Jo for the two of us.

\* Hebrews 10:24,25