

GOD STORIES

Book 11

And More

A New Beginning!
Special Collection of Stories

Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon

DO YOU WANT JESUS CHRIST TO BE YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 ESV

Here is a simple prayer to earnestly pray from your heart if you have not yet given your life to Jesus Christ and want to invite Him into yours:

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He died for my sins and that You, God raised Him to life. I repent of my sins and ask forgiveness. I choose now to turn from my sins and every part of my life that does not please You. I give myself to You. I want to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do Your will. Come reign in my heart, fill me with Your love and Your life, and help me to become a person who is truly loving - a person like You. Live in me and love through me. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth that “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Rom. 10:9). I believe with my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of my life. Thank You, God. In Jesus name. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer in earnest, you can also know that the angels in heaven are rejoicing because of your commitment to follow Christ. May God Bless You.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9

GOD STORIES

*"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

*Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all
who delight in them." Psalm 111:1-2 ESV*



Book 11: GOD STORIES And More... A New Beginning! Special Collection of Stories are true and inspiring stories written by ordinary people that highlight an extraordinary God and what He has done in, for, and through their lives. By sharing these stories, the reader is reminded of the depth of God's love and the importance of knowing Him intimately.

You may recall your own amazing encounters with God that left a lasting impact or find yourself passionately desiring to know Jesus Christ more and have a real personal relationship with Him every day.

Perhaps you've experienced a miraculous healing, a surprising provision, or an amazing answer to prayer. Whatever the case, these stories will inspire you to deepen your faith and trust in the One who loves you more than you can imagine.

As you read this encouraging booklet, you will feel yourself drawing closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior, this is the day to surrender your life to Christ. We pray you will.

Walking with Jesus,

Gayle & Myrna

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<https://www.god-stories.com/books>

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RIISING OUT OF ADDICTION

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36



Jacob Plattner
Searcy, Arkansas

Hatred is described as an intense feeling of dislike, aversion, or hostility toward someone or something. Why did I hate something so much that I claimed did not exist? A common question that I asked myself before my conversion. I was an avid atheist, I hated the church, I was 19 or so when I first started "repenting." But my public devotion was only a cover up to get my friends and family off my back. Instead of doing what Christians "should" be doing in church, I had spent most of my time in church cleaning cocaine residue out of my nose from the night before. I was the perfect epitome of a hypocrite.

I was 13 when I first fell in love. She gave me security and an escape from the reality that surrounded me. Her name was cocaine. Little did I know I would spend the next 7 years of my life wrapped around her finger. I was very good at hiding my relationship with her along with smoking, drinking, sex, and all the other attributes that usually come with a bohemian lifestyle. Of course, I had consequences. I spent time in alternative schools, behavior programs, jail, and endured many lectures from my elders trying tirelessly to steer me on the right path. But, a true victim of addiction will never change his ways without a spiritual experience that cannot be explained by secular comprehension.

My admission to Capstone Treatment Center was the final turning point of my life. It took a few weeks in the program until I finally decided to attempt to get sober. I was unsure of what my purpose was and out of ultimate desperation, I uttered a prayer asking God to take over my life. Almost immediately, He did. I discovered my calling to help young men with addiction.

After I was released, I was transferred to spend my summer at Patton Sober Living in Dallas, Texas before my fall semester at Harding University. I was eventually offered a job there in which I declined unless I felt a calling away from Harding. Not even 30 minutes later, I received news that I had an outstanding warrant in Indiana that could not be expunged. I was facing several months which would ultimately prohibit me from attending school in the fall. I turned myself in and entered the hearing after spending 4 days in an isolated cell. I was sentenced 15 days, which was the exact time I needed in order to make it to the first day of class.

I am now a junior at Harding University, 27 months sober. I was baptized on Sept. 24, 2023. I have dedicated my life toward helping others like me, broken young men in the grips of addiction. I am extremely blessed to witness God's grace around me every single day. Jesus Christ changed my life!

A NEW BEGINNING

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

A few years after starting my personal relationship with the Lord, I unknowingly had focused my attention and respect on my pastor instead of my Savior. After several big disappointments in my church and my pastor, I ran ferociously away from the Lord thinking that He had let me down. I was so hurt that I literally became a self-titled anti-evangelist. I spent any free time that I had telling anyone that would listen why they never wanted to have anything to do with God or the church. Through this time though the Lord’s Holy Spirit did not allow me a moment of peace.



Rod Fetters
Ossian, Indiana

One dark rainy morning while driving to work in the dark, I rolled my car into a ditch full of water and was left hanging upside down by my seatbelt with my head under water. When I popped up into an air pocket in the back seat of the car, I was reciting the Lord’s Prayer. Just over a year later, I went to the ER where I was misdiagnosed with an ulcer. One week later I returned to the ER walking past the front desk into the patient rooms holding my stomach saying “someone please help me, I am dying”. I was! My gallbladder had rotted inside of me and my body cavity was filled with gangrene. My family was called in as the doctor did not believe that I would make it through the surgery. After each of these times, my dad told me very simply saying that the Lord would not allow me to continue the life that I was living and that He would “take me out” if I didn’t give my life back to Him. I listened but was not ready to respond.

