

# Cup of Care









# Foreword

From May to December in 2012, our women's ministry completed the "Cup of Care" project. Four baskets with teapots, assorted teas, a devotional book and a journal were circulated from woman to woman in our congregation with each woman adding her thoughts to the journal and favorite teas to the basket.

I remember being one of the early journalists. And while I did truly enjoy reading what the five women before me had written, I was hungry to read what came after; greedy for what would be!

So, I volunteered on the spot to compile the final journals into one book that we could all share. Of course, I promptly forgot about it until our children's minister asked me to edit the Easter devotionals. For some reason, that reminded me about the journals. Thankfully, our church office manager was able to find all four of them.

So, now I am able to keep my promise.

I have tried to keep my editing minimal — just things to make reading easier. I corrected obvious misspellings, but otherwise I tried to keep everything as written, including the "8's" and underlined words. The fonts I used are my best attempt to duplicate individual handwriting. (I used color to reproduce the inks, markers and pencil of the original journal entries.) I also left in the references to the devotional book, although current readers will not find those useful. I wanted to preserve the spirit of the journal entries as well as the words. Any other changes are inadvertent errors on my part. I did move all of the scripture quoted in the journal entries to the sidebars as a matter of style (since some of us included scripture text in our entries and some of us just referred to the verses).

Not all the entries were dated and not all were signed. I have combined them in chronological order as much as possible rather than put them all in order by journal. I have no particular reason for doing this except that it just felt right. Please note I have only used first initials instead of full names and removed any reference to ages or birthdays. This is to protect the identity of our families (especially our kids and grandkids) once this goes online. People who know us well will recognize us without help.

It is my hope that you will find strength and encouragement in these writings and that they will be a blessing to your life as they were to mine.

Your Editor

All Bible quotations are from the online NIV at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).





## The Wife of Noble Character

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.  
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.  
She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.  
She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.  
She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.  
She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.  
She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.  
She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.  
She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.  
In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.  
She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.  
When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.  
She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.  
She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.  
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:  
“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Psalms 31:10-31





Undated

Being the first to write in this journal put a lot of unnecessary stress on me. Worry about what I should write, who was going to read it, what would the other women think of me to the point that it took days before I quieted myself enough to hear the Spirit within. "What I write doesn't matter near as much as my time I am spending with God & the Spirit to listen & receive peace even if for a little while. So I opened the yellow devotional on Mother's Day. The devotional is called "Whisper a Prayer for Moms." I opened it to page 39 "Confident Assurance" and felt this really pertained to my life right now.

My prayer for the women who will be writing in this journal, as well as myself, is that each of us have the "Confident Assurance" that while we might not know what God has planned for our children - We can be assured that our Awesome God has a magnificent plan and I, for one, need to have more faith & less control.

Praise God, Amen

K





May 9, 2012

*Welcome to our Cup of Care ministry. May you find comfort & encouragement as you take a moment for yourself & discover the thoughts & insights other women @ 3C may have to offer you. For my devo, I read 2 Cor 1:3-4. One of my favorites! So I was happy to see it was a choice. I didn't relate much to the whole chocolate thing – now salty - crunchy junk food – that may be different! What I do find comfort in is that all my life experiences – especially the difficult ones (divorce, child rearing, relationships, learning to set boundaries – oh, the list could go on & on) can bring hope, peace, help and direction to others. So – if you are suffering, remember God has a big plan to use your experience to comfort others. That may not give you peace @ the moment, but . . .*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

*. . . He comes along side us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, He brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times too so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.*

*C*

1 Corinthians 1:3-4





May 9, 2012

*I read in my devotion a great quote from Charles Spurgeon. He said, "When your guilt presses you to the very dust, worship there." This week has been a dirt-eating week. So much going wrong with people I love – and yet I do worship the Lord of the Universe who gives me this day . . . who brought the sun out to warm my face.*

*LORD, I praise you. I bring my family . . . my friends . . . my heart & thoughts to you & beg for healing and while I wait, I praise!*

*I love you God!*

*Your Daughter,  
L*





May 11, 2012

Dear Women of Community Christian Church,

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Proverbs 31:10-31 describes the virtuous woman. She is worth her weight in rubies, of noble character, trustworthy, and an asset to her husband, cares for the needs of her family and household, gives generously to the poor, works both in and out of the home, has wisdom and dignity, and works from before sunrise until after dark. She receives blessing and praise from her husband and children, and, above all, is God-fearing.

