

Grace & Truth Magazine

2021 EDITION

VOLUME 214

PASSOVER/EASTER



contents

Facebook's
Censorship of a
Black
Conservative
Woman
Dr. Carol Swain

11

14

Jesus Was Clear
Dr. Roberts Liardon

Brilliance of First
Amendment Will
Protect Religious
Freedom from
Equality Act
Lt. Col. Allen West

16

18

Why I Pivoted My
Social Media
Jessica Stern Foster

OMUG- Wisdom
Maureen
Maldonado

27

28

They Rejected Jesus
the Messiah Because...
Pastor Jim Carey

OMUG-
God Hears Us
Maureen
Maldonado

33

34

A Highly Contested
Election
Marta Greenman

The Passover-
Experience the
Miraculous
Dr. Candice Smithyman

38

42

Forgiveness is the
Heart of the Matter
Lorraine Whoberry





Holy Week
Christine Brejcha **46**

49 OMUG- 911 Prayers
Marta Greenman

Starting the Days of
Unleaven Bread-
Hag HaMatzot **51**
Fay Arbaugh

54 Look Up and Rejoice
Joel Beach

Home & Hearth **56**

58 Human Trafficking in
Your Backyard
Melissa Sundblom

The Marriage Garden **60**
Jocelyn LaFavers

66 Why Studing the
Proverbs is Not the
Way to Wisdom-
Seven Steps to
Living Wisdom
Terri Gilespi

Homeschooling **70**

72 Letters to God
from a Mom
Brittany Fritsch

The Pennsylvania
Puzzler Series **74**

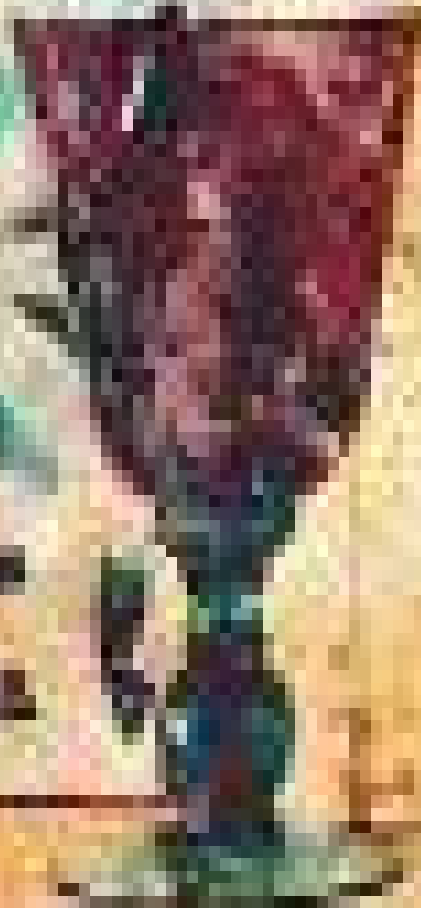
82 Torah Town

Color Pages **84**

88 Recepies

*Happy
Passover &
Resurrection
Day*

FROM ALL OF US
HERE AT
GRACE & TRUTH
MAGAZINE



Thank you for all your support!

Our team thanks you.

**I will give thanks to the Lord because
of His righteousness;
I will sing praise of the Name of the
Lord Most High!"**

Psalm 7:17



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A MESSAGE FROM US

here at **Grace & Truth Magazine**

As we are already several weeks into the new year, 2020.1, as our founder, Jessica Stern Foster likes to call it, things are looking a little crazy. The weather can't seem to make up its mind and many states are getting pummeled in ways that they are not prepared to handle.

Many of you, our dear readers, may be in despair. Maybe your home, your safe place, your sanctuary, has been destroyed. Maybe you still don't have heat or water for your children. Maybe you are doing your best to find food. Maybe you are viewing the terrible events from afar and are heartbroken as you pray for those in need.

We hope that you find encouragement within these pages and that your spirit is lifted. Our Heavenly Father loves to take us into His bosom and embrace us like we would embrace our own children. He loves us and longs to show us His good plans for each of us.

Be encouraged this month and ask the Lord to show you His plans to bring peace, beauty, and provision into your life.

We love each of you and, as always, we are here if you need prayer. Please let us know how we can pray for you at prayer@redeemourchildren.org

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OF US TO
ALL OF YOU



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Facebook's Censorship of a Black Conservative Woman

By: Dr. Carol Swain

Hello everyone, I am pretty upset right now because of Facebook. March 19, 2021, I received a notice that I have been suspended from doing Facebook lives for 30 days because of a post that I shared on Feb 5, 2019. I violated Facebook's community standards.

I find it very interesting that they would use a post from 2019 to prevent me from doing a Facebook live that I scheduled for March 20, 2021. It tells me that someone at Facebook, but also the political left progressive monitors, that they consider my voice a threat. So much of a threat that they would reach back into the past two years to find a reason to prevent me from talking to people who follow me on Facebook.

I am very concerned about big tech and the political censorship and the total disregard for the first amendment. It is more important than ever before for us as Americans who believe in traditional values and principles to stand up and fight back

against the progressives. If we don't begin to change America make allies with people in the democratic party as well as people who are I won't say progressives but liberals who care about America we will lose our country. And as it is, we have almost lost our country.

We saw what happen in the last election and the failure of the courts to do what they needed to do. We also saw that whenever we discussed the irregularities in the last election that people who were most vocal had their Facebook and Twitter accounts shutdown. I have not had a lot of problems with Facebook or Twitter.

LinkedIn suspended my account for about three days after I shared the Mike Lindell study about the election. They quickly put the site back up but this thing with Facebook, it really bothers me because most of my followers are on Facebook have already migrated to Gab, Parler, MeWe, CloutHub, telegram and I'm probably missing some sites but most of my followers are on Facebook and Twitter.



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It is a serious situation because you think about the 2022 election. Unless we can find an alternative and unless we can find away to break up the monopolies when it comes to big tech they intend to do what they did in 2020 did in only worse. So, I am only telling you what has taken place.

I have appealed to Facebook I have not gotten a response so until I hear otherwise my ability to do Facebook live will be suspended for 30 days. That is my situation.

I would love to hear from you, but I would also like to hear from people who have thought through strategies. We can move to conservative platforms and we can preach to the choir, but I would rather see us live in a country where free speech is protected and respected.

I would like to see conservatives treated fairly and not discriminated against because of their viewpoint. We know that when Facebook talks about community standards they are placing their standards pretty low. What they are doing is trying to shut down conservatives.



Dr. Carol Swain is the host of the podcast

“Be the People” (GTRW) and

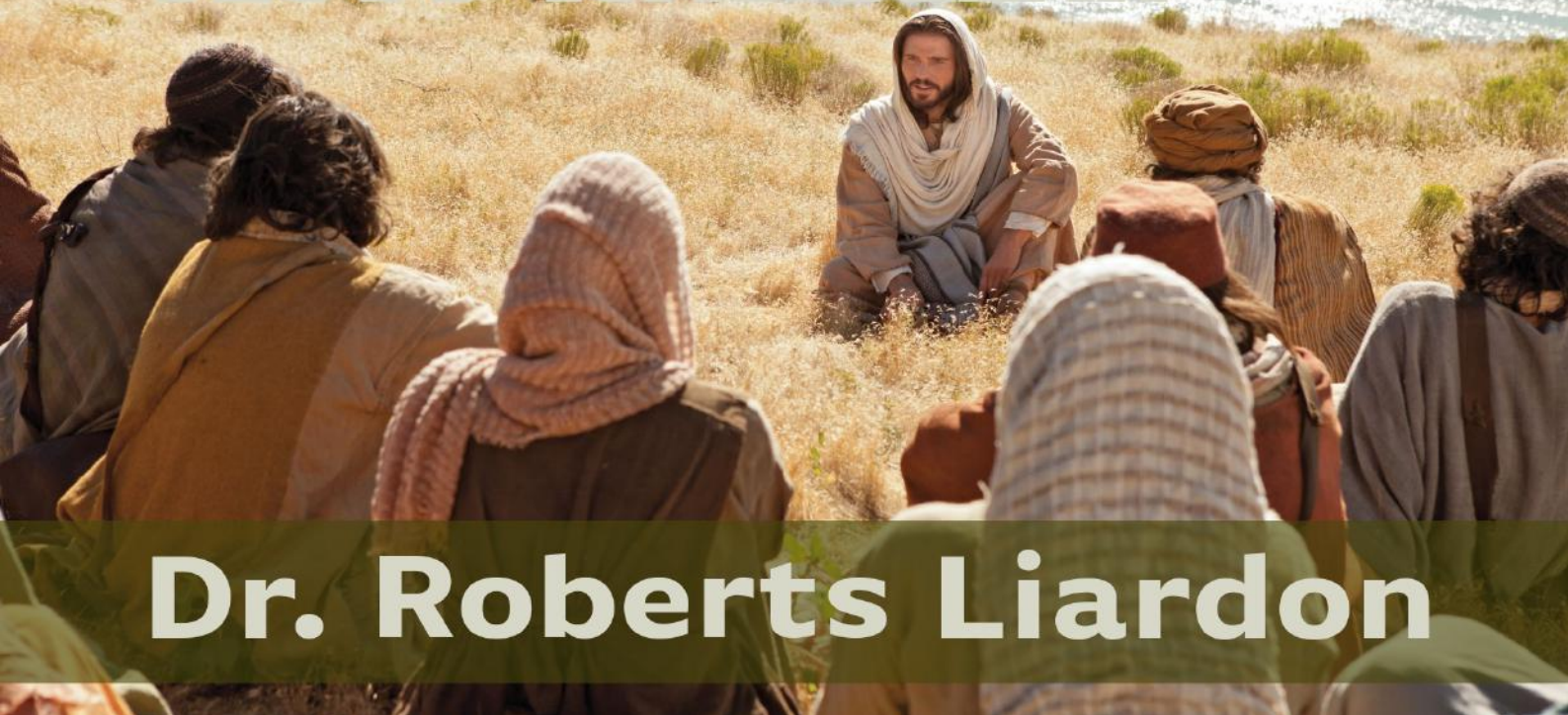
“Two Minutes to Think About it with Dr. Carol Swain (Bott Radio). She is also an author and editor of nine books, which have won three national awards and a Pulitzer Prize. Dr. Swain is a former university professor of political science and law at Princeton and Vanderbilt Universities, and a nationally known political commentator who has appeared on Fox News, ABC Headline News, CNN, BBC Radio and NPR, among other outlets. Her opinion pieces have been published in the likes of The New York Times, USA Today, CNN Online,

the Epoch Times, the Washington Post,

and the Wall Street Journal. For more about her, visit her website at: www.CarolMSwain.com



JESUS WAS CLEAR



Dr. Roberts Liardon

Negative, discouraging, depressing talk. Where in the Bible does it say that every time we open our mouths, we are to say something that will bring down ourselves and everyone else? I know there are times when we need to unburden ourselves, but if we find ourselves doing that in every conversation, we need a confession check! If you don't think this is important...

“I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:36-37

Jesus was clear that what we say is serious. Are we speaking words of life or death? “Oh dear. My friend Jane is such a fool. She insists on living alone, she’s obsessed with her dog. Her whole life is wrapped up in that stupid mutt. I feel sorry for her. When he dies, she’ll be a basket case.” I would not want this person as my friend, would you? Poor Jane just got cursed – not to mention her dog!

If Jane is obsessed, we need to minister to her not condemn her. We need to be praying God’s Word and will over her, that she will be blessed and live a healthy life. If she just loves her dog and loves God more, where’s the problem? If we are truly her friend, we will keep our mouth shut until the Holy Spirit opens it.

"I'm so upset! Every day the news is full of how the world is going to hell. I've never seen such evil in my life. God help us, we are going down the drain!" Now the nation just got cursed! I don't think that's what Jesus is praying up in Heaven. I think He's praying His Word and will over us, and we should be agreeing with Him.

Today my prayer is that the Church will put a guard over her mouth and understand the difference between fact and truth. Fact: There are many people in the world who do evil things. Truth: God is greater, He sent Jesus so He could transform them, and He uses us to pray and be His instruments of change.

Once we know the facts and the truth, which one will continually come out of our mouth? Which one will be magnified to us and others?

Whatever issue or situation you are dealing with, go to the Word of God and find out what He would have you say and confess. Pray in the Spirit and get the mind of Christ, then speak from your spirit. You will marvel at how the Lord works in your life and the lives of everyone you pray for and touch.

No, no...
This isn't gossip.
It's the truth.



Dr. Roberts Liardon is an author of 86 books, public speaker, spiritual leader, church historian, and humanitarian. He has established many churches and accredited Bible



He is currently building Embassy International Church in Orlando, Florida, an apostolic center to serve his community and the nations. Dr. Liardon has ministered in over 127 nations and loves to pray, teach the Word of God, and prophesy to bless God's people. He speaks to a current generation of believers who want to draw closer to the heart and mind of God and impact their communities and the nations through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our IG community knows Pastor Roberts as the God's Generals guy! For more about him, visit his website at: www.RobertsLiardon.org.



Brilliance of First Amendment Will Protect Religious Freedom from Equality Act

By Lt. Col. Allen West

When I swore an oath as a young man fresh out of college to defend our Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic – as all military service members do – I had only a hint of an idea of the brilliance of our forefathers in crafting this founding document. Today, as we hear about proposed legislation such as the Equality Act, and its potential repercussions on Christian ministries, I am astounded at the wisdom and, dare I say, prophetic insight that birthed the Constitution’s language.

While many Christians fear the repercussions of the proposed Equality Act should it be signed into legislation – and rightfully so – I am thankful that the religious freedom protections put in place by the Constitution give believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ a certain measure of defense.

There is great concern at the ministry where I serve, The Hope Center, as we work alongside so many vital Christian nonprofit organizations, whose ability to hire to mission could be impacted by the Equality Act, and it is a valid fear.

Can you imagine having to hire or work alongside someone whose religious beliefs are diametrically opposed to everything for which you and your organization stand?

But I am hopeful this will not come to pass, and our religious freedoms will not be stripped from us, because of that all-important First Amendment guaranteeing the free exercise of religion. So while the Equality Act seeks to disallow religious freedom protections granted by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993,

those acts are only statutory, whereas freedom of religion is not.

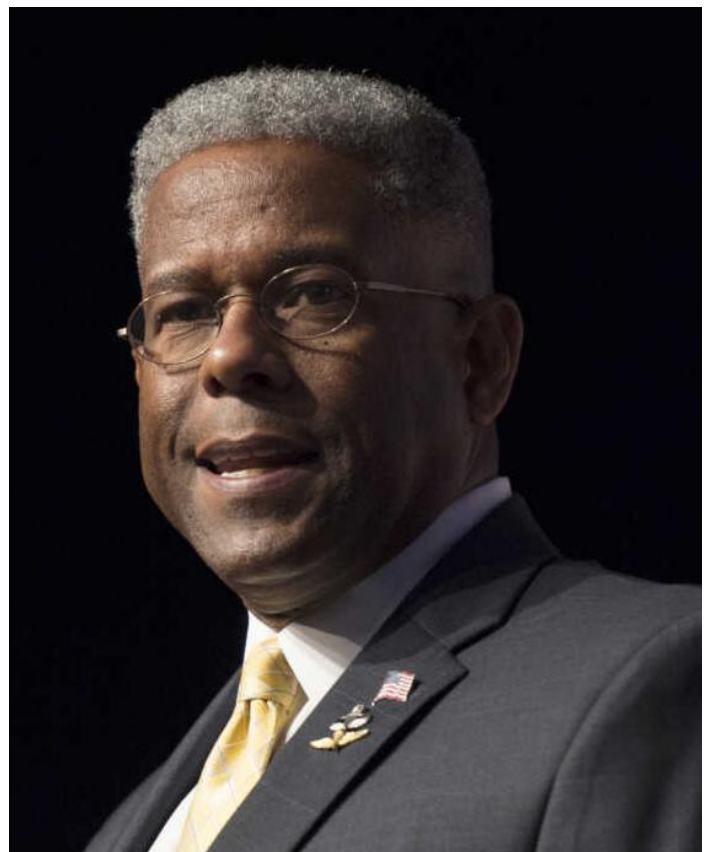
This means that statutory laws – those written and passed by the legislative branch of government – cannot violate the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. So, because the free exercise of religion is enshrined in the First Amendment, those acts are only statutory, whereas freedom of religion is not.

This means that statutory laws — those written and passed by the legislative branch of government — cannot violate the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. So, because the free exercise of religion is enshrined in the First Amendment, any portions of the Equality Act that would try to remove those religious freedoms could be challenged or struck down as being unconstitutional.

While this brings some measure of relief for the ministries with which we partner at The Hope Center, it is a reminder that we must be ever vigilant in protecting our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. We must be informed, we must vote, we must serve, and we must support our Christian churches and ministries in every way we can. Most importantly, we must pray God's hand would remain on our nation and that He would continue to bless those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

I would also ask you to join me in praying for the men and women in uniform who have made that same pledge as me: to defend our Constitution with everything in them. And I believe we should extend that prayer to men and women of faith who are serving in Congress, that they would “rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15)” and do everything in their power to see only legislation passed that is both biblical and constitutional.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Allen West is president and CEO of The Hope Center, a 501(c)(3) collaborative hub of Christian ministries making a global impact for God's Kingdom. It serves as a center point for Christian activity and ministry here in North Texas, providing professional resources, ideas, mentoring and training to empower ministries to magnify their reach. Lt. Col. West is a combat veteran, former Member of the U.S. Congress, an author and speaker, and chair of the Texas GOP.



WHY I PIVOTED MY SOCIAL MEDIA

By: Jessica Stern Foster

To all of my dear sweet friends who are asking why I decided to change the trajectory of my ministry and how I post on social media, please, read below and wash your face!

For over a decade I have been using the term "Wash Your Face"! Even before others wrote it in their books or used it in their book title... I have been telling everyone to "wash your face"! I even shared it in one of my pep talks for a well-known MLM not realizing who was in the room and later saw my words in print and the title of a new book! While I could have been mad, I was not! Rather, I was excited to know that my words were heard and now they continue to resonate in a chain effect! I feel excited to know that I helped to light a spark that ignited women and men alike to go "wash their faces" and pivot onto what God needs them to do with their lives!



But nothing says "wash your hands and wipe your feet on that doormat" like 2020!

If 2020 did not give us a clear vision of the disarray that our country and more importantly the view of God's House on this earth today, then you, my friend, might be blind and in need of vision healing!

Last year so many people became "woke" to the mess that not only our nation has become, but what the church body looks like! We have experienced a real-life version of the movie "Shallow Hal"- I actually want to call it: "Shallow 2020- the movement that shook God's people!"

The tell-all of the great awakening has been reflected on the social media posts. We see



What is your mission? What is your Great Commission?

many of our friends who are trying to do their followers a solid by waking up the masses with shocking posts and brash verbiage to help others see what is truly going on. Yet, are we really accomplishing the goal set before us? Because as much as we all want to hope that this is the case, I am going to tell you to STOP! Stop posting those things like that are changing hearts and waking up others because you are actually doing the reverse!

I realize that a select few of you reading this are right now reading these words and in the movie in your mind are making up a decision that I am wrong, and you are justified to have righteous wrath to give me your two cents on the matter! For you, my friend... feel free to email me at: jessica@redeemourchildren.org. For the rest of you, please, hear me out and prayerfully consider what I need to share with you about my personal pivot mandated by the Holy Ghost!

Working to combat Human Trafficking and sharing my own story of being kidnapped and supernaturally rescued by God is a heavy topic to share. I have had to learn to share my journey and heart on the matter in ways that will draw others to Christ! After all, it is our greatest commission given by Christ Jesus before He left earth for Heaven!