Then, several months later, on a Tuesday evening after being at an all-weekend bachelor party, I was alone in my house. I literally felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and I was broken and ashamed. I remember praying and crying out loud to the Lord and telling Him that I knew that I did not deserve His forgiveness, but if He would forgive me, I would serve Him for the rest of my life regardless of what came my way.

He heard my earnest prayer for a walk with Him and He responded in a mighty way. Within 2 weeks, I had a new job in a town that I knew no one. The Lord gave me a new start and a **new beginning** in a new community. While I fail Him regularly, I press on. I serve a God who deeply desires a close personal relationship with me and who forgives when I sincerely ask for forgiveness.

JEHOVAH RAPHA HEALS

"... I am the Lord who heals you." Exodus 15:26



Aga and Tere
Arkansas

Several years ago, my husband was having headaches almost every day. Finally, I made an appointment with his primary care doctor who then referred him to his eye doctor. After a thorough exam, the eye doctor concluded that it was not a vision or ophthalmology issue.

My husband's primary care doctor then referred him to a neurologist in Austin, Texas where we lived at the time. The neurologist was the best of the best in Austin. After a neuro exam, the neurologist ordered an MRI of the brain. The doctor said he would either call us or have us come in. A couple days later we

were called in for a consult for the results. The neurologist opened the results of the MRI onto the computer screen. He pointed to a spot in my husband's brain. "This is an aneurysm," stated the doctor. "We need to do a couple of more brain tests as soon as possible to decide how to proceed with surgery since this is a life-threatening condition. You have a time bomb living in your head!!!" The spot was visible at every angle of the MRI slides. Of course, this was alarming news! The other tests were done within a few days. Meanwhile, we fasted and prayed!

On Sunday, we went to church and told our pastor about the diagnosis. At the end of the service, the pastor called my husband and I down front. The pastor and our brothers and sisters in Christ anointed my husband's head, laid hands on him and prayed in the name of Jesus! We felt nothing but peace! All the anxiety was gone! HEADACHES gone!

Midweek we got the call to come in for the results on the other neuro tests. The neurologists opened up the new images on the screen. I remember searching for the spot then thinking... I don't see anything, but I said not a word. The doctor looked, went slide to slide, looked, went from slide to slide, looked. He went back to the first MRI again and yep, the "spot" was there, then back to the new image. He sat back in his chair focused on the brain on the screen and the report in front of him. Silence. We were silent too...but I knew! The neurologist finally after a long period of staring back and forth at the images in silence, turned around and said to us, "I can't find it...it's no longer there!!!"

Let me tell you! I stood up and shouted! Thank you, Jesus and my husband joined in praising God!! He is our Great Physician, our healer!!!

"... I am the Lord who heals you." Exodus 15:26

JESUS SET US FREE!

*“...and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”
Psalm 50:15*

At age 24, I found myself empty and sad inside, missing something. This emptiness had followed me all my life, but I didn't know what was wrong with me. Throughout my life, I tried to fill that void with a boyfriend, husband, child, but to no avail.

In November 1977, while at work I heard my boss' wife on the phone talking about Jesus Christ like she knew Him. I went to my boss and told him I wanted to know Jesus the way his wife knew Jesus. He said I needed to ask God to save me, and he sent me to a WOMEN'S AGLOW meeting with his wife. There for the first time, I heard that Jesus gave His life and shed His Blood to forgive all my sins; I had never heard of salvation before. My denomination taught that being good was required in order to go to heaven. But now I heard that the Bible says, that by the Grace of God, I am saved through faith in Jesus Christ. When the guest speaker asked who wanted to receive Jesus as Savior, I raised both my hands to make sure the speaker saw me, so that I too could ask Jesus to come into my heart. As I said the sinner's prayer, I cried uncontrollably and felt this wave flow from my head to my toes. The void/emptiness was now gone, my heart felt full and I felt soooo light like floating on air. I didn't know what happened to me except that I felt so wonderful.

The guest speaker gave me a mini book, (*New Birth*), which explained what it meant to be born again. I read it in one sitting at home and told my husband about it. One of his client's had been telling him about salvation also.

In December, Albert's client took us both to a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship dinner, where Albert got saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit. This was the beginning of a lifelong journey for us walking with the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. It was the best decision we ever made and we were so blessed that we received Jesus Christ together one month apart.

Thank you, Jesus, for Your mercy and grace! I have never looked back since then, as nothing in my past was worth keeping. Now I look forward to God's mercy, grace, joy, and love all the days of my life. Jesus set us free!



