"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen." -Revelation 1:18

HE'S ALIVE!

Christian News & Views

HE'S ALIVE CHRISTIAN NEWS AND VIEWS BRADENTON, FLORIDA, U.S.A

What's inside:

Page 9: **The Bible Confirms Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Life**



Page 10: **The Pardon: Finding Freedom Behind Prison Walls**



"I Died—and the Lord Told Me I Had to Go Back"

Stacy Denise McLain remembers leaving her body, entering a place of indescribable peace, seeing brilliant colors and a field of wheat—and hearing God tell her she was part of the End-Time harvest.

By He's Alive News Staff





For Stacy Denise McLain, Heaven is not simply something she believes awaits her someday.

She says she has already seen it!

More than 25 years ago, Stacy's heart stopped during a severe medical emergency. While doctors and medical personnel fought to save her life, Stacy says she found herself outside her body, looking down as they worked on her.

Then she saw a brilliant white light. What followed, she says, changed her life forever.

"I felt like all the weight of the earth was just off of me," Stacy recalled. *"It was just the most indescribable thing."*

She remembers seeing scenes from her life and realizing that the Lord had been there with her through the difficult times.

Then she saw something unforgettable.

A field of wheat.

"I stepped out in it," Stacy said. *"And God said, 'You're part of this End-Time harvest. I'm going to use you in the End-Time harvest.'"*

She also remembers flowers and colors unlike anything she had ever seen on Earth.

"There are colors there that are not here on the earth," she said. They were brilliant—so extraordinary that Stacy still struggles to describe them.

"There are just some things that you see and hear that you can't put into words. It's just not possible."

But Stacy would not be staying.

The Lord told her she had to go back.

It was not yet her time.

Continuation on Page: 3

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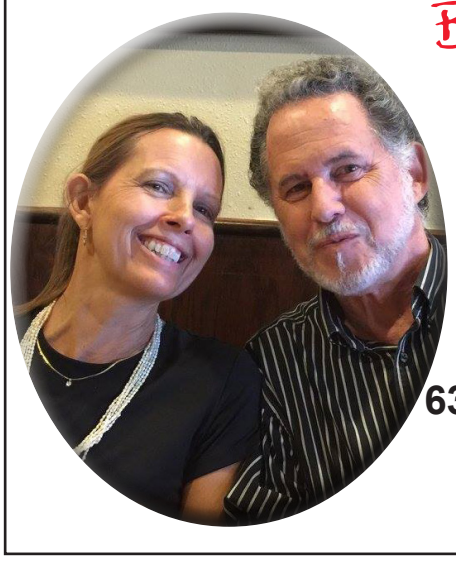
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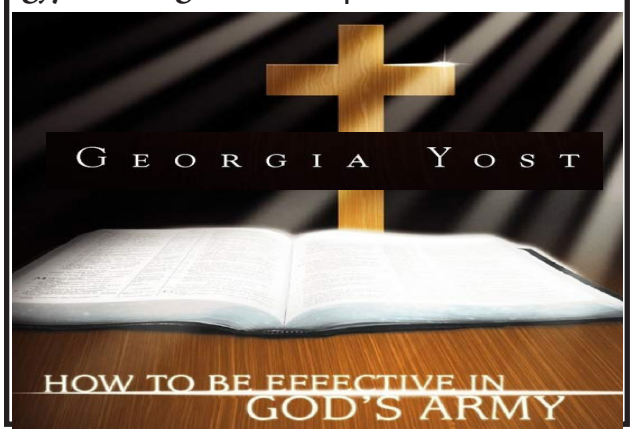
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The Spirit Of Truth:

By Rev. Madeline Montez Duffany

HERE COMES THE GLORY OF THE LORD!

SCAN ► www.facebook/madeline.duffany

It's sweeping through the room - sweeping over me as I stand with uplifted arms in His presence!

"The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." Exodus 40:34.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

I have been in the presence of God. I have felt the Holy Spirit. I have seen miracles and experienced His radiance filling a room. He has filled my soul and transformed me.

Recently, the Lord has been showing me that I need to be around people who have this same devotion to Father God; who love His presence; who desire to be filled with His Spirit to overflowing; those who love true worship.

I'm asking God for more wisdom and to open doors no man can shut.

Do you understand this?

There is always *"something more."* I'm not satisfied until I know more of Him and more of the Holy Spirit. We need to be in the center of God's will – not our own – to experience joy unspeakable and full of glory!

God is showing me to move away from those people and places who do not know the Holy Spirit. This is not pride or condemnation…just common sense.

Why settle for something that is lacking, when you can have all of Jesus? ALL the gifts. Shine in His glory.

When you stop showing off and let God show up, you are maturing; more of His glory; less of you.

You do not have to keep pushing: just worship Him in Spirit and in truth – and trust Him! He will make a way where there seems to be no way.

Isaiah 43: … *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior…"*

Declare His glory! *"Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert."* Isaiah 35:6

God is calling us to come apart from the world. Separate yourselves from negative influences, from things that do not bring glory to God. 1Peter 1:16: *"For it is written; be holy because I am holy."*

How do we do this? Obedience leads to righteous living, which leads to holiness. Here is a loving warning: we need to be holy and in His presence. Without it, we cannot get to know Him and experience a deep relationship with Him.

"Those who are not holy will not see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. When you see Jesus face to face and realize you are not holy, you will be filled with fear. To gain access to God, to stand in His Presence, you must be holy.

This is God's Truth! The Spirit of Truth!

The Spirit of Truth Gospel Church

Pastor Madeline Montez Duffany

God Across America and Georgia Coordinator for Gospel Crusade Ministry Fellowship



"I Died—and the Lord Told Me I Had to Go Back"

From Page 1 ...

"I Think I'm Dying"

The events leading to that extraordinary experience began in November 2000.

Stacy lived in Arnold, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, and worked for Joyce Meyer Ministries. She had begun having increasing difficulty breathing and was using her inhaler more frequently.

One evening she went to bed early. In the early morning hours, she awakened from a dream in which she had been dialing 911.

As soon as she sat up in bed, she knew something was terribly wrong.

Her heart was pounding. The room was spinning. She was sweating and felt as though she was having a heart attack. She tried the telephone in her bedroom, but it would not work. Somehow, she managed to crawl into the living room and call 911 from another phone.

When the dispatcher asked about her emergency, Stacy gave a frighteningly simple answer:

"I think I'm dying."

The dispatcher instructed her to unlock the apartment door, warning her that doing so could mean the difference between life and death.

Stacy obeyed.

She remembers lying on the couch, crying out, *"Help me. Please help me. Somebody, please help me."*

By then, she was already slipping in and out of consciousness.

Paramedics arrived and began working on her. Through a remarkable series of circumstances, they were eventually able to contact her employer, who helped them reach her parents in the Memphis area.

Her parents immediately began the drive to St. Louis.

Meanwhile, Stacy's condition be came critical.

Looking Down as They Worked on Her

Stacy says she remembers seeing medical personnel working on her—but from somewhere above the room.

She could see them shocking her heart.

Then came the white light.

For Stacy, crossing from this life into the next did not feel frightening.

It felt like stepping from one realm into another.

"Heaven is so beautiful," she said. *"It's just like stepping over. It's just like a veil."*

She remembers an overwhelming freedom from the pressures and heaviness of this world.

There was peace.

There was beauty.

And there was that field of wheat.

The Lord showed Stacy scenes from her life, reminding her of times He had been with her even through circumstances she may not have understood at the time.

Then came His message concerning the harvest.

God still had a purpose for her life.

