

Women In Touch



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Worshiping a God Who Answers Prayer

By Jessie Todd

Like any Christian grandma, I have prayed for each of my grandchildren since they were "in utero." I covered them in prayer to be born into this world as normal and healthy. I prayed for all the things that grandmas pray about; childhood illnesses, academics, sports, music, friendships, their salvation and relationship with the Lord.

As they grew older, the prayers included protection from predators and safety as they broadened their horizons, which included short-term, oversea missions.

Earlier this summer, the Lord once again proved His unfailing protection upon my family when my 17-year-old granddaughter, Jessie, traveled to New York City with her high school choir. The choir had some free time between performances and decided to go window shopping. Jessie was following a young man ahead of her, who she thought was in her group, so she kept following him, window shopped, and explored the city. She walked all the way to Chinatown before the young man turned

around and she realized that he was not a boy from her school, but rather a complete stranger.

She was struck with the disparity of her situation. "I am lost and alone in New York City without a cell phone." She looked around for any type of help. Then, she saw a group of policemen on the corner breaking up a drug bust who were unfortunately preoccupied at the moment.

She prayed, "Help me stay calm Lord. I don't want anyone to know I am lost." She then went into the nearest store in the hope that she could borrow someone's cell phone. She approached several ladies, but realized quickly that they didn't speak English. Then, a lady approached her and asked if she was lost. Jessie told her that she was and asked if she could use her cell phone. "The problem for Jessie was that she hadn't memorized the phone number of anyone on the choir trip."

(continued on page 2)

New Editor for Women In Touch Newsletter

By Katherine O'Grady

To be able to use my skills and education to serve the women of Autumn Ridge Church in this capacity is such a tremendous blessing and honor. When my husband and I started going to Autumn Ridge Church this past June, I never could have predicted that the Lord would open this door. I owe a special thanks to Karen Rucker, for her leadership, to Bonnie Kane, who has devoted so much of her time and devotion to sustaining this

newsletter, and for those who took time to meet with me at Panera for my first initiation.

This Fall issue focuses on worship, a core value of our church and the theme of our current small group study. We are all being blessed by the inspirational work of Jackie Stahl and Gretchen Steer. As our Senior Pastor C. John Steer uncovers the transforming power of worship during his fall sermon series, I pray that the Lord

continues to work in your heart to reveal the awesome power that comes through worshiping our creator. What an honor it is to know that God delights in our worship. This issue of the newsletter contains examples of God's incredible work through the lives of the women at Autumn Ridge and testimonies of His amazing power.

"Come, let us worship and bow down" Psalm 95:6

More Than Perfect

By Abbie-Jo Wilcox



“Even though at first glance it may not appear so, you are more than perfect for His work.”
-Abbie-Jo Wilcox

“Who’s gonna want her? She has three broken legs, is facing a possible amputation, not to mention a prognosis of arthritis that will most likely cause a premature death.”

My husband’s medical knowledge was all too pragmatic. “I want her,” I stammered. “She is the perfect dog for us. In fact, she is more than perfect.”

The first time I saw Violet, she was in a small cage with three bandaged legs, a ring around her neck and completely unable to move.

I was most struck by the fact that this dog looked pretty hopeless. However, even in her state, she somehow managed to nuzzle my hand in an attempt for some affection. She even showed some interest in my two young daughters. It wasn’t until a few months later that the yellow lab/collie mix would

come to live in our home. From the moment she came home, Violet was more than the perfect dog for our family.

Scars still visible, she settled into her “work” as if she had always been there.

She was more than perfect for teaching my two year old the concepts of gentleness and kindness. She was more than perfect for teaching my four year old responsibility as well as sacrifice. She was more than perfect for getting me out for some well needed exercise even when I didn’t feel like it. She was more than perfect for enabling my husband to let the pool “go.” (We needed to do hydro-therapy with her in hopes of rehabilitation). But mostly, she was more than perfect as a reminder to me how God works in the small ways.