This is a tough model for women to live up to. I have been married for 46 years, I have at one time or other achieved all of these things; the trick, however, is to do all of them together, all of the time. I am a work in progress. We women need to support and encourage each other toward this goal.

God has blessed me richly. I have a good husband, two great children, and ten happy, healthy grandchildren. I have enough wealth, good health, great friends, and most importantly, a relationship with Jesus, who loves me.

Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us to encourage one another. That's what this woman's ministry is all about. Let us meet together and encourage each other toward love and good deeds.

God bless all of the women in the Community Christian Church,  
M



P.S. When you get this "Cup of Care" basket, please share a thought, prayer, blessing, or praise before you pass it on. Thanks.



May 16, 2012

*This week God put really big dreams & goals on my heart.  
Scary stuff, but amazing results if I trust and follow through.*

*We have such a big GOD! He loves us in spite of us and tells us  
to ask HLM for what we want. If we are faithful to HLM and  
keep our eyes focused on the prize, HE will provide the way  
and ultimately the desire of our hearts.*

*I have to trust in the plan HE has for me and keep my feet  
firmly planted on HLM path. When I can't go any further, HE  
will carry me through! Phil 3:13-14.*

B

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14





May 17, 2012

Mother's Day has passed. I miss my mom. She died several years ago from ovarian cancer. Mom was a good lady. She set an example for me on how to be a Godly wife.

I love being a mom. God blessed me with two sons and now a really cute and adorable grandson.

As a young and growing mother, I wanted my sons to grow up loving Jesus. They do. Now my prayer for J is the same.

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

This is still my favorite song. The message never grows old. Thank you, Jesus, for Your love.

K





May 20, 2012

*In our mission in life, things are not always a piece of cake. But the mission that sent Christ to Calvary? It wasn't a piece of cake for God to send His perfect son to bear the filthy sins of the whole world on the cross. Yet we know all things are possible with God in His great mercy and love! Jesus' mission saved us from sin, death and eternal condemnation. His mission for our salvation was complete, as Jesus' resurrection assures us.*

*Forgiven, we have a mission. By filling us with His Spirit, He provides the strength to accomplish those not-a-piece-of-cake tasks. He helps us tell the world about Him. All of this is possible with God at work in us.*

*B*





May 22, 2012

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:14

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5



Today is a beautiful day - the sky is so blue. Looking in my backyard, I see my "resident" bunnies and my zinnias are starting to bloom. Nature is all around and I thank God for each creation - my daily miracles! The American flag in our yard. I asked God to protect our soldiers many miles away. Freedom is not free.

Recently someone asked me about my missionary trip to Brazil. I told them how important it is to support our missionaries, and to see how Big God's church really is. Our missionary E quotes, "Wherever you take Jesus, things get better." I have seen that happen again and again. I also see that happen in Bethel as we continue to see hungry children and how our church is showing a giving spirit. I pray with these needy people and want so much to introduce the stories of Jesus to them.

I feel so blessed, at a young age my parents taking me to church. Also I married a Christian man and we so enjoyed seeing our 2 daughters being a part of a church family. Now, I see them growing and using the gifts God gave to them. Favorite scriptures 1 Peter 4:14 and Romans 12:5.

May God bless you today,

J



May 23, 2012

As I look into the southern skies and see a new dawn break, I think of all the things to do this day while I'm awake.

I need to spread the good news of Jesus and his love, and tell the world why God did send this Jesus from above.

For when the darkness comes, the day will then be passed; no time left to spread the news - daylight now is gone. And I must wait through the night for another new dawn. As I drink my cup of tea, I thank Jesus for all of the good in my life.

C





May 24, 2012

David's words, Wow, how great is our God. I just wish I would never forget that for a second. I get so much comfort reading my Bible. My mother was an example to me as I grew up. I tried to be the same with mine (my children). I have kept a journal close by for many years. I use one for prayers. So I guess I can relate to David as far as the written prayer.