**Albert & Eulalia Tamez
Brownsville, TX**

*“...and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver
you, and you will honor me.” Psalm 50:15*

IT HAPPENED ON THE DAY I DIDN'T QUIT

"So, let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit." Galatians 6:9 MSG



Ron Corzine
Ft. Worth, TX

My wife and I were attending Bible College. On this particular Friday we had a special chapel service. After chapel service, I walked past the administration office and headed downtown to my little part-time job at an Electrical Equipment Company where I was a salesman. I remember it was a hot, muggy Friday afternoon. When a nice but persistent lady entered the store and wanted to buy a fixture and have it installed that same afternoon. She said she was having out-of-town guests for the weekend. I told her all our electricians were busy and it would be Monday

before they could install it unless she was willing for me to stop by on my way home and do it. She agreed.

So, after work that day I placed the fixture in my car and headed to South Campbell Street. We had agreed that since I wasn't a licensed electrician I would do the job for \$10.00. I quickly went to work installing the fixture saying very little about me or my family, except that we were students at a Bible college. When I finished and was cleaning up, she handed me \$20.00. I reminded her our agreement was for \$10.00. She smiled and said she and her husband knew what it was like for a young couple to be working their way through college. I said thank you and proceeded to put my tools in the car when out of the clear blue I heard her from the porch say, "Please wait just a few minutes". I waited for about ten minutes and she came out the front door with a large box of groceries. She smiled as she handed it to me and said, "God bless you, your family, and your future." I said thank you, then got in my car and drove away. **BUT THERE IS MORE TO THIS STORY...**

I was so happy I was crying and thanking God all the way home. You see what she didn't know was that I was going to quit college that day because we had no money to buy food. So many things like that have happened throughout my life. I don't remember the address, nor do I know her name, but God used her that day to encourage and remind me that He is always watching out for his children. So, if you are thinking about quitting today, DON'T!! God only knows your future.

Don't Quit

I'M SO BLESSED!

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

For years I would ask my recently widowed friends to tell me if God's grace really was sufficient. Was it true? I NEEDED to know.

Well, fast forward...I recently became widowed and I can attest that HIS GRACE TRULY IS SUFFICIENT. The storms surround me and family situations are like a hurricane all around me, but I am at peace. God doesn't waste His grace. He gave it to me when I needed it. He keeps giving it, too! He doesn't run out of it. I sit in my prayer chair and count my blessings. He wraps me up in His mercy and His grace.



Sandy Green
Harlingen, TX

God's Grace has been manifested so many times throughout my life. If I had to pick one example where His Grace was exhibited, maybe it would be when I received news that my daughter was put in hospice care; the Peace that passes all understanding became my friend. I know it is only by God's grace that I can be at peace. Or when I received news that my grandchildren were getting divorced. Or when my own husband of 63 years went to meet his Jesus. All of these and more. Yes, His grace is sufficient! **I'M SO BLESSED!**

FOR I KNOW

"FOR I KNOW the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah. 29:11

This scripture is a favorite of many and is often quoted. One day when reading Jeremiah 29:11 the first three words -- **FOR I KNOW** -- almost leaped off the page of my Bible, thus bringing a rhema word of comfort during a devastating circumstance and I (Myrna Brogdon) also knew that God was preparing me for an upcoming unpleasant event. **GOD KNOWS**. He really knows exactly what is happening as well as what has happened and what will happen. And He knows where you are. "**FOR I KNOW...**" declares the LORD!

"For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares **the LORD**,
"plans to prosper you
and *not* to harm you,
plans to give you
hope and a future."

~Jeremiah 29:11~

LORD, SEND OUT WORKERS!

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” Matthew 9:36-38



Gayle & Myrna Brogdon
Los Fresnos, TX

We traveled to Australia and New Zealand for our 2024 Christmas and stopped in Hawaii on the way to and from there. This was truly a gift from the Lord! He opened this door not only to fulfill our dream and be with our family, but to also view this as a wonderful opportunity to share GOD STORIES booklets. Therefore, we packed God Stories booklets with a “Rising Out of

Addiction” rack card inserted inside each booklet. During our 10-day cruise, we met people from all walks of life. As we distributed the booklets and rack cards, we felt like we were sowing seeds of faith, hope, and love.

A crew ship worker from India, gladly received the Book 9: GOD STORIES And More...Divinely Directed booklet. As he looked through the booklet, I shared that all the stories are true, encouraging and inspiring and written by ordinary people about an extraordinary God and what He did in, for, and through their lives. As our conversation continued, he shared that he had worked on this particular cruise ship for 7 years, 7 months a year, 7 days a week, 14 hours a day and encountered almost 1 million people in those 7 years.



Immediately I thought, “What an enormous mission field that cruises are with people from all over the world!” Then I asked him, “In all those 7 years, how many people shared with you about Jesus Christ as we have today?”

