

PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

On the fifth floor of Garden Plaza – the independent living side of the building – in Cleveland, Tennessee, is a spacious sun room with large windows on both sides.

One set of windows looks toward the first nursing center in what was to become Life Care Centers of America. The other offers a high-level view of Keith Street, one of the busiest thoroughfares in town. The room is a popular gathering place for residents and visitors to sit and chat.

It is also the location of two tables, each covered with pieces of puzzles, where residents meticulously assemble them into beautiful scenes and other images. A few of the residents are very proficient at this hobby, and take pride in their accomplishments.



I admit to you that I don't have the patience to complete a puzzle such as these. Here are three things, however, I have observed about them:

1. They take time. Few people can put several hundred pieces of a puzzle together rapidly. Most large and complex puzzles take several days, even weeks, to complete. The fun, they tell me, is in the process, the satisfaction in the accomplishment.
2. The starting point of a puzzle is usually to identify the corners and edges, the pieces with a straight edge.
3. Jigsaw puzzles enthusiasts relate that they are fun to work by oneself, but even more fun to work with others. When a "fit" is discovered between two or more pieces, all the participants feel the excitement.

Consider the day ahead of you like a piece in the jigsaw puzzle of your life. Indeed, its shape is likely to be just as jagged, its colors as undefinable. The meaning of today may not be sequential to that of yesterday.

What we experience today may actually fit with something we experienced several months ago, or something we will encounter in the future. We aren't likely to see the big picture of our lives by observing only one day.

Even so, we can trust there is a plan and purpose. All the pieces will come together according to God's design and timetable.

(more)

On some days, we find straight-edged pieces of our life's puzzle – truths that become a part of our reason for being. On other days, we find pieces that fit together so we understand more about ourselves and about God's work in our lives. On all days, we can know the joy of sharing our lives with others and inviting them to be part of the process of discovering who we are.

The main thing to keep in mind is to enjoy the process. Live today to the fullest, knowing one day we will see the full picture.

Looking away (from all that will distract) to Jesus, who is the Leader and the Source of our faith (giving the first incentive for our belief) and is also its Finisher (bringing it to maturity and perfection) (Hebrews 12:2 AMP).

– Beecher Hunter