You may not feel it or think it, but in many ways God has made you more than perfect. Sure, you may have visible scars and even some not so visible, but God can use you! You are more than perfect to:

- Bring a meal to someone in need;
- Listen to a friend who needs to vent;
- Pray for someone;
- Give a hug to someone who is hurting;
- Ask “How are you?” and REALLY want a true answer.

God has put you in the right place at the right time. Even though at first glance it may not appear so, you are more than perfect for His work.



“The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him, he hears their cry and saves them.”

—Psalm 145:18-19

Worshiping a God Who Answers Prayers

By Jessie Todd (continued from page 1)

Jessie decided to call her father back in Wheaton, Illinois, but couldn’t reach him. Finally, she was able to reach her friend’s father.

At this time, the woman’s husband and mother arrived and informed them that their cab was waiting for them outside. Realizing that she couldn’t leave Jessie all by herself in Chinatown, the woman told Jessie that she would have to come with them in the taxi.

Feeling anxious and panicky, Jessie loaded into the taxi with the 3 strangers. Thinking of the best

place to try to find the group, she told the strangers to drop her off at Time Square. The woman’s mother asked Jessie what her plans were after high school. “I’d like to go to Guatemala for a year,” Jessie said.

The older lady asked, “Why Guatemala?”

“I did short-term missions there and loved it, and want to return to help the people,” Jessie responded.

“Jessie, for years my husband and I prayed for the Lord’s leading as church planters and He lead us to the poorest region in

Guatemala, and we started the mission you want to return to,” the eldest lady told her.

At that the phone rang, and it was Jessie’s friend’s father. “Jessie, can you get to Time Square? The group will be waiting for you there.”

“This is incredible. I am currently in a taxi with a Christian family on my way to Time Square.” Jessie told her friend’s father.

Soon Jessie was reunited with her anxious group.

Teaching Your Children About Worship

By Julie Foley

“Are you ready, Mom?” I hear this most Sunday mornings. Our family loves going to church. We love the way Pastor Steer “bounds” up to the pulpit and fixes the pocket flaps on his suit coat while he steps backward and then forward again. Over lunch we discuss the sermon and the Sunday school topic covered in each child’s class.

Corporate worship; do I really understand its magnitude? It implies a body of believers expressing the worthiness or worth-ship of God that is motivated by a reverent, honoring attitude.

Because neither Mark nor I grew up in a church like Autumn Ridge, we pondered how we were to train our children to love corporate worship. We knew it needed to start with us, so we became intentional in our training in several areas.

Music is one of many ways to worship God. In order to participate more fully in the service, we purchase hymn and contemporary worship CDs.

We “keep up” with the songs being played in the service. As the music changes, so does our CD collection.

Giving is another form of corporate worship. From our children’s earliest years, we have trained them to honor God with the “first fruits” of their own labor. If they labor and earn money, they are to give at least 10% of it back to God. We have taught them that it is God who has given us a healthy body and mind to work. As the collection bag passes us, giving is a spiritual act of worship to honor the God who made us.

Service is an additional way to declare the worth-ship of God corporately by helping accomplish a common goal within the church body and learning that a follower of Christ must be a servant first. As our kids have grown older, we have set an expectation that they will serve. We ask them to pray about an area where they can work in the church.

“Are you ready yet, Mom?” One Sunday morning in August, Bill Price was singing a song while my husband and some of our children were reading their *RidgeLines*. I sarcastically jotted a note to Mark and set it in his lap: “You are teaching your children how to worship by reading the bulletin during the music.” Within 30 seconds a retaliatory response was in my lap: “Yes, and you show them how important worship is to you by being late every Sunday morning!”

I know the training of my children needs to start with me. The worth-ship of God with other believers is expressed in my actions and attitudes. And although we are still learning, Mark and I must bring our children to church with us. Alongside Mark and me they can be trained to express the worth-ship of God, too.



“As our kids have grown older, we have set an expectation that they will serve. We ask them to pray about an area where they can work in the church. .”