She had to return.

Back Into a Body Fighting for Life

Returning did not mean the battle was over.

Stacy was placed on a respirator and remained in the ICU for a total of 16 days, in a coma for 12 of those 16. She spent a total of 23 days in the hospital, from November 7 until November 30, 2000. On Nov 23rd, 2000, she was blessed with a hospital Thanksgiving meal with her mom and stepdad. After that, she stayed in a private room until she went home on Nov 30th.

Complications continued.

She developed pneumonia. One of her lungs collapsed. She suffered a serious injury to her hand after a vein was penetrated, leaving damage that later required surgery.

At one point, the outlook became so bleak that her parents were called in and told they needed to say goodbye.

Doctors did not believe she was going to recover.

But people were praying.

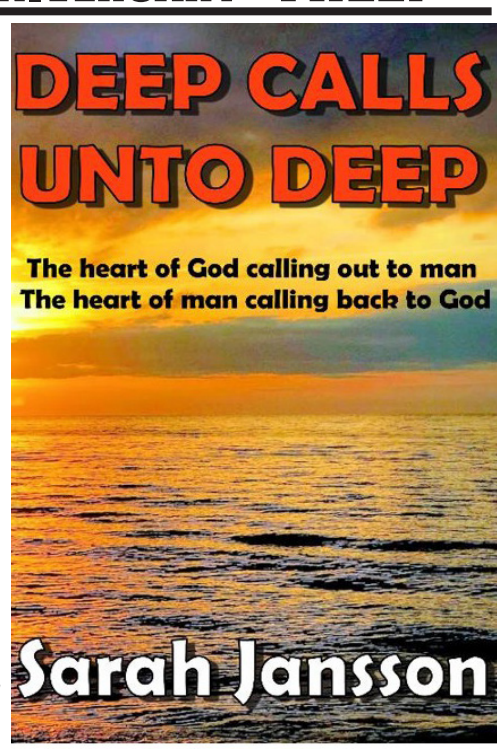
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The Wedding Feast



By Sarah Jansson | Apostolic/Prophetic Ministry
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This is one of the visions I received from the Lord one day as I was in prayer. This is also in my book *"Deep Calls Unto Deep"*

The wedding feast is prepared. The table is all set. The food is done, and the lamb is cooked. The bread is baked, and the aroma of the fresh bread fills the air. Above the smell of the baked bread is the smell of the wedding cake, which is almost done. The angels are taking out all the different fruits and vegetables and bringing them to the table. There are a variety of other foods that have been prepared, are already done, and are being brought to the table.

Some of the angels are already pouring water into the water glasses, while others are pouring specially prepared wine into the wine glasses. Little vials of oil are on the table as well. All of heaven's ovens are open, and all the foods have been taken out to be placed on the table.

The table is laden with all the spoons, forks, knives, and napkins that are necessary. Plates and wine glasses of fine gold and a tablecloth of pure white linen are also placed nicely on the table. This table seems to go as far as the eye can see. It is set on green pastures and sits beside the still and restful waters. Fruit trees with their leaves for healing are all around the gardens.

For miles around, the air is fragrant with the smell of baked bread, the wedding cake, and the lamb. The air is also mixed with the fragrance of all the flowers and fruit trees. Many garden areas hold an array of beautiful flowers. These areas of beautiful gardens were also as far as the eye could see. Many, Many, angels were there, busy taking all the rest of the food out of the ovens, and pouring in the wine, the water, and the oil until all the vessels were full. I saw choirs of angels, all ready to sing the wedding songs. There were other angels with instruments, some we know about, and others were not like any instruments that we are familiar with on earth. Even now the bridegroom himself is all decked out in His wedding garments and is ready to meet the bride.

Now over in another area, there was another table. This table was filled with many gifts, blessings, benefits, and favors that the bridegroom had purchased for His bride. They came in many different sizes, colors, and packages, and they seemed to fill the entire table that seemed to go on forever.

I also saw two angels a bit off in the distance. One angel had a long shining trumpet that was almost to His mouth. Then I saw anoth er large angel, and he was pouring fire out of vials upon the earth. This vessel had a fire mixed with oil. This fire was being poured into the saints of God that were still alive on the earth, that had been praying and fasting with hunger and thirst for righteousness. This fire was to turn them into ministers of flames of fire. It was for a body that had been sleeping and was slowly waking up. This fire hit this body with what appeared to be like tongues of fire; the body received strength to come together, as there were parts of the body that were not where they should be. The outpouring of fire increased in intensity as it poured out.

As it increased, it caused the body to stand up on its feet. It stood higher and higher than anything on the earth before, as it looked up and gave God glory. Nothing could take it down or get in its way, as it seemed to grow in stature with each bit of fire that hit it. Each part of the body seemed to work together with the other parts, with the head directing them.

When this being walked the land, the earth shook beneath its feet. This being went forth to make the crooked places straight, the high places low, and the low places high. It went forth to bring renewal, refreshing, and revival to a land that was hot, dry, and parched. It went forth as a double-edged sword in one hand that had been dipped in blood, and water in the other hand. Everywhere it went, a cloud went with it. It rained harder and harder over her as time went on. All that was to be made alive was renewed with strength and power, while the things that should not exist died. With only a word from her mouth.

Suddenly the ticker from the watch stopped, and the hourglass ran out of its sand. The candle had no more wax to burn. Time ran out as the day turned to night. Suddenly there was the sound of an enormous trumpet. This was a sound that covered the whole land, even to the very ends of the earth.

Along with the sound of the trumpet was the sound of many large horses, all decked in armor. These were the horses that the angels were riding to come to get the saints of God, along with the Lord of hosts. These horses were large white stallions, and the largest of them all led the army of angels that the Lord of hosts was riding. The sound of the horses and the trumpets was tremendous. Many of the horses that rode down from heaven shook the whole earth. As the trumpet blew, the being stopped and looked up, and upon the third blow of the trumpet she went up into the air with a company of angels that came to meet her, along with the Lord of hosts. She was then taken by the angels to be made ready for the wedding feast and the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Now off in another area altogether were other angels that were holding vials of judgment to be poured out upon the earth. Now the bride had come to meet the bridegroom, and the vials of judgment were ready to be poured out upon the earth.

Meanwhile, the bride had gotten herself all adorned and ready so that she could take her place next to her bridegroom. At the table were also Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, along with all the other prophets. The apostles were there also, and all of them were excited, as they had been wait ing for her for a long time.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I know we are in the days and hours, even down to the minutes, when the trumpet is to be blown. All that have ears to hear, know that the wedding feast is already prepared. The marriage supper of the Lamb is ready for the bride and the bridegroom. The bridegroom is ready to meet His bride. The body of Christ is waking up. Oh Lord, as the outpouring of fire and oil pours into me until I am com-

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Born from Above!

