



November 2020

ListenLovePray

Newsletter vol. 4, issue 10

Is it possible to *practice gratitude*? If so, how do we do that? It is not like a sport where you start to win more games, or even a hobby where you see progress in your work. It is definitely not like a degree, where concepts are taught and you get to check off subjects and graduate. So, how then can we get better at gratitude?

For us, as followers of Christ, we know *God is always growing us*, in many ways, through many different people and experiences. When we find ourselves in challenging situations, can we press in and use it as an opportunity to practice gratitude?

We are certainly living in *unprecedentedly hard times*. Such times that no generation currently alive on earth has known – uncertainty, sickness, division, world-shaking tension. Some things that we viewed as automatic, we now recognize as God's gifts, such as: Meeting people in person, Gathering for worship, Getting a hug, Singing together, Planning for Holiday Services, Having friends for dinner, and Just Breathing Freely.



We have all had a lot of loss and some may even be in a state of grief. Jamie Eaton's talk on loss and grieving would be helpful to folks experiencing those feelings. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pzi1hwu-V4&t=24s>)

But be assured that God does not abandon His people and in all times, the Spirit of God is moving. In these days, with our new knowledge of hard times and loss, Holy Spirit can help us look deeper. He can help us "see" that we still have all of God's promises; the promise of Holy Spirit, the salvation of Jesus, His Grace, His provision on earth. We still have much to be thankful for!

It is easy to be complacent, taking blessings for granted and constantly focusing on the negative. Holy Spirit will help us to see the deep, eternal ways that we are blessed. It does take intention and focus yet with our paraclete, Holy Spirit, we can mature in being thankful; we can practice gratitude and get better at it!

One way to practice is just to start some new thoughts, especially when we find ourselves complaining, impatient, or only

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A Message from the Executive Director

Lately, I've had a recurring thought about the importance of doing things that will last. It began after I referred someone to Jamie Eaton's teaching on loss and grief. Ms. Eaton, a Frederick counselor, created an outstanding video for LLP's continuing education program. What started as a request for a 1-time talk to a small group, has become a valuable resource for public viewing on YouTube; something that will last.

My friend Bill Lawton passed on last week. Bill served on the trustees and his quarterly report always ended with, "Let's make

God smile". While he did much work to maintain the church structure and property, I think Bill's lasting legacy might be that simple phrase and its eternal significance.

Within this edition is a testimony from Tony, a young man trapped in addiction. His story points to God's saving grace and the power of healing prayer that transformed his life, his marriage, and his future. Tony's testimony is something that will last.

Jesus came to give us eternal life; the ultimate gift that lasts. Ephesians 1: 13 says

Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance as God's children. In addition, we get to live each day in an exciting journey of discovery as He inspires us to use our different gifts, passions, and life circumstances to make a lasting Kingdom impact on the world. And I know that makes God smile!

Lucinda Nelson, Executive Director, LLP

Testimony

Gratitude for Jesus and the Hands of LLP

I am a faithful follower of Jesus Christ that struggles with addiction, my name is Tony Peterson. I was introduced to Listen, Love, Pray on January 27th 2019. I remember the exact day and circumstances during that time. I had just become a resident of the Frederick Rescue Mission's Changed Life Recovery Program on the 21st. The Listen, Love, Pray Foundation was volunteering a prayer service the fourth Sunday evening of every month, so it was then that I was introduced to the amazing healing prayer provided by the volunteers.

The circumstances of my life at that time were not great, to say the least. Leading up to this date I had been struggling with alcoholism and drug addiction over the past decade of my life. On September 2nd of 2017, I married the woman of my dreams, only to overdose three months later, just before Christmas. Following that incident, I would have the worst year of my life in 2018. Not only, did my wife leave me due to my addiction, but I was starting to lose all of those closest to me because of my addiction and poor decisions. We would spend the next 327 days with no contact between the two of us.

During that time, my wife would spend her time working on self-care, continuing to work diligently, and praying fervently for her struggling husband. During the same time, I would spend my time blaming my bad circumstances on my wife leaving me, as well as, convincing those closest to me that she did not have my best interest in mind. In addition to that, my addiction was spiraling out of control.

After being separated all that time, my wife felt the Lord calling her to reach out to me. After seeing my wife's perseverance in prayer for me and our marriage, my heart was beginning to change, and I had the desire to really get honest help for the first time in my life. After making the decision to get the help I needed, I was introduced to Listen, Love, Pray shortly after.