J

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalms 139:1-3

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105





June 2, 2012

## *"The Chocolate Map"*

*Our lives are so complicated — we never know where we're going to end up! I sometimes think that, if I knew, I'd either run the other direction, or sometimes, run quickly to the situation. I always say, "God, I don't know where this is going to end up, but I trust you to be with me." A scripture verse that I keep close to my heart is Jeremiah 29:11. God doesn't say He's always going to tell us His plans for our lives; He tells us they won't bring us harm — only hope and a future. By reading my Bible everyday, I find the encouragement and all the knowledge I need to believe Him.*

*C*

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

**Psalms 119:105**

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**





June 2, 2012

God, you are my God  
And I will ever praise you.  
Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise you.  
I will seek You in the morning,  
And I will learn to walk in Your ways.  
And step by step You'll lead me,  
And I will follow You all of my days.

Michael W. Smith

Thank you, Lord for leading me. I tend to be a wanderer. You have always been faithful in my life. I absolutely know I can trust You with every area of my life. You have proved Yourself to me over and over again. I want to continue to learn to walk in Your ways with You leading me step by step. I praise You for who You are! You are my God and I love you!

D





June 2, 2012

*We have just completed the Memorial Holiday Celebration. It has been a time of reflecting & remembering for me.*

*I have two brothers who served in Vietnam & recently lost a dear friend. As I took flowers to decorate the graves of my loved ones (it used to be called Decoration Day), I felt sadness, & emptiness but also a sense of great pride.*

*I had a conversation very recently with a friend facing surgery and I am reminded of what she said, "I know God has always taken care of me, but it still amazes me how He cares for me."*

*I have thought of her words and I know I am so blessed and am still amazed as to how He cares for each one of us. (Her surgery went well.)*

*For my meditation, I read Psalm 32:P. I have sought God's guidance. There have been times when I didn't know how to pray or couldn't find the words, but I felt God's presence & knew He was watching over me.*

*I pray you will allow God to be your guide & he will advise & watch over you.*

*Love & God Bless  
I*

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Psalms 32:8





He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations, I will  
be exalted in the earth."

Psalms 46:10

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

Undated

I confess I have not been still more times that I have been hurry, hurry up. I know I have missed many things God would have had me enjoy, but never too late and never too mature to slow down. Having the quiet times to reflect on how much He loves me, His forgiveness and His grace.

Many years ago, M gave me the scripture Jeremiah 29:11 (still on my frig). C has quoted it alone, love that verse. It gives me such peace for me and my loved ones.

C





June 10, 2012

Within our church we have many great people with love in their hearts to share. There is never a week I have walked into church without someone saying "hello," "how ya doing?" "nice to see ya," or "we've missed ya" if it has be a while ... that is a wonderful thing to have in a church family.

I myself have been blessed (thank you LORD!) with a magnificent family. Most of you know my sister who is always there! My mom, most haven't met, but she is wonderful along with my dad, aunts, brother & other sister and, last but NOT least, my husband. I consider myself a lucky one & as much love & support as they give me; without a church family, my family is still not complete. No matter how wonderful or how trying your family can be, God has still provided you with a family in Christ.

Sometimes I forget this because it is easy for me to get caught up in worldly things and ignore my church family. And, mind you, not bad things, but work, hanging out with family or friends, etc. but none the less, I often forget that when you are part of a church family, it is not always what they give to you, but what God is calling you to do for them as well. I forget to look for that new face at church & say hello or, honestly, I am sometimes too afraid to, but God has given so much to me and I forget to praise Him by using the gifts He has given me & being a sister in Christ.

Well, sorry mine was a little long & jumbled – I am a journaler & this is my general style. I hope these words are a comfort to someone who reads them in the future. Generally only God & I see my writing so it was a new experience.

I LOVE YOUR ALL. THANK YOU FOR BEING MY SISTERS!