By Pastor Don Sturiano
facebook: pastordon.sturiano

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I was driving home after church on a Sunday afternoon when I noticed the bumper sticker on a car in front of me. It said, *"Born Right the First Time."*

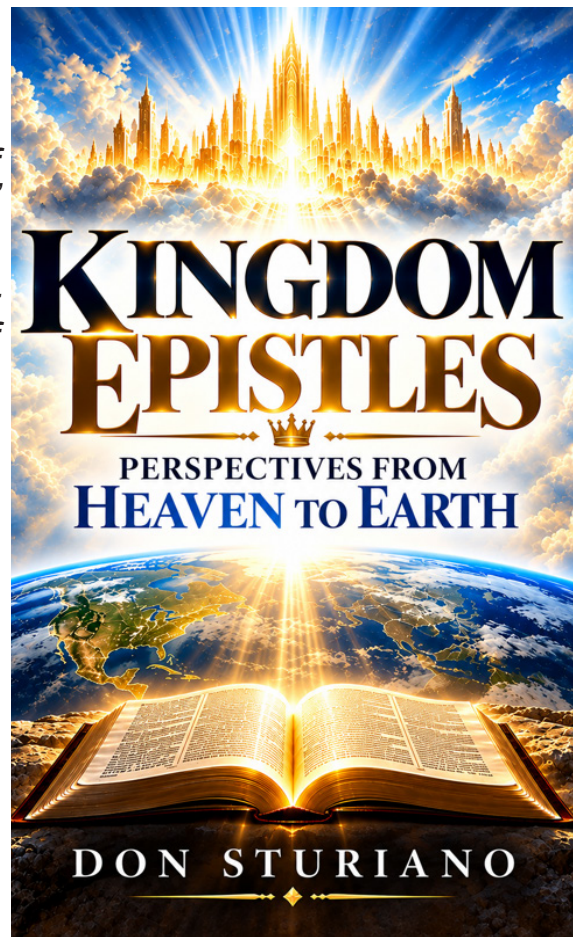
I shared this with my wife and with the folks in our congregation. Obviously, the person sporting this on their vehicle was making fun of those of us who are *"Born Again."* The thing is, the statement *"Born Right the First Time"* is correct. Jesus said you couldn't be born again unless you are first born of water; referring to natural birth.

I was talking with a friend about our church recently, and they thought *"Born Again"* was a denomination. With that said, let's gain the proper perspective on what it means to be born again.

Many of us in church have been taught that being born again gets you into heaven when you die. While that is true and very important, I have learned that Jesus not only wants to get you into heaven when you die; He also wants to get heaven into you while you live. Jesus said in Luke 17:21 that the Kingdom of God is within you.

In John chapter 3, Nicodemus, a religious ruler of the day comes to Jesus by the cover of night and says to Him, *"You must be a teacher come from God because of the signs that you do."* Jesus responds and says, *"Unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."* Notice, He did not say unless you are born again you won't go to heaven.

When do you think He meant you would see the Kingdom of God? The answer is, when you are born again. The church for too long has had an escapist mentality. We have been more concerned about taking off rather than taking part. Taking part by being the salt and the light of the world, demonstrating Heaven on Earth through acts love, of wisdom and power, God's original plan in Genesis 1:28 has not changed. He still wants us to subdue the earth and bring the principles, the laws, the rule, and the power of His Kingdom to this planet.



Finally, the word *"again"* in the passage in John 3 actually translates *"from above."* To be born again is to be born from above. That is why, as Kingdom citizens, we should always face life from a higher perspective, a vantage point, with a powerful advantage. That's the Kingdom Perspective!

From Pastor Don's New book, Kingdom Epistles available on Amazon.com

"I Died—and the Lord Told Me I Had to Go Back"

From Page:3 ...

Stacy's coworkers at Joyce Meyer Ministries gathered together and prayed for her. She recalls being told that during one of those times of prayer, a ministry leader saw a vision of three angels entering her hospital room—one coming through each side and another directly in front of her.

After that, Stacy says, things began to turn around.

Eventually, she awakened.

Recovery, however, was not instantaneous.

Her hands shook for months. Her voice remained hoarse for approximately seven to nine months, and it took nearly a year before she truly began feeling like herself again.

But she was alive!

The woman whose parents had been told to say goodbye had come home.

"Why Did I Have to Come Back?"

There was another part of Stacy's recovery that few people could see.

She had experienced such complete peace that returning to earthly life was difficult.

For approximately six months, Stacy admits she struggled with having been sent back.

It was not that she was angry at people or rebelling against God. Rather, she had experienced what she describes as total peace—without the spiritual and earthly pressures surrounding us here.

Leaving that and returning to this world required an adjustment.

But Stacy says the Lord had been clear.

It was not her time.

There was still work for her to do.

He had told her she would have a part in the End-Time harvest.

A Life Prepared for Ministry

Stacy had known the Lord from childhood. She says she was saved at eight years old and grew up as a Baptist girl.

As a young adult, however, she became increasingly hungry for more of God.

In 1995, during a trip to Texas, Stacy attended ministry services and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. She remembers returning to the hotel with her mother and praying in tongues until three or four o'clock in the morning.

She had also been influenced by ministries that taught her to believe God for healing, miracles, signs, and wonders.

After surviving her 2000 medical crisis and her experience of Heaven, that journey continued.

She did not return to work until around Jan 7th, 2001, and only started part-time until she regained strength, about three months, possibly, then back to full time.

In 2002, Stacy attended Rhema Bible Training College. She completed two years of pastoral studies and then a third year in the School of Pastoral Ministry.

That direction surprised her.

Stacy had been singing since she was three years old and originally thought music might be her path. Instead, she says the Lord made it very clear that He had called her into the pastoral ministry studies.

She excelled in her studies, earning a 4.0—something particularly meaningful to Stacy because she had struggled as a special-needs child when she was young.

"God has just really done a whole turnaround in my life, " she said.

Stacy was ordained in 2020 and continues serving the Lord today. She participates in ministry, helps with water baptisms, and has become involved in greeting and soon-coming prayer ministry. She is also available to preach, pray for others, and participate in outreaches.

But more than two decades after that November morning, the memory of Heaven remains.

The white light.

The incredible peace.

The flowers.

Colors that earthly words cannot adequately describe.

And a field of wheat represent-

Continued Page:6





Jesus Saves! Jesus Delivers! Jesus Transforms!

By Rev. Dr. Samuel Massey, India | samueljohnmiracle@gmail.com



Thrilling Real-Life Testimony! Read On!

When I was studying engineering, I lived in a college hostel. I had a very religious friend named Anuj Kapoor. He was not aware of loving and living Jesus but was deeply indulged in another kind of worship.

I used to witness about the love of Jesus, that Jesus is living, loving God. I used to criticize him; our talks used to be long debates that never seemed to end! Two years passed by; I used to go for a prayer walk after dinner. Since we were in a hostel three-seater room, we had no privacy to pray alone. I was walking in our college playground when I began worshiping Jesus! I cried, Lord, You promised, "Follow Me, I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

I have been witnessing to Anuj Kapoor for around 2 years, but I am not seeing any fruit! What is the reason? I cried to Jesus. Jesus is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18). He heard my cry and answered from heaven. I heard His voice: My son, stop criticizing him; just speak about My love and sacrifice on the cross, speak about My suffering on the cross only, and how I can give peace, joy, and love.

When I heard this, I was thrilled; I said, Thank You, Jesus! I will do as You told me!

Accordingly, I began telling about the love of Jesus and the cross and peace and joy that only Jesus gives! Around one month passed. One night he came to my room and said, Samuel, you say Jesus gives peace, joy. Please tell me more about it. I then shared how God created the world, how sin came, how Jesus came and what He did on the cross and how He gives peace, joy. Then I led him to the "Sinner's Prayer," asking loving Jesus to come into his heart, to wash him with His blood, and make him His child. He prayed the prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the morning, he came to my room around 8 AM, saying, "Samuel, a miracle has happened." I said, "What is it?"

He said great peace and joy are flooding his heart and mind. From morning he has no desire of smoking. Since he was a chain smoker, every ten minutes he used to smoke.