- Julie Foley

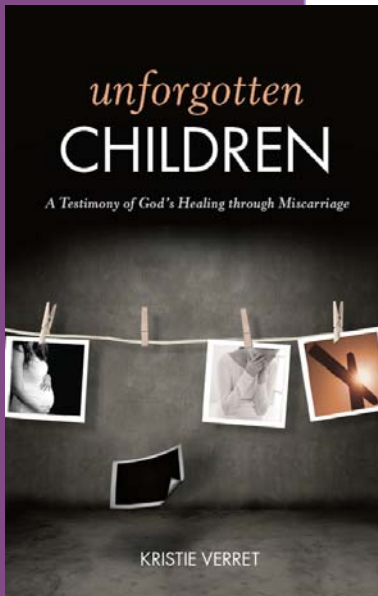
Peace in His Presence

Bustling Mondays, taking the children to school, rising early to get a load of wash in before the chaos of the day begins or waking to desolate silence hoping that the sound of a voice not your own would shatter the feelings of isolation. No matter what our state, our need or our circumstance, God is ready to meet us there, to carry our burdens upon Himself and renew us with the joy and peace of His salvation. Run to the Lord in your need, in your affliction, and in your pain. No matter how big or small, He is ready to meet with you.

“Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.” - 1 Chronicles 16:11

Unforgotten Children: “A Journey of Healing That Ultimately Changed My Life”

Author Kristie Verrett Speaks of an Incredible Journey of God’s Healing



Kristie’s book premieres December 1, 2009. Look for more information in the next issue of WIT newsletter.

Saturday, September 5, was a very special day for us. It was the start of a new family tradition. We drove down to the grocery store, bought a beautiful bouquet of red roses, 3 brightly colored birthday balloons, and a dozen colorful cupcakes. However, this was no ordinary birthday celebration. It was our Samantha Grace’s first birthday anniversary; one year since I delivered our precious baby girl into this world. Sadly, it was much too early for her to stay here with us.

As we celebrated her life, we thought about the year that has passed since then, and the changes that have come. I thought about my daughter, who at 5 years old

was forced to deal with the death of an eagerly-awaited sibling, and how since that time we have seen her mature and develop a sense of compassion that can only be found in times of hardship and grace. I thought about my relationship with my husband, and how strained it was during those first weeks after the funeral, but mostly, I remembered how God touched our hearts with a renewed strength and understanding for one another. After looking back at how broken I was after our second miscarriage, I remembered how God led me from that place into a journey of healing that ultimately changed my life and perspective.

In the few months after we lost Samantha Grace, I began writing a memoir describing our journey of

healing through grief and loss. This memoir, **Unforgotten Children**, is being released on December 1, 2009, by Tate Publishing.

In this book, I have documented everything from the first joyful moments of discovering we were pregnant, through the devastating news of loss, and the unique ways God used to lead us to healing.

September 5 will always be a day of celebration for us, as we not only celebrate the life and memory of our two children born to Heaven, but also the wonderful blessings God has brought into our lives since then, including the recent birth of our fourth child!



Looking Up ↑

By Katherine O’Grady

Right now, I stand at a crossroad in life. New to the area, due to my husband’s recent residency placement at the Mayo Clinic and jobless, I struggle to find purpose and peace in my daily life. Without the early morning alarm clock or kids running through the house to care for and love, I have to find meaning in a slow pace lifestyle, an antithesis to the “American” way of life.

Dethroned from a busy schedule, I find a relationship with the Lord that is weakened and bruised from the “extras” of life. I need to turn my life into one that reflects the

glory of God, a life that yields to His will, and worships Him in full. How do I begin? I begin by placing my worth in Him.

Worship involves giving worth to something. If I see my worth through the eyes of the Lord, I see a child, created by grace, humbled by His loved, and preserved by His mercy. It’s in the beauty of the Lord and His majesty that I gain my worth. I was created to love Him first.

By placing my worth first in Christ, I can begin on the path to restoration and live a life of worship; a life that praises God in Spirit and in

truth. When I worship God, I elevate my thinking by fixing my eyes on God. I look up and focus on Him instead of looking around and comparing my life to others.

In my new stage of life, I am glad that I have had this opportunity to slow down and truly examine the deteriorating condition of my heart and return the worth of my life back to Him. It is a path of obedience that I must follow, but I await the victory that comes through worshipping Him with my whole heart, mind, and soul.