In July of 2020, I was sitting at Hope House in a team meeting working on the semantics of our ministry for Redeem Our Children and the birth of Grace & Truth Magazine (at that time a name that could have been suitable, but I later pivoted). Evangelist Mike Francine was at the table giving ministry guidance as my friend. I will never forget the advice he gave me that day as my redheaded self stepped in my own way. He pulled the correction card. Yep. Ouch!

Mike asked me what the real mission was!

Of course, I knew and know the mission of my own ministry... "to end human trafficking globally!"

Mike DID NOT miss a beat... "No. Jess, that is your passion that you have been given the goal and task to complete! What is your Great Commission- the real mission?!?"





Ya'll, I have to tell you in my transparency: I was at eyebrows-raised-stoneface-redheaded attitude level. Defcon Five. I-will-repeat-the-mission-to-you-one-more-time-because-maybe-you-did-not-hear-what-I-said-ten-seconds-ago! If you have ever known and loved a redhead, you know to get out of our way when we reach this point! But Mike, in his loving-kindness, took my hand and looked directly at me. My trusted friend advised me to get out of my own way! He said to me one more time, "Jess, what is our great commission? You know this! We are to preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus, win the lost, and make disciples of men and women! So how can we do this and end Human trafficking?"

My reply gave me the pivot for the ministry as a whole! It was the very things that I said forwards and backward and with my eyes closed:

Through Ezekiel 36:26 We read that God will take the stony heart of a man and give him a new heart!

Through Isaiah 53, we find Yeshua Jesus and learn that we gain a heart transplant!

Through John 3:16, because Yeshua Jesus died for us so that we are each a new creation in Christ Jesus and have eternal life!

It was in this revelation that I knew my commission, the great commission, is to win the heart of a person for Christ! It is NOT my job to make a person "WOKE", that is the job of the Holy Spirit! And if I continued to go on social media posting graphic photos of kids being abused, trafficked, and worse, I would NOT be doing my great commission! Worse, I would risk the tool of utilizing social media for posting graphic content that people cannot handle and leave an impression in non-believers' hearts and eyes that my heavenly Father is not a kind, loving, and just God! I would then be accountable for that, as well as the people I pushed away from the Cross of Salvation!

While I know that human trafficking is NOT a conspiracy theory, abortion kills

and is murder, Chem-trails are now declassified, and the reality of our world is in a bad spiritual state, my job as a minister of the Gospel is to share the heart of Yeshua Jesus and lead people to the foot of the Cross!

For those of you still considering using that email above for your righteous wrath lashing, read that last sentence again!

You cannot reach people for Jesus if you are beating them in the head or eyes with brash things! It ends up looking like a marketing technique to say, "Look at me!" or just becomes white noise and that clanging cymbal! I mean did we not learn anything from the choleric personality of the Apostle Paul in 1st Corinthians 13:1? I personally grew up with brothers and know how to ignore the noise and loudness until I have reached my limit and just become annoyed! When that happens on social media, I have learned to say, "Bless you and be blocked!"... in the words of my cousin, Jocelyn! And guess what, I am perfectly okay with having peace and really, it is just social media- a tool to utilize to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We need to keep our focus and our priorities on the real matters!

Yet, I do realize that we still need to share matters on social media, various platforms, and in our life and ministry!

In March of 2020 while at the NRB convention, I met some amazing ladies with a ministry called Embrace Grace! Embrace Grace is a ministry that helps women with unplanned pregnancies find a place of belonging within the church through an amazing support system that God has led them to help set up! Of course, I immediately recognized their chutzpah, as most churches and church folks are very judgmental about those topics! A scarlet letter might be an easier cross to wear! Yet I connected with all of the amazing ladies at their booth! One amazing sister in Christ and I really connected in a deeper Holy Spirit way, like meeting a kindred spirit. While I know that is the Holy Spirit, I asked the Lord over the course of the week we spent becoming friends, what did the Lord want me to learn from this encounter?

I know in my years as a Believer and in my walk with my Heavenly Father, that everything I do is meant to build the Kingdom for God's glory and my own glory! When I first met my new friend, Amanda, she introduced me to the other ladies with her. I listened to Jessica at Embrace Grace's journey of redemption after seeking an abortion. After connecting on that first day, Amanda gave me a black t-shirt and asked me if I would consider wearing it to remind me of them and all the unplanned babies. The t-shirt is black with lettering that reads 'Pro-Love'!

ROC CULTURE



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For those of you that know me, I have t-shirts but typically dress a little more business casual and very conservative. As a Jewish woman, I typically cover my arms, because that is how I was raised, and I am more comfortable that way.

I did, in fact, accept the tee and it is the most beloved t-shirt I own! It reminds me of the lesson I was taught that week! I can try to wake people up by telling them that abortion is the brutal ending of a life, and therefore murder, or I can speak to the hearts of people and possibly stop a girl considering abortion in her tracks by talking about Pro-Love!

Knowing that 1 in 4 pregnancies end in an abortion here in America is beyond horrifying! Knowing that the abortion rate within the church is also 1 in 4 is mind-blowing! Learning to make a greater impact has been the pivot for me of how I post and share on social media, platforms, and in my ministry! I realize that we are all different and our personalities vary! But when we wash our face and look with the very heart of our Heavenly Father, how are we going to reach the one?!? How will we touch the heart of the girl or woman who found themselves in the most precarious place, is lost, and doesn't know what to do?!

The answer, my friend, is through the Love of the Father! And as my t-shirt says, Pro-Love! This is how I plan to reach people and not run people off! The church body is already known for way too many judgmental, brash, and harsh folks! I desire to lead the one person to the foot of the Cross! And when I have done that, I will find one more and then repeat this process until I one day hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"


“...’Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:31

Jessica Stern Foster is the Creator and Founder of Grace & Truth Magazine, Redeem Our Children Foundation, and known for her Global Radio Show

The Jewess Believer. She grew up in a Jewish family, who came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jessica's Bubbie (who was thrown from the train to Auschwitz) along with her parents who raised her in an old school Jewish manner. With over 20 years ministry experience, Hebrew and Greek Studies, with over 12 years of college studies, a 3 time cancer survivor and writer.

Jessica shares her journey of being kidnapped, sold at auction and supernatural rescued by God! She is an activist to stop human trafficking! Ezekiel 36:26 - Isaiah 53 - John 3:16 Jessica lives on the Chesapeake Shores of Maryland with her big Jewish family!






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a month. The rest of the time, they say, “Let me do my thing the way I want to do it.” If you’re doing this—if you’re running your life and ministry according to the flesh—you’ll eventually wear yourself out. If you learn to run your life and ministry by the flow of the Holy Spirit, you won’t get so tired. You’ll have new strength.

Walk After The Spirit

The Bible tells us to walk after the Spirit. How do you walk “after” something? You make a decision to go after it. Life in the Spirit is a choice to go after the things of God all the way, allowing nothing to hinder or distract you.

You’ve got to want the move of the Spirit in your churches bad enough to go after it. You cannot settle for soulish activity. There are sermons that are preached by the soul and there are sermons that are preached by the Spirit. You must make it your goal to preach by the unction of the Holy Spirit.

There are songs sung in the natural and songs sung in the Spirit. Go after those that come by the Spirit. Reach out for them. If you don’t quite make it the first time, get back up and try again, just like a child learning to ride a bicycle. Don’t give up, because if you keep hungering and thirsting, you’ll get it.

A Holy Dissatisfaction

Never become satisfied with where you are in God. Become a person who has to have more, more, more! It’s a part of your addiction; you’re never satisfied with what you’ve got.

I crave Heaven! I crave the move of the Holy Spirit! If all I preach is just a pleasant sermon, I’m not happy. I have to feel the unction; the anointing. I have to know that what I did was right according to Heaven.

We need to be delivered from preaching through human ability. Yes, God will use our natural abilities, and that’s fine, but we shouldn’t depend on them. Our dependency must be upon the Holy Spirit.

One of the greatest truths that comes out of the life of Kathryn Kuhlman when you listen to her tapes or read her books, is her total dependence upon the Holy Spirit. She

We must become dependent upon the Holy Spirit, too. We must get to the place where we don’t know how to function without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The problem is, we have learned the art of ministry without the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We’ve come to the point where there’s a whole generation that does not know the flow of the Holy Spirit! When the flow of the Holy Spirit comes and begins to work and manifest among them, they become nervous. They say, “We never saw it on this fashion before”—and they say it in a negative way, with no excitement.

We ministers must preach sermons to our people about the moving and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit—so they will not be afraid of what they will see happening in front of them in the days to come.

Becoming Normal In Heaven’s Eyes

I thank God I had my roots in the Pentecostal Movement. We had more Pentecost in my home than we did in our church. We had more prayer, more shouting, more praying for the sick and casting out devils in our front room than I saw in many church services.

Neighbors would come over for prayer. Even though they were sinners, they knew where to come when their children were sick. When someone faced a divorce or some other problem, guess who they would call? My mother and my grandmother. And what did we do? We prayed until we got the answer!

Often I’d come home from school and people would be lying on the front room floor. This was normal for my family, so when I began my ministry, I thought, “Everyone does this.” I didn’t know that we were such a rare breed in the earth.

We’ve got to know what’s normal according to Heaven—not what’s normal according to the soulish or natural realm. The standard of what is normal to Heaven is what we should crave and conform to.

Walking in the Spirit is becoming like Jesus. Walking in the Spirit is not always yielding to the natural desires of the flesh; it is staying in that high realm, on that narrow road. But you’ve got to make a choice to stay there.

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Dear Friends,

Your calling is going to crush you.

If you're called to mend the brokenhearted, you're going to wrestle with broken-heartedness.
If you're called to prophesy, you're going to struggle to control your mouth.

If you're called lay hands, you will battle spiritual viruses. If you are called to preach
and to teach the gospel, you will be sifted for the wisdom that anoints your message.

If you are called to empower, your self-esteem will be attacked, your successes will
be hard fought.

Your calling will come with cups, thorns and sifting that are necessary for your mantle
to be authentic, humble and powerful.

Your crushing won't be easy because your assignment is not easy.

Your oil is not cheap.

Protecting your oil will cost you everything,
but your oil is valuable! Know your worth!

*Berakhah ve Ahava,
Jessica Stern Foster*

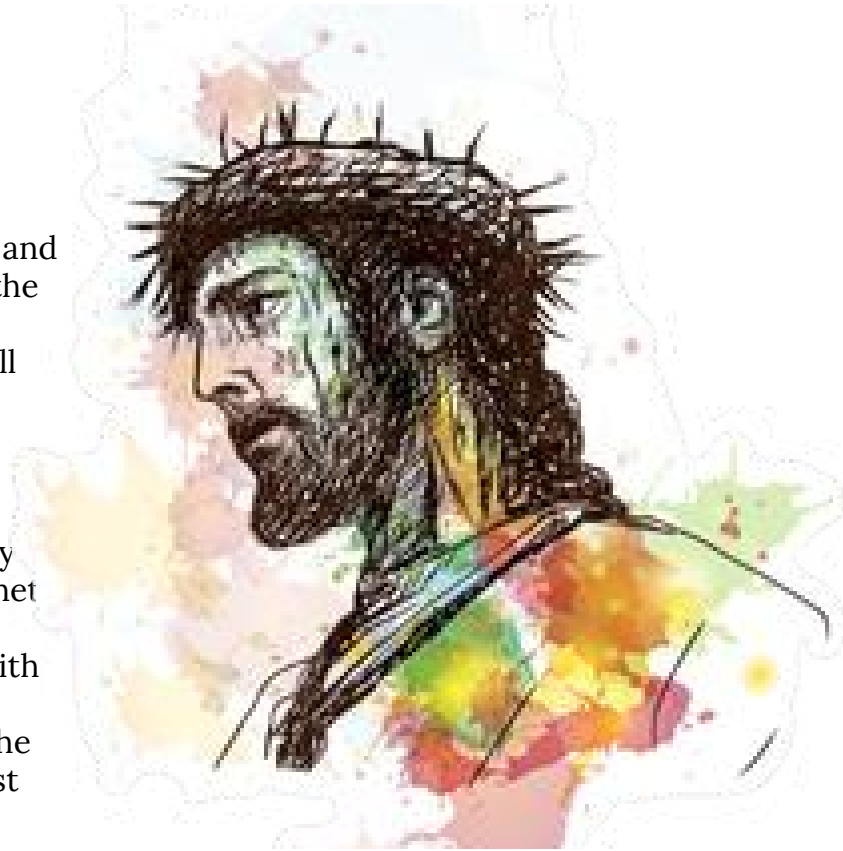


Weekly OMUG: Wisdom

BY: Maureen Maldonado

“If you will fear the Lord and serve Him, and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God.
1 Samuel 12:14

Samuel was the 15th and final judge of Israel. He was honest and fair, impartially following God’s law. He was also a prophet who convinced Israel to turn from their wicked ways and to return to the Lord with all their heart. They were to serve Him alone, remove all idols, fast and pray to the Lord and they would be victorious against the Philistines.




This all did come to pass and they conquered. In verse 12, Samuel placed a rock at the place where they had won the battle and told the people, “Thus far, the Lord has helped us.” The “thus far’s” in my life are too numerous to count. Thus far I have a roof over my head. Thus far I have food to eat daily. Thus far I have good health. Thus far I am able to attend church and praise the Lord publicly, etc., etc. The people of Israel seem to have forgotten all the “thus far’s” the Lord had done for them.

The people of Israel cried out for a king. All the other regions had kings and they wanted to be like everyone else. The Lord told Samuel not to be disheartened by this request. The people were rebelling against God, not against Samuel. Saul was the first appointed king and in 1 Samuel 12:14, Samuel tells the people, “If you will fear the Lord and serve Him and listen to His voice and not rebel against the command of the Lord, then both you and also the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God.

In Proverbs 9:10, King Solomon declares, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Reverence and awe of God is the “fear” of which he speaks. Thus far, our search for guarding against earthly fears has reminded us of the importance of having a healthy “fear” of the Lord!

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Listen to Maureen Maldonado on her show, Under God with Marta and Maureen Every Monday at 1:30 PM PST & 2:30 PM MST & 3:30 PM CST & 4:30 PM EST on GraceAndTruthRadio.World



They Rejected Jesus the Messiah Because...

By: Pastor Jim Carey

There was a system in place to identify the Messiah. The Sanhedrin (ruling body in Jerusalem) had established the rules to identify the Jewish Messiah many years prior to the time that the prophet Daniel had predicted. They were not looking for the baby Jesus/Messiah. They were searching for a full-grown man that displayed the characteristics of Messiah.

After the Sanhedrin was alerted to a potential siting, a small team of priests, scribes, elders and rabbis were sent to investigate the potential messiah. The first example we have is in John 1:19- 28. The investigative team visited John the Baptist in the wilderness of Bethabara, while he baptized the people. They directly asked him if he was the Messiah. He said that he was not Messiah...they asked him if he were Elijah, or another prophet and he said he was not. John the Baptist was the son of a known temple priest, however they gave him the benefit of the question, believing that he could be messiah. John told them that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness...make straight the way of Messiah, as said the prophet Isaiah. They asked him why he baptized if he were not the Messiah. He told them that Messiah was standing among the people...and they did not know him.

Since John the Baptist did not get past the first visit/question, the team left for Jerusalem to report that he was not the

Messiah. If they thought he might be Messiah, the second team would go observe and question the candidate. Yes, they approached it like they were to crown him Messiah.

Yeshua of Nazareth was among the people healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, setting the captives of sin free. He also was preaching the acceptable word of the Lord. He had not claimed to be Messiah, but had almost been stoned to death, in Nazareth, for reading from Isaiah 61. (Luke 4:18 - 30) and stating that this scripture is today fulfilled in your ears. "They" being the attendees at the Nazareth synagogue. He grew up and lived many years with these people. They knew his family and did not believe in him, because he could not heal or do great works in his own hometown. He only could do a few healings and good works in Nazareth. Jesus spent much of his time in other areas of Galilee such as Capernaum.

The miracle that sent the investigative team to check on Jesus/Yeshua of Nazareth was the cleansing of the leper in Luke 5:12. Jesus cleansed/healed the leper and told him to show himself to the priests and make an offering for being cleansed from leprosy (at the temple).



A person that is unclean or may have leprosy has to be observed for three days to validate the condition (so it is not just a case of allergies).

A leper must live outside the camp and cry unclean any time they come near people. A record of the leper case was kept in the temple. Thus, Jesus asked the cleansed leper to show himself to the priests and make an offering/sacrifice at the temple. There had not been many if any record of a leper being healed to date. This was a very big deal, and the team was sent to check on Jesus, when the cleansed man said Jesus/Yeshua of Nazareth healed him.

Luke 5:17 tells of all the doctors of the law, rabbis and priests that showed up to check out Jesus. The fullness of God's power was there as well as many that needed to be healed. There were so many people crowded into the place that a man on a stretcher was lowered through the ceiling to get him to Yeshua to be healed. Yeshua saw him and said; "man, thy sins are forgiven thee." The scribes and Pharisees were indignant over that statement and wanted to know who spoke blasphemies and forgave sins...only God had that power. Yeshua told them that the Son of Man has power to forgive sins while he is on the earth. Then Jesus told the man, with palsy, to take up his bed and walk. He walked out of the room in front of the investigating team. After that incident they planned to discredit Jesus/Yeshua of Nazareth. There were many times that doctors of the law, Pharisees, scribes, elders, rabbis and others tried to trip up Jesus and prove him not to be God's Messiah.

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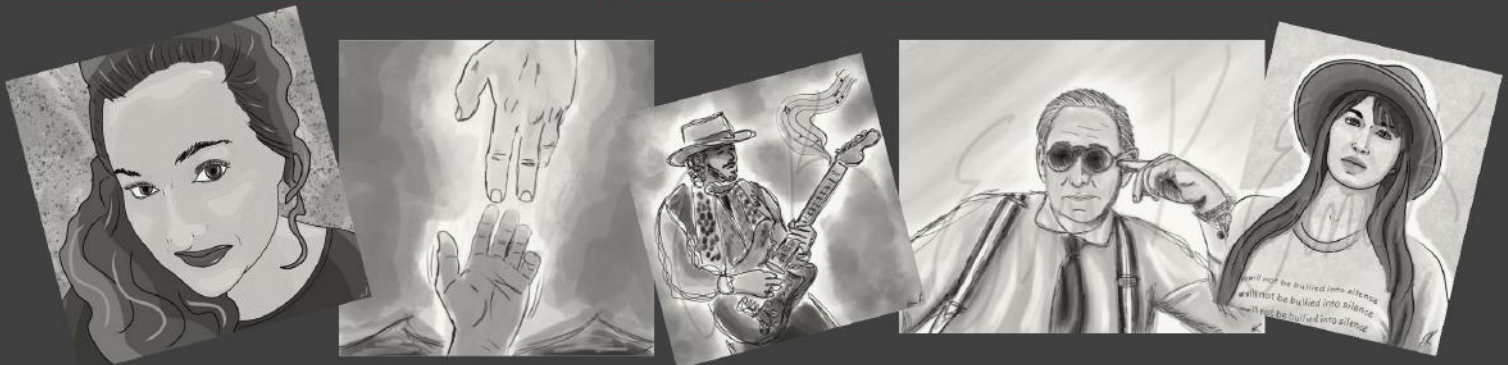
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Jesus kept on doing miracles and preaching the Good News.

The Sanhedrin voted to reject Jesus/ Yeshua of Nazaret for several reasons. He was from Nazareth, not Bethlehem. (Nobody checked the temple records nor his birth record from the sacrifice that his mother Mary and Joseph made in the temple) He would not come right out and tell them that he was Messiah...straight up. He also would not give them a sign when they demanded one. They spread the rumor that he had a demon and deceived the people.