Love Always,  
E

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2





## Undated

*I was very happy to have a cup of tea with this little teapot in front of me with God's love all over it. I just had my birthday last month and sometimes wonder why God has let me live this long. I guess my work is not done here on earth yet. I lost my husband three years ago after 61 and half yrs and I was so happy to find my church family.*

*I know God loves me as He has given me so much love and help over the years. I had ten children and had a lot of hard years, but I always find him helping me over troubled and painful years. I get together with my family and realize what a lucky woman I am. God has given me a hard but wonderful life and good children. I thank him everyday and read my Bible. I found so much love and forgiveness in every page.*

*Bless all of my church family for being so kind and friendly to me. I read "Whisper a Prayer" and found page 95 was for me.*

*God's blessing to all  
M*





## Undated

*Well, I didn't realize how much I needed this time to reflect. I read several devotions, It seemed like once I got started, I couldn't put the book down. I read "You Know What I need," "Lest for My Soul," "My Life Is Cluttered" & "Trials" just to name a few.*

*I have come to realize that as each day I live, I need & depend on God more and more. When I was young, things were different, but as I experienced life & grew in Christ, I became aware that I couldn't do it by myself & that I needed God in my life. We take so many things for granted & forget to count how many blessings God has given us & continues to do so every day such as a sunrise, flowers, sunset, trees, our family, friends & good health.*

*My husband & I is a Vietnam veteran & because he was exposed to Agent Orange, he has diabetes, has had triple bypass surgery in 2009 & was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2011. With all these health problems, he has the most wonderful & positive attitude & I believe this comes because he is a Christian. When there are health problems, you look at life differently & appreciate each new day that God gives us.*

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:25-34





Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalms 91:1-2

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sin and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:1-5



*I am so grateful & blessed for my daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren & thank God for them*

*I am also grateful for all my close friends and especially the ones I feel very close to - that I can tell anything to them & they just listen & love me for me.*

*When we have trials, if we talk to God about it first, things work out better.*

*When I can't sleep, if I pray starting with the alphabet such as "A" pray for America, "B" pray for my friend B and so on, I found that I fall asleep before I get to "Z."*

*My favorite scriptures are Matthew 6, the Book of Proverbs, Psalm 91 & Psalm 103.*

*God Bless*

*P.S. And I was worried that I wouldn't be able to write much. H.A. H.A.*



June 27, 2012

Wow. What to write? This is my third try. The first one was a pretty good story, but not really relevant to this journal. Second try was too ponderous by far. Hopefully, this one will be a bit more on target.

Even though I was raised in Christian home, after I left home to go to college, I wandered rather far from God. It wasn't until I was in my early thirties, a divorced, newly single mother of a seven-year old daughter, that the question occurred to me. Was this all there was to life? I was doing ok financially, had a decent job, friends, social life. But I was full of emptiness. There had to be some point to living—had to be. So it was, that I started my personal search for The Truth.

I studied Buddhists, Mormons, Muslims, Hindus. Read their books. And some others. I learned, but was still empty. It took another decade, and some up close and personal time with the Creator of the Universe, but I finally came to the conclusion that there was indeed a God, and Christianity seemed the best way to make life worth the living. I'll spare you the details, but it was a pretty rugged trip. Oh, it was worth it, but it was not easy.

Here's what I learned—

If you seriously search for The Truth, diligently and constantly, you will find God. And it will turn out that he knew exactly where you were the whole time. He never loses you. You just forgot he was there right next to you every minute.

I have seen something else under the sun:  
The race is not to the swift or the battle  
to the strong, nor does food come to the  
wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to  
the learned; but time and chance happen  
to them all.

Ecclesiastes 9:11

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them. Yet their  
voice goes out into all the earth, their  
words to the ends of the world.

Psalms 19:1-4





Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:1-4

Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land.

Isaiah 5:8



Demand answers. I dare you. Tell the Creator of the Universe you don't think you've ever done anything bad enough to warrant someone's death. Ask him why his son had to die. I know at least two answers to that question, and it would not surprise me if there were more.

Do not take God for granted. His power is, well, powerful. Scary powerful. Awesome powerful. Listen when he tells you to do something. Or not do something.

There are good reasons for all his commandments. They protect us from all sorts of pain.

God loves me. Better than anything. He created the universe just to show me how much he cares. I have all his attention all the time. You do too.

Things are not what they seem. The spiritual world is wrapped around us as much as the air we breathe. Our perception of it is limited. This is probably a good thing, as I am not really ready to see demons hiding in the bushes. But they are there. So is God's protection. So is the war between good and evil. Don't ever doubt it.

I no longer question people who claim God talked to them. He has talked to me.