“When I worship God, I elevate my thinking by fixing my eyes on God. I look up and focus on Him instead of looking around and comparing my life to others.”
-Katherine O’Grady

WIT Q & A

Orchestrated By Brenda Morrison

What does worship mean to you and how do you worship God in your day-to-day life?

To me, worship is not so much an act as an attitude. Romans 12:1 says that offering our entire being as a living (ongoing) sacrifice is our spiritual act of worship. In my day-to-day life, I try to maintain a deliberate awareness of God's presence and conduct myself in a way that pleases Him.

On the days that I work, I often use the 20-30 minutes of drive time to listen to a teaching CD, pray, or simply spend some quiet time with the Lord. Most of all, I try to walk in love and with a spirit of peace. I also recognize the need to take daily spiritual nourishment from the Word. After all, I can't give to someone else what I don't have in me.

One of my favorite speakers told how she was going for a drive with her husband. Knowing she had studied her Bible that morning, he asked why she was taking it along. Her response was, "I might need a snack." I love that. I currently am reading from two daily devotional booklets at breakfast and the *Grace for the Moment Daily Bible*, with devotionals by Max Lucado, in the evening. —Bonnie Kane

Worship is the expression of our delight in God; it's taking pleasure in Him above all other things. Our family does this *corporately* every Lord's Day, when we gather at our church's worship service. There we worship by giving our tithes and offerings, taking the Lord's Supper, hearing the Word, and singing.

Small children can be trained to participate in and benefit from the worship service; we've had ours join us from the time they were 3 or 4 years old. Since I'm involved in music, I usually know what songs we're going to sing, and our family sings through them on Saturday night to familiarize the children with the words and tunes. We pray for the pastor who will be preaching, and we try hard to get everyone to bed on time. We make sure everyone has a notebook to take sermon notes (Before they could write they would draw pictures pertaining to something they heard in the sermon) and at least a tenth of any money earned that week to give.

Besides corporate worship, we also have daily times of *family* worship. We're currently reading through the Bible together and memorizing a passage. Our family worship time can also involve the children playing their instruments, singing around the piano, or listening to sermons online. But, ultimately these acts of corporate and family worship are meaningless if we are not worshiping *individually, in our hearts, all day, every day*. In other words, we can "go through the motions" OR we can do any task in such a way that it shows that we delight in God above all others. So making breakfast, pulling weeds, or studying for a test can and should all be acts of worship (I Corinthians 10:31).

As a mother, I long for my children's hearts to be engaged in worship, whether corporate, family, or personal worship. But I can't control their hearts. I can and must train them in good habits that "grease the skids" for that to happen, but ultimately I depend on the Holy Spirit to work in them and in me, causing us to see ourselves as humble beggars enraptured with all that Christ is for us. The natural response of that vision is worship. —Michelle Harris

If you would have asked me years ago what worship meant to me, I would have said singing and praising the Lord. Even though that is one form of worship, I have discovered worship has many forms. Every day I worship the Lord in different ways. It can be: singing praises to the Lord, gathering with other believers to pray, spending time alone in the Word, deep discussions about Christ with others, or serving with other believers in the community. What a gift it is to be able to worship our Lord and Savior in so many ways. —Submitted Anonymously

“Worship is the expression of our delight in God.”
—Michelle Harris



DIVE into Worship

Worship Is...

Deep

Intentional

Vertical

Expressive

Locker Room For Life: Ministry Opportunities

- Assist children in the learning center as they complete their homework
- Help children with Bible story time, crafts, reading, and games
- Mentor/support children who are a part of the Locker Room For Life
- Coordinate the educational activities at the learning center
- Coordinate the spiritual activities at the learning center
- Arrange a small group to volunteer one Sunday afternoon per month

Locker Room for Life: Transforming Children's Lives Through the Power of Christ

"You know God changes lives, but to be able to see it on a daily basis" is something that Melinda Fisher, office manager for Rochester Network for Re-Entry, says "is amazing."