In John 5:32-39, he told them to believe in him for the works of the Father that are done...they testify of me, as do the words of the prophets. He told them that his witness was John the Baptist and the prophets. There was no convincing the religious elite. They did not want to lose their power over the people, nor did they want the Romans to take away their temple and the Sanhedrin.

Rejecting Jesus was in God's plan for the ultimate sacrifice that would pay the bill for the sin debt of God's children. The Good News is God's plan to have a personal relationship with you, His child(ren). That is why Jesus was rejected and crucified on the cross on Passover. Caiaphas, the High Priest had prophesied that it was better for Yeshua of Nazareth to die so the Romans would not take away the Jewess nation and its temple. They sought to take him by his words and looked for witnesses...in walks Judas Iscariot... sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (the price of a slave).

Some of the Sanhedrin had decided to have Jesus executed by the Romans. They had to break a lot of their own trial laws to convict him and convict him they did. It was all in God's plan for our salvation.

Prior to his trial and execution, Yeshua cleansed ten (10) lepers (during His final week). The priests at the temple had to examine and watch for 3 days to declare nine of them clean. Can you say...rub in the salt! They tried Yeshua/Jesus anyway.

We enjoy God's riches at Christ's expense (Grace), because Yeshua/Jesus loved us and the Father enough to stay on the cross. Remember he told Peter to put up the sword and let it happen. Know not that I can call on 12 legions of angels if I wanted. (Matthew 26:53) There was less than 1 legion of Romans in Jerusalem... truly outnumbered, if Yeshua had decided not to die on the cross.

His love was greater and he died for you and me.

Pastor Jim

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Weekly OMUG: God Hears Us

BY: Maureen Maldonado

“God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.’”

Genesis 21:17

God told Abraham he would have a son through whom he would become the father of the nations. Genesis 16 tells us the story of the impatience of Abraham and his wife, Sarah. They did not wait for God to make it happen, so Abraham took matters into his own hands. He had a child with his wife’s servant, Hagar. The child was named Ishmael. After some years, this servant, Hagar, and her son, Ishmael, were only given

one bottle of water and a loaf of bread and told to leave your home and all you knew? Oh, and take your young son with you. I would be freaking out!!! I would be so afraid of what was out there for us.

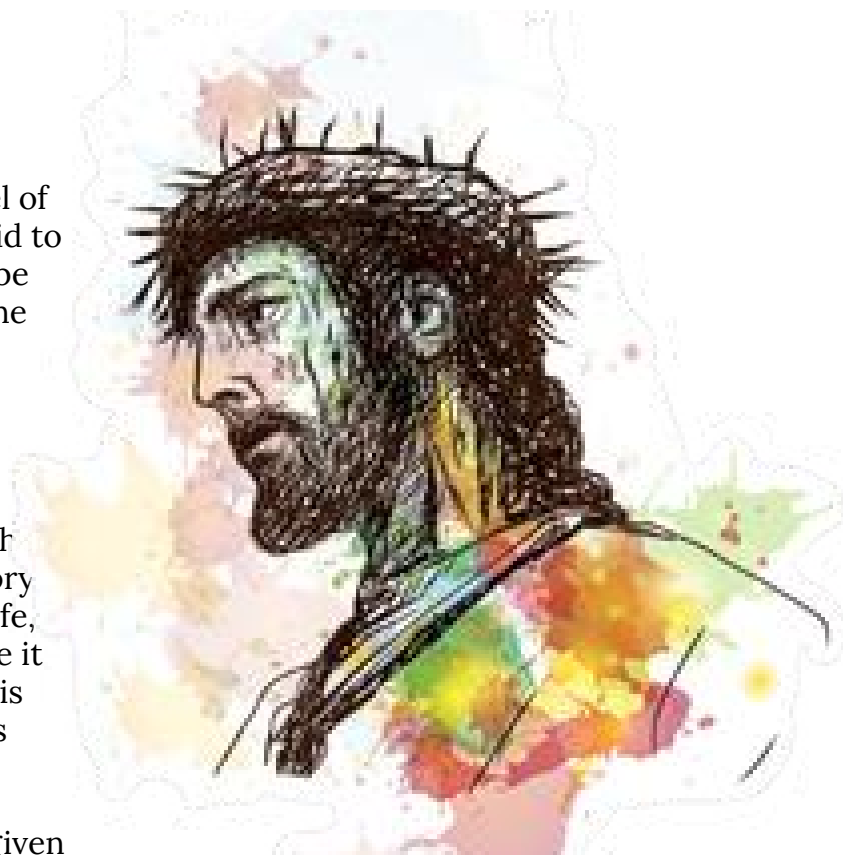
This was the case for Hagar, of course. When the water had run out and there was no more to be found, she placed her son far enough away so she could not hear his cries or watch him die. She “lifted her voice and wept,” Genesis 21:16. Verse 17 says that God heard the crying and sent the angel of God who told her, “Do not fear”. The angel showed her a well, they quenched their thirst and she and the lad lived and he grew in the wilderness.

God wants us to cry out to Him when we are afraid, He will always listen. He tells us, “Do not fear.” Circumstances may seem utterly impossible, “but with God all things are possible”, Matthew 19:26.

What are you facing today? What has you frightened? Are you turning to the wrong source for comfort? Are you looking to the next job or next friend or next party to make you happy? There is only One who can really take away your fear. Turn to Him who loves you.

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A HIGHLY CONTESTED ELECTION

By: Marta Greenman

With a highly contested election behind us, on whatever side of the aisle you stand, as a believer there are seven principles we need to live by in these turbulent times.

1. God is Sovereign; He is still in control.

With this final declaration to His disciples, Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" Matthew 28:18. He ensured them He was the one who had the authority, consequently they could boldly persevere in His plan and purpose. Jesus closed the assertion with, "and lo, I will be with you always even to the end of the age." This assures us even today God is on the throne so we can trust in His divine wisdom—wisdom we may not understand—but which gives us confidence to lead us through difficult days.

1 Timothy 6:15 teaches the Lord Jesus Christ is, "the only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light." Bottom line, there is no one who can compare to Jesus, never has or ever will. John 1:1 tells us, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word WAS God" (emphasis mine). Jesus is not only the Son of God, Jesus is God. This is difficult to understand with our finite minds but we can put our faith in this infinite God.

2. God removes kings & establishes kings.

Captured by King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel was taken to Babylon to become his servant. Daniel was assigned to the wise men of Nebuchadnezzar. Shortly after, the king had a dream and demanded the impossible of his wise men, recount and interpret it! They were warned their lives would be forfeited upon failure. Daniel fervently prayed to the Lord. God graciously revealed both the dream and interpretation to him. In a prayer of praise, Daniel said, "For wisdom and power belong to God. 'It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding'" Daniel 2:21. Daniel knew God had set this pagan king over the children of Israel and made them his slaves. He also knew it was God who had given him this great perception.

Applying this principle to the present, we know God allowed Mr. Biden to become President of the United States. Yes, I can hear you who believe the election was undermined, "But the election was not fair. President Trump actually won!" My question to you, don't you think God knows what actually happened?

We may not appreciate the reality that God allowed Joe Biden to be elected president, but Joe Biden is the 46th President of the United States. God's people need to recognize that He positioned President Biden. We must accept this fact and pray for God to move in an effective way in our new president's life. Why? First, "that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:2). Second, "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare, you will have welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7). When we pray for our president and government officials, we are praying for the welfare of our daily lives. We want them to make good decisions on our behalf. It's to our benefit to pray for our elected officials, particularly if we don't agree with them!

3. Remember the days in which we live!

2 Timothy 3:1-5 clearly outlines these days, "Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these." This is so true of the days in which we are living one would not know these words were penned 2,000 years ago. Knowing this is God's Word we, as believers, must live in faith.

4. What Satan means for evil, God means for good.

We may not understand why God allows certain events, but we must trust His plan and purpose. One may not see God's sovereignty in Joseph's life—having been sold into slavery by his brothers and imprisoned on Egypt. But fast forward many years when Joseph was second in command.

Standing in front of him, his brothers were fearful of retribution from Joseph for their evil actions.

Genesis 50:20-21 gives us great understanding into God's sovereignty and what forgiveness can accomplish, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them." We, like Joseph, must understand there is purpose in our trials and tribulations. We must trust God and have faith regardless. We must have a heart of forgiveness and love the unlovable to show the heart of God to those who desperately need Him.

5. God is setting you up for a purpose. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." God has a plan for our lives. He created us for a purpose, and He did so before we were born. Our responsibility is to walk the path God designed for us.

A young Jewish woman, Esther, was intended by God to become the queen of Persia (modern day Iran). Evil Haman, planned to destroy all Jews in the Persian Empire. Esther's uncle heard of the plan and fasted and prayed. He pleaded with Esther to intervene, sure she might be executed if she entered in to see the king without invitation. Esther 4:13-14 gives us insight into Uncle Mordecai's thoughts and plea to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"



Mordecai was confident God had placed Esther in the king's palace to be the tool used to rescue His people. Esther's role was to obey in faith the good work God planned. We must be like Queen Esther, Mordecai and the many others who boldly lived their God ordained destinies.

6. Stay Focused.

Distractions are a tool of the enemy to divert us from God's plan and purpose. This was the case for Nehemiah. God called him to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem that had been destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar 150 years earlier. The enemy was relentless. Verbal attacks were constant with the ultimate goal of destroying Nehemiah's character and reputation. Nehemiah was invited to meet with his enemies. We can learn from his response in Nehemiah 6:3, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" Nehemiah knew this distraction was from the enemy when his purpose was to complete the task God had ordained. This is a reminder for me. How many times do I need to be reminded from the Lord to stay focused on God's task? If this is true for me, I'm sure it's true for others.

7. The outcome is the Lord's.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, found themselves in a difficult situation. They either bowed down to the false god of King Nebuchadnezzar or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Their response to the king shows they understood who God was and His Sovereignty over their lives, Daniel 3:17-18 "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." It's clear they knew God was able to deliver them, but they also didn't know that He would. We must remember God is in control of the outcome; our responsibility is to be obedient nonetheless.

Hebrews 11:32-38 recounts the great victories God gave Old Testament saints. People, who, by faith conquered kingdoms and shut the mouths of lions. Women who received back their dead by resurrection. Then the victories shift to painful revelations of others who were tortured, experienced mocking, scouring, chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawn in two, put to death with the sword, being destitute and ill-treated. Then these profound words, "men (and women) of whom the world was not worthy." The Bible describes those with great victories and ones with terrible defeats the same ... "of whom the world was not worthy." All of us want the great victories but must trust our God just as much when experiencing the many trials and tribulations. Whatever the course our Lord chooses for us we, like the great men and women of old must be, "whom the world is not worthy."



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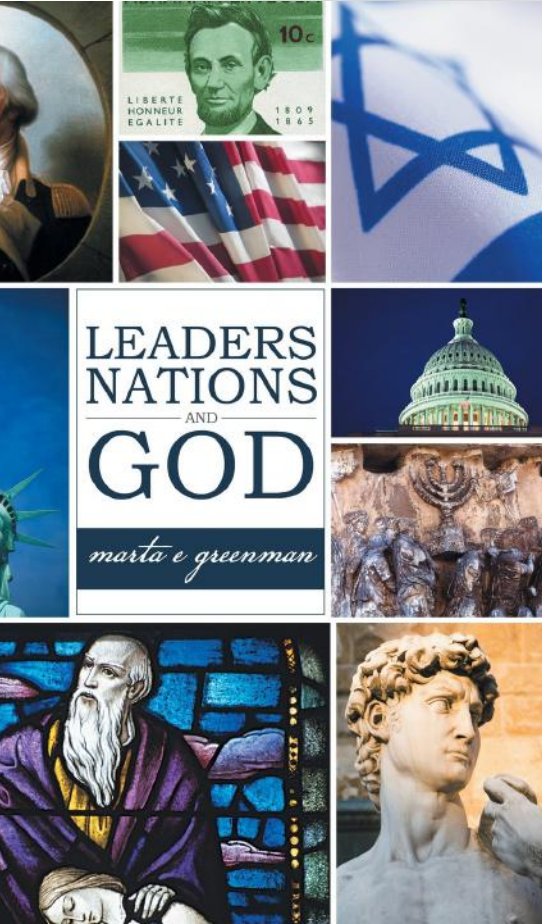
marta e. greenman

Marta Greenman

founder of Words of Grace & Truth and GraceAndTruthRadio. World With a mission is to teach God's Word to the nations and teach others to do the same, she is a teacher of teachers and speaks globally. She has been a on a multitude of radio and television programs and is the author of three Bible studies, Bound to Be Free, Leaders, Nations, and God, and ACTs420NOW.

You can hear Marta's radio show: Under God on GraceAndTruthRadio. World every Monday at
1:30 PM PST
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Marta lives in the Dallas, Texas area with her husband, Marshall, of over 25 years.



This Passover – Experience the Miraculous

By: Dr. Candice Smithyman

On Saturday, March 13th, at sundown, we entered into Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew year according to Exodus 12:2-3. This is the time during which the Lord spoke to Moses and the Israelites about preparing for the Passover. Passover this year starts on March 27th and ends on April 4th (Resurrection Sunday). We need to celebrate! He is alive! Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. He is our Passover Lamb. He died, was buried and resurrected to overcome sin, death and the grave so the curse over us would be broken.

The Lord is springing new things into action! March has been the month to march forward like the Israelites did out of Egypt. The Lord led them out of Egypt and took them across the Red Sea. **They physically left Egypt, and then they had to shed the poverty mindset of Egypt's bondage.** This is why they were not able to go into the Promised Land for 40 years, but God was with them in the desert. He allowed them to see, feel and experience aspects of Heaven while they were there so that they would build their identity in Him alone.

Miraculous Provision

One of the ways the Lord built their identity in Him was through His miraculous provision. The Lord has a special word for you for this season, and it's found in Deuteronomy 8:2-4 (NASB):

"And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you go

hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years."

Did you see that? The Lord gave them manna, their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell at all during this time! The supernatural entered the natural while they were journeying those 40 years. The Israelites had entered into a realm in which things did not decay, their mantles stayed, their feet were able to withstand, their bodies were able to submit – and they received! They were completely covered and surrounded by Heaven even in the midst of what they were going through. And just like they began to understand the supernatural in their wilderness season, you can too.

Let me break it down even further:

They were fed supernatural manna every day. Manna was little honey flaked crackers or bread and was white like coriander seed that appeared on the ground. This food from Heaven fed their natural bodies only enough for one day. Through it, the Lord was teaching them to trust and believe in Him, and that His provision comes directly from Heaven. Manna means "What is it?" It's the bread of life. It's the Word of God every day that sustains you and enables you to walk in heavenly realms on Earth.

Their clothes did not wear out. Clothing in Hebrew means "mantle." In other words, your mantle will not wear out when you walk in heavenly

realms on the earth. It will be strong. It will not be torn away from you, as it is a part of who you are. **The Lord wants you to know that the mantle He has given you is a covering that will last.**

Their feet did not swell. Feet in Hebrew is the word "regel" which means "to endure, journey, possess, time." It means to walk along and a type of treading. See, it's like putting one foot in front of the other. As you walk, you possess time, you endure and you move forward. Your feet will last and not decay or swell. You are not going to become overwhelmed with the walk.

Everywhere you walk, you will possess what is before you! A foot possesses the time. There is only one thing that can refer to the possession of eternal time and that is when we are walking in the heavenly realms on Earth.



On Earth as It Is in Heaven

This is very important as you are entering into a time of great awakening and global glory: The Lord is saying,

"I am going to cause My people to walk in the heavenly realms on Earth."

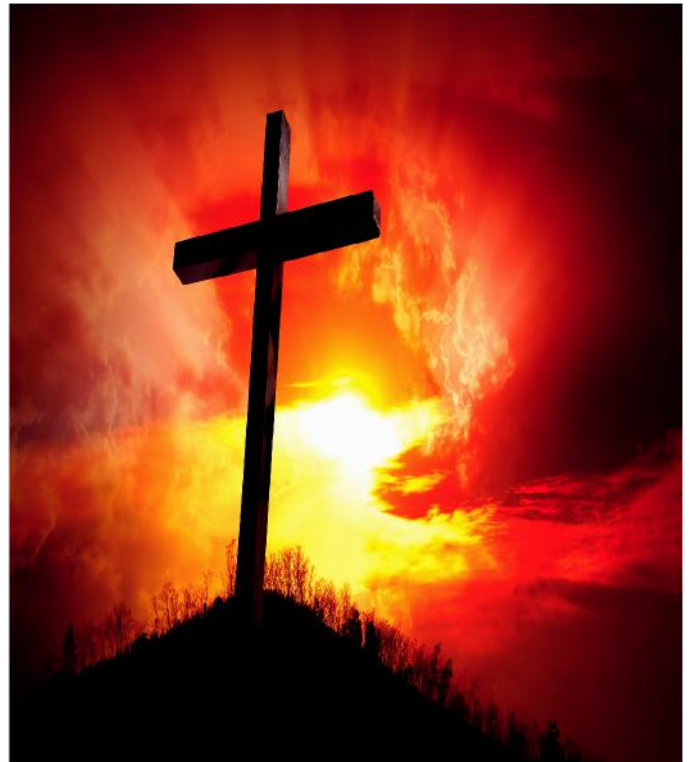
You are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). You are a citizen of Heaven. You must operate on the earth from the heavenly perspective.

The good news is that NOW we can walk in Heaven on Earth. That is why Jesus speaks to us and says, "Ask that Heaven be done on Earth."

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

This phrase "in Earth" means like a movement of Heaven actually making its place in the earth realm. "In Earth" in the Greek means "superimposition of time, place and order; a distribution over and above a place of rest and direction." So when we ask for Heaven to manifest in the earth realms, like Jesus taught in the **Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), what we are saying is this: "Lord, superimpose Heaven on the earth. Distribute rest and peace."**

"In Heaven" means a fixed position of place, time and state of rest. When we are walking in heavenly realms, Heaven comes upon us like a supernatural covering. By faith we believe this; we understand it to be true not only because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, but also because of His ascension. **When He ascended, He sat next to the Father, and we are now seated in heavenly places with Him. That realm of Heaven is ours in the earth.**



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A Season of the Supernatural

I believe you're going to see more signs, miracles and wonders coming forth than you ever imagined. The glory of the Lord is being revealed.

I was in Oklahoma last weekend and I saw the glory like I had never seen before. Everyone was healed, even family members who were not present when we prayed for them, and angelic hosts were dispatched to bring healing.

God is allowing His Spirit to come upon you. You are beginning to receive incredible grain from Heaven, incredible revelation about walking in heavenly realms on the earth. Your clothes won't wear out, your feet won't swell, you're going to have all the provision you need. You are wrapped in a heavenly realm. Blinders are being removed, right now, in the name of Jesus. You are about to see the supernatural every day! You are about to engage with God right where you are, walking beyond time in eternity, a place where every need is met! It's going to be an amazing season!



Dr. Candice Smithyman is an international prophetic revivalist & healing minister who is Executive Pastor of Freedom Destiny Church, and Vice President of Dream Mentors International. She is also Host of the Glory Road Television broadcast on Faith Networks, CBN News Facebook and Youtube, Jesus Daily, King TV and other outlets. She has appeared on Sid Roth's "Its Supernatural", among other shows, and is the author of "Releasing Heaven: Creating a Supernatural Environment through Heavenly Encounters", among other books and publications. For a full bio you may visit:
www.candicesmithyman.com

Forgiveness is the Heart of the Matter

By: Lorraine Whoberry

Experiences and life circumstances alter our character and often our attitudes.

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” 1 Peter 3:14

In an act of rage that stemmed from jealousy, anger and hatred, a young man commits a heinous act against two young girls. One is murdered, the other left for dead. A mother's faith is tested when she learns her world has been shattered into a million pieces.