He thought for a few minutes and replied, “Four, including you two. And I still stay in touch with one man and we have remained friends.”

I was shocked! My mouth dropped open. WHAT???

Only four Christians out of one million people? No wonder Matthew 9:36-38 says, “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

Another cruise ship worker from Indonesia hugged the booklet tightly to his chest and with closed eyes, fervently said, “Thank you. Thank you so very much! These will be my bedtime stories!”

Tears welled up in our eyes as we observed his genuine, heartfelt gratitude. We knew that the Holy Spirit would work in the hearts of those who received them, and that was all that mattered. We didn't need to see the fruits of our labor; we just needed to be obedient to God's calling.

After returning home, we settled back into our daily routine. We are reminded that every day is a mission trip, an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with those around us. So, we'll keep packing our booklets and rack cards, and more importantly, our hearts with a purpose, ready to embark on the next adventure that God has in store for us.



I'M GRATEFUL

*"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

I woke up in the hospital after just having a heart attack and now my blood pressure dropped so much, I awoke with a facial droop and my right arm was so weak I could not use it. The doctor asked me to smile and when I tried to talk my words were slurred. We recognized that it was not a stroke because my right leg was not affected. When alone, I asked God "Why me?" and "What do I do now?" As a teacher, my career depended on me speaking.

I then heard the Father say, "I've been crucified with Christ, it's not I who lives but Christ who lives in me". My life is not my own, but I belong to Christ. I also heard "be thankful in all circumstances". I silently prayed and repented for my attitude and decided to be grateful. These words went to my deepest core, and I realized I had something to do. I started out thanking God for saving my life and giving me a second chance. I thanked Him that I was not totally paralyzed. I went on to thank Him for my wife and family and all the wonderful people He had placed in my life.

On that day in my hospital bed, things started to change but it started on the inside first. I had many more obstacles, but I had learned a lesson in gratitude. As things got better, I continued to thank God for each day and was on a mission to pray for others, even the nurses and doctors who served me. I also prayed for other patients I encountered each day. Wherever you are, Christ has good works for you to do and it starts by being grateful and looking at those people around you. So, get your eyes off yourself, be thankful, and look at the harvest fields around you.



Cecil Cunningham
Tulsa, Oklahoma

MAKE IT RIGHT

"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Matt. 5:23-24



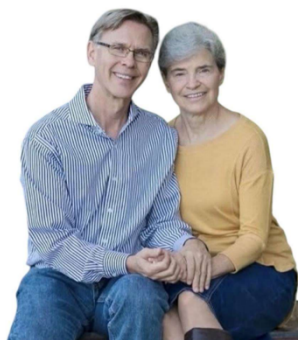
Leigh Aten
Brownsville, TX

In January, we usually start the year with a fast to focus on Jesus. I decided to watch a series about Jesus called The Chosen. It is an excellent series and really brings the gospels to life. One episode in particular shows Jesus giving the sermon on the mount. His disciples were listening intently along with the multitude. In this episode it showed one disciple going to another disciple and apologizing for some harsh words he spoke. It really touched my heart as the other disciple accepted his apology and gave forgiveness. In another powerful scene, a different disciple goes to his family and apologizes and they also accepted it. They too gave forgiveness. I was in tears as it moved my heart!

The previous years there had been many angry words spoken in my family. I was guilty and knew the Holy Spirit was convicting me. I needed to humble myself and apologize. My pride did not want to do it because I felt justified in my own pain and hurts from these same family members. However, I knew I needed to be obedient and do it. So, one day, I did. I apologized for every hurtful, hateful word I had spoken and any offense I had caused. I asked each person if they would forgive me. By the end of the day, each person had accepted my apology and forgiven me. One also asked my forgiveness. I felt so clean!!!! This was the work of the Holy Spirit!

DID YOU THINK TO PRAY?

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7



Jerry & Kathy Rauch
Bluffton, Indiana

We were so excited to be able to travel to Paris! But our excitement was dampened when our flight from Fort Wayne to Chicago was cancelled with no other departure options available the rest of the day. Realizing our need to make connection with our travel group in Paris the following day, we asked the lady at the counter about outbound flights from Indianapolis to Paris. There happened to be one routed through Dulles International Airport in Washington D.C., so we opted for that flight, though we barely had enough time to make the drive to Indianapolis. However, since we had

to change airlines in order to get a flight out of Indianapolis, there was no flight number or gate information for our flight from Dulles airport to Paris. We were simply told to check the overhead monitor at Dulles. When we arrived in Washington D.C., and got to the correct terminal, everything was dark, even the electronic flight monitors. Time was ticking and we knew our flight would be leaving soon. Panic set in when we could not find a single soul in the darkened corridors to provide information about our flight number or which gate we were to be at. We feared that we would miss our flight and not be able to connect with our group once in Paris. At this point, Kathy said, "Let's just PRAY that God will provide someone to show us the way!" What a novel idea! Why hadn't we thought to do that earlier?! As soon as we finished praying, out of the shadows appeared a man who told us exactly where we needed to go to find our gate. Praising the Lord for His provision, we ran to our gate with only moments to spare, boarded our plane exhausted and amazed at how faithful God is in our time of need when we think to pray.