Locker Room for Life, supported by Rochester Network for Re-Entry, provides at-risk children opportunities for better beginnings and a relationship with Christ through an after school program that meets three times a week. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, children from ages 5 to 13 engage in activities, a bible lesson, and a snack. Thanks to the Christian men and women who volunteer their time, children are able to see that someone cares enough to teach them, spend time with them, and guide them to

make the right decisions.

The ministry also includes a mentoring program that allows one-on-one interaction between children impacted by crime and Christian volunteers. While women mentors are needed, the biggest need is for males.

Families are also encouraged to volunteer as mentors. They can play a tremendous role by exposing the children to a household built on Christ; a household that disciplines in love, supports one another, and spends quality time together.

For those who cannot volunteer, we encourage you to pray for the ministry. Pray for the staff and the children. Pray that the



children develop personal relationships with Christ and deepen their understanding of who God is.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about Locker Room for Life, please contact Melinda Fisher at (507) 529-5799 or lockerroom@rnfr.org. More information is also available on Rochester Network for Re-entry's website at www.rnfr.org.



Calling All Moms: Hearts at Home Conference Coming to Rochester, Nov. 6-7

Now is your chance to take advantage of all the abundant, valuable resources available in one place during an unforgettable weekend.

Hearts at Home offers an amazing opportunity for moms of all ages and stages to step back, learn, and gain a new perspective on motherhood.

The 2009 Hearts at Home conference will take place November 6 and 7 at the Mayo Civic Center.

Learn from Dr. Kevin Leman, internationally-known psychologist, media personality, and bestselling author of *The Birth Order*

Book, along with twenty-five other books on marriage and family, as he uses his wit and common sense psychology to teach and entertain.

Gain knowledge as Jill Savage, author, founder of Hearts at Home, and mother of five, shares her wisdom and insights on parenting and marriage. Take a moment for yourself, sit back, and relax while listening to Sally Baucke, professional comedian and speaker, and musical guests Go Fish.

Address your own parenting concerns by choosing from more than 30 workshops that address the

joys and challenges of parenting from infancy to adulthood.

Registration deadline is October 14, 2009, with a limited amount of discounted registrations available. Regular price is \$80, however the radio station KNLW, New Life 98.9FM, has some tickets available at \$75 plus a free KNLW T-shirt with each paid registration. Call (507) 358-3598 or send an email to feedback@knlw.org to purchase your registration today!

More information on the conference is available at www.hearts-at-home.org.



Hearts at Home is a Christ-centered organization that encourages, educates, and equips women in the profession of motherhood through various resources and events.

Women's Ministries Fall Directory

Celebrate Recovery is for women and men who want freedom from their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. This 12-step, Christ-centered recover program includes worship, separate women's and men's small groups, and fellowship promoting spiritual growth. Child Care provided. No registration necessary. Fridays from 7:00-10:00pm in the Upper Room at Autumn Ridge. Contact: Gary Seaquist, (507) 288-8880 or Bobbi Seaquist, (507) 287-9101

Club 31 is a Christian women's book club designed to unite women of ALL ages through the faith and love of Christ. The club offers a Biblical alternative to secular book clubs by suggesting reading materials that will stretch your faith and encourage all to become well-rounded, modern day Proverbs 31 women. Club 31 meets the second Saturday of every month from 9:30 to 10:30am in the Manika Room at Autumn Ridge. Contact: Andi Koens at koens.andrea@mayo.edu

Devoted Hearts Conference will be held at Autumn Ridge April 23-24. This year we welcome as our speaker Jan Silvious. Jan has been reaching out to women for over 20 years, helping them to think biblically, reason clearly, and live fully, and embrace an intelligent attitude on life. Friday evening will feature a special concert by five-time GMA music award-winning group Selah. Contact: Karen Rucker, (507) 281-5330 or women@autumnridge.org. Web: www.devotedheartsrochester.com

Healing Hearts Ministry is devoted to helping women who are hurting because of the affliction of the past. There are two studies available, one for those suffering from the pain of past emotional hurts or sexual abuse, and the other for those suffering from the shame brought on from having an abortion. Bible study cost is \$20. Counselors will take you through the Word of God to help you discover healing, love and forgiveness. Help is offered

through one-one-one counseling and support group settings. Contact: Julie Bashore, (507) 261-9650 or julieab@healinghearts.org Web: www.healinghearts.org