The brutality of the girls' attacks were so violent, I vowed I would never forgive the man who committed them. I didn't know the depth of hatred I could have for another human being, until I experienced this form of violence against two innocent victims. It was extremely personal.

Our day began as any other typical day. Yet, what would unravel would send us spiraling out of control into a world of grief, pain and suffering we were not equipped to handle.

Without a personal relationship with Christ Jesus, we never could have found the strength to move forward, or the healing we needed to overcome the stigmatism of victimization. Yet, because we have a kinship with our Lord and Savior, we learned grief is a gift from God, and by choosing to live a life as such, we learned to forgive. We are free by the blood of Christ Jesus.

There were no warning signs that were visible to us, so when evil entered our home, it slithered in quietly, and deadly, leaving behind, a wake of destruction that

became a lifetime journey of learning how to breathe again.

Forgiveness is the heart of the matter.

Forgiveness changed everything for us. Although Kristie and I found forgiveness, our timelines greatly differed. Kristie was saved, yet she lived a life separated from God, and her family.

As a mom of two beautiful daughters, one deceased, one running away from all she knew, I quickly sank into my own world of pain and suffering a journey of nine long years.

Christ was my only foundation. Through my personal pilgrimage, I found healing from a loving, compassionate heavenly Father, who loves me unconditionally.

Jesus' body was torn and broken as He suffered unimaginable hatred, while carrying the weight of a sinful world on His shoulders, hung on a cross as a sacrifice for an unworthy human race.

This was revealed in a new light when the Lord asked me to forgive the young man responsible for the murder of Stacie and the attack on Kristie. Leading me through the desert of hopelessness, hope began to shine through the faith that was rooted in my soul. I knew the journey would be difficult, but I also knew in my heart what I needed and what I desperately wanted: to heal, live, trust, and love again, as a child of God.

What was the lesson through a journey of grief so debilitating that only Christ could heal? Forgiveness is the heart of the matter.

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5 (NIV)

God planted a seed of forgiveness in my heart. I had to learn how to cultivate it and allow it to become the heart of the matter.

Invariably, Christ is the greatest love story ever told. And grief is a gift, a gift that comes only when we are willing to surrender all of our heartache, pain and suffering by laying it at the foot the cross and embracing God's truth.

Our family found healing through the love and hope of Christ Jesus.



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Lorraine didn't grow up in the church. She was introduced to God periodically throughout her younger years, mostly by her paternal grandmother, a true southern Baptist woman. What she discovered about her own grandmother years, would confirm to her that God had a plan for her life all along; a plan she wouldn't have discovered on her own. The tragedy of losing a child and nearly losing another would become the pivotal point in her life that set her on a journey of discovering that grief is a gift from God, and forgiveness is a vital element to ultimate healing.

On a quest to learn God's plan for her in the midst of her healing, she enrolled in the American Baptist Church of Ohio Leadership Academy in hopes of becoming a lay pastor in her church. This three-year intensive study would give Lorraine the foundation she needed to pursue the journey of a lifetime. She gained knowledge and wisdom that only God could teach her.

God has done miraculous works in Lorraine's life and she desires to share her walk with Him through seven long years of living in the shadow of a grief that almost devoured her, to emerging from her cocoon, and learning the truth of God's amazing grace, and mercy, with a renewed purpose through forgiveness. Christ gave Lorraine a new ministry she could never have fathomed as He sends her to places she would never have gone before He changed her life completely. She trusts Him unequivocally.

She wants others to experience the God she knows intimately. A God that so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Lorraine is a Warrior for the Kingdom! She fights for those society has discarded, just as her daughter Stacie did. Lorraine is the author of her first book: *Heal My Wounds; Leave My Scars – A Mother's story of loss, despair, and her journey back to hope.*

In His amazing grace,

Lorraine



Holy Week

By: Christine Brejcha



Holy week is One week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with great significance as a time of devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Holy Week is eight days that allow us an opportunity to reflect upon the shift in humanity that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross initiated.

It starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. Upon his arrival, the people shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,” “Blessed is the king of Israel,” and other words of praise.

Jesus would later pour out His life for ours – “He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with transgressors. For he bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12).

This the precipice of the week to follow, leading us through the moments of the Last Supper, Christ’s crucifixion, and ending on Easter Sunday with His resurrection.

His sacrifice establishes the New Covenant, which throughout the Old Testament was prophesied in scripture.

The text is clear—

“For this reason, Christ is the mediator of the new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.” (Hebrews 9:15).

The Holy Weekdays allow us to remember with clarity what Jesus has done for us. To exemplify the Savior's heart for His people. The life, death, and resurrection of Christ is the testimony of God, that through His love for us Christ died while we were sinners.

His love reflects the significance of living out this love today and in the church, which is something that the current day church finds great struggle adhering to.

More often than not, we find judgment, condemnation, and a power struggle between people claiming one to be more worthy than the other.

The truth, Jesus is worthy, and if He chooses to share His worthiness with sinners in order to show the redemptive power in His blood, then who are we to question God?

Today, may the church of Jesus Christ step up and carry their cross, and with every breath, may the agape love of Jesus be shared with the Earth.

May the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ be the underlying reason to be a Christian, and with this knowledge, may His Divine mercy be at the core of each person's work, core values, and character.

This is the will of God.

God Bless You,
Christine Brejcha
CCMinistries

www.ChristinesCornerStone.Org



Christine Brejcha is the TV Host of Christine's Cornerstone, on The Life Network For Women, founded by Pastor Paula White-Caine. Download the Life Network For Women App on your favorite Streaming platforms to watch.

Christine's series touches on the many facets of healing through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She applies what the scriptures have to say in a unconventional way in which people can understand the scriptures, and how they apply to the controversial issues of today.

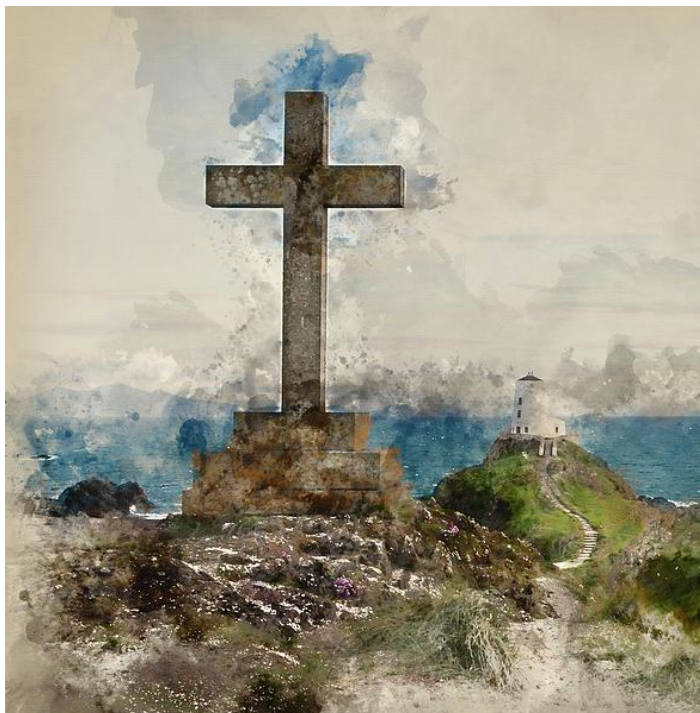
Christine is also an on-air voice and Contributor at Christian Mix 106 Radio and a TV Host at CTF-TV Christian broadcasting.

Brejcha founded Christine's Cornerstone Ministry in 2017, and after a near death experience. This is when she saw and spoke to Jesus Christ. This life altering experience, led her to give up her sixteen year career in sales, finance, and real estate, to pursue full time ministry.

Christine is a Prophetic voice in a world crying out for the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Evangelist Brejcha resides in Washington DC with her ministry.

Her mission is to preach the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to see that justice is served in the areas of the most need in America.



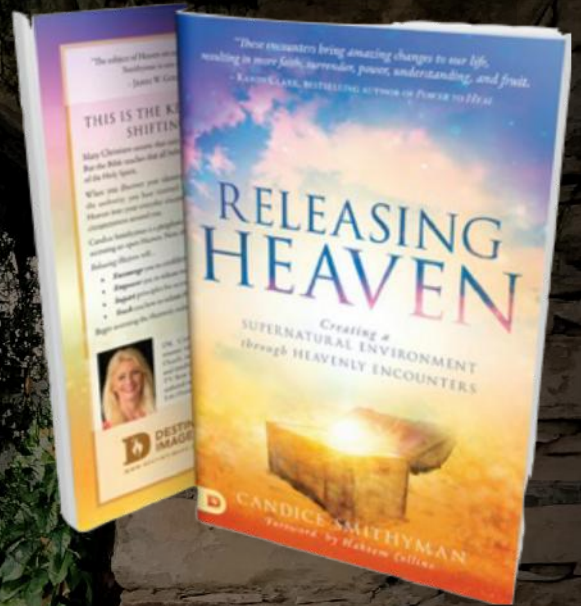
Many Christians assume that only a few gifted individuals can move in the miraculous, but the Bible teaches that all believers have unlimited access to the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

When you discover your identity in Jesus, cultivate a heavenly mindset, and access the authority you have received in Jesus, you can immediately release the power of Heaven into your everyday circumstances. This is the key to changing atmospheres and circumstances around you.

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These encounters bring amazing changes to our life, resulting in more faith, surrender, power, understanding, and fruit.” – Randy Clark, bestselling author of *Power to Heal*



“I appreciate the encouragement and inspiration Pastor Candice Smithyman brings through her book, *Releasing Heaven*. Learning how to host the presence of God and recognize His ways is extremely important to being able to flow in His power and experience His supernatural presence.”



Dr. Randy Clark
Founder, Global Awakening



Releasing Heaven
by Candice Smithyman

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– James W. Goll,
God Encounters Ministries

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Weekly OMUG: 911

Prayers

BY: Marta Greenman

“For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, ‘They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.’ But now, O God, strengthen my hands.”
Nehemiah 6:9



Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were enemies of Nehemiah. They continually mocked and ridiculed him in an attempt to discourage him from his God-given task of rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem. Sanballat sent a letter to Nehemiah inviting him to a meeting. Nehemiah, understanding their true motive was to harm him, remained steadfast in continuing his work.

After five more attempts with the same results, Sanballat slandered Nehemiah’s character. Nehemiah 6:9 gives us his response. “For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, ‘They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.’ But now, O God, strengthen my hands.”

Fear is a tactic of the evil one to stop God’s people from accomplishing our God-given work. Did you notice how Nehemiah handled the situation? He said what I call a 911 prayer. You know, the ones said in a panic, an emergency. A prayer when you don’t have time for lengthy eloquence. You need an answer NOW! So, you cry out with the one sentence prayer. A prayer of desperation only Jesus can understand.

Nehemiah knew the cost of not finishing his assignment. The wall was a source of protection. A first line of defense for the city. He also knew the spiritual attacks that had been increasing in severity were not going to stop. Nehemiah’s formula to overcome fear was to pray for the Lord to strengthen him to continue the work.

How many times have you felt like Nehemiah? Knowing your job is impossible without the hand of the Lord’s protection and strength. You wake up every day to another challenge and obstacle. The enemy’s relentless attacks keep trying to paralyze you. Learn from Nehemiah, say your 911 prayer and keep progressing in the plans and purpose God has for your life.

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Listen to Marta Greenman on her show, Under God with Marta and Maureen Every Monday at 1:30 PM PST & 2:30 PM MST & 3:30 PM CST & 4:30 PM EST on GraceAndTruthRadio.World

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Starting the Days of Unleavened Bread—Hag HaMatzot

By: Fay Arbaugh

As we begin to approach the Spring Feast it's such an exciting time and something that I, personally look forward to as probably my most favorite time of year. Spring excites me, the ground starts to break open and bring forth new life, trees start to get new leaves, a lot of baby animals are born, and it just seems that after a long winter life has regenerated itself and is bright and brings such hope once again. I see a lot of talk begin this time of year about the days of unleavened bread. Many of us wives and mothers cleaning out our cabinets and removing all the leavening "yeast" from the house as we are commanded to do. I want to share with you how I start preparing for Passover and the days of unleavened bread, so when the days approach I'm much better prepared, not as stressed, or worried about getting EVERYTHING done at one time.

1. Read the articles I've linked below... Study the scriptures, look up the words, etc. so that you know and are familiar with, Chametz, what it means, and what is expected of us as believers. If you don't agree with the article or with me, that is completely fine too...I'm not a prophet, a teacher, or sent to convict you of anything.

2. What I do next... at the time of writing this, there is just a little less than a month before (this also depends on when you're

celebrating—everyone does different times) The Lord's Supper/Communion, Passover, and the Days of Unleavened Bread begin. I find a box, and depending on your family I usually need a big box, I start going through all my cabinets and looking for leaven. I take it all out and put it in one box that I keep in my kitchen. We are careful when shopping to not buy any "extras" so we won't have to get rid of a lot. But you will more than likely still need to buy things like bread prior to, so I just keep them in "the box" up until the day it has to go.

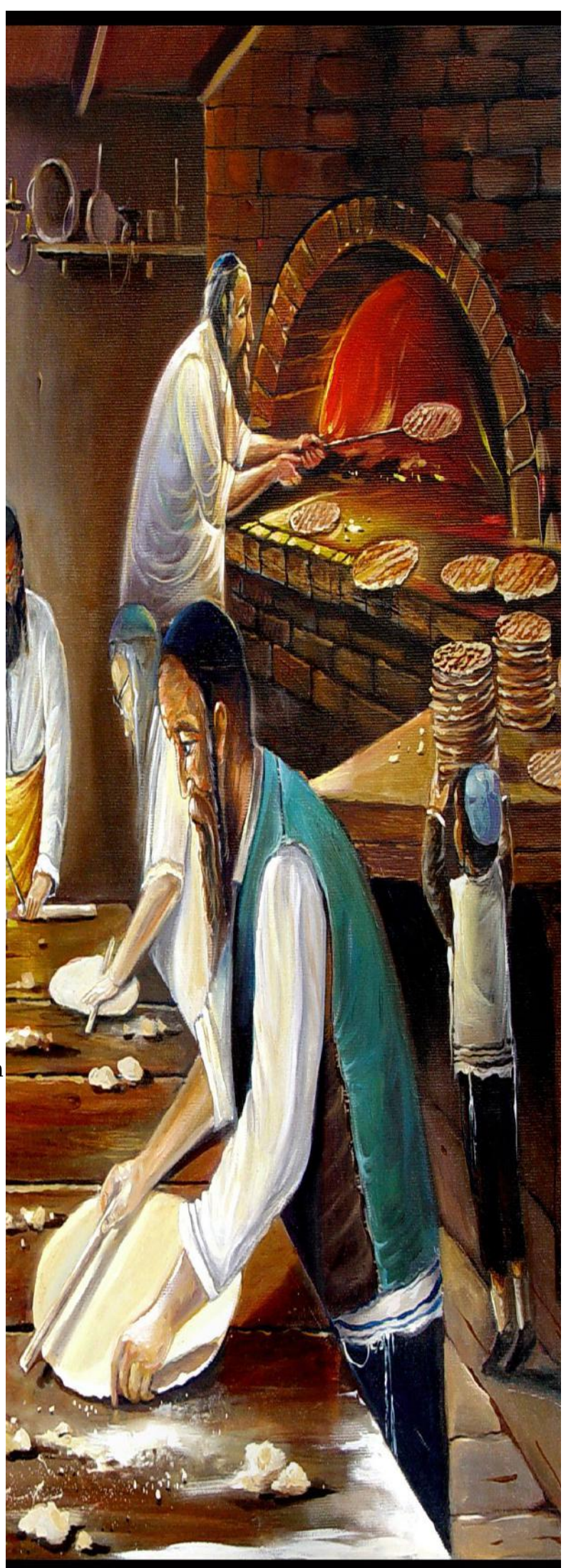
3. Start eating or using up what you have in the box. I am one who hates to waste anything, especially food, and most things in this house are never wasted, what we don't eat, the animals will (I have chickens). Look for ways that you can use up the things you have... if you and your family are not able to or don't want to eat it, make it a project with your kids, find ways you can help your neighbors, elderly, or sick, etc. Bake cakes, make bread, cookies, have someone over for cheese and crackers, take-make-bake for Shabbat Fellowship.

4. The next thing I like to do is make this part of my Spring-Cleaning regimen. Because we can collect bread crumbs just about everywhere, what I personally do is make a list of all the major rooms in the house and do one room a week, leaving the kitchen for last--usually the week of

or just prior to the beginning of Passover. This is because the kitchen is the biggie where you are going to have a LOT of crumbs and food.

I personally do top to bottom...clean out cabinets, wipe them all out and down, (this also gives me one last opportunity to look through everything to make sure I didn't miss anything) move out the stove and refrigerator, etc. to clean behind and underneath. Also don't forget things like cleaning inside the oven, refrigerator, toaster, and mini oven. These things usually have a tray underneath that opens to clean out the crumbs and clean to the best of your ability. The reason we save the kitchen for last is so that we won't have to do double our work, so if we get most done maybe the day before or the day of, all we have to do is sweep and mop. Unless... funny story, the day before I decided to make a dessert using graham crackers, I put them in the oven to bake them and when I took it out of the oven, the "unbreakable" dish decided to EXPLODE!!! Yes, all over the kitchen behind and around the stove, in drawers EVERYWHERE. I can NOW laugh at that story, but at the time...not funny!

5. Now, when the day comes, before sundown, you want to throw it away. Burn it, put it in the trash, just GET RID OF IT! Get it out of your sight!!! Now, the reason I say it that way is because the whole point of the 7 days of Unleavened Bread is to realize how the Chametz/leavening is related to the sin in our lives and how we want our lives to be Matzah—without sin. When we think about eating Matzah, we think about it being bland, plain, dry, and just kind of blah. Often when we eat Matzah for the 7 days, we try to think of ways to “dress it up”, spice it up, make it saucy, or make it tastier. But when we relate this to our sin, we oftentimes do



the same thing...we try to make it look good, put a pretty name on it, or call it by another name, we add to it so that we can justify our sin. When we are cleaning out our cabinets and getting rid of our sin...invariably in the middle of the week, no matter how many times I have gone through the cabinets or refrigerator, I will find something, something that was so familiar or so well disguised that I didn't even recognize that it was a sin. A lot of times we might "think" we are without sin in our lives, but then something will rear its ugly head and BAM! We might even be trying to help our neighbor clean out their cabinets or kitchen and have the leavening in our own.

The last thing that I think about is getting rid of it like we are commanded...we are told it is not to be found in our house...so does this mean that we gather up all our leavening/sin, and set it out back in the shed for 7 days, then we can bring it back in? Do we think that this is just a process that we have to go through, that it means we just eat Matzah for 7 days? Think about it, if you had sin in your life, something you knew you needed to get rid of, something that was causing separation from Yahweh, would you want to bring it back? Pick it back up? Sin is not something we want to take lightly...Our Savior Yeshua/Jesus DIED for our sins, he was tortured and hung on a cross/stake for you and for me! Do we really want to tell Him that it was not that big of a deal? or do we want to be obedient to our Heavenly Father and prove to Him our thankfulness and show Him how much we love the sacrifice of His son Yeshua?! It's not about what calendar you're following, what day you're celebrating, whether you have an egg at Seder supper or not, what matters is that you are doing it and to the best of your ability! Obedience, just doing what we are told to do...remembering where we came from, what we have been delivered from, and most importantly the Sacrificial Lamb that made it all possible! I pray that this has been helpful and a blessing, and that your Spring Feast days will be full of joy, love, and new life!!!