He said after praying to Jesus to come in his heart and wash him with His blood, the desire for smoking has gone. Also, he does not have desire for drinking, and even his tongue has got good words. Earlier he used to speak at least one bad word out of four words he spoke, but now no bad words are coming out. And chain smokers have to smoke; only then they will be able to go to the toilet in morning. But he went to the toilet without smoking, and everything was normal.

I was shocked!

Power in the Blood of Jesus!

How true is His Word: The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sins! 1 John 1:7

He prayed, Dear Lord Jesus, wash and cleanse me with Your blood! And all his addictions and bad habits left instantly!

Amazing! Glory to Jesus!

Then he started going to church every day! He began sharing the love of Christ with other hostel students! Whenever he saw hostel students smoking, eating Gutka, or drinking, he shared. Oh, more great joy and peace are there when you receive Jesus in your heart. All these things waste your life, body, and resources. They cannot give you true, lasting joy and peace. You can be free! Jesus loves you! Jesus will set you free!

Everyone was amazed by his boldness in sharing the love and freedom of Jesus! He started waking early in the morning to pray and read the Bible; even his desire to watch movies went away. He began to have visitations of Jesus! He began to see visions of Jesus! Jesus began speaking to him and filling him with His power. Whenever he shook hands with students, they began feeling current, power; some began to fall! Students started coming to him for prayers and counsel.

Praise Jesus! Jesus Saves! Jesus Transforms!

Are you broken-hearted, seeing

Continued Page: 10



"I Died—and the Lord Told Me I Had to Go Back"

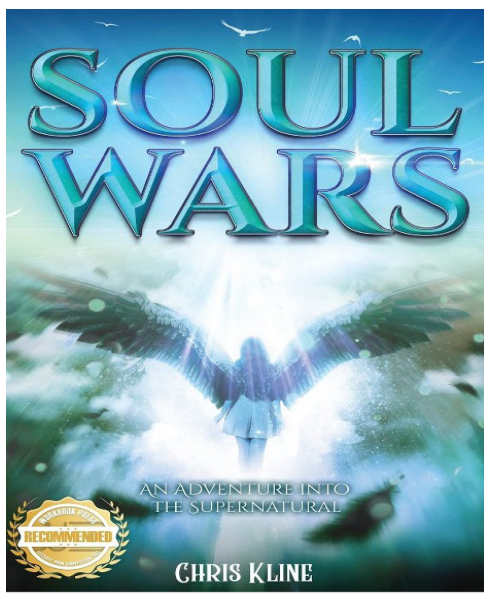
From Page 5: ...ing a harvest yet to come.

Stacy Denise McLain miraculously crossed the boundary between this life and the next —and then was sent back. She returned with a message written deeply into her heart: Her life was not finished. God still had a purpose for her, and a harvest still awaited.

Invite Stacy to share at your next gathering:

Stacy Denise McLain Email: Sunniestacy@gmail.com

An adventure into the Supernatural



This is a book with a message. A walk into the supernatural. The story shows how some families have trails of chronic sickness, depression anger, habits of booze and drugs, suicide attempts and tiredness constantly. These are not brought on necessarily by emotions. There is some thing sinister and evil in the background, it'sa battle between angels who fight evil spirits with bolts of lightning and demons fighting for the souls of men. The story follows four families three generations to see how demons are passed from one to another. It reads like a movie.

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Seek

Isaiah 55:6(NKJ)

By Sharilee Rudolph | fruitful4him@outlook.com

Seek - Isaiah 55:6(NKJ) "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near."

Lord, my great delight is seeking you! I seek your presence in the morning and find you waiting for me!

This is the season you make your presence known, for you are near the seeker's heart.

I call upon your name morning, noon, and night. I whisper, Jesus, and the fragrance of your name fills me with delight!

Thank you for the season that you show your glory to my hungry soul!

Beloved, in Jesus name, I pray you lay aside every heavy weight, everything that stops you from being one who seeks the Lord!

Find Him in the secret place of prayer, then call on Him at all times throughout the busy day! May you find Him ready to speak to your hungry soul!

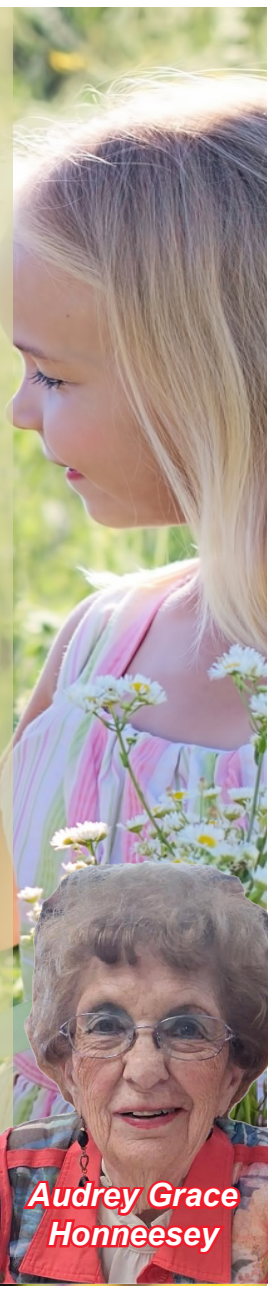
He is near, so do not fear! Seek, find, and call! Tis the season He is near. In Jesus name, Seek! In Jesus name I live.

Fruitful4him@outlook.com

Growing Time

by Audrey Grace Honnessey

Oh, it's growing time again,
because He loves me.
Yes, its growing time again,
He cares for me.
I must go through tests
that only He can save me.
My God is here and
I will have no fear.
He has sent the angels out,
they go before me.
If I miss a step
He'll always pick me up,
brush me off,
set me on the path to go on.
Thank You, Lord!
I know that all is well.



Audrey Grace Honneesey

The Wedding Feast

From Page: 4 ... plete, and I am all that You have called me to be. I will fit perfectly into the body, where You call me to be, and I will work in unity with the rest of the body of Christ. As we work together and walk together, allowing Your fire and oil to do their work in our lives, we will cover this earth with restoration and revival. We will usher in the King of kings, and Lord of lords, as He is our bridegroom and husband. We will have a wonderful time together with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the men and women of God who have been waiting for us there, at the marriage supper of the Lamb. We will be a church, a bride presented to our bride groom, King and Lord, without spot, wrinkle, or blemish before all to see and celebrate with us. All the angels of heaven, thousands upon thousands, along with the living creatures, and all the hosts of heaven will be there. They will help us celebrate the most awesome occasion ever to take place in the universe and in the history of eternity. This is the entrance of our Savior into the Holy of Holies and the Mercy Seat when He rose from the dead and entered heaven again.

Many Blessings,
Sarah Jansson, G.C.M.A. S.W. FL Regional Coordinator for: Southwest Florida Chapter of GCMA and Vice President of Heart of Mercy Ministries. An Apostolic/ Prophetic Ministry (Equipping the Saints for the work of the ministries) - on the full counsel of God's Word-Donate to Heart of Mercy

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Jeremiah 6:16

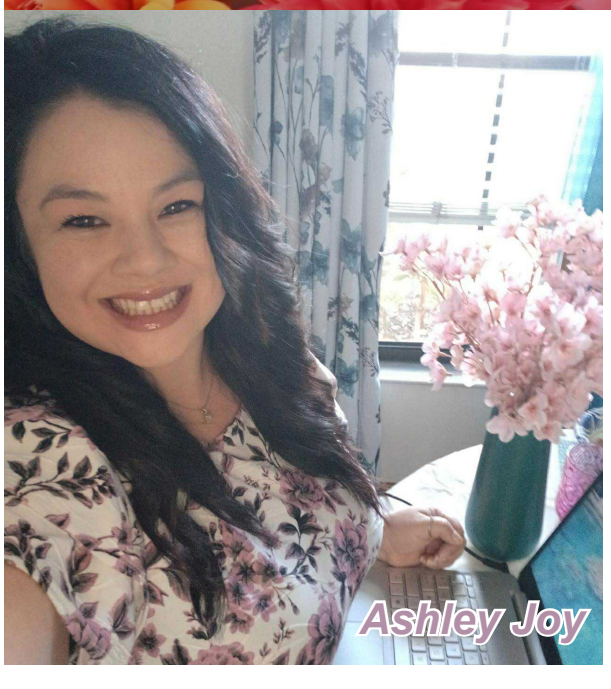
We are not mega, rather small, but mighty. Whether you're lonely, missing something or would enjoy knowing the person sitting next to you, you are welcome here. We are family in Christ and family in each other and we have room for more. Lookout, you will see prayer, handshakes and hugs are most common!

