

Last week I had the opportunity to visit the Ott Family Cemetery. It was heartwarming to walk the rows of tombstones, each representing the descendents of one of my great grandfather's children. I have many wonderful memories of the people who are buried there.

It was an interesting moment to come to the end of the row of my own family and to realize, as the oldest in my generation in terms of birth order, that I am the next scheduled arrival!

So I found myself thinking about the three generations before me that I knew and the two that have come after me. My father only lived a few years longer than I am now due to cancer, and because his days were cut short it makes me think more consciously about the days remaining for me – be they few or many.

Each of us may know, "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" (Psalm 138:8a) and the Apostle Paul speaks of "finishing the race."

So I ask questions like,

Lord, what of that purpose that I may know am I yet to fulfill?

How do You want me to run the rest of my race?

What do You want accomplished – or left alone?

Whom do You want me to spend time with?

Frankly, these kinds of questions are just as valid for you as for me. They are in no way morbid or fatalistic or negative. They are both realistic and faithful.

Unless the Lord returns soon we will all physically die, and indeed our Lord does have a purpose for each of us. His people. "So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."

(Psalm 90:12)

With joy – E. Stanley Ott, November 16, 2009 Vol. 9, No. 38, *COUNTING DAYS*

Prayer Suggestions

< Ask God to open our hearts and minds to ways we can make each precious day count. Let us be willing to be the hands and heart of Jesus to those in need.

< Pray that next week's national election day goes smoothly, and that people take the responsibility and privilege of voting seriously.

< Ask for God's blessing and protection for all those men and women who dedicate themselves to keeping us safe whether in the armed services or in fire and police departments throughout this country. Ask God to bless the families who wait at home for them, also.

< Pray that our church will be a place of refuge, peace and love for all who enter our doors and, that we, with God's help, can continue to grow in our faith.

< Ask God to be with each person on our prayer list and touch them with His peace, comfort, healing and love.