Shalom, Fay Arbaugh

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAY ARBAUGH

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WARRIOR WOMEN OF FAITH



Look Up And Rejoice

By Joel Beach

Once and for all the Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished salvation for all who believe in Him. He suffered humiliation, shame, neglect, mockery, scourging, and beatings to such a degree He was unrecognizable and became a curse for mankind, as it was long foretold.

He hung on the cross shedding His every drop of blood for humanity. He bore the nails in His hands and in His feet. A spear thrust into His side. He suffered the entire wrath of God, taking the punishment, both yours and mine. He died for our every sin.

But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

It was all for the restoration and healing of the nations. It was all to bring us back to a right and pure relationship with the Father. The relationship God had in the beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Jesus, being God, could not be held down. Though His physical body was killed and buried in a tomb, death could not hold any power over His Spirit. On the third day, the Holy Spirit raised Him to life defeating both sin and death. Now He grants to you the opportunity for that same power over sin and death, eternal life.

“God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.” Acts 2:24

Because of His perfect and flawless life and by the pure blood that He shed, He paid the great high price for the salvation of your soul. For anyone who will call upon His name, believe, and follow Him.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:54-57

Rejoice oh Heavens, rejoice oh lands, rejoice all peoples because your Savior lives. He rules and reigns for all time and over all things! He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. King supreme who is seated over all creation.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Psalms 98:4-6

No longer should you look down at your feet with sorrow. No longer should you look back at your shameful past. No longer should you wallow in your sin and guilt. No longer should you flounder around in the darkness. For you now live in His light.

Turn your face fully to Jesus Christ and run forward in the firm confidence He has given you.

Brother, hold your head up high. Sister, look to the Son who has set you free. Bask in His radiant glow, the glow of His great glory, love, and affection. You have been pulled out of the darkness to live in His marvelous light. You are no longer condemned but you have been pardoned, forgiven, and adopted as a son to God Almighty.

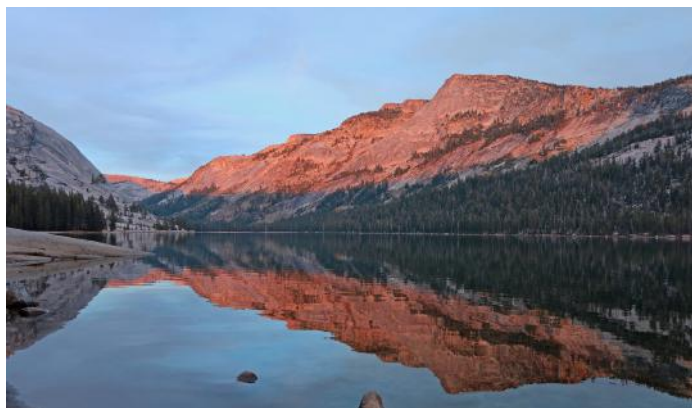
Praise the Lord oh my soul and all that is within me praise His holy name! Jesus, the Son of God has set you free! So now walk in that freedom and boldly run the race, God has set before you!

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! Psalm 104:31-35



Joel Beach is first and foremost a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. His lifelong passion is to encourage the weak and seek to save the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has been a Professional Automotive Master Technician for 20 years. He is also a father of three sons, an accomplished writer of biblical devotions, Christian poetry, and Gospel messages. His gifting is in speaking a literary message through the Holy Spirit, from a firm and steadfast foundation of the Holy scriptures. His work can be viewed on his blog site thesoulsower.com. Joel's work has been an inspirational and uplifting part of the lives of many. He is a great asset to the body of Christ's church, and to all who receive his message. For more, please visit <http://thesoulsower.com/2020/10/06/placed-and-eternally-fixed/>



Welcome to our... 2021

Passover &
Resurrection
Day EDITION



Hearth & Home

The Sunday before Easter that begins the Holy Week, known as Palm Sunday. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

This year, Palm Sunday happens to fall during the week of Passover. Passover is the first feast God commanded His children to celebrate. This meal celebrates and commemorates God's liberating of Israel from Egypt.

The Israelites were enslaved for 400 years. Serving and suffering, they cried out for the Lord our God to deliver them. God answered the Israelites' plea for deliverance in His perfect timing.

With so much happening in 2021 we must keep our eyes, hearts and minds focused on our Father in Heaven!

May what you read here warm the cockles of your soul and bring a smile to your face, no matter how cold it has been in your corner of the world.

--*The Grace and Truth Team*



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR BACKYARD

By: Melissa Sundblom

As you are reading the title to this article, you are probably thinking, “there is no way human trafficking can be in my backyard.” Several years ago, I would have been one of those people. Then I had an experience that changed my thinking.

When I was around 19 years old, I met a wonderful young woman. She attended the college my now-husband went to. I would stay with her when I was in town. We would stay up for hours talking about Jesus and the supernatural things we had encountered. She was so grounded in scripture and knew about Jesus. She appeared happy on the outside. She would have a smile on her face and show joy every time I saw her.

Yet, every time I would see her there was this feeling that something was not right. She would dress in clothes that were not always appropriate for the weather, but I would tell myself she is probably cold. She would not really talk about personal things like emotions or her upbringing, but I would tell myself she is reserved. She did not really join in with the people at the college. She stayed tight to the people she lived with.

Then fast forward four years later. I was beginning to realize more about the issues of human trafficking and the need to get involved. I started to get involved and volunteered at a center where women that were trafficked, could come in for a meal, learn about Jesus, and experience the love of Jesus that they never encountered before.

That young woman was placed on my heart. As I sat on the phone with her, I heard the words that would bring an ache in my heart that I had never before experienced; “Melissa, I have something to tell you.” As I heard those words, I knew...right then and there, that those feelings I had years before were not wrong. That I should have listened to that still, small, voice inside of me.

For the next hour or so she told the truth that brought clarity to my life and a burning passion to bring this truth to light. She would proceed to tell me that she had been trafficked since she was 5 years old until she was rescued at 22. The clothes she wore covered up the tattoos she was forced to get that showed other pimps who she belonged to. She was so quiet and reserved because her pimps monitored every move she made. Her traffickers would

intermingle with her friends from the college to appear to be friends and not traffickers. She told me how she put on a fake persona to keep her secrets “secret”. As the conversation unfolded, I learned about the trauma that she had encountered for 17 years.

She had revealed to me what deep inside I already knew she was going to say.

Why hadn't I trusted that still, small, voice inside of me? Why hadn't I stepped up and said something? If I had trusted what the Holy Spirit was trying to tell me could it have been different for her? Instead, I ignored that voice because it didn't fit my perception of what human trafficking looked like. Her words still penetrate my heart today and remind me that we are closer to the horrors of human trafficking than we even realize. It has opened my eyes to see human trafficking in places and among people I otherwise would not have seen.

Today, I am challenging you to open your eyes and trust the Holy Spirit when He says something is not right in your spirit. I can imagine right now that there are names and situations that are popping into your head as you read this that are making you think twice. I pray that the Lord will open your eyes and sharpen your discernment so that we can all make a difference in this terrible thing that is human trafficking.





THE MARRIAGE GARDEN

By: Jocelyn LaFavers

Every morning during the growing season I make my daily rounds to see what's popping up. I have come to refer to it as my "tour de fleur". You can usually find me walking around the yard in my galoshes with my coffee cup in hand, bending down to paw through the last season's fallen leaves in search of new shoots. Every morning this time of year I get to see green leafy things coming up from the ground, sprinkled with a few flowers, but later in the year, it will be a wash of new color every morning!

In our last issue, I talked about how the Lord longs for our faithfulness during times of dormancy. Lately, the Lord has been showing me how gardening can be a lot like marriage, let me explain this to you.

So much of gardening is work. You prepare the soil by digging and turning and tilling so you can loosen rocks and weeds for removal. You fertilize and add compost, grit, leaf mold, and whatever else your soil needs to achieve a lovely, rich, loamy soil. Only then can you begin to plant! The entire season can then be spent watering, weeding, pruning, and deadheading your plants. But you count it all joy! Mostly.

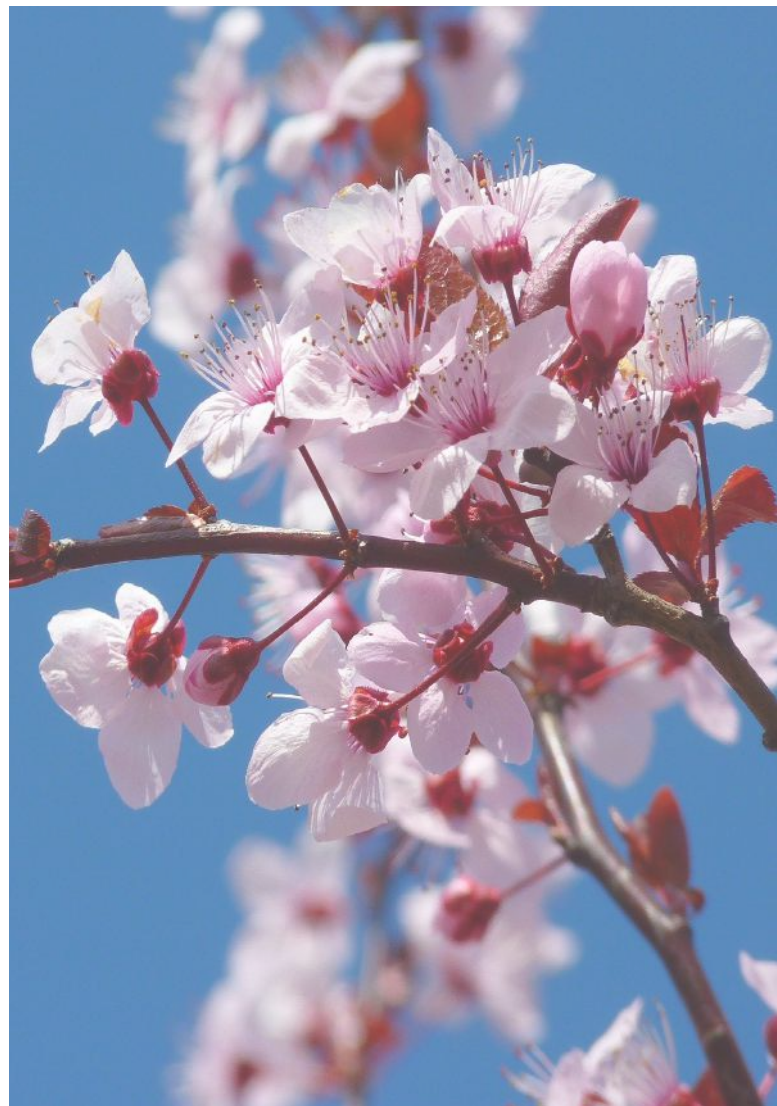
Sometimes it is a lot of work and you wonder why you have cultivated this needy, thirsty, time-consuming garden. Sometimes you forget to sit back on your porch with that cup of coffee and just listen to the birds singing in your garden. You forget to close your eyes and take in the scent of those delicate and vibrant flowers. You get too busy to notice and fully appreciate the colorful blooms that surround you as you focus on the weeds, rocks, and slugs that plague all of your hard work.

Marriage can be a lot like that. If you don't properly prepare the soil before you plant something, then it may not survive. If it does, you really have your work cut out for you, don't you? If you step into marriage before you have properly prepared your heart, you are less likely to have a thriving marriage, but that doesn't mean that it can't, my friend. Part of having a successful marriage includes learning to rest together. Learning to slow down and enjoy one another. That doesn't mean that you have to take elaborate vacations together every year, that doesn't mean that you have to ship the kids off to Grandma and Grandpa's house every month so you can carve out a weekend. Those things are amazing, and they are helpful, but investing in your marriage is truly so much simpler than that.

I get so caught up in busy things. In doing laundry and picking up after the kids. In washing dishes and making supper and making sure that the kids did all of their schoolwork. I often don't know how to stop and rest, so God gave me an amazing husband that reminds me that I need that. Jesus didn't call Mary to sit at His feet so He could be admired, but so she could be refreshed. I imagine that she was probably as stressed out as her sister Martha was before Jesus came into the room. Jesus wanted the sisters to disconnect from their long, arduous days of housework and be refreshed and rested at His feet. Jesus calls us His bride because the relationship between husband and wife is an earthly example of the relationship that Jesus longs to have with us. We long to serve Jesus because He serves us. We love Jesus because He loves us. It is to give and take. It is to love and be loved. It is to rest and be rested. Mary didn't sit at Jesus's feet and worship Him, she sat and listened. She spent time with the One who loved her soul.

In this way, we should be doing the same with our spouses. My husband will often call me from the kitchen or whatever room I am in and ask me to sit with him. Usually, we sit in front of the tv, but we also like to read quietly. Whatever he wants me to do with him often requires little interaction, but we are actively resting. Together.

We sit on the couch or lounge in our bed at the end of a long day and hold hands or cuddle while we watch a comedy. It seems so simple, but physical intimacy like that is what breeds emotional intimacy. We laugh until we cry at the antics in comedies, bringing joy and happiness into the room. Again, it seems so simple.





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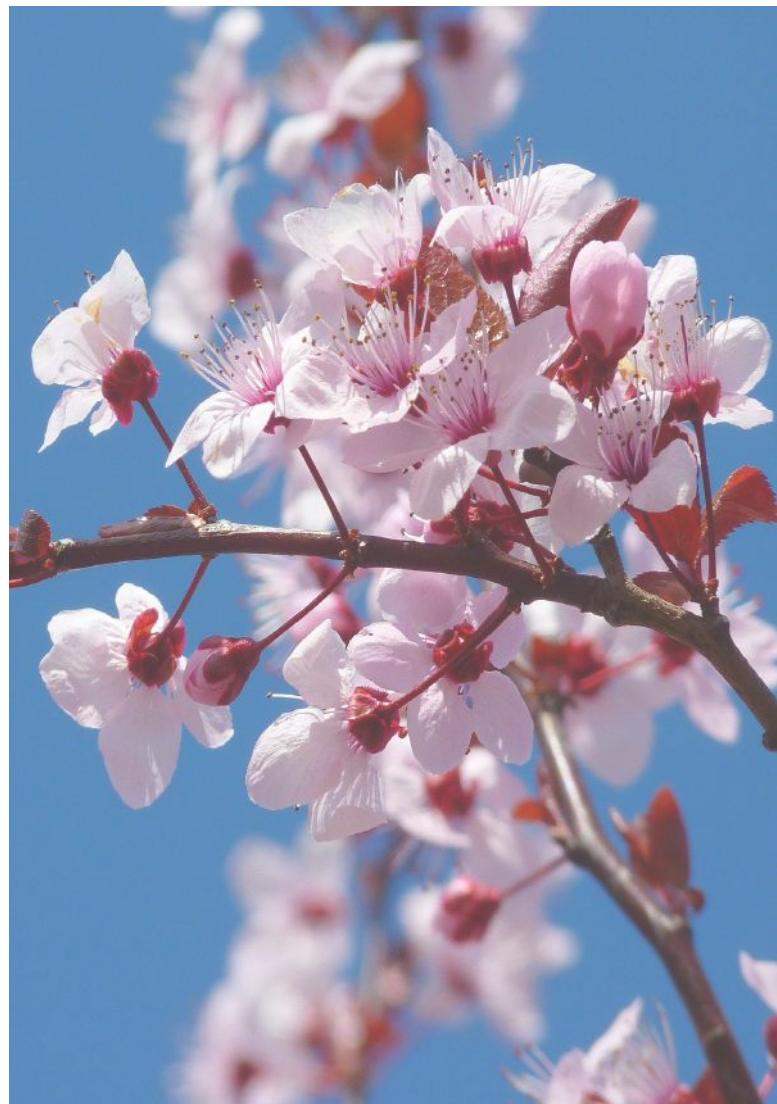
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Marriage can be a lot like that. If you don't properly prepare the soil before you plant something, then it may not survive. If it does, you really have your work cut out for you, don't you? If you step into marriage before you have properly prepared your heart, you are less likely to have a thriving marriage, but that doesn't mean that it can't, my friend. Part of having a successful marriage includes learning to rest together. Learning to slow down and enjoy one another. That doesn't mean that you have to take elaborate vacations together every year, that doesn't mean that you have to ship the kids off to Grandma and Grandpa's house every month so you can carve out a weekend. Those things are amazing, and they are helpful, but investing in your marriage is truly so much simpler than that.

I get so caught up in busy things. In doing laundry and picking up after the kids. In washing dishes and making supper and making sure that the kids did all of their schoolwork. I often don't know how to stop and rest, so God gave me an amazing husband that reminds me that I need that. Jesus didn't call Mary to sit at His feet so He could be admired, but so she could be refreshed. I imagine that she was probably as stressed out as her sister Martha was before Jesus came into the room. Jesus wanted the sisters to disconnect from their long, arduous days of housework and be refreshed and rested at His feet. Jesus calls us His bride because the relationship between husband and wife is an earthly example of the relationship that Jesus longs to have with us. We long to serve Jesus because He serves us. We love Jesus because He loves us. It is to give and take. It is to love and be loved. It is to rest and be rested. Mary didn't sit at Jesus's feet and worship Him, she sat and listened. She spent time with the One who loved her soul.

In this way, we should be doing the same with our spouses. My husband will often call me from the kitchen or whatever room I am in and ask me to sit with him. Usually, we sit in front of the tv, but we also like to read quietly. Whatever he wants me to do with him often requires little interaction, but we are actively resting. Together.

We sit on the couch or lounge in our bed at the end of a long day and hold hands or cuddle while we watch a comedy. It seems so simple, but physical intimacy like that is what breeds emotional intimacy. We laugh until we cry at the antics in comedies, bringing joy and happiness into the room. Again, it seems so simple.



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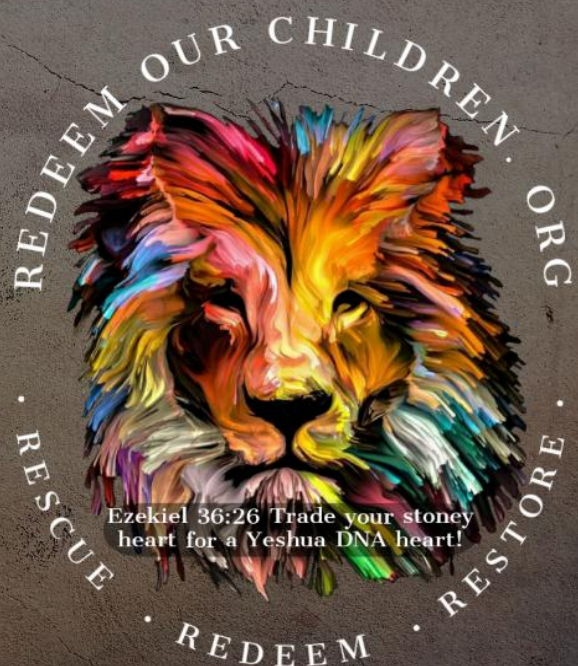
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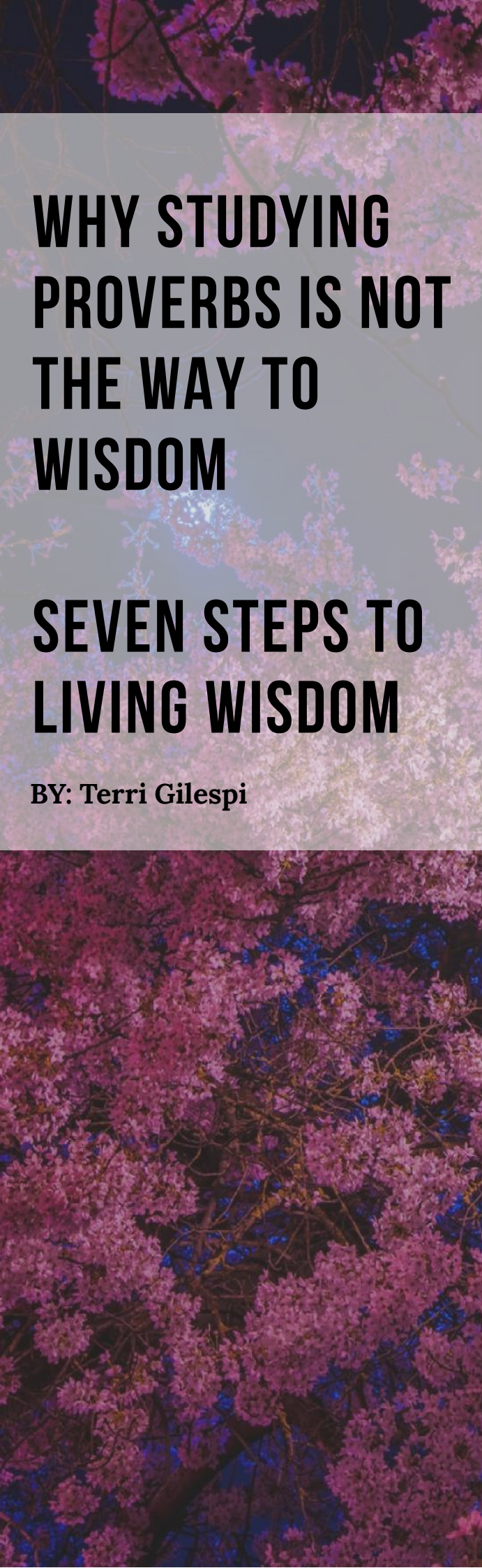
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WHY STUDYING PROVERBS IS NOT THE WAY TO WISDOM

SEVEN STEPS TO LIVING WISDOM

BY: Terri Gilespi

While Bible studies are wonderful, let me ask you, how much of your studies from high school or college can you recall and practically apply to your life? How much of any of the Bible studies from two years ago, or even last year do you remember? How did they deepen your relationship with our Heavenly Father?