It was really hard to give up the need to understand. But we must learn that human minds cannot grasp the mind of God. We have this annoying tendency to try to make God small enough to fit



into our brains. This smallness we impose on God limits us! It limits our ability to understand what we are capable of understanding. Make us blind to what is staring us in the face.

Ok, I can sense that your eyes are beginning to glaze over. You're starting to wonder, "How crazy is this woman?" I've thought the same thing myself. It is reassuring to know God loves the crazy women too.

Ecclesiastes is my favorite book of the Bible (9:11-time and chance happen to them all-is a favorite verse). Of course Isaiah is a close second, with its not yet fulfilled prophecies. Psalms 19, 37 & 100 are favorites, too.

Forgive my not writing this longhand. My arthritis makes my penmanship rather iffy most days. (I have carefully selected a font that is similar to my actual handwriting. Even paid \$10 for it!) Besides, it is a lot easier to edit, correct spelling and generally make this presentable by using the computer!

May this bless you in some way. It has been my honor and pleasure to share with you.

T

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness; come  
before him with joyful songs. Know that  
the Lord is God. It is he who made us,  
and we are his; we are his people, the  
sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures  
forever; his faithfulness continues through  
all generations.

Psalms 100:1-5

Woe to those who call evil good and good  
evil, who put darkness for light and light  
for darkness, who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter.

Isaiah 5:20





July 7, 2012

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

*As I have prepared for teaching Sunday School this week, the thought comes to mind from Proverbs 22:6 to train up a child . . . My husband R and I have two grown boys and have tried to teach them properly. They are now out on their own and we are so proud of them and the men they are becoming.*

*Little did we know that God had two more boys coming into our lives. About 6 months ago, we got custody of R's two great nephews. What a full house since our own two boys had not yet moved out. It was R and me, A, J, J and J. We have been blessed with the joy of seeing all of them together.*

*A couple of years ago, I told a dear friend that I felt that God had something big in store for me, but I would never have imagined this. It is my prayer that we will be able to teach all children about our God and I am so grateful for all the women at our church who give of themselves so that others may learn & grow. It has truly been a blessing getting to know all of you!*

*J*





July 7, 2012

I have always had a heart for children. I couldn't wait to get married and have kids. I wanted to be the Kool-Aid Mom from the commercial where all the neighborhood kids would play at her house and she would bring them out Kool-Aid and cookies. Well, my dream came true. We had a little house in town and while our son and daughter were growing up our house was always busy.

When the kids were 8 and 12 we bought a bigger house on the outskirts of town and I began babysitting. But even the babysitting kids grew fast and before I knew it, they were starting school or old enough to stay home by themselves.

Then N, our daughter, went off to college and I found myself in a really strange place . . . like I wasn't needed anywhere . . . I still had a strong desire to nurture but my children needed to have their independence.

So, I began thinking about something A had said in our Sunday adult class about doing what we're supposed to be doing. I think it was called a Life Plan and I told E that I know that whatever I'm meant to be doing involves children. I said I think I'd like to do foster care.

And so began the journey that has become my passion!

J





Placed 3/09 Our 1<sup>st</sup> placement was a sibling group of 5! The two boys, C and M, were with us one week then an aunt took placement of them. The three girls, A, L, and N, were with us 2 years and 3 months. We have regular phone contact with them and see them about once every 3 months.

Placed 7/11 our 2<sup>nd</sup> placement sibling group of two, E and L were with us 7 months, then placed with a foster to adopt family.

Placed 3/12 Currently, J.

Placed 4/12 Currently, brothers J and N.





## Undated

*"God only lets you hit rock bottom just to show you that HE IS THE ROCK."*

*A friend of mine told me this a couple of months ago, after I lost my job & boyfriend & what I thought was everything. I was on rock bottom, my job didn't have the hours I needed to pay my bills; I was looking to lose my home & everything that came with it.*

*That friend had seen that prior to this I had gotten "too busy" for God; not attending church, doing my devotionals, reading my Bible & praying & talking less to Him. My friend started giving me devotional books & talking in length about God & what meaning HE had in my life & family life.*