Over the next 12 months of my life the volunteers would consistently lift me, my wife, and our marriage up in prayer to our Savior. It is my belief that the powerful healing prayers offered up on the behalf of my family and I by the volunteers of Listen, Love, Pray have led to the radical transformation of my heart, and to the reconciliation of my family.

I gratefully and humbly announce that my wife and I have experienced a powerful reconciliation in our marriage, and we have been beyond blessed. On February 11th 2020 we welcomed our first child, Rylee Marie Peterson. Today, not only do I live my life walking by faith, but the circumstances of my life have been radically transformed. This month I will be celebrating 21 months of sobriety with my wife and little Rylee. I currently attend college on a scholarship where I will be graduating with my AA degree this spring, and headed to seminary next fall. Currently, I serve as an intern pastor for the Frederick Church of Christ. I have been beyond blessed, and I am forever grateful for the consistent prayers of all the amazing people of the Listen, Love, Pray Foundation.

Forever Grateful,
Tony Peterson

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. —James 5:16



Tony and his beautiful family

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seeing the negative. Holy Spirit will help us to start listing out all that we do have to be grateful for... We'll start! LLP has so much to be grateful for!

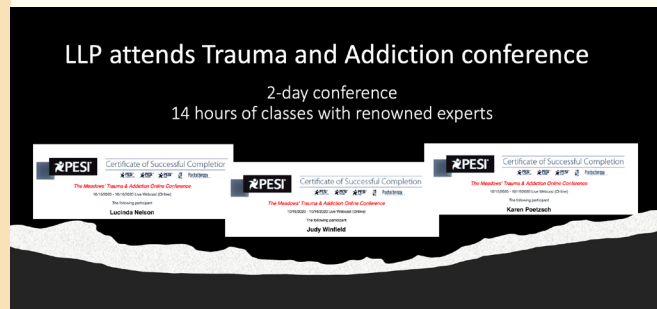
- *Our volunteers! Last month's issue was in gratitude to all of our wonderful volunteers and their families. LLP is so grateful for you, and we continue to be!*
- *We are grateful for all our financial donors, who have undergirded the important ministry of LLP.*
- *We are grateful for NBNC (<https://www.newbeginningnazarenechurch.org>) and for the use of their space.*
- *We are grateful for the Frederick Rescue Mission, Beacon House, and My Father's House for letting us be a part of their ministry.*
- *We could go on and on as we push back the fog of negativity, but for this newsletter, we will just finish with deep, sincere gratitude to God for His grace, His love, His good plans, for our Jesus, for our gift of Holy Spirit, and infinitely more...*

Increased LLP Presence at Beacon House

In response to God's call, team leader Ted Winfield arranged for LLP to provide an additional day of teaching and prayer for the men at Frederick Rescue Mission. The change will start this November. Would you please join us in praying for God to move powerfully and break the chains of addiction and heal wounded hearts and souls.

Trauma and Addiction Conference

Judy, Karen, and Lucinda attended a 2-day, 14-hour conference to learn new ways to address trauma and addiction. Renowned experts spoke on topics including: how to make the unbearable tolerable, creative and compassionate techniques to address the impulse to self-harm and relapse, reverberations of trauma in the addictive family.



Judy, Karen, and Lucinda complete the course.

Moving in Holy Spirit Power

Riding the Wave

Where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom
—2 Corinthians 3:17

Holy Spirit moved powerfully during this 4-week, inspired Zoom class. Ken and Lucinda Nelson taught 20 participants about the many facets of Holy Spirit, starting with Who, What, and With. They reminded the class that Holy Spirit is a person with thoughts, feelings and a will. He wants us to Co-operate with Him and to access spiritual nutrition as we allow Him to be our divine friend and guide for life.

Using a surfing metaphor, students learned to “warm up, paddle out, elongate the reach, keep the head still and body in the right position.” Similar to catching the right wave, Christians need to be ready for God’s initiative, and then respond by moving with “the wave” of His power.

At times, we can unknowingly block Holy Spirit cooperation, especially through fear of the supernatural, a desire for social acceptance, having a carnal mind, a desire for control, or lack of discernment.

The class finished with more inspiration by JI Packer and Kathryn Kulman.