The first time I studied Proverbs was like drinking from a firehose. It was information overload. How could I absorb and remember over nine hundred verses, much less the multitude of concepts that could be contained in just one verse?

There is a way to drink from the endless well of wisdom that God provided for us in Proverbs. It is the ancient practice of Repetitive Reading.

The Jewish people from the time Moses wrote the Torah and the Temple priests began reading from it, Repetitive Reading was a part of Jewish lifestyle. Not only because of the 613 mitzvot (commandments), but the valuable lessons, messages, and history from our Heavenly Father. Each reading revealed deeper layers of insight to living God's word. This practice continues even to today.

Seven-Steps to Living Wisdom begins with understanding the value of Repetitive Reading. Applying this method to Proverbs opens us to the world of wisdom. This begins by adding Proverbs to our daily quiet time.

Great leaders like Billy Graham, Mike Huckabee, and Dr. Ben Carson were and are daily readers of Proverbs—a chapter each day. When we read that chapter each day, month after month, year after year, it becomes less about study and more about living the words.

Why I know repetitive reading works.

I sometimes wonder if I'm the poster child for Proverbs. It changed my life that much. I had learning disorders that went undiagnosed until I was an adult. Which had me convinced I was stupid. To hide my disabilities, I was a people-pleaser and regularly took on more than I could handle. This created a cycle of failure and insecurities.

Hubby and I repeatedly made poor business decisions. Our parenting skills left us, and our daughter, frustrated. We trusted folks a bit too much.

For years, I desperately prayed James 5:1 (TLV): "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all without hesitation and without reproach; and it will be given to him." I begged the LORD to give me wisdom.

I suppose I expected to awaken one day and—miracle of miracles—I would be wise. That's not how it works.

I suppose I expected to awaken one day and—miracle of miracles—I would be wise. That's not how it works.

A few ministers and teachers taught about reading a chapter of Proverbs each day.

Reading each day, they explained, would place us on the path to wisdom. However, there was the firehose factor. We just couldn't process it all each day.

Finally, God in His mercy showed me this method.

Since that time, we continue to grow in wisdom, discernment, knowledge, and understanding. Even more important, our relationship with the LORD deepened and was more a part of our everyday life. That is my prayer for you.

How to Read Proverbs and Deepen Your Wisdom Journey:

Step 1: The Commitment to Read a Chapter Each Day

Making a long-term commitment is worthy of a prayerful pause. Especially one that is for a lifetime. This is a commitment to do the best we can to read a chapter of Proverbs each day. Adding it to our regular quiet time. Sometimes when I don't have time for my usual devotions, a read-through of a chapter of Proverbs and employing these steps, help center me for the day.

Step 2: Pray

Seems obvious, right? But sometimes we can forget. Praying that our Heavenly Father will reveal what He wants us to know for this day is a great place to begin. That the Holy Spirit will point to that verse or verses we are to focus on for this day.

Step 3: Read the Chapter for That Day

What do I mean by this? If today is the 15th, read all of chapter 15. The 28th, chapter 28 and so on. Simple as that.

Step 4: Choose a Verse

Here is the first part of the key to this method—why it has worked for so many. Rather than trying to focus on every verse of that day's chapter—which is wisdom overload—only focus on one or two verses. Which verse or verses? See the next step.



Step 5: The Key—Finding that Verse(s)

How do you know which verse to choose?

Here is where you begin to exercise one of the attributes of wisdom—discernment. For me, choosing the verse—or verses—to meditate on begins with reading through the whole chapter.

If/when there is a verse that raises an emotion—anger, sadness, joy, a memory, confusion—or causes us to pause and read again, mark that verse and continue.

After completing the chapter, go back to that verse or verses. Jot them down in your journal or mark them in your Bible. Then explore why the verse elicited an emotion.

Ask the Holy Spirit what the root is.

Sometimes there is a hurt or experience from the past. Sometimes it is what you are going through now. Write down those thoughts and pray. Many times, I receive insights into chains from the past—this is the beginning of being set free.

NOTE: Sometimes there are confusing verses that the Lord holds back insights for years. So, don't feel we have to meditate on a different verse each month. There were months where I needed to unpack the same verse again and again. The idea is to "find" the verse the Holy Spirit wants us to focus on.

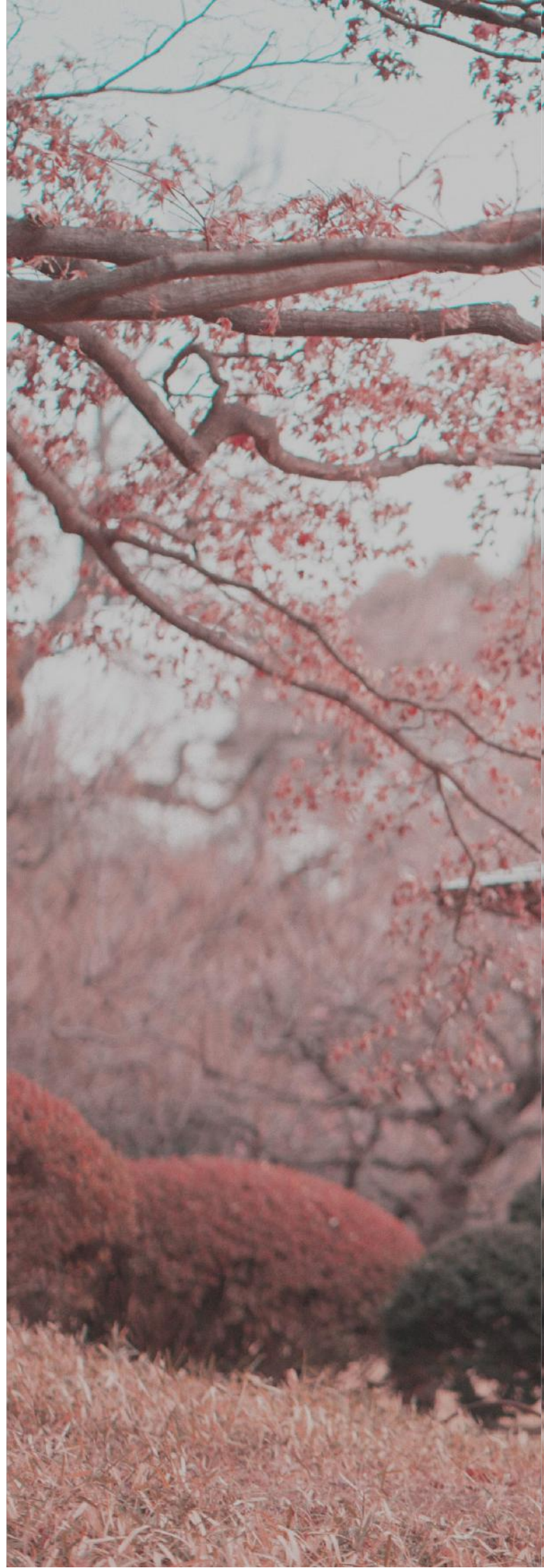
Step 6: Help

Don't feel discouraged if you need a little help finding your focus-verse. On my website, I have over 500 blogs that are good prompts for your own meditation. The blogs are archived by year and by month. Pick any month and any date and see what God speaks to you. You can find all my blogs at:

<https://authorterrigillespie.com/blog/>

Click on the Wisdom's Journey Through Proverbs, select a year, month, and the blogs for that month will be on the left. Then, scroll down until you find the day.

Feel free to post comments, insights, or questions on the blog. I'll be alerted so I can respond.



Step 7: Living Proverbs—Something Wonderful Happens

As we read and meditate on Proverbs again and again, something happens. Proverbs 2:10 says, “For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.” (TLV) Another translation, The American Translation says, “Wisdom will come into your heart, and it will be a pleasure to know things.”

There are moments when I just “know” things—things I didn’t know I knew. The same can happen for you.

Share with Others: Sharing with a spouse or friend can help us explore other perspectives, deepening our understanding.

Each time we begin a new month and return to chapter one, God will bring new insights, deeper understanding, and important reminders. Month after month. Year after year. We will grow in wisdom, discernment, knowledge, and understanding. And the fruits of wisdom will satisfy our soul.

Award-winning author and speaker, blogger, and reviewer, Terri Gillespie writes stories of faith and redemption to nurture women’s souls. Her novels, devotionals, and blogs have drawn readers to hunger for a deeper, passionate relationship with their Heavenly Father.

Her first book was *Making Eye Contact with God—A Weekly Devotional for Women* (2008). Terri then published the first two books in *The Hair Mavens* series: *She Does Good Hair* (a 2013 LYRA Winner in Women’s Fiction) and *CUT IT OUT! Book 3, Really Bad Hair Day* is scheduled for 2021. A standalone novel, *Sweet Rivalry* (Winner for Contemporary Fiction, Phoenix Rattler Writing Contest) is scheduled to release September 2021. She resides with her husband and family in Georgia. For more about Terri, visit:

www.authorterrigillespie.com



HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

Parents - Kids - Grandparents
NOT just a job for Moms in 2021



Tips for read-aloud time: Are they listening?

Let's talk reading with your kids. Sometimes getting them to all sit still and listen is hard--or even impossible, depending on the day you've had! Some simple tips and tricks for getting your kids to engage in read-aloud time are to give them something to do with their hands. If you are reading a book about Abraham Lincoln, give them Lincoln Logs or pretzel sticks and ask them to build a log cabin. Print out coloring pages that go with the theme of the day. If you are really brave, pull out paints or play-doh. Even when you don't think they are listening, I promise that they are.



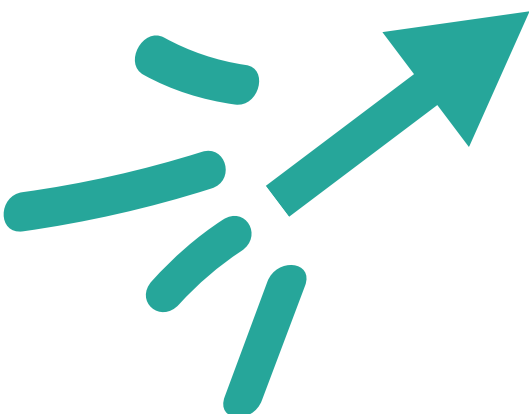
God's Generals, Vol 3: John Alexander Dowie By: Roberts Liardon and Olly Goldenberg

This third volume in the God's Generals for Kids series looks at the life of John Alexander Dowie. Thousands of people were saved and healed through his ministry, but his life was one long battle from the moment he chose to follow Jesus. The harder the battle, though, the greater the victory God gave him!

"Little House in the Big Woods" By: Laura Ingalls Wilder

Little Laura Ingalls and her sister Mary explore every season of the year, learning beautiful lessons about life and family every step of the way. A timeless classic, every home should become acquainted with the adventures of the Ingalls family!

It's no secret that we love books and reading! Check out are this month's staff personal picks!



Letters to God From a Mom

By: Brittany Fritsch

Fear. As a new mom, all I knew was fear. Fear of not being good enough, strong enough, mom enough, and worst of all, fear of losing it all. I had never felt a fear like this before; it was deep and disturbing, something that I could not dispel on my own. This fear led me to God.

I had a general understanding of God and of Jesus, and the forgiveness and love they offer and stand for. I had heard stories of angels that always started with the words, “fear not”. Yet the question remained at the forefront of my mind: how? The answer was simple and so overwhelmingly complex--Jesus! Many questions followed: How do I learn about Jesus, how do I talk to Him? What does a relationship with Him? Prayer? Yup, just one more thing to fail at. I was overwhelmed by this new relationship and didn't know what steps to take next.

Then I looked at my newborn and thought about all of the things I want for her in her life. It occurred to me that fear, this devastatingly paralyzing condition of emotion, is the one thing I wish I could keep her from. If I could save her from the grip of that terrifying emotion, then I would move heaven and earth to make that possible, but that's not reality! I realized that I couldn't keep fear out of her life any more than I could keep it from my own, but I could show her what is worth fearing and what is not.

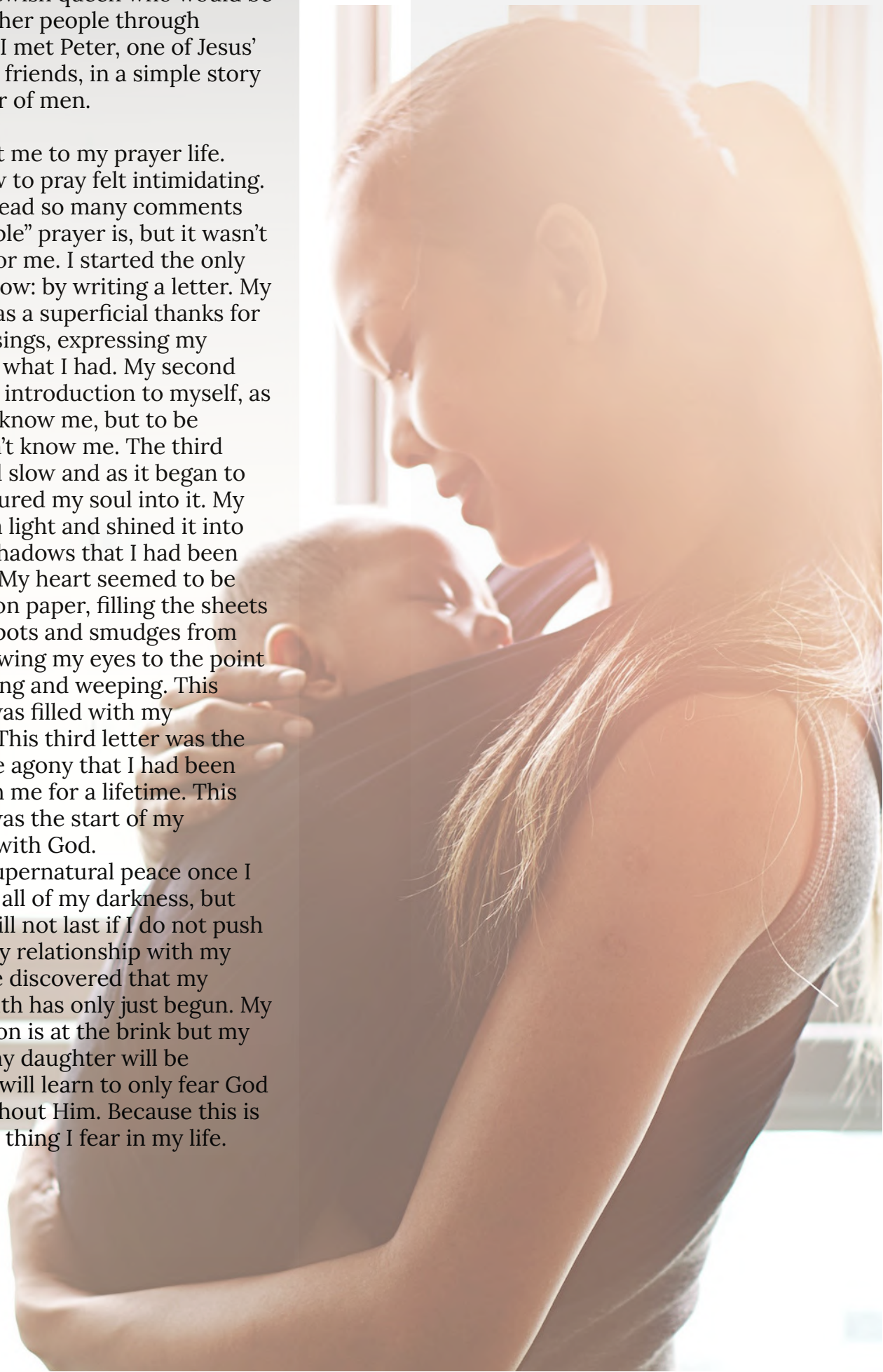
I started teaching her about her Heavenly Father by using the guidance God was showing me, although I didn't realize at the time this was God. Board books written for children to better understand THE BOOK were our staple! I got to know Noah and learn about his blind faith in a God who would flood



the earth and restore it through sequins and squeak toys. I learned of Esther, the Jewish queen who would be used to save her people through illustrations. I met Peter, one of Jesus' most trusted friends, in a simple story about a fisher of men.

This brought me to my prayer life. Knowing how to pray felt intimidating. I heard and read so many comments on "how simple" prayer is, but it wasn't that simple for me. I started the only way I knew how: by writing a letter. My first letter was a superficial thanks for obvious blessings, expressing my gratitude for what I had. My second letter was an introduction to myself, as if God didn't know me, but to be honest I didn't know me. The third letter started slow and as it began to develop, I poured my soul into it. My letters took a light and shined it into my darkest shadows that I had been hiding from. My heart seemed to be combusting on paper, filling the sheets with water spots and smudges from tears overflowing my eyes to the point of blind writing and weeping. This third letter was filled with my repentance. This third letter was the release of the agony that I had been carrying with me for a lifetime. This third letter was the start of my relationship with God.

I did find a supernatural peace once I had released all of my darkness, but that peace will not last if I do not push forward in my relationship with my Father. I have discovered that my journey of faith has only just begun. My transformation is at the brink but my promise to my daughter will be fulfilled. She will learn to only fear God and a life without Him. Because this is now the only thing I fear in my life.





The Secret of the Pennsylvania Puzzler

**This is the story of an old
farmhouse, Covered in
stones weathered by years,
Its walls rang out with
laughter, And sometimes
echoed with tears, Of the
people who have lived in its
shelter, Who filled each day
with love and with cheer.**

The twins marveled at the dusty objects inside the box. Dust particles danced in the light from their lantern, casting a magical haze inside of the old shed. Eli gingerly reached into the wooden bottle with dark liquid inside.

"Either this is someone's portable writing desk, or we've stumbled onto some poison!"

He held the bottle up to the band of light radiating from their lantern, eyeing it suspiciously.