HOPE Ministry is a ministry for mothers who are grieving the loss of their unborn baby. We strive to be the tangible love of Christ. Hope offers women emotional and physical support in the midst of grief. The families are also lifted up in prayer by the Autumn Ridge Church family. Contact: Allison Loftus, (507) 202-5209 or visit www.hope-arc.org

In Touch is a grief support ministry that gives widows and widowers an opportunity to get together for ongoing support and fellowship. In Touch meets twice monthly for a variety of activities. Contact: Sandy Stensland, (507) 252-9786 or sandys-tens@gmail.com

Moms In Touch gives moms the opportunity to gather once per week with a leader for an hour of structured, confidential prayer for their children and the needs of the school, teachers, and staff.

Middle School: Mondays 9:30am at Kathy Larson's home. Contact: Kathy Larson, (507) 536-7669 or klars2@q.com.

Mayo High School: Mondays 1:00pm in the Hyde Room at Autumn Ridge. Contact: April Borrillo, (507) 288-8132 or Maria Olsen, (507) 288-7877.

College: Wednesdays 1:00pm in the Hyde Room at Autumn Ridge. Contact: HeeJune Shin, (507) 281-9442 or heejune.shin@gmail.com.

**For other groups contact: Teresa Carlson MIT Area Coordinator, (507) 536-0584 or dtealcarlson@wmconnect.com or Lela Lofgren. (507) 272-4304 lelalofgren@yahoo.com

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-schoolers): During the session, women receive a hot breakfast, enjoy great fellowship with other MOPS, and hear sound teaching. While the

mothers attend their pre-school aged children, or younger, attend MOPPETS where they enjoy a craft, music time, and a Bible story. MOPS meet the first and third Thursday of the month from 9:15 to 11:30am. Contact: Angie Pankratz, (507) 285-4817 or angiepankratz@gmail.com

Pools of Refreshing is a time for women to enjoy and experience God's presence through extended worship, sharing, testimonies, and prayer. Pools of Refreshing meets Quarterly, Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00pm. Contact: Claudia Dozier, (507) 529-1406 or doz-r-us@juno.com

Precept Ministries Bible Study is for all who desire to learn more about God's Word through personal, inductive Bible studies. Each session includes a directed discussion and a video by Kay Arthur. Precepts meets Tuesdays, September 15-April 13; two class times, 9:30-11:30am and 7:00-9:00pm. Contact: Nancy Jones, (507) 288-4405 or sjones496@msn.com. Karen Rucker, (507) 281-5330.

Side by Side Rochester is an outreach ministry that seeks to encourage, support, and minister to women in medical marriages by helping them deal with unique demands placed upon them and their families. It is for women of all ages in medical marriages, whether spouses of medical or dental students, residents, fellows, or staff physicians. Each meeting includes a social time in a large group, worship, and small group bible study, fellowship, and prayer. Childcare is provided to all ages for a small fee. Side by Side meets Fridays, 9:30am, September-May. Contact: Abbie Jo Wilcox, (507) 252-6984 or ryaabwilcox@charter.net

Single Moms Bible Study meets on Wednesday nights during the school year and follows Kids' Club schedule. Its mission is to provide support and fellowship for single moms while gaining strength and encouragement from the study of God's Word. This fall the group will be using Max Lucado's book: *For the*

Tough Times - Reaching Toward Heaven for Hope, a 10-week study. The group meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm in the Parent's Room near the Common Grounds Café. Contact: Jonna Carr, (507) 288-9656

Women's Bible Study provides a place for women to become rooted in God's Word, build community with other women, and grow in a relationship with Christ. The fall study is titled *What's in the Heart-a Look into King David's Heart*, based on 1 & 2 Samuel. Women can choose either a morning study starting at 9:15am on Wednesdays or an evening study starting at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. The study meets in the Autumn Ridge Common Ground Café. Free childcare is available for both sessions. The morning children's program follows the weekly lessons of the women's teaching schedule. The evening offers nursery care for children under 3, AWANA cubbies for 3-4 year olds, and Kids' Club for K-5th graders. If possible, register your children before attending. Contact: (507) 288-8880 or wbs@autumnridge.church Additional information is at www.autumnridgechurch.org/wbs

Women's Sunday School Class this fall will be studying *The Patriarchs* by Beth Moore. The study will dive into Genesis and realize God's remarkable pursuit. Women's Sunday school meets at 9:00am. Contact: Kathy Larson, (507) 536-7669.