You are invited to join us Sunday service or Bible Study.

Location: 1400 10th St. W. Palmetto, FL 34221
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Sunday Service: 10AM | Sunday Bible Study: 9AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 10AM
Sunday Service in Español: 12:30PM
Con Pastor David Racke | Iglesia Christiana Hispaña
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Faith-Based Life Coaching: Bloom with Grace

Introducing Gracefully Blooming™



Ashley Joy

Gracefully Blooming is a faith-based space created to encourage women to grow closer to God and bloom into who He created them to be. Through Scripture, devotionals, and everyday encouragement, my heart is to remind others that no matter what season they are in, God is faithful.

scan: ►

You can find daily encouragement on Instagram and visit GracefullyBlooming.com to read blog posts and explore the Bloom Shop, where faith-inspired digital resources are available.

Thank you to everyone who has supported, followed, prayed for, and encouraged this journey. Gracefully Blooming is still growing, and I'm excited to see where God leads next.
Gracefully Blooming™
Growing in grace. Rooted in faith. Blooming in identity through Christ.

Growing in grace, rooted in faith, blooming in identity

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Shocked

By Rhonda Jackson

Email:
Rhondajjackson@charter.net

Luke 24:13-35 talks about two followers of Jesus walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, three days after Jesus' death. As they were walking and talking about all the things that had happened, Jesus came up. They did not recognize Him, because their eyes prevented it. Seeing their sadness, He asked what troubled them.

This shows it does not matter if you knew Him or not. He is closer and cares more than you think.

One follower asked, *"Are you the only visitor who does not know what happened in Jerusalem?"* Jesus said, *"What things?"* and they told him about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a mighty Prophet in works and word before God and all the people. Yet, the chief priests and rulers crucified Him. We trusted that He was going to redeem Israel.

The two followers were shocked by what had happened to Jesus. They misplaced their hope, and it got crushed. Despite spending three years hearing Jesus teach and witnessing His miracles. They did not understand that He was preparing them for this new life of freedom from sin and death.

Then they were shocked that this stranger, who had come from Jerusalem, had never heard of Jesus. Even though Jesus had spoken there several times during the Passover festival.

Like those followers, I received news that challenged what I believed and left me struggling to recognize that Jesus was still nearby. My Mom had lived with a large lump in her right thyroid for at least fifteen years and refused treatment. It affected her breathing, speech, and eating. Her doctor warned us that she would have an ugly death.

After she moved from Michigan to live next door to me. We looked for a doctor so her death would not be too ugly. Her new doctor wanted to check out her lump. Mom agreed, which shocked me. The ultrasound found the large lump and two smaller ones. Because the largest pressed against her esophagus, the doctor recommended removing it. While keeping the others, she would not have to take daily medication.

I knew that I knew it was clean. No cancer. Mom knew. We prayed about it. Keith, I and her agreed. The doctor said it wasn't a big deal, since it was just fatty tissue.

Over a week later, the results came back. Because the lump looked unusual, the lab had sent it to Mayo Clinic. It came back... cancer. What?! WHAT?! This cannot be. Even the doctor was shocked, because she had not expected that diagnosis.

Like the two followers, I struggled to see that Jesus was beside us. But the doctor's words weighed heavily on me. Even though they were just words, I felt like Peter sinking, because I took my eyes off Jesus. The words were Peter's waves that kept on coming.

When life changes suddenly, our foundation does not. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Disappointment becomes dangerous when it shapes the way we see. We must place our hope in the one who does not change rather than in frightening human words.

That is why the two followers could not recognize Jesus' presence, because disappointment had become the lens they were looking through. Our invisible God is more powerful than any other words spoken. Because His Words are true. We can continue to flourish, no matter what happens.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (New Life Version) We break down every thought and proud thing that puts itself up against the wisdom of God. We take hold of every thought and make it obey Christ.

Dr. Mary said the cancer was a small spot encapsulated inside the fatty tissue. She needed to remove the remaining lumps to make sure no cancer was present. It took a little bit of time to get shocked back to reality, the reality of what our God can do. Just because words were spoken. Does not cancel His presence or His promises. God told us she was going to be okay, cancer-free.

The followers continued, saying, *"Besides all this, today is the third day since Jesus died."* As the women had found the tomb empty and testified seeing angels who said Jesus was alive. When hearing the news shocked us, two of our men ran to the tomb to confirm that His body was gone. Jesus said how foolish you are, and how slow in your heart to believe that the prophets have spoken about Christ's suffering before entering his glory. Then as they walked, He explained the scriptures about Himself.

When the lab reports came back, the lumps were bigger than the one on the right. Mom was suffocating, without realizing it. That is how good my God is. No cancer, no radiation, no chemo. Only one radioactive pill, with no side effects. I was shocked again. But in the best way. God said she would be okay. I could hardly believe how He carried her through. Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

At Emmaus, the followers invited Jesus to stay. When they sat down to eat, He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened as they recognized him; He vanished.

They knew that they knew that they knew it was Him. I love being shocked by God. It is such a wonderful feeling to just have your mouth drop, saying, That's my God.

They realized that their hearts had burned as He explained the Scriptures. Jesus was giving them a taste of the Holy Ghost by instructing and comforting...

Continued Page: 10

A UNIQUE MINISTRY SCHOOL IN BRADENTON

If you are looking for a way to go deeper with Jesus, take your leadership to the next level, or are simply looking for a great gap year experience, take a look at Kingdom School of Revival based in Bradenton, Florida. We believe Jesus is doing something really unique, powerful, and beautiful through this school. There is both a calling and passion with the school overseers to raise up healthy leaders who overflow in the authentic and powerful love of Jesus to bring His Kingdom influence to every area of society. Kingdom School Director Benjamin Houghton writes, *"We believe there are no limits to the measure by whhich a life can be transformed in the hands of Jesus, and no limits to what Jesus can do through a life fully laid down. We are greatly honored to serve those who Jesus calls to Kingdom School of Revival and we have very high beliefs about where Jesus is taking them"*



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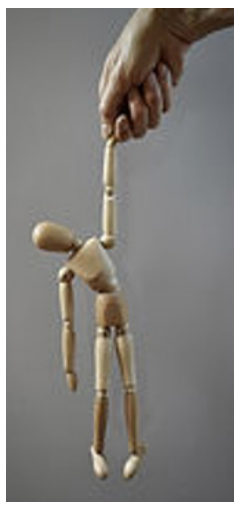
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Are You Tired of Trying to Control Everything Yet?

By Frances Marx | yoursuccessadvocate@gmail.com



Let God give you a helping hand.

