

## Chaplains Corner

### There's More To Life Than Going Around in Circles! "When Dreams Become Nightmares"

For many years, Natz secretly dreamed about taking a long drive around the United States. But, for a whole variety of reasons he never had time, money and the right vehicle for such a grand trip. After years of van and trailer camping, Natz began dreaming aloud about his goal. And, much to our surprise, all of a sudden it seemed like everything was right so we could go. In fact, since we still have two geriatric parents to look out for, it seemed to us that this could be the only year we might be able to undertake such an adventure.

This spring we found a Class B Motor Home with very low miles and a well used Suzuki Samara to tow behind. Natz spent weeks getting both ready for the trip. He built racks to carry our kayaks and bicycles. He tinkered and tuned until everything seemed ship shape. Just to be on the safe side, he decided to put four new tires on the RV even though it was only two years old. He left the two inside tires alone as they appeared fine.

After our last night of racing, we loaded clothes, food, books, boats, bikes, and dogs and headed to the beckoning hinterlands. We hummed along gloriously until the afternoon of the second day, when Natz felt an all too familiar shimmy of the steering wheel. Seconds later, BLAMMO! Fortunately, he safely pulled over to the side of the freeway. You guessed it! One of those old tires that looked just fine was now a highway alligator. The explosion took out the wheel well and one cabinet strewn the contents along the road. It knocked the sense out of half of those electronic gizmos that operate the innards of the motor home. Nothing worked.

That's when the fun began. We found out that we hadn't upgraded our AAA coverage to include motor homes so they were no help. Natz managed to get the spare on so we could creep into the next town. We ended up in a Walmart parking lot working the cell phone. We had visions of thousands of dollars in repairs, our trip ruined. We prayed as wholeheartedly as we ever had. Could even God get us out of this mess and salvage our dream?

An R.V. repairman, Andy, came out to Walmart and led us to his shop. He got us back together in a couple of hours and out only a few hundred bucks instead of the thousands we'd feared. We found two new tires and were back on track the next afternoon—and praising God.

Sometimes, although we believe we have everything under control, God gets our attention. We're reminded again that He is the one who is really calling the shots. And, we'd better get down on our knees and listen and obey. Proverbs 16:9 says:

*"In his heart a man plans his course,  
but the Lord determines his steps"*

We write this from the shore of Lake Barkley. It is gorgeous and we have grateful hearts that the Lord got us safely this far. Have a safe and God filled summer.

God bless you,  
Chaplains Natz and Elana Peters