*The more time I spent in devotionals & reading my Bible (that, I hate to admit, was collecting dust), the closer I became to the Lord. I turned my life back in to His hands. I now have a great job, still living in my house (not my car) & have found someone I will spend the rest of what looks to be a great life with.*

*I guess what I'm saying is when I gave all of me over to GOD & took my hands out of my life & got busy devoting my time to the Lord, I am too busy to do things my way & HE has put my life to "rights." HE IS MY ROCK, MY SAVIOR, MY GOD! And only HE knows what HE wants in this life HE gave us, for us.*





*So don't let the world get in the way of your devotion to GOD. HE is the one you can turn to when you hit "rock bottom." HE will provide for you & keep you safe. The bittersweet lesson I learned was that when I stopped doing what I thought HE wanted, took time to read & pray in HIS word, HE took over & showed me what HE wanted for me & my life!*

*THANK YOU LORD for all that you have done FOR ME!*

*M*





July 14, 2014

Ok, so growing up, my dream was to be a pediatrician, but things changed. I got engaged right out of high school, went to college for a year, got married, went to college another year, had our first child, M, went to college another year, quit college, had A & C, and, who would guess, became an uncertified pediatrician, nurse, caregiver, chef, taxi driver or just plain old "mom!"

Sometimes I felt like I hadn't accomplished anything. Other room mothers had actual "jobs." I just stayed home with my kids. My sisters & I discussed this a few months ago. I told them how I always thought they were so much more accomplished than me. (They worked.) You could have floored me when both of them thought I was special. They both thought I was accomplished. I was a caring mom, sister, wife, daughter, friend. Wow! Now, the moral of this story is not to brag, but to let all the young moms who read this after me to know they are special! They are accomplished! Just look at your kids! Now, my kids are grown, but I am also an accomplished grandma to M, M, K, K & M. And I love it. Sometimes I still think I should have finished school, but it's ok.

To all the working moms out there, like my beautiful daughters A & C, work hard, accomplish much, but remember to go home & spend time with your babies! They love you just as you are.

Thanks for listening,  
D

Page 85 "With All My Might"





August 5, 2012

*What an exciting idea! From "Whisper A Prayer" pg 79 was good for me. The verse of scripture that is heavy on my heart is 2 Chronicles 7:14.*

if my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray and seek  
my face and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven, and I will  
forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

*It is so hard to know what to say to people who are so wrong in their thinking—beliefs that are so contrary to God's word. Just to say, "That isn't right because the Bible says it isn't right." Goes right through some without making a dent. As always, walking the walk and talking the talk will resonate with some.*

*I too need to remember—always—that He is in control and He will work through me.*

*And on a lighter note—enjoy those babies—one of the best things in life is the sound of a child's laughter—one of my most favorite things.*

*Enjoy the book and thanks for listening.*

*I*





August 22, 2012

*How did I get to be this old? I don't feel old, yet . . . As I looked through the devotional book this week and was reading my Bible, the word "Thankful" kept coming into my mind. I am so thankful—as Psalm 107:1 (from the devotion on "Thank You") says. I also kept going back to Philippians 1:3 where Paul said to the church, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 107:1

*I start and end my day giving "Thanks" to God. It may be early in the morning as I lie in bed waiting for the alarm to go off, or while in the shower, but I need to give thanks—if not, I spend the time thinking "what all I have to do today" which causes more stress. I also try to end my day by prayer & giving thanks rather than thinking about all that I didn't get done or what I may not have done right—more stress. If I spend the time giving thanks for all that went well, all the things I got done, all the people and experiences God placed in my life that day—then I feel at peace with my day. Of course, I also need to seek wisdom to do better and forgiveness for the areas where weakness let Satan sneak in to put an unkind thought, a missed opportunity to witness, etc,*

I thank my God every time I remember you.