THE LORD HEARD MY CRY

"O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit." Psalm 30:2-3

In 2020 in a matter of 6 months my mother, sister and wife all passed away. These losses put me into a deep depression which I tried to heal by using drugs, alcohol, and many other vices. Ultimately, I was seeking compassion about my situation from anyone who would notice but no one did. Even when I tried reaching out to others, no one seemed to care or want to help me through my time of pain. This deep depression without support led me to decide to end my life. I no longer wanted to live! I could not take any more pain! I went to a local retail store that I visited regularly with the intention of giving the manager my beloved dog. He was all that I had. As I was exiting my vehicle, something drew my attention to another building across the street. I drove over and turned into the parking lot when a man waved at me and nodded to come in. The building was a church. When I entered, I found compassion.



**Gary Whitney
Ossian, Indiana**

At the next three services, I kneeled at the altar, not sure what to expect. On the third time, I begged the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me of my sins and believed in my heart that He rose from the dead. At that very moment, a preacher touched me on the shoulder and started praying for me. I was freed from the bondage of alcohol and drugs. I found a peace that passes understanding and a reason to press on as I serve my Lord and Savior Jesus!

WHAT? GIVE AWAY MY ROLEX WATCH?

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." II Corinthians 9:6



Bobby Crow
Cd. Victoria, Tamps, Mexico

As a Missionary on the foreign field in Mexico, my life has been a life of giving. Giving the gospel message of Jesus out to the people of Mexico but also living a life of faith, through giving and trusting God to provide.

One Christmas, my wife Lynn and I were visiting her family in Brownsville, Texas and we had gone out for a meal with her brother and sister-in-law. As we were talking around the table about the ministry and all that God was doing, Bobby (Lynn's brother, who also is in the ministry) shared that they were going through a hard month. Right then the Lord spoke to me and said, "Give him your Rolex watch and tell him to sell it and pay for all their urgent needs." Now let me tell you that this Rolex watch was given to me as a gift and I wasn't wearing it then, but had it locked up in a cabinet. So, because Lynn and I also had ministry needs during this Christmas season, I asked the Lord. "Can I sell it and give him an offering and then we both can pay for our needs." But the Lord repeated what He said in the beginning. So, we all returned to Lynn's Mom's house, and I gave Bobby the watch and he quickly sold it, and their urgent needs were taken care of through this miracle for them.

So, the next morning Lynn and our boys returned to Mexico still needing a miracle for us. We had just unpacked the car and there was a knock at the door. I opened the door and a woman said, "Are you Bobby Crow?" Then she said, "my husband and I want to give you this" and she handed me a brown paper sack. I stood there having no idea who this woman was, and it all happened so fast that I watched as she and her husband drove away, and I was thinking; "I have no idea who that was!" I came in the house and Lynn asked me who was the woman and what did she want. I told her what happened and that I had no idea who she was. So, I'm still holding the brown paper bag and we looked in and there was CASH! IN FACT, \$6500. ONE OF OUR GREAT MIRACLES ON THE MISSION FIELD! I SOWED BOUNTIFULLY AND IN ONE DAY GOT A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST! GOD IS FAITHFUL!

P.S. TO THIS DAY WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO THE GIVERS WERE! DON'T YOU KNOW THEY GOT A HARVEST!!!!

"He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." II Corinthians 9:6

GOD HEARS AND ANSWERS PRAYER

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:15

Back in 1992 my colon shut down, causing me excruciating pain. In the hospital they could not find what was causing this and let me suffer it out for a week before doing exploratory surgery to find the problem. They did not do MRI and Ultra Sound testing like they do today.

During surgery they found that my bowel had twisted like a garden hose, causing blockage and pain. Surgery was done to remove 18 inches of the twisted colon. All seemed to be going well and I was finally sent home.

After a week I experienced the same pain again and back to the hospital I went. This time they found that adhesions from the recent surgery had quickly grown and this time was strangling my colon. Once again surgery was done to remove the adhesions.

During the 30 total days of being in the hospital, there was a time when I could no longer feel God's presence with me. I was in deep despair and my praying family gathered around me fearing that I may not make it. I could not pray or read the Bible and felt like God had left me and I was all alone.

Then our minister, Doyle Frauhiger, and his dear wife, Jane, came to visit me. Sitting beside me he took my hands and prayed for me, with my husband at my side. After that the Spirit of God once again came over me and I could pray and feel the presence of God. It was then that I began to heal and was finally able to come home. That was 33 years ago and still to this day, I have not had any more problems with my colon. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts of healing through the power of prayer.