Have you ever been in a situation where you tried everything and nothing was working out? I have. Often. Looking back on my life, I realized something. I was often frustrated when I tried to force things to happen according to my own agenda, but during the times that I gave the situation up to the Lord, incredible things happened.

Here are two examples:

1. After my divorce, I had been single for a few years. I wasn't really looking for a man friend or husband. Instead, I was seeking the Lord at every opportunity. On one occasion, I was at a Christian meeting in Orlando and during a session I realized that if I would strive to be the bride of Christ, I would always be okay. If I was single, I would be happy and if I was married, I would make an excellent wife because I would reflect the characteristics of the bride of Christ. I decided that one of my goals would be to endeavor to be the bride of Christ. When I returned home, I didn't give the idea much thought, but not long after, I met my future husband, who was the Godliest man I had ever met. God blessed me above and beyond any expectations.

2. More recently, a few years after my husband died, I began to feel extremely lonely. I thought that I would get a dog to keep me company. I knew what kind of dog I wanted and tried to get one from several organizations. Unfortunately, I was unable to get one. After being frustrated, I resigned myself to not getting a dog and stopped my efforts in that regard, but God knew my heart's desire. A couple of months later, a friend posted a picture of two puppies looking for a home. They had been running wild in the country and despite all attempts to find their owner, no one would claim them. They were the exact kind of dogs I was looking for! I could hardly believe it! I went to see them with the intention of getting one of them, but after hearing their story, I decided to keep them both. They have brought joy and companionship to my life – more than I could imagine. They are the most loving dogs I have ever met.

In each of these cases and so many more, I am reminded of two scriptures. Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." and Ephesians 3:20: "God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by His power that is working in us." His power in us is the Holy Spirit, Who leads us and guides us in all the truth. He's our counselor, our comforter, and our helper. He gives us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

God is always willing and more than able to help us. We just have to trust Him enough to allow Him to do so.

God bless!

Fran Marx, Your Success Advocate

"Frances Marx" yoursuccessadvocate@gmail.com





Researched by Annie Thomassen

The Bible is True and Confirms Why Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Life

The Bible has been proven:

1. ***Prophetically:*** *"Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately foretells specific events-in detail-many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors."* http://www.reasons.org/articles/articles/fulfilled-prophecy-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-bible

2. ***Historically:*** *"The Bible has become a significant source book for secular archaeology, helping to identify such ancient figures as Sargon (Isaiah 20:1); Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:37); Horam of Gazer (Joshua 10:33); Hazar (Joshua 15:27); and the nation of the Hittites (Genesis 15:20). The biblical record, unlike other "scriptures," is historically set, opening itself up for testing and verification."* http://www.icr.org/bible-history/

3. ***Archeologically:*** *"Men of the Bible such as Jesus Christ, King David, King Solomon, and King Beltezzar of the Book of Daniel are often considered mythical characters by scholars, atheists, critics, and even some Christians! Thankfully, the discipline of archaeology (developed only 125 years ago) provides an excellent source for information on people and communities of antiquity. All of these great men become real when their lives and existence can be proven with factual evidence."* http://www.prevailmagazine.org/how-archaeology-proves-the-bible/

Life Changing Power: For thousands of years, the Bible has changed countless lives and has provided a means by which mankind can know and understand who God is and what God says about every life situation that we face on this earth. The Bible also is one huge story about God's relationship with man. The Bible speaks of God's love and plan of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ. People of different backgrounds and beliefs can testify of the life-changing experiences that God's word has brought to their lives.

Hebrews 4:12-13 *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* http://www.inspiredwalk.com/1804/proof-bible-true

In all sixty-six books the Bible maintains a perfect consistency/unity of message. It doesn't contradict itself. Even though it has:

a) Forty authors,

b) Been written over a period of nearly two thousand years,

c) Authors that spoke three different languages, from three continents,

d) Words that point to Christ, whose death on the cross was ordained by God—the true author of the Bible—before the world began.

4. **Scientifically:** *"The Bible is not a science book, yet it is scientifically accurate. We are not aware of any scientific evidence that contradicts the Bible. Many scientific facts were listed in the Bible hundreds or even thousands of years before being recorded by science elsewhere."* http://clarifyingchristianity.com/science.shtml

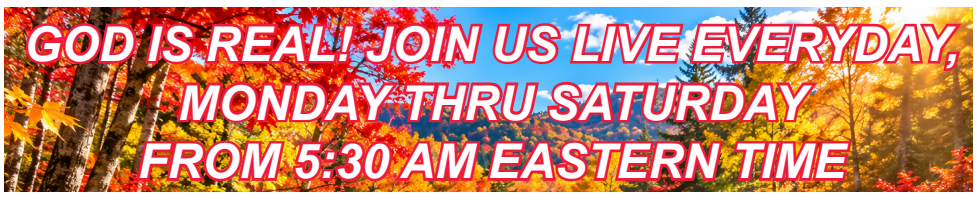
Two Examples are the mention of time and space in the Bible:

1. In 1820 A.D. a man named Hubert Spencer gave the world five scientific principles by which man may study the unknown. They are time, force, energy, space, and matter. However, those scientific principles are first mentioned in Genesis 1:1 In the beginning—time; God—force; "created—energy; the heavens—space; and the earth—matter. All of Spencer's scientific principles are right there in Genesis1:1.

2. When we come to the Psalms, we find an interesting statement in Psalm 8:8. The passage mentions, "The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." The phrase the paths of the seas caused a man named Matthew Fontaine Maury to begin a search which led to the discovery of ocean currents, the natural paths of the seas.

NOTE: For more examples, go to: *truthfortheworld.org/science-proves-the-bible*

Dear Lord, I pray that those who read this will be touched by the Holy Spirit and convinced that you Jesus are the one true God and the only way to eternal life. Amen.





THE PARDON: FINDING FREEDOM BEHIND PRISON WALLS

By Ken Carpenter

A Bible study on forgiveness, repentance and redemption is touching lives in places where freedom can mean much more than walking out a prison door.

Prison can take away a person's physical freedom. But what about the prisons people carry inside- the prison of anger, unforgiveness, guilt, grief, judgment, and regret?

Those are some of the chains being confronted through ***The Pardon: A Journey to Redemption***, a Bible study workbook written by **Ken Carpenter** and being used in prison ministry.

The responses coming back from inmates tell a powerful story. These aren't testimonies about people pretending their past never happened. They are stories of men and women examining their lives, confronting painful truths, discovering forgiveness, and finding hope in Jesus Christ.

One inmate wrote about judging his father for 20 years, only to eventually find himself serving a 20-year sentence for the very same thing.

"I have a lot of healing to do, a lot of repenting to do, a lot of dying to self to do. I judged my dad for his actions for 20 years. Now, after those 20 years, I'm serving a 20-year sentence for the same thing I judged him for."

Those are difficult words. But recognizing what is wrong is the first step in allowing God to change it.

Another prisoner described the study this way:

"This one showed me the un-confessed sins I carried and the forgiveness I withheld. This study gave me the template I needed to find the narrow gate."

Again and again, **forgiveness** appears in the responses.

Letha Westfall in Texas called the study an *"eye opener,"* saying it showed her things about herself she needed to face:

"Forgiving is letting go. Judging anyone is so wrong. That's to be God's choice, not mine."

Jami Barragan in Mississippi found another message within its pages; **you are not beyond the reach of God's love**.

"Although I have been wronged and have wronged others, I can still be saved and loved and wanted by the Lord," Jami wrote. *"That's a big deal for me, because there are times I feel lost, unwanted, unloved, unforgivable, and thrown away."*

But after working through the study, something had changed.