Phillipians 1:3

*But, overall, I am thankful each day—for a savior who thought I was worth dying for—a God who made a plan of salvation for me and loves me even when I am unlovable. I am thankful for my church family, for my husband and children, for my loving brothers and their wonderful families, for friends,*





*for my job that pays the bills and permits me to have the opportunity to reach teenagers who may not have a positive influence in their lives, for my health, and for the challenges and pain in my life that help me to grow as a Christian.*

*I know how hard it can be to give thanks for pain and challenges, but I encourage those who struggle with these issues to "Let go and Let God." We need to learn to trust our Father who knows best and can "fix" anything to take our troubles and use them for His purpose and our growth. The more we realize what we have to be thankful for—the less we feel the pain of the things we struggle with.*

*I pray for each & every lady who shares the "Cup of Care" to feel the loving, caring hand of God in your lives. And I pray that you can start and end you day with a thought on something that you are thankful for—even if it is just a minute for a cup of tea and a devotional reading—enjoy!*

*Sorry for the wordiness . . . lots to be thankful for!*  
*S*





September 1, 2012

*From "Whispers A Prayer," I chose "New Each Day" pg 73.*

*Every day is a gift and an opportunity to do better and to be better. It is easy for me to get so busy that I forget to take time to show kindness to others and to pray for the people I meet. We never know what might be going on in their lives. There are so many who have no relationship with our Lord. They need our prayers and for us to show them the Grace that we have received because of God's love.*

*I enjoyed reading the journal. It was great to share the thoughts of others and some of the favorite bible verses. One of my favorites is Romans 8:38 & 39.*

*As I pass along the basket, I pray for all the ladies in our church family.*

*"In Christ"*

*I*

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39





Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 107:1

September 13, 2012

I haven't been a Christian for long. I have always believed in God and in heaven. But, I have only attended church for about 3 years. I am so very thankful to first my mother who suggested that we start going to church, second to the women and other friends at 3C.

I always said, "I don't have time for church." Which is somewhat true. I wish I had more time to devote to God. But my mother "forced" me to come to a service at the Church of Christ and it was love at first sight. Everyone was so friendly. It was like God Himself welcomed me, and now if I am unable to attend church on Sunday morning, I feel lost for the rest of the week.

I can't imagine my life without God and my 3C family. I am thankful everyday for the great brothers and sisters I've met since attending church. God has made me a better person and I am so happy that my girls are getting to feel this love and joy at such young ages.

I am so very thankful for God and for His Word. I pray that God will use me in whatever way He sees fit, so that I can spread this love and joy to others.

D

P.S. I am also very thankful for D's and the bands at 3C. My week isn't complete if I don't get to sing my praises to the Lord.





September 15, 2012

*As I read the devotional book, "A Chocolate Life," I look back at my life and I know Christ was missing in my heart, my mind and body. I am very ashamed to admit it now and I think how could that be. One summer day, at my parents' house, I looked at my loving daughter, D, and said, in the presence of my mother, who lives in heaven with Christ, I said to D, let's start going to church, GOD's house. She agreed.*

*As I look back, it really was a memorable day. We really need Christ in our hearts, our minds and bodies. Now that I recall, it was like putting chocolate in my mouth and letting its sweet riches melt in my mouth, travel down my throat and feel the rich sweetness throughout my body. My life has changed for the best!! Yes, I have had hurdles to climb and mountains to go over. But as Christ is present in my life, those hurdles and mountains I experienced are now like anthills. I hope to pass on the rest of my life the Word of GOD! And let people know how wonderful this feeling is. THANK YOU LORD for everything!*

A





October 3, 2012

As I reflect on my life I find it has been and is good! Only because of Jesus. I found I have so many things to be thankful for; a good marriage (64 years), two wonderful children, two special grandchildren and now four cute great grandchildren. And to make my family complete, a wonderful daughter-in-law and two more grandchildren (by marriage). Also, to know I was privileged to have my Mother through her birthday of 100! Then, to add to all of that a good church family. Wow! The Lord has given me so much.

I did enjoy many of the pages in the Whisper a Prayer book, but especially (Pg 11) You Know What I Need and (pg 73) New Each Day.

As I pass the basket to the next gal, I pray that it will be enjoyed in many ways.

In Christian Love,

A





October 20, 2012

Dear Ladies,

It is truly so important to remember that all that we have is a blessing from God. Even in the worst of times God is still blessing and loving us. We all have to remember how gracious & loving God is, even as we busily buzz through our daily lives. I find as one of my biggest struggles remembering that God always has his hand on my shoulder. I forget to turn to him & to rely on him in all that I do. My advice to all is to stop from time to time, take a deep breath & say a short prayer. Find a friend for support and FROG! (Fully Rely On God.