

# Voni's Musings . . .

July 2, 2002

Riverview, FL ..... 4 a.m.

I'm curled up in Joe's recliner, bible and a pad of paper on my knees. My writing is scrawled, for the two middle fingers of my right hand are wrapped in bandages. I have to be very careful how I move them so as to not create sharp pain.

This is so totally unexpected!

I'd not been bitten by a dog since I was 4/12 years old. Many years ago (and I'm not telling you how many!) The memory in my mind, and that scar on my leg, go together. However, all of that changed when

Saturday I was bitten on my hand and my abdomen.

I was in the process of meeting a friend's dog - a BIG one! While my friend is "introducing" me to her dog he suddenly, without provocation, lunged at me twice and made contact both times, on my abdomen and right hand! Lots of blood and several stiches on two middle fingers.

Thank God, my friend grabbed and succeeded in pulling him off - and that he let go! It could have been much worse.

This happened three days ago. I just "continued" on, taking pain medication and anti-biotics. Two of my daughters fixed a meal for us here on Sunday eve, Joe is good at improvising - and we're eating out more until I can use my right hand again. I'm typing on the computer using the left hand and right index finger.

Even as I keep telling myself and everyone else, "Everything's fine!", in the back of my mind and in my body, I'm being forced to face the fact that that is not the case. Some things happened out of my control- and the "far-reaching" results are also out of my control.

***The only thing I do have control over is my mind - and I'd better be honest with myself.***

This is disturbing me far more than I've been willing to admit. The real "shocker!" to me is - it was so *totally* unexpected!

Isn't this a mini-picture of life? So much is "totally unexpected!"



**We think we see clearly the path before us. . .**



**then we are hit with the totally unexpected . . .**

**and we get to stretch some physical and spiritual muscles**



Death. Betrayal. Broken relationships. Lost jobs. Illness. Unmet expectations. Disappointments. Broken dreams. They lunge at us - totally unexpected!

We are wounded, deeply. We pick up and continue on, denying ourselves the necessity of honestly facing our hurts and looking at the far-flung ramifications.

"Everything is fine!" we tell ourselves and others. But it isn't. So what are we to do? What am I to do to deal with my own questions and emotions about **this** "totally unexpected.?"

### 1/ **Be honest with God - and with myself.**

I'm not super-woman, although I'd like to be. Denying the truth about anything always causes more problems.

### 2/ **Forgive myself - and others.**

I feel pain - and some anger at myself because I placed myself in a position to be hurt. Why didn't I simply step back into the house when I saw that huge dog come trotting up? How many other times in my life have I felt anger at myself? At others? According to Jesus, I have no choice other than to forgive . . . and that includes forgiving myself! Funny how it's easier to forgive others than it is to forgive myself.

### *Mateus 6:14-15*

***14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV***

### 3/ **Admit the pain.**

These stitches hurt. Bright and varied hues of purples and blues cover my abdomen... it would make some good modern art! Parts of my fingers are numb - other parts are over-reacting to the point I wish they were numb. I have to be careful as to what I do and how I move to not increase the pain.

..... But I have other wounds in my *life*. God knows about them - so why am I not honest to admit them to myself? Only then can God and I start applying the spiritual medication to heal my emotional wounds.

### 4/ **Accept the fact that clean scars are not disfiguring. Rather, they simply show marks of life.**

I need to keep my wounds clean with daily treatment. This same principle applies both physically and emotionally. If I start feeling better before total healing takes place, can I stop taking the time to cleanse and bandage the wounds afresh? NO!

That principle also applies when dealing with my emotions.

### 5/ **Be thankful.**

This could have been much worse! In the same way, when I look at my life, regardless of how damaging past wounds are, *they, too, could have been much worse!*

***Ephesians 5:20 Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus***

*Christ.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*6/ Finally, trust God.*

*Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean NOT on your own understanding; In ALL your ways acknowledge Him, and HE will make your paths straight.*

This I must do, if I want to walk in peace. . . . Hmm. . . am I re-learning some important lessons? I hope so!

I found this quote today that sums it all up in a way I want to share: *Madeleine L'Engle . . . "It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand."*