Winter Women's Retreat: Mark your calendars for a weekend of relaxation, fellowship and spiritual nourishment at the Women's Winter Retreat. This year's theme is "Sweets for the Soul." It will be held February 19-21 at the Heartwood Conference Center and Retreat (formerly the Schwan Center) in Trego, Wisconsin. Our speaker will be Teresa Rinker from Seattle, Washington. Worship will be led by Mollie Baker.

Pool of Refreshing Devotional: Living in the Not Yet

By Claudia Dozier

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he shall lie, neither the son of man that he should repent: has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (NAS)

We don't have to walk with God very long before we see that He is so faithful. Another thing that we tend to notice is that our timing and His timing rarely seem to match! Having saints wait on His promises is a very strong theme throughout the books of the Bible and in the lives of saints today.

Noah waited for the flood. Abraham waited decades for his promised son. Joseph, spent years stuck in prison before God miraculously raised him to the ruler He had shown him as a youth that he would be. Moses led the Israelites for decades on the way to the Promised Land. David waited years to actually become the king he had been anointed to be as a boy.

While the meantime, can seem like a “mean” time, God doesn't waste time and seasons. As we wait, He builds into us things that we will

need. Then, He amazes us with His loving kindness when He fulfills His promise.

In Jeremiah 15:19-21, Jeremiah is promised by God to be delivered from the hand of the wicked and the grasp of the violent. By chapter 38 though, things are looking pretty rough. The city is under siege by Babylon. There is no food left and Jeremiah, who continued to speak for God, has now been thrown into a cistern and is sinking into the mud, apparently to his death.

Just when it seems that God is going to let His promise slip by, He stirs a man who saw where they had put Jeremiah to go plead to the king for Jeremiah's life. The king is moved and orders Jeremiah's release (Jeremiah 38:10). Then, in a move that only God could pull off, when Jerusalem falls, God put it in the heart of the attacking king of

Babylon to order that nothing harmful be done to Jeremiah and to treat him as he would wish (Jeremiah 39:11-12). It's just an amazing move of God's faithfulness!

We can draw strength from the stories of saints for the promises we are waiting on. The Bible shows us God's character and how He always comes through on His word.

Drinking in wonderful testimonies is so important. When our season of waiting is heavy upon us, we can wait in faith and hope. Though **we don't know how or when** He will bring His promise to pass, **we do know Him** and He is faithful! He will have the last word in our lives, and He will make it good!

Easy as Apple Pie

Recipe Corner

- 4-5 apples, slice thinly
- 1/2 to 3/4 c. sugar depending on tartness
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 T. flour
- 1 T. water

Preheat oven to 350°. Place 1 pie crust in un-greased 9-inch pie plate. Mix sugar, cinnamon, and flour. Mix lemon juice with apples. Toss cinnamon mixture with slice apples and pour into crust. Top with second crust. Wrap excess top crust under bottom crust edge, pressing edges together to seal; flute. (Optional: Cut slits or shapes in several places in top crust.) Beat egg yolk and water; brush over pastry. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until the pie crust is golden brown.

We Want You to Share Your Thoughts With Us

Women in Touch newsletter is created by and for the women of Autumn Ridge Church. It is your thoughtful and heart-felt contributions that make this newsletter what it is. The next newsletter will be distributed mid-December. We highly encourage you to submit your thoughts and testimonies of how the Lord is working in your life. We also welcome your Christmas memories, traditions, and funny family moments. All contributions, comments, or questions may be directed to Katherine O'Grady at (412) 720-8076 or kograd007@gmail.com.