"I feel more wanted, forgiven and loved."

"I Can Still Bear Fruit in Prison"

Perhaps one of the most striking responses came from a prisoner who took a sentence from the workbook and posted it on his rack:

"That hard thing you are going through is not an interruption. It is your life. Trust Godand bear fruit where you are."

Why post those words where they could be seen every day?

Because they had taken on a very personal meaning:

"It is posted on my rack to remind me that I can still bear fruit in prison. This is my life now."

That same prisoner said the chapters on **the power of forgiveness** and ***"Judge Not"*** were particularly powerful.

The prison bars had not disappeared. The circumstances had not magically gone away. But the realization had come that God could still work through a life, even there.

From Anger to Peace

For Alvin D. Brown in Tennessee, the study touched the grief and anger he carried after burying loved ones.

He wrote that it helped him *"release my anger and frustration with God,"* adding:

"Now...I'm at peace with God for the loved ones I have buried."

Laura P. Dominguez in Texas found encouragement for facing real-life trials:

"We only go through things that God allows, due to the fact that we will grow through the situation. Our pain doesn't go wasted."

She also requested prayer for her family and for protection and favor as she faced parole proceedings.

Christopher Thomas in Mississippi similarly wrote that the message touched things he had *"felt and carried"* for a long time, but that God had brought him peace.

"I'm a New Man Today"

One of the most emotional responses came from ***Steven D. Steelman Jr. in Tennessee.***

Steven wrote of losing his son in a car accident, being crushed by grief and reaching a point where he no longer wanted to live. He described attempting to take his own life and blaming God, asking, ***"Why me, God?"***

Then the Bible study reached him.

Steven said he identified with a man described in the course. As he continued reading and working through the material, something began happening in his heart. He prayed the prayer in the study repeatedly and began seeing his life differently.

Instead of believing his life was finished, Steven began believing God could use him to help others who were lost.

His conclusion says it all:

*"Our God is real! And our Lord Jesus Christ did shed His blood on the cross for us, and I believe that with all my heart and soul, and **I'm a new man today!**"*

That is what makes these testimonies worth sharing.

The Pardon may be a workbook printed on paper, but its message is reaching people living with very real consequences, very real pain, and very real questions.

Repentance. Forgiveness. Judgment. Grief. Salvation. Redemption.

For some, the journey is only beginning.

But behind prison walls, men and women are discovering something the Gospel has proclaimed for generations:

Your past may explain where you are, but it does not have to decide who you will become.

There is forgiveness.

There is redemption.

And through Jesus Christ, ***there is still a pardon.***

The Pardon: *A Journey to Redemption*

By Ken Carpenter

A Bible study workbook addressing real-life issues of repentance, forgiveness, judgment, redemption, and finding God's purpose in the midst of difficult circumstances.

For information about the book or prison ministry, contact Ken Carpenter at: elderkc134@gmail.com.

The book is available through Amazon.

The Pardon: A Journey to Redemption on Amazon

Jesus Saves! Jesus Delivers! Jesus Transforms!

From Page: 6 ... your friends and near and dear ones in bondage to sin and evil addictions, destroying their lives? Please don't lose hope! Jesus will transform them; just pray for them. He will deliver them and set them free! Share the love of Jesus on the cross and how Jesus gives joy and peace! Jesus will do the rest! He will save, set them free! Amen, amen.

Jesus Saves, Delivers, Transforms!

My loving brothers, my loving sisters! Are you heartbroken? Are you crying, weeping in tears? Your husband, neighbor, or son is drinking daily, fighting daily.

There is hope for you; deliverance for you.

Jesus will deliver; Jesus will transform them. Jesus will set them free.

Jesus came only to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

Jesus came to wipe away our tears. Isaiah 61:1-3

Jesus came to save us and give peace, joy, and freedom.

Jesus will send His "Holy Spirit" to burn every root of sin. Isaiah 4:4. Remember your loved ones living in sin, slaves to bad habits and bondage. The Holy Spirit's fire will convict them; they will become restless from today, and their desire for evil will be burned by the mighty, strong Holy Spirit. Every magic work will be burned by the Holy Spirit. Thank You, Jesus, for Your Holy Spirit.

Prayer: *Loving Lord Jesus, With You behind me, in front of me, and within me, whom or what do I have to fear? Deliver my near and dear one from the clutches of sin, bad habits, and addiction. You have purchased me with Your precious blood that You shed for me on the cross of Calvary. I open my heart to Your love. Fill my heart with Your love and make me worthy to see God. I praise You because You have heard my prayer. Amen.*

With love & prayers,

Yours, loving brother in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Samuel Massey, Ph.D.

+++

Shocked

From Page: 8 ...them on who He was.

Filled with joy, they hurried back to Jerusalem to find the eleven to declare, *"The Lord is risen indeed."* They told them everything He had said, and how their eyes opened to who He was when He broke bread.

That is why we must trust God. Believe in what He says, because it will happen. When we grow in Him, we will not be easily shocked by the devil's lies and schemes. I am a work in progress.

Paul said this in Romans 12:3 (KJV): For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The two followers' conversation with the eleven was of victory, in fact, the greatest victory ever recorded in human history. They were shocked; they went from despair to great joy. These two also are a work in progress. We were given the same measure of faith as every man, as in the ultimate man, Jesus.

My mom's freedom from cancer was a great victory. But God's work began with her salvation and will continue throughout her life. Then one day, like all of us, we will close our eyes on this earth and open them in Heaven. Seeing Him face to face will be the greatest shock. Are you ready to be shocked?