James 5 says, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much and the prayer of Faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up." That is what Jesus did for me through my adversity.



**Virginia Rauch
Bluffton, IN**



**Jane and Doyle Frauhiger
Bluffton, IN**

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:15

COAT OF MANY COLORS

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." Isaiah 49:15-16



Suzanne Soto
La Feria, TX

It had been a tough year. The economy was taking a nose dive. Alex's construction and foundation repair business was not doing well. Contracts had been slim and foundation repair jobs cancelled out at the last minute. I had a job working for the school district, so my paycheck was steady, but still not enough to support what used to be two incomes. And with Christmas coming up I felt the added pressure of having to buy gifts, if we could even afford that, for the family.

BUT GOD gave me the idea to make banana and apple-zucchini breads and sell them to the teachers at school. I would bake the minute I got home from school and work till 9 pm preparing the breads. God was so gracious to provide orders! With the money I made, we got through November and December paying all our bills.

It was time for Christmas at Alex's family house. They had no idea the extent of the financial struggles we were having that year. I remember receiving a gift from Alex's sister, Alicia. She gave me a lightweight jacket made of red, blue and black tiny plaids. Immediately I thought of Joseph in the Bible with his coat of many colors. God's love and favor rested on Joseph and his garment was given to him by his father because he loved Joseph very much. This jacket was my coat of many colors, a reminder of God's love for me. A reminder that God doesn't forget about me, no matter what I go through, He always sees.

PRAY & SEE DEEPER

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation." Matthew 26:41

I've Opened Your

**EYES TO SEE
deeper**

"Lord, I don't want to see the negatives in people, but only the good. Help me."

Gently He said, "Myrna, I've opened your eyes to see specific things so you will turn them into prayers without judging, criticizing or gossiping. Pray and you will see deeper as I lead you to pray. Watch and pray!"

WHAT? GIVE IT ALL?

In 1971, when I was 24 years old, single and in college, and I had just received the glorious experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was attending “Revival Services” in Garland, Texas. One night during those powerful meetings, the Evangelist was taking up the offering for the expenses and he did something that I had never seen in the denomination that I was affiliated with.



Lynn Crow
CD. Victoria,
Tamps, Mexico

He asked everyone to pray to ask the Lord what He wanted them to give in the offering. Then he said as they received the amount, they were to shout out the amount so that everyone could rejoice in the giving.

Since I was new in the Spirit filled life, I wanted to do what God asked of me, so I prayed. But the answer was NOT WHAT I EXPECTED! He spoke to me and said give \$25.00. This had to be the enemy trying to rob me of my money because that's all I had in my bank account until payday a week away. So, I rebuked the devil and prayed again. Again, I received the amount of \$25.00. So, without any hesitation I shouted out \$25.00.

Can anyone explain what happens in our hearts when we know we have been obedient to God? Peace that passes understanding engulfed me and a joy came like never before. My grandfather was in the hospital in Brownsville, Texas very sick. On my way home from the service, God spoke to me and said, Grandpa just came home. My heart was sad but I rejoiced in receiving the news from my heavenly Father. The next morning Mom calls at work to say Grandpa went to be with the Lord. She asked if I could come home for the funeral? But I had NO MONEY. That morning when I returned to my desk from my break there was an envelope covered with names. As I looked at it, I saw names from my bosses, co-workers and others. Then in the middle was the words MONEY FOR LYNN TO GO TO HER GRANDPA'S FUNERAL. I found out the Lord spoke to a Spirit filled girl in our office and told her I had no money to go to the funeral and for her to ask for donations. It was enough money received to fly roundtrip and for extra expenses. Plus, the company paid me my salary for those days at the funeral. I asked the Lord why did He do that for me and this is what He said; “Lynn, yesterday when I told you to give it all, you did. If you will be obedient to MY VOICE and my instructions, I will always speak to others to be obedient to help meet your needs!”

That was 52 years ago when I learned the principle of GIVING; tithes, offerings and sacrificial gifts! And I have stood on that truth for all these years without FAIL! BEING OBEDIENT AND LIVING TO GIVE!

OUR GOD STORY

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying "whom shall I send and who will go for us?" And I said "here am I; Send me." Isaiah 6:8



Jimmy and Janie Perez
Brownsville, TX

Isaiah 6:8 was my confession to God a few years after I surrendered my life to Christ. Many times, Jimmy and I are called to pray for the sick. One day we were asked to pray for a dying man who was on life support. His organs had completely shut down and his body looked like he had been inflated. According to the family his doctors said there was nothing they could do for him. The family requested that we pray before he was disconnected. Jimmy and I prayed and at the end of our prayer I sensed such a compassion which drew me to tears. His family said the ventilator would be removed the following

day. To the doctor's and everyone's amazement a whole week went by but the man continued to live. Instead of dying his organs began to come alive. He was sent to a rehab where he recovered fully. Needless to say, doctors and nurses were in total disbelief. To this day this man still lives. What a mighty God we serve! Psalm 118:17 says, *"I shall not die but live to proclaim the works of the Lord."*

A DIVINE CONFIRMATION

"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened attentively and heard it." Malachi 3:16



Dr. Jack & Kristen Brogdon
Harlingen, TX

Recently we experienced a divine confirmation in our lives which was absolutely incredible. We had some matters we had been discussing for a while. One Sunday at church, the message/scriptures that morning were exactly what we needed to hear. It was so evident that the Lord was speaking to us about the things we had discussed. We looked at one another nodded and acknowledged it, and were in awe that God was actually speaking to us.