"Judging by this feather quill pen I'm going to assume that is ink."

A loud sneeze punctuated Esther's statement.

Eli looked at the goose-feather pen his sister held up with awe, "wow a box that belonged to Thomas Jefferson, and his pen, too? This is awesome!"

A huge grin spread across Esther's face as she drew out the next item.

"Looks like he left a note, too, Eli. Should we open it?"

Eli did some strange and wild dance of excitement, unable to speak for a moment or two.



"Yes, oh man, let's open it!"

With shortened breaths and shaky hands, Esther opened the envelope. On the folded parchment inside they recognized the scrawling, elegant script that the Declaration of Independence was written in. The handwriting of Thomas Jefferson himself.

To those whose hands discover this missive, the mysterious letter began.

Eli sputtered excitedly, interrupting his sister.

"That's us, that's us!" his hands flailed excitedly, slapping her shoulder as he spoke.

"Yes, yes, I know," Esther gave him a little shove, "now hush and let me read!"

If you have indeed been wise and brave enough to find and unlock this box of secrets, I will, dear patriots, bestow upon thee a secret which I have told to none other than my dear friend, George Clymer, the owner of this estate.

It was some time ago that I discovered the power now be held in this very pen. This pen was used by my own hand to record our most precious of documents--our young Nation's Declaration of Independence.

The twins stared at one another for a few seconds, their eyes as wide as saucers.

But it wasn't until after that parchment was signed that this quill seemed to be anything more than a simple goose's feather. After it was used by each man to sign his name to our document it should have been worn to shreds, but instead, it looked brand new. I put the pen with the rest of my things and returned to my office later that day. Soon I took that same pen in my hand to write a letter and as I wrote the address on the envelope, I found myself standing on the very street which I had just written on paper! Imagine writing an address and instantly standing before the place, staring up into its windows! In time I would discover that I could visit anywhere I chose with the stroke of a pen. Wherever I had the notion. And, my dear friends, whenever. Yes, whenever.

It is with sadness and caution, however, that I leave this pen here, in your care. You see, this pen must never fall into the wrong hands. I entrust you, Eli and Esther, with its safekeeping. America is counting on you, young patriots. Should you ever have need, you know where to find me.



Th. Jefferson
Your friend,

Thomas Jefferson

“Well, that settles it,” Esther took off her glasses to rub her eyes with the back of her hand, “this has to be a hoax.”

“How can you say that, Esther? I think we have stumbled on something incredible! Time travel? Time travel is REAL?!”

“Be sensible, Eli. Time travel isn’t real.”

“Oh yeah, then how do you explain all of this?”

Esther thought hard for a moment before pursing her lips together tightly.

“Dad.”

“Dad?” Eli repeated the single word with confusion. “What does Dad have to do with this?”

“I’m sure he wanted to come up with a way to keep us busy and teach us some kind of lesson. This seems like the kind of thing he would do.”

“Okay, smarty pants,” Eli began, “if this was Dad then how did he make the box look so authentic? How did

he manage to make it look like it has been here for hundreds of years?”

“Easy, Dad has been on plenty of archeological digs and worked in lots of museums. If anyone knows how to make things look old, it’s Dad.”

Eli stared at his sister for a moment. Her face wasn’t as certain as her tone.

“That’s true, but I just have a feeling. I don’t think this was Dad.”

“Then who, Eli?”

“Esther, I...” he let his sentence dangle off into nothing. He didn’t know how to explain the feeling that he had, but something deep down inside of his gut was telling him that what they found was real. He didn’t understand how it could be real, but he knew that it was.

Esther let out a sigh and her face relaxed.

“I know, Eli. I have the same feeling. But I don’t understand it! It isn’t logical! It isn’t possible! Is it?”

Eli looked deeply into his twin’s eyes.

“There’s just one way to find out.”

“Do you think we should?”

“What could go wrong?”

“Oh, I don’t know,” Esther began to list potential complications, counting each one on a finger. “We could get sucked down some black time-hole, we could land ourselves right in the middle of the Revolutionary War, we could run smack dab into the White Witch of Narnia and get carried off to her castle, for starters.”

Eli chuckled at her reference to C.S. Lewis’s “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe.” His sister was right, of course. There could be all kinds of dangers if this were really true. On the other hand—

“On the other hand,” Esther seemed to speak his thought aloud. “If this is real, then how can we not go find Thomas Jefferson? If he sent us this letter and knew who we were then don’t we need to go back to see him?”

Eli clapped his hands together once, then punched the air with his fist.

“I knew you’d come around!”

“Yes, but we have to be smart about this. We can only go for a trial run.”

“Okay, deal,” Eli turned over the piece of paper and began opening the bottle of ink.

Esther’s face contorted into a horrified expression.

“What are you doing?!”

“I’m getting this ready so you can write the location and date on the back.”

“On the back of this artifact? No. Absolutely not, Eli, we will get some paper from the house.”



Eli put down the ink and turned toward the shed door to walk back in the direction of the house, but Esther grabbed him by the arm.

“Where do you think you’re going?”

“To get paper.”

“Oh, no, you don’t,” Esther shook her head firmly. “You are too suspicious; Mom and Dad will know something weird is going on. I will go up there and get what we need and come back. You will make all kinds of noise and they will ask you a hundred questions, but if I go, they probably won’t even know I’ve been in the house.”

Esther was right, of course. Eli was a very conspicuous kid, and he couldn’t keep a secret to save his life. It would be sheer torture to wait for her to get back, but he would stay in the shed and keep watch over their discovery just the same.

Esther ran back up the hill as fast as her legs could possibly carry her, her auburn braids streaking out behind her. When she got to the top of the hill, her legs felt like jelly and she was wheezing, but she didn’t slow down. She would have to remember to get her asthma

inhaler off of her desk if she was going to time travel.

She crept into the front door, closing it softly behind her. She could hear her parents in the kitchen; the younger children had woken up from their naps and were being fed a snack. Carefully, Esther tiptoed up the front stairs, taking a few two at a time to avoid landings that were squeaky. She continued her tiptoed steps into her bedroom, grabbing a leather messenger bag and stuffing things into its depths as they caught her eye. A sketchbook to write in, a history book about the Revolutionary War, her asthma inhaler, and a travel-sized pack of tissues in case her allergies flared up. Her stomach rumbled and she wished that she had an afternoon snack.

She snuck next door into Eli’s room and made a beeline for his mattress. She thrust her hand underneath it and pulled out some packs of crackers, granola bars, chocolate bars, and a few other tasty snacks. So, here’s where some of her favorites had run off to! She stuck those into the leather bag along with her other supplies. Moving to the desk, she grabbed Eli’s compass and pocketknife, then made her way back down the stairs and out the front door. Having reached the bottom of

the hill she took a deep breath of relief. She had made it in and out of the big house without being detected!

Esther dashed back into the shed with a broad grin on her face.

“Well, that took you long enough!” Eli’s face was practically glowing with excitement.

“I know, but I had to be careful.” she set the leather bag down on the ground and pulled out her sketchbook, laying it open on the dirt floor.

In her absence, Eli had set out each of the items that they needed neatly in a row. He had opened the ink and set the feather quill in a place of honor at the very center of things.

Both twins knelt on the dirt.

“When should we go to?” Esther pondered aloud.

“Let’s go back to before the war, I don’t want to miss any action.” Eli was always ready to experience something thrilling.

“As educational as I think that would be, I don’t agree,” Esther pushed her glasses up her nose thoughtfully. “Thomas Jefferson didn’t know that he could time travel until after the Declaration of Independence had been signed, so we really shouldn’t go any time before that.”

“You’re right, of course,” Eli’s voice was a bit disappointed, but he knew that his twin had a point. “So, let’s arrive a few days later. We will give him a few days to figure out the quill, then we will show up.”

Esther nodded in agreement.

“Okay,” she put the leather satchel across one shoulder and dipped the quill into the bottle of ink with a shaky hand. “Cork that ink and pick up the lantern,” she instructed, “we don’t know what we might be able to bring with us and I don’t want to risk getting stuck anywhere.”

Eli firmly stuck the cork back into the ink bottle and stowed it into the bag his sister wore. Then he picked up the LED lantern and leaned over her shoulder to watch her write.



“Ready?” He asked breathlessly.

“Ready.” Esther nodded in return. She poised the quill pen above the paper, wondering what date she should write down. Something at the back of her mind inspired a date and so she put pen to paper.

July 8, 1776, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Homeschool Resources

Parents’ Note: Please remind your children that this is a fictional story that weaves in historical figures and events. Artistic license has been taken to form a storyline, but I strive for historical accuracy and will point out ways in which to learn about those accuracies here in the study guide.

- In chapter two we see that the twins have clearly studied this era of history before, as they recognize Thomas Jefferson's signature at the end of the letter. Take a close look at some letters written by this Founding Father, as well as the Declaration of Independence. Trace his signature and do your best to copy it, then practice your own signature!

- Esther gathers supplies that she thinks would be helpful during their adventure. What would you take if you traveled back in time? Do you think she forgot anything important?

- Esther used Thomas Jefferson's quill pen to write the date and location of where they wanted to travel to. Using the instructions below, make your own quill and ink to write important documents with and send them to our email at homeschool@graceandtruthmagazine.com, we would love to see it!

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TORAH TOWN



Walking out our faith—by EXAMPLE

Lesson 2

This lesson is a 4 part series of lessons designed for parents and children to work through together to help keep children engaged as well as to give them a better understanding of the importance of faith and pleasing our Heavenly Father.

What is Faith?

Let's look at what the Bible tells us about Faith...

Heb 11:6 No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him. So we know that faith is:

- something we can not see with our eyes.
- That we can not please God without faith
- We have to have faith to talk to Him.
- He will reward us for having faith



Alef Tav Game

Blindfold one child and put him in one part of the room make him call out "Alef", and the adult calls out "Tav"...til he can find the adult just by relying on his voice through a maze.

James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

So, that word, "works", means we have to put our faith to action or not just say what we believe, but SHOW others what we believe. In order for us to walk out our faith by example, we have to think about who our example is. What is an example? Someone who does things that are right and leads the way for others.

Yeshua...He is our greatest example...we want to live how He lived, and do the things He did. So what are some of the ways that we can be an example like Yeshua was?

1. Praying to Yehovah every day.
2. Reading God's word the Bible every day to hear Him.
3. Always Showing love by helping others.
4. Being obedient to His laws and Torah.

1Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. When we learn these things about Jesus/Yeshua, and put our faith into action we will become someone that our parents are proud of, but most importantly someone that Yahweh is proud of and that He can use as an example.

Songs: Listen to the song "Welcome to the family" on Torahtown.xyz

Don't forget...

Memory Verse: Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

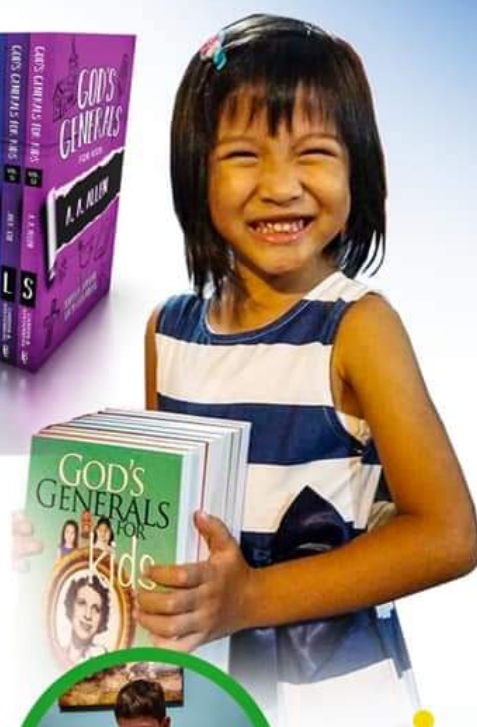
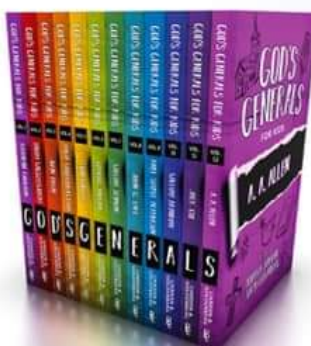
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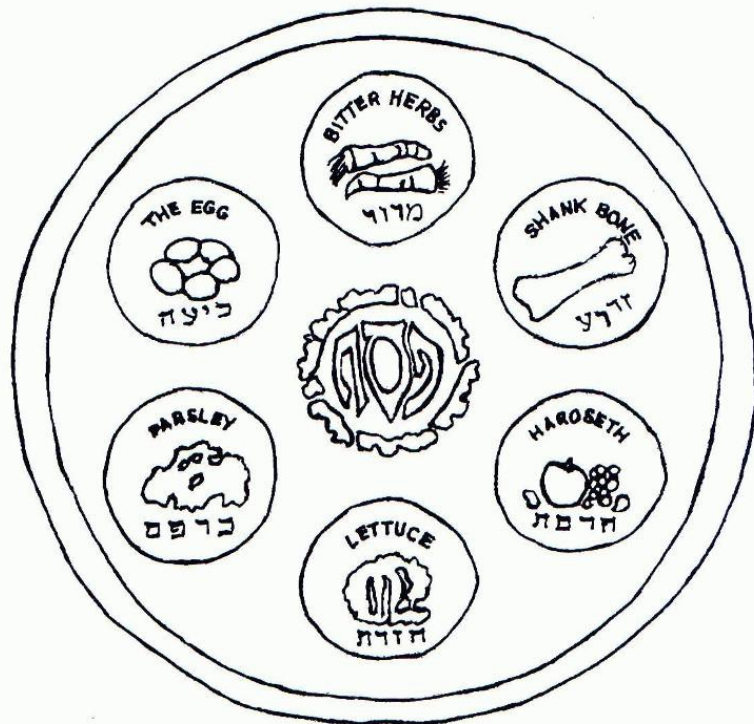
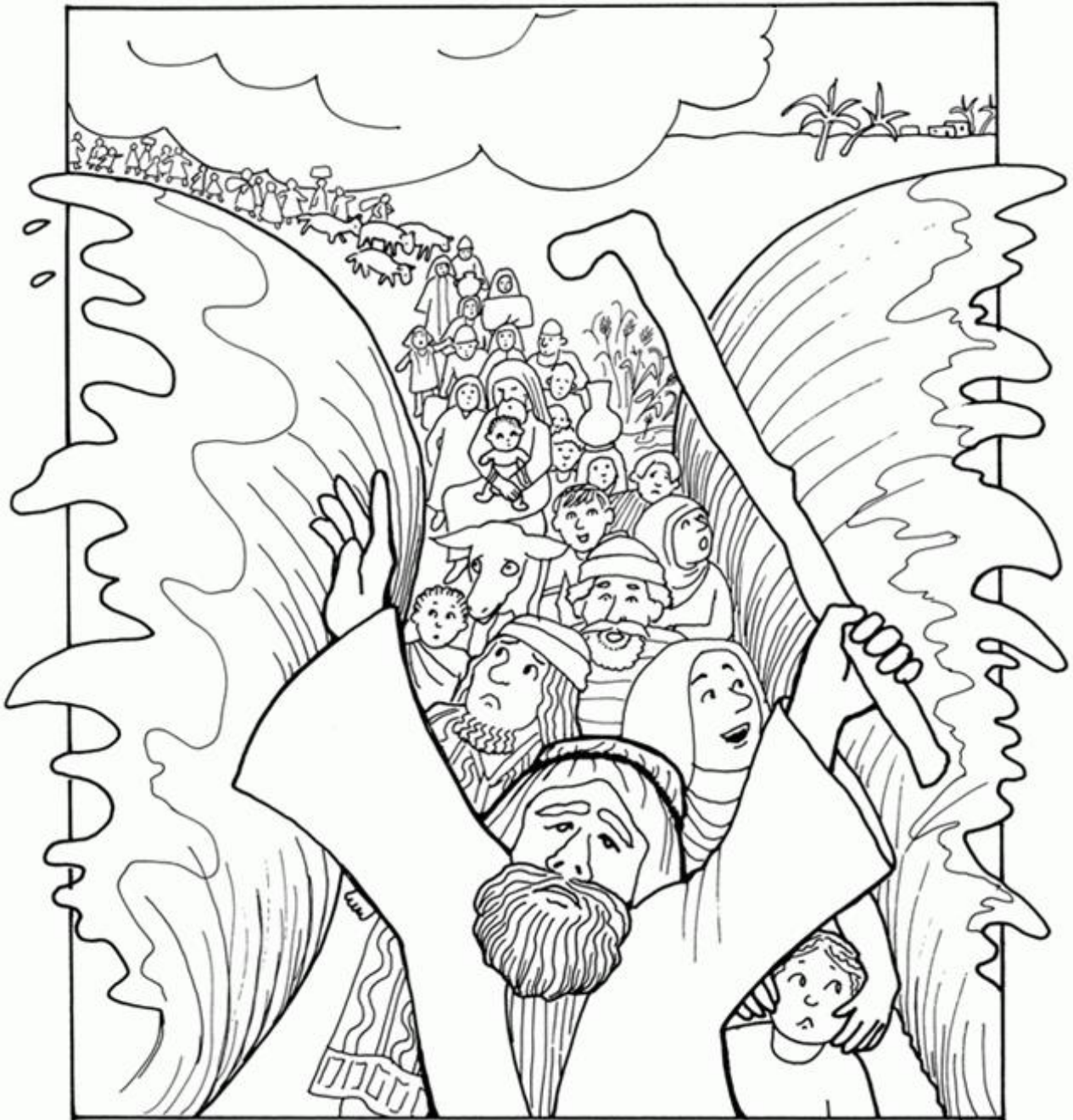
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Peapa's Sweet & Smoky Brisket

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 pounds brisket
- 1 dash kosher salt
- 1 dash freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 large onions, halved through the root and thinly sliced
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 (15-ounce) can Muir Glen tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons Muir Glen tomato paste
- 1 1/4 cups beef stock
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 3 large carrots, peeled, halved if thick, and cut into 2-inch pieces



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DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 325° F and generously season both sides of the brisket with salt and pepper.
- Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large Dutch oven or other ovenproof saucepan set over medium-high heat. Add the brisket and sear, turning once, until browned on both sides, about 8 to 10 minutes total. (If the brisket does not fit all at once, cut it in half and sear it in two batches.) Remove seared meat from the pan and set aside.
- Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the pan, followed by the onions, garlic, and bay leaves and cook, stirring often, until onions soften, about 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, whisk together the tomato sauce, tomato paste, beef stock, vinegar, brown sugar, onion powder, smoked paprika, and 1 teaspoon salt in a bowl. Nestle the seared meat on top of the onions and pour the tomato sauce mixture over top. Bring liquid to a boil on the stovetop, then cover the saucepan and transfer to the oven.
- Cook, undisturbed, for 2 hours. Remove from oven, uncover, and carefully flip meat to the other side. Add the carrots, tucking them into the sauce. Cover the Dutch oven and continue cooking until vegetables are soft and meat is fork tender, 1 to 1 1/2 hours more.
- Remove from oven and transfer meat to a cutting board; cover loosely with aluminum foil and let rest 10 to 15 minutes before slicing against the grain. Arrange sliced meat on a serving platter. Remove and discard bay leaves from the sauce. Using a slotted spoon, remove onions and carrots and arrange around the brisket. Spoon desired amount of pan juices over the brisket before serving.