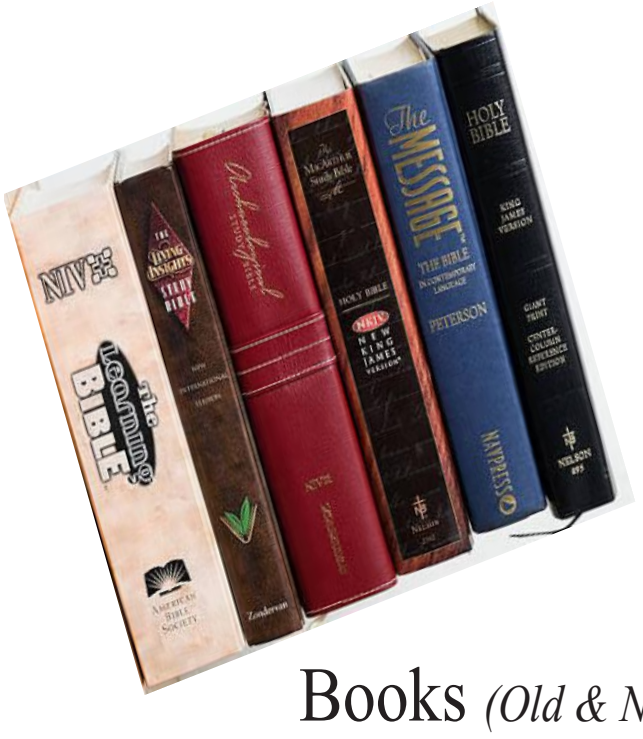


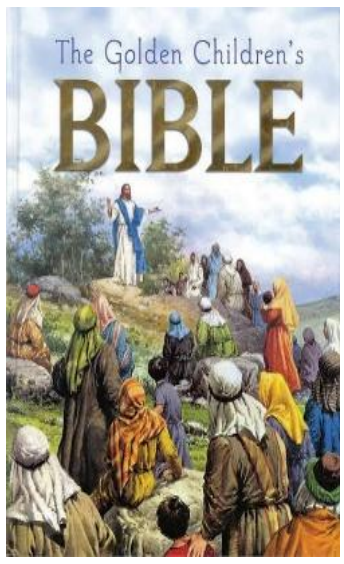
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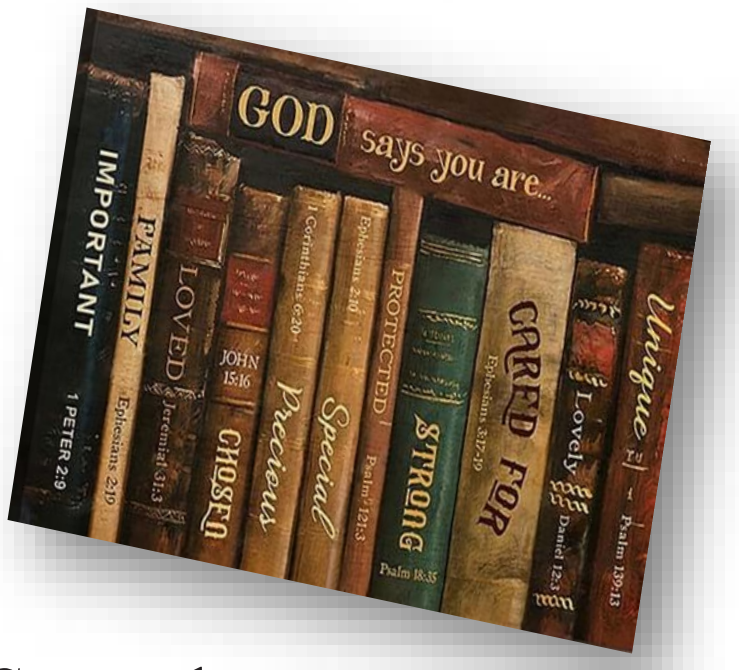


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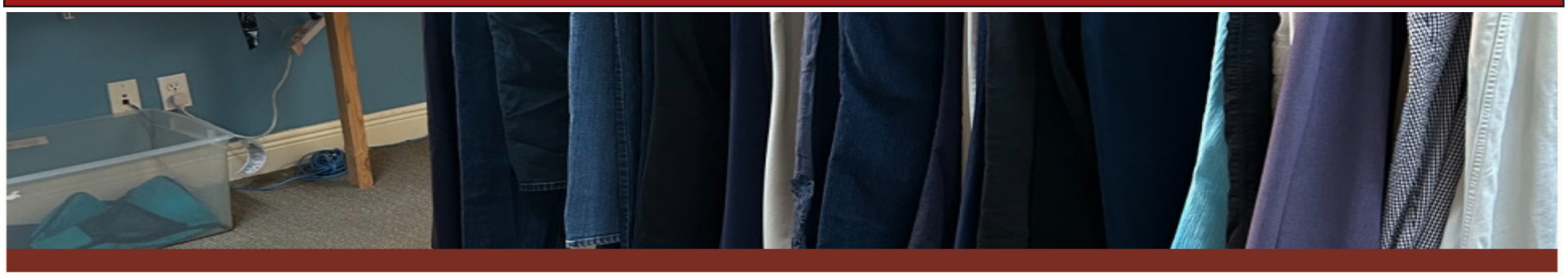


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Angel's Attic

A Ministry of Giving, Hope, and Helping Families in Need



For more than 40 years, Angel's Attic has been a source of hope and practical support for individuals and families throughout Sarasota and the surrounding communities.

A Ministry Born from Compassion

Founded by Dottie Weil, the ministry grew out of her own experience as a young single mother who understood what it was like to go through difficult times and need everyday necessities. That experience gave her a deep compassion for others who were struggling.

What began as part of a food pantry at Beneva Christian Church eventually grew into a ministry providing clothing, linens, household goods, kitchenware, furniture, appliances, food, and other necessities.

As Dottie has said:

"Items are available to those in need. We have no cash register. We are a simple ministry of God."

That statement reflects the heart of Angel's Attic: helping people with dignity, encouragement, prayer, and the love of God.

"Items are available to those in need. We have no cash register. We are a simple ministry of God."
- Dottie Weil


Dottie Weil and Stacy Kolbe





A Ministry That Helped Me Personally

By Barbara Shulla

My connection to Angel's Attic is very personal.

More than 12 years ago, not long after my serious car accident, I met Dottie at the warehouse where Angel's Attic was operating. During that difficult season, Dottie and the ministry blessed me with clothing, linens, food items, kitchenware, and other things I truly needed.

I have never forgotten the kindness shown to me.

Because Angel's Attic helped me, I later became a volunteer. I was able to see firsthand how many single mothers, children, individuals, and families were being touched through this ministry.

On weekends, I would visit garage sales looking for items that could be donated. Many times, when people learned how their unwanted items could help others, they generously gave me what remained at the end of their sale rather than throwing it away or taking it elsewhere.

Those donations became a tremendous blessing and helped keep much-needed items available for people in the community.

If you are having a garage sale and have good, usable items left over, please consider donating them to Angel's Attic. What you no longer need could be exactly what someone else needs.



If You Need Help, Please Come and Receive It

If you or your family are struggling and need clothing, linens, household items, kitchenware, or other basic necessities, please reach out or come by.

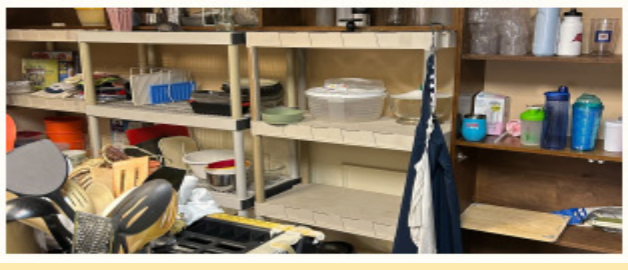
Your Donations Can Make a Difference

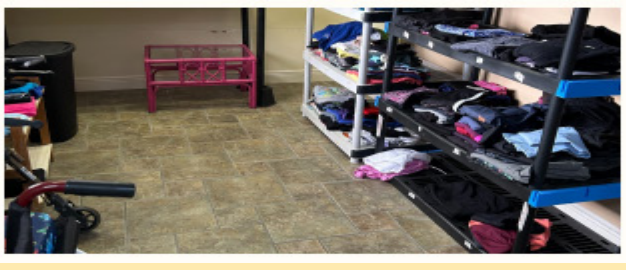
If you are cleaning out your closets, garage, storage area, or home, please consider donating clean, usable items such as:

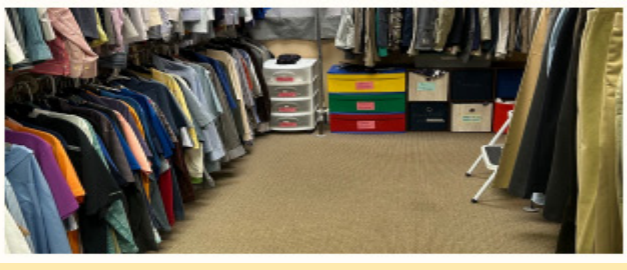
- ***Clothing and shoes***
- ***Sheets, blankets, towels, and linens***
- ***Kitchenware and dishes***
- ***Household items***

Something you no longer need could become an answered prayer for someone else.

If you have something to give, please consider donating it. If you are in need, please come and see how Angel's Attic may be able to help you and your family.







Contact Dottie Weil: 941-735-8855 | Days: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday | 10 am to 1 pm
Angel's Attic | 1255 Seeds Avenue, Sarasota, Florida