This was truly awe-inspiring and deepening to our faith and understanding of God's presence in our everyday conversations. This experience affirmed that we are indeed being listened to and supported by our loving Heavenly Father. We thank the Lord!

SHARE GOD'S LOVE OVER A \$5 MEAL

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." Matthew 25:35

I live close to the bridge bordering USA/Mexico and I often go across to Mexico to shop. I always take something to share like Christian tracts, bibles, toys, clothes, and school supplies.

Recently my neighbor and I made a quick trip to Mexico to buy pet medicine and did not pack anything to give out. It was around four in the afternoon and we were on our way back when a young teenage boy approached us and asked for money to buy food. I ignored his plea and walked on. He followed us and again he repeated his request. I suddenly stopped and told him I would buy him a meal at the Taco Stand across the street. He agreed. [sometimes they just want the money.] I ordered three tacos and a soft drink.



Maria Ellwood
Santa Maria, TX

While his order was being prepared, I asked if he attended church and he said, "sometimes". I told him about God's love for him and salvation through Jesus Christ.

His meal was served. I prayed for him, for the food and the person who prepared it. He thanked me and said, "God bless you." As I walked away this bible verse came to mind:

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...Matthew 25:35. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to share God's love over a \$5.00 meal.

ME, PRAY?

Me, PRAY? "I'm too busy..." Selah! Let's pause and really think about that comment which translates to really mean . . . Prayer seems unproductive and human busyness can get more accomplished.

Really? Jesus, who was very busy and doing the Father's will, got away from it all to be in the Father's presence (*Mark 1:35-36*). If someone says, "I'm too busy to pray", may our "walk the talk" response be, "I'm too busy not to".

TO PONDER:

How often do I let busyness -- even the best kind of busyness -- justify prayerlessness?

GOD SENT SOMEONE TO HELP

William: "Love your wife as Christ loved the church." Ephesians 5:25



William & Clifford Wrench
South Padre Island, TX

WILLIAM'S STORY: My wife Clifford and I were stationed at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1966. We married January 1965, and were having problems adjusting to marriage. I had been radically saved April 1965, was on fire for the Lord, and attending a Bible college in Honolulu. I felt I was doing a pretty good job as a Christian husband. My wife didn't agree with my assessment, and felt something was missing in the marriage. We were immature Christians needing help.

The Lord spoke to me and said He was going to send someone to help spiritually. One day while sitting outside the church's Bible school, an elderly man carrying a briefcase approached me and started talking. He was a preacher from California that was in Honolulu to attend a church convocation. He stated his name M. L. Williams, and asked if he could stay at our home on the next visit. We spent time together after our first meeting, and I introduced him to my wife Clifford. He became my mentor and spiritual father, and stayed with us when coming to Hawaii to preach.

I looked forward to each visit, because of Pastor Williams' great Bible teachings, and life lessons. He taught by preaching and living it. He used to say "just love your wife." Now after 58 years of marriage, I understand clearly what it means in Ephesians 5:25 to love your wife as Christ loved the church.

Clifford: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

CLIFFORD'S STORY: I was a Christian attending church in Hawaii, but was having problems with infertility, and other issues. I needed an older Christian woman to talk with. There was an older woman in the church from Baytown, Texas visiting a friend in Hawaii. There was something about her that I couldn't explain drawing me to her. I asked if she would consider coming to stay with me and my husband after the visit with the friend ended. She said she would pray about it, and give an answer later. She was made aware that my husband and I were in agreement about asking her to come. Mary Matthews did come to live with us for several months. I had resigned from the Army, and we had time to spend with each other. She was over seventy, and I was twenty-five years

old at the time. God knew that I needed to learn the importance of prayer, and how to pray. Mary prayed more than anyone I knew. She taught me how to pray, which was done several times throughout the day on our knees. There were times when I was ready to get up, but she wanted to continue. I learned so much about waiting on God, being obedient to Him, spiritual warfare, and how to treat my husband. She was my mentor and spiritual mother. Even though I asked her to come stay with us, it was God who sent her.

TRUST GOD!

"Cast all your cares on him for he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Trust...A simple yet profound word.