Mum's Potato Salad



By: Jessica Stern Foster

INGREDIENTS:

**3½ pounds baking potatoes
(peeled & halved)**
**1 large yellow onion
(cut into 8 wedges)**
½ cup Stone Ground Flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 tablespoons Hungarian Paprika
1 ½ teaspoons Himalayan salt
¼ teaspoon baking powder
EVOO for frying
**Applesauce and sour cream,
for serving**

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Set a large strainer over a bowl. In a food processor fitted with the shredding disk, shred the potatoes and onion in batches. Add each batch to the strainer and let stand for 5 minutes, then squeeze dry. Pour off all of the liquid in the bowl and add the shredded potatoes. Stir in the flour, eggs, parsley, Hungarian Paprika, salt and baking powder. Scrape the mixture back into the strainer and set it over a bowl; let stand for 5 minutes.**
- 2. In a very large skillet, heat ¼ inch of canola oil until shimmering. Spoon 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture into the canola oil for each latke, pressing slightly to flatten. Fry over moderate heat, turning once, until the latkes are golden and crisp on both sides, about 7 minutes. Drain the latkes on a paper towel-lined baking sheet. Serve the latkes hot with Applesauce and sour cream.**

Easy Peasy Chicken Casserole

By: Heather Speck

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 boxes of instant stuffing mix
- 2 large cans chicken (12.5 oz each)
- 1 can cream of mushroom
- 1 cup shredded cheese, I use cheddar
- ½ clove garlic
- 1 tablespoon of creole seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350* F
- Combine chicken, garlic, cream of mushroom, and seasonings in bowl. Mix together thoroughly. Prepare instant stuffing according to box directions. In a 9x13 casserole dish layer chicken, stuffing, and top with cheese. Bake for 20 minutes until golden bubbly and serve immediately. Pair with a side salad for an easy weeknight meal with your family.



Breakfast Danishes

By: Jocelyn LaFavers

INGREDIENTS:

Puff pastry--can be homemade, found in the freezer section, or or a crescent roll package

4 oz cream cheese, softened

4 Tbsp powdered sugar

Seedless jam, I prefer raspberry or blackberry



DIRECTIONS:

In your mixer, combine the cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Cut the pastry into squares and spoon the cream cheese mixture into the center, then top with a dollop of the jam. Bring two corners of the pastry square together as shown in the image, or bring all four together and pinch to make a pouch.

Bake at 350* F for 8-10 minutes until golden and bubbly. Serve warm while you open gifts around the tree!

Bubbie's Latkes

By: Jessica Stern Foster

INGREDIENTS:

**3½ pounds baking potatoes
(peeled & halved)**
**1 large yellow onion
(cut into 8 wedges)**
1/2 cup Stone Ground Flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 tablespoons Hungarian Paprika
1 1/2 teaspoons Himalayan salt
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
EVOO for frying
Applesauce and sour cream, for serving



DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Set a large strainer over a bowl. In a food processor fitted with the shredding disk, shred the potatoes and onion in batches. Add each batch to the strainer and let stand for 5 minutes, then squeeze dry. Pour off all of the liquid in the bowl and add the shredded potatoes. Stir in the flour, eggs, parsley, Hungarian Paprika, salt and baking powder. Scrape the mixture back into the strainer and set it over a bowl; let stand for 5 minutes.**
- 2. In a very large skillet, heat 1/4 inch of canola oil until shimmering. Spoon 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture into the canola oil for each latke, pressing slightly to flatten. Fry over moderate heat, turning once, until the latkes are golden and crisp on both sides, about 7 minutes. Drain the latkes on a paper towel-lined baking sheet. Serve the latkes hot with Applesauce and sour cream.**

Instant Pot Applesauce

From: Bubbie's Kitchen

INGREDIENTS

- 3 lb apples approx. 6 medium apples, peeled, cored, quartered and chopped into
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup coconut sugar (optional)
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
- 1/4 tsp pink Himalayan salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the peeled, cored, quartered and chopped apples in a large pot. Stir in the 1/2 cup of water, lemon juice, coconut sugar (if using), 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon & cardamom, and salt. Bring to a boil over high heat. Once simmering, reduce heat to low and cover pot with a tight-fitting lid. Maintain a low simmer for 30 minutes or until the apples are completely soft and cooked through.
2. Once fully cooked, remove from heat. For chunky applesauce, mash the apples directly in the pot using a potato masher. For smooth applesauce, add the apples to a food processor or blender and blend until smooth (if using a blender, work in batches and allow time to cool), or use a hand-held immersion blender and blend directly in the pot.
3. This applesauce is delicious served warm or cold.

NOTES

I used Pink Lady apples for this recipe because that is what I had laying around. Other recommended apples are Granny Smith, McIntosh, Fuji, Gravenstein, Jonagold, and Golden Delicious. Or, even better, you can always mix and match!

Easily turn this easy recipe into unsweetened applesauce by adjusting the sugar amount according to personal preference. As I don't usually love lots of added sugar (unless we're talking cookies or cake), I will probably cut the sugar in half next time I make this recipe. Of course, Pink Lady apples are known for being tart and sweet, so perhaps my opinion will change with a different apple.

Feel free to add additional cinnamon or even a pinch of nutmeg, if desired.

Makes approx. 1.5 quarts



Scalloped Carrots

By: Alex Perkins

INGREDIENTS

8 medium carrots or package of baby carrots
Partially boil carrots in salted water or
microwave with water until almost tender
Save 2 tablespoons of the water
½ cup Mayonnaise
2 tablespoons grated onion
2 tablespoons horseradish
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

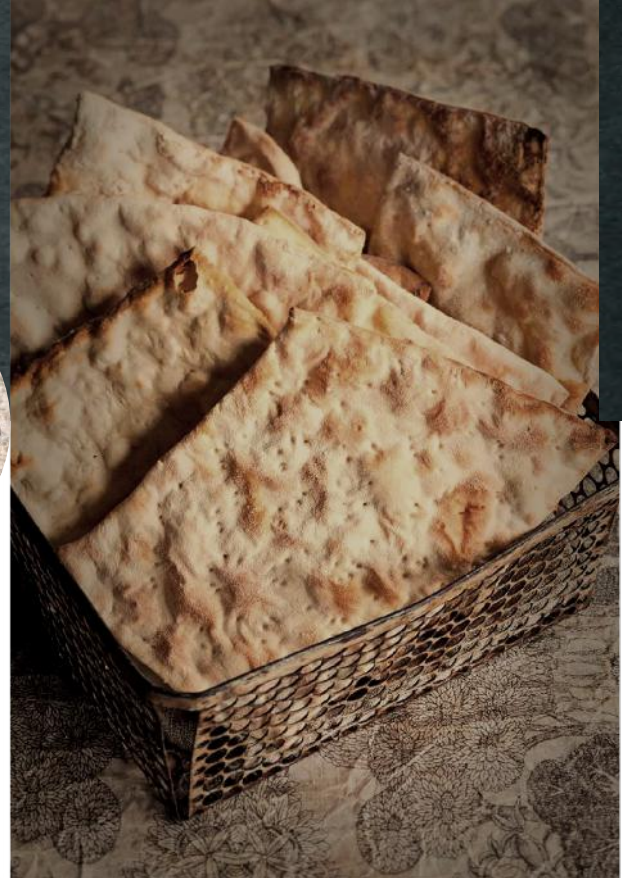
DIRECTIONS

Stir (Mayo, grated onion, horseradish, saved water, salt and pepper) slightly and pour over cooked carrots. Top with breadcrumbs with paprika and bake in buttered casserole dish for 15 minutes at 350 degrees.



Homemade Matzo Bread

From: Bubbie's Kitchen



INGREDIENTS

- 4 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling
- 1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 tablespoons mild olive oil (or, if you're not keeping kosher for Passover, you can substitute canola oil)
- 3/4 cup plus up to 1/2 cup warm water

DIRECTIONS

1- Preheat the oven to 500°F (260°C). Ideally you would place a pizza stone on the bottom oven rack, but realistically a 10-by-15-inch baking sheet will work just dandy.

2- In a large bowl, mix together all the ingredients, starting with just 3/4 cup water, until everything comes together to form a dough. If the dough seems dry, add a little more water, just a few drops at a time. Be sparing with the water and do not add so much that the dough becomes sticky.

3- If you do not need the matzoh to be kosher for Passover, let the dough rest for 10 to 15 minutes. If you do need the matzoh to be kosher for Passover, proceed immediately to the next step so that you can attempt to finish everything in 18 minutes. You may want to ask for help to ensure that you complete it in time.

4- Divide the dough into 8 pieces. Flatten a piece slightly and pass it repeatedly through a pasta maker, reducing the thickness each time until you eventually reach the thinnest or minimum setting on your pasta machine. Alternately, you can simply roll the dough as thinly as possible with a rolling pin on a lightly floured surface. Repeat with the remaining dough pieces.

5- Trim the rolled-out dough pieces into rectangles. (How many pieces of matzoh you get depends on how thinly you rolled the dough.) Use a fork to prick holes in the surface of the dough. If salted matzoh are desired, brush or spray the dough surface lightly with water and sprinkle with salt to taste.

6- Carefully place some of the rectangles onto the pizza stone or baking sheet. They should fit snugly but should not touch. Bake until the surface of the matzoh is golden brown and bubbly, 30 to 90 seconds.

7- Using tongs, carefully flip the matzoh pieces and continue to bake until the other side is golden browned and lightly blistered, 15 to 30 seconds. Keep careful and constant watch to keep the matzoh from burning; the exact baking time will vary from oven to oven and will get longer with subsequent batches. You want to let the matzoh get a few dots of light brown but don't let the matzoh turn completely brown or it will taste burnt.

8- Let the matzoh cool before serving. (When our testers made this, they devoured it within hours—and sometimes minutes—of pulling it from the oven, but typically with this sort of baked good you can keep it in an airtight container or resealable plastic bag at room temperature for up to a couple days.)

BAKED MACARONI

By: Kendra Nelson

INGREDIENTS

16oz Macaroni Shells, cooked
2 cups Almond Milk
2tbsp Egg Replacer or 2 eggs
Earth Balance Butter Spread
8oz Sargento Sharp Cheese
8oz Sargento 4 State Cheese
8oz Sargento Mexican Blend Cheese
Ground White Pepper
Salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. . Adding salt
4. Cook rinsed macaroni shells according to pkg directions until tender.
5. Prepare egg replacer according to the directions and place aside.
6. Spray nonstick spray in your 9x12 dish.
7. Drain shells and transfer cooked pasta into a mixing bowl.
8. 2 bags of Sargento cheese, 2 tablespoons of butter and mix into the shells.
9. Add almond milk & Egg Replacer. Mix well. Add salt & pepper to taste.
10. Transfer to your dish. Pour remaining cheese on top of macaroni mixture.
11. Take 3-4 tablespoons of butter and place in different areas on top of cheese.
12. Cook for 45 minutes uncovered.

NOTE: The ingredients above can be substituted. Because of allergies this recipe contains plant-based egg, butter, and milk. The cheese used in this recipe is lactose free.

To make completely vegan choose plant-based cheese & ENJOY!!!





If you are still quaranteened, try creating a Charboard for your family to snack on throughout the day!

What is Charcuterie?

with Jessica Stern Foster



There is no appetizer more impressive than a charcuterie board. Loaded with a variety of cured meats, cheeses, nuts, fruit, crackers, and spreads... there is something for everyone.

What Is Charcuterie?

Charcuterie (pronounced [shar-koo-tuh-ree] boards are the art of preparing cured or smoked meats. The amazing thing about these boards is that there is no end to the possible variations. Additionally, while the name gets itself from meats, it is okay to have a meatless board!

The first thing you will need to do is to have your board or tray. Next, you will want to take your jams, sauces, dips, and condiments and place them in jars or dishes to fit on the tray. Make sure you have small spoons and spreading utensils.

Add your meats in various spots on the board, then cheeses. Next you will want to use seasonal veggies and fruits then fill in with crackers, nuts, and dries fruits. You can also add sprigs of rosemary or thyme or even mint to future decorate. Make sure these foods are something you, your family and your guests will enjoy!

Enjoy your charcuterie all year long!



INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups milk

1 cup evaporated milk

3 eggs

½ cup sugar

Speck salt

1 tsp Vanilla

Pre-prepared pie crust



DIRECTIONS

- To prepare the crust, blend graham cracker crumbs, granulated sugar, brown sugar and melted butter in a bowl until fully combined. Press mixture into a 9" pie plate, covering bottom completely and pushing the crumbs about 1-2 inches up the side of the pie plate. Put the pie crust into the freezer while preparing the filling.
- Whip the 1 1/2 cups heavy cream until it holds peaks. Set aside in refrigerator while preparing the rest of the filling.
- In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar and mix until blended. Add peanut butter and vanilla, mixing well. (Scrape the sides of the bowl as needed to ensure that the ingredients are fully blended.)
- Fold whipped cream into the peanut butter mixture, blending well. Pour filling into the prepared pie crust. Place filled pie into the freezer.
- To prepare the ganache, in a small saucepan (use one with a lid), slowly bring the remaining 1/2 cup of heavy cream to a boil (be careful not to scald the cream). Turn off the heat and add chocolate chips, pushing the chips into the cream until almost completely covered. Put the lid on the pan and let sit on the stove.
- After 10 minutes, stir until the chocolate chips are melted and fully blended into the cream. Cool to room temperature, then pour sauce over pie. Place in freezer for 30 minutes before serving.
- Note: If serving pie more than 1/2 an hour after final preparation, store in the freezer. Thaw for 20 minutes before serving for a frozen, ice cream-like consistency. (If you are having difficulty cleanly removing the pie crust from your pie plate, submerge the very bottom of the dish in some hot tap water - about 1/2 inch water in your kitchen sink - to loosen the crust being careful not to get water in the pie itself.) Or thaw for longer in the refrigerator for a gooey, soft pie.



Grandma Bessie's Custard Pie

By: Marta Greenman



Bread Pudding

By Amanda Bishop via
Brenda Krohe

INGREDIENTS

Pudding Sauce

1 pound of loaf of white
bread 1 C packed brown
sugar
1 1/4 C
sugar
2 T corn starch
4 C
milk
1 stick oleo (margarine)
2 tsp
vanilla
2T vanilla
4
eggs

DIRECTIONS 1 C boiling water
cinnamon & sugar
butter

Grease 9x13 pan with butter. 1 pound loaf of white bread cut or torn into small pieces (1 in) lay on bottom of pan. Beat eggs well then add sugar, milk, and vanilla (I add lots of cinnamon). Pour over bread and press down. Cut butter chunks up on top. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake @ 350* 45 mins or until brown
Mix in sauce pan sugar and corn starch slowly add boiling water. Remove from heat add oleo and vanilla pour over baked bread.





INSTANT POT PICADILLO

By Melody Bentfield

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lb 93% lean ground beef
- 1/2 large chopped onion
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced OR 2-3 tsp granulated garlic
- 1.5 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp cilantro (fresh or dried)
- 1.5 tsp ground cumin
- 1-2 tsp adobo seasoning (Goya brand makes a lovely one)
- .5 tsp smoked paprika
- 2-3 bay leaf
- 2 tbsp green olives (pimento stuffed ok)
- 2 Tbsp brine juice of green olives
- 1 16oz can of fire roasted diced tomatoes, including liquid
- ½ cup water



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INSTRUCTIONS

- Set Instant Pot to saute normal and add meat. Brown the meat thoroughly with no more pink, breaking up with a wooden spoon into small crumbles.
- Add everything else except for the canned tomatoes and water. Stir for 1-2 minutes and add canned tomatoes and extra water.
- Cook 15 minutes manual on high pressure. Quick release.

This can be enjoyed within homemade empanadas (drain the extra juices first), on top of rice or another grain, or as a filling to homemade meat pies. Delicious!



BREAKFAST EGG BAKE

By Melody Benthfield

INGREDIENTS

Serves 6 - 8

Ingredients:

1 dozen large eggs

1/3 cup buttermilk

16 oz shredded cheese

4 oz goat cheese OR cream cheese, softened

1 bell pepper, finely diced

1-2 cups baby spinach

12-15 ritz crackers (or savory crackers of your choice, or pretzels)

2-3 Tbsp butter softened

Optional – diced cooked meat of your choosing

Optional – seasoning salt to make crust more savory

DIRECTIONS

· Preheat oven to 350 degrees

· In a plastic bag, crush crackers into a rough crumbly mixture. Add the butter and mash together so that it's fairly uniform in texture and size.

· Line an 8x8 or 9x9 brownie pan with parchment paper. Press the cracker/butter mixture into the bottom. If you are using seasoning salt, sprinkle a very light layer on top. Bake this for 5-10 minutes, just until you begin to smell it cooking, or until the crust is slightly golden, remove promptly to slightly cool.

· Whisk eggs and buttermilk in medium mixing bowl until everything is incorporated.

· Eyeball about 1/3 of each ingredient, and layer 1/3 of the egg mixture, shredded cheese, bell pepper, spinach, and meat. This is not a perfect science, just do your best!

· Evenly crumble remaining goat cheese or cream cheese on top.

· Bake for 35-45 minutes, until a knife comes out clean from the center.

· Let cool for 5-10 minutes, then use the parchment paper to lift out the egg bake. Cut into 6 - 8 generous portions and enjoy!

If you want to be fancy, add fresh guacamole, avocado or salsa or hot sauce on top of the egg bake. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Enjoy!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS & INFORMATION

INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT



Everyone has the potential to discover a human trafficking situation. While the victims may sometimes be kept behind locked doors, they are often hidden right in front of us at, for example, construction sites, restaurants, elder care centers, nail salons, agricultural fields, and hotels. Traffickers' use of coercion – such as threats of deportation and harm to the victim or their family members – is so powerful that even if you reach out to victims, they may be too fearful to accept your help. Knowing indicators of human trafficking and some follow up questions will help you act on your gut feeling that something is wrong and report it.

Human Trafficking Indicators

While not an exhaustive list, these are some key red flags that could alert you to a potential trafficking situation that should be reported:

- Living with employer
- Poor living conditions
- Multiple people in cramped space
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Signs of physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Unpaid or paid very little
- Under 18 and in prostitution

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...going to the dogs. He delights
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...hunter. He praises discretion, but
...ther let the cat out of the bag than a
...To conclude, he runs as long as he can,
...and then goes to earth, and his heir is in at his
...beath. But his heir does not stand in his
...shoes, for he never wore any thing but boots.
[Hood's comic Annual.

Indian Eloquence. A writer in the New-York Mirror, gives this lament of an Indian Warrior of the Yamacsee tribe over the graves of his fathers and the recollections and affections of his youth. It is "the majesty of grief without

Where to Get Help

If you believe you have identified someone still in the trafficking situation, alert law enforcement immediately at the numbers provided below. It may be unsafe to attempt to rescue a trafficking victim. You have no way of knowing how the trafficker may react and retaliate against the victim and you. If, however, you identify a victim who has escaped the trafficking situation, there are a number of organizations to whom the victim could be referred for help with shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and other critical services. In this case, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

911 Emergency

We at ROC do realize that there are good police officers and bad police officers. We know that there are many amazing police officers that go above and beyond. For urgent situations, notify local law enforcement immediately by calling 911. You may also want to alert the National Human Trafficking Hotline described below so that they can ensure response by law enforcement officials knowledgeable about human trafficking.

1-888-373-7888 National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a national 24-hour, toll-free, multilingual anti-trafficking hotline. Call 1-888-373-7888 to report a tip; connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources. The Hotline is equipped to handle calls from all regions of the United States from a wide range of callers including, but not limited to: potential trafficking victims, community members, law enforcement, medical professionals, legal professionals, service providers, researchers, students, and policymakers.

ROC Assistance

IF you do not feel as if the situation is being addressed, you can email Report@RedeemOurChildren.org and we will further assist in working to help resolve any situations. While we do work with Rescue Teams and have active members of ROC working on the Frontlines to combat Human Trafficking Globally, our primary focus is the aftercare, healing, and restoration of people through Biblical precepts and Redemption so Survivors can live a life worth living!

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