Please visit the links below to access the recorded classes:

- Class 1 (part 1)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0xcudOwvqY&t=37s>
- Class 1 (part 2)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqTg9V0OPY&t=15s>
- Class 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VquLaB3BSMo&t=2122s>
- Class 3
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chnpdU-eiJ8&t=4s>
- Class 4
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izAVa0qEjbQ>



Holy Spirit is like a wave!

LLP Volunteer Spotlight

The third installment of our recurring newsletter section where we introduce a few more of our wonderful LLP volunteers!



Amy is an LLP healing prayer minister and keeps busy with her husband as they raise their 2 school-age children. She has been with LLP since 2017 and especially likes providing a place and time for people to let go of the world and grab onto Jesus.



Heather and her 2 sons live in Mt Airy. She is a healing prayer minister and serves on the ladies recovery team. Heather loves seeing people step into freedom and find out who Jesus is to them - on a deeply personal basis. It is her joy to help folks learn that He speaks to them.



Bruce has been a healing prayer minister since 2017 and is a part of the Beacon House recovery team. Bruce and his wife Debbie have 4 adult children and 10 grandchildren. He loves the fact that Jesus reaches out to people in need through the Foundation. In his volunteer work, Bruce loves to see the power of God’s love and how He works in everybody’s life.



Judy is LLP’s healing prayer coordinator, a prayer minister and on both recovery teams. She and husband Ted have 2 grown boys and a daughter in law. She loves to see folks in healing prayer sessions being released into the peace of Jesus. And in working with other prayer ministers, she sees how each person is uniquely gifted, bringing something different and important to the healing ministry.

HOPE HEALING PEACE



ListenLovePray Events

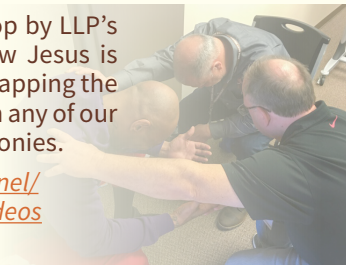
November Events

- Nov 3/10/17/24** **Healing Prayer Service**
Tuesdays • 7:00 pm
- Nov 4/11/18/25** **Ladies Recovery Bible Study**
Wednesdays • 7:00 pm
- Nov 4/11/18/25** **Women's Bible Study**
Wednesdays • 9:30 am
- Nov 7** **Practicum**
Saturday • 7:00 pm
- Nov 9–12** **Healing Prayer 4**
4-day class (Mon–Thu) • 7:00 pm
- Nov 11** **FRM–Beacon House**
Every 2nd Wednesday • 10:30 am
- Nov 22/29** **FRM–Beacon House
Healing Program**
Every 4th and 5th Sundays • 6:00 pm
- Nov 28** **The Ranch: Stomp Out Heroin**
Saturday • 9:00 am

Find More Encouragement

Seek your healing in Jesus! Stop by LLP's YouTube page for more on how Jesus is healing today! Stay current by tapping the "Subscribe" button underneath any of our 109 teaching videos and testimonies.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EvNdJsXRY9YTE9890talq/videos>



Healing Prayer 4 Class

Monday–Thursday (Nov 9–12) at 7:00 pm on Zoom

New topics include: Meta-communications • Healing prayer for family dynamics • What love looks like during the holidays • Trauma timeline and healing prayers.
Register at listenlovepray.org.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Join us in-person for our outdoor Bible study. The study will continue on Zoom as the weather grows colder. E-mail lucinda@listenlovepray.org for more information.



Karen Poetzsch leads the women's Wednesday bible study wearing her Jesus glasses!

Keep in Prayer

- Our Nation for peace, patience, kindness, wisdom, love, gentleness
- Leaders, administrators, teachers, students, researchers, healthcare workers
- The Mental Health of those disproportionately affected by coronavirus
- Holy Spirit empowerment of Christians everywhere

ListenLovePray Foundation

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LLP Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity.

Your generous donations of time, effort, and money empower the healing transformations that Jesus does here through LLP. To donate, visit our website. All donations are tax-exempt.

Lord, continue to bless the spirits, minds and hands of our loving donors. Keep LLP ever faithful to your call and your word. May each soul touched by LLP feel the healing love of Jesus. Amen.



LLP works in recovery centers, churches, and the community. Jesus still heals and delivers people today!