Trust has not always come easy for me. But with prayer, teachings and practice, I have become better in trusting God in good and not so good times. My late brother Alex would say, "Little sister, are you going to trust God or are you going to carry it around like an appendage?" I can still hear his words. Burdens are not ours to carry.



**Sara Gonzales
Mercedes, TX**

I'm also reminded of the scripture that talks about casting your cares on Him. The Lord wants us to give (cast) our burdens whether big or small to Him. He carries our burdens. At times when feeling overwhelmed, I write all my cares down on paper, crumble the paper up and I cast it towards heaven and say, "I give these to You. They are no longer mine to solve. I trust YOU Jesus. Amen" This simple activity gives us a glimpse of the Lord taking our cares into His mighty hands and bringing us peace, rest, joy and love.

I recently had major back surgery. Moments before surgery, I must admit I was nervous and doubt almost set in. Thoughts trickling in... maybe I should cancel...is this really what God wants for me? I began to pray. I took my cares (worry, fear, doubt) in my hands and cast them up towards heaven and ask the Lord for His peace. In the quiet, I heard the Lord speak, "Sara, I go before you. This is a good thing for your healing. I'm guiding your surgeon's hands. Trust me." Immediately, my feelings of nervousness, fear and doubt went away. I was faithful to look to Him and He took my cares away.

Surgery was successful and recovery has been good. I am so grateful to the Lord for healing me. Since surgery, the Lord has filled my heart with a deeper love for Him, joy, peace, and a love for those around me. He was faithful to do exactly what He said He would because I chose to trust Him, my Lord and Savior. I encourage you to engrave 1 Peter 5:7 in your hearts and trust God with everything in your life.

MY FIRST PRAYER – A NEW BEGINNING

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36



Myrna Brogdon
Los Fresnos, TX

A week after I became born again, I asked Minnie, my teacher’s aide (who had received Christ as Savior the year before), to pray and agree with me for God to deliver Gayle from drinking. He would drink almost every day and many times would come home inebriated, acting silly. Those times he’d open the back door and throw his cap into the kitchen to see if I was going to throw it back out.

Minnie and I prayed. God answered mightily. Gayle completely stopped drinking the next week and didn’t know why. But Minnie and I knew why. Almighty God, the deliverer, knew, too. As a baby

Christian I was ecstatic that God answered my first prayer by setting my husband free. What a powerful **new beginning** for Gayle and me!

“HE MADE A COMMITMENT TO ME TODAY”

“And may your hearts be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands.” 1 Kings 8:61



Gayle Brogdon
Los Fresnos, TX

One morning before Gayle left for work a scripture came to my mind (Myrna) that would apply to something Gayle and I had been discussing. I started to share it with him, but instead, I thought, “I’m not going to try to be God in his life. The Lord can speak to him just like He speaks to me.” Immediately I was flooded with the Lord’s peace. Gayle had received Jesus Christ as a child but had backslidden as an adult and still had not recommitted his life back to Jesus Christ. After Gayle returned home from work that day, we ate dinner and then relaxed. I was resting on the couch and Gayle was pouring himself a cup of coffee when the Lord softly spoke to me, “He made a

commitment to me today.”

Shocked, I asked, “Gayle, did you make a commitment to the Lord today?”

He almost dropped his coffee cup and replied, “Yes.” The Lord was letting Gayle know that He had heard. Committing to Jesus was a **new beginning** for Gayle and me.



COLD, LUKEWARM, OR HOT FOR GOD?

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 'So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Rev. 3:15-16.

To check out my own personal walk with the Lord Jesus Christ and see what the thermometer reads, I created "A Spiritual Check-up" and prayerfully asked the Holy Spirit to reveal where I'm **COLD (C)**, **LUKEWARM (L)**, or **HOT (H)**! *Maybe you'd like to take your spiritual temperature, too?*

1. Am I hungry and passionate to know Jesus Christ more and more (regardless of how long I've been a born-again believer in Jesus Christ)? **(C) (L) (H)**
2. Compared to other things I do fervently, how does my time in God's Word compare? **(C) (L) (H)**
3. Do I fervently seek to talk with and listen to the Lord throughout each day, lingering in His presence? **(C) (L) (H)**
4. Do I seek to renew my mind and align my life to the Word of God by bringing my thoughts and flesh into obedience to the Bible? **(C) (L) (H)**
5. Am I moved with compassion towards others to come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and look for those God open door opportunities to share Him? **(C) (L) (H)**
6. What good thing have I done lately for anyone? **(C) (L) (H)**
7. Do I expect to hear from God? **(C) (L) (H)**
8. Do I live a Christlike life (thoughts, words, actions)? **(C) (L) (H)**
9. How open am I to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? **(C) (L) (H)**
10. Do I worship the Lord at all times and His praise always in my mouth? **(C) (L) (H)**
11. Do I enjoy the Lord? **(C) (L) (H)**



**God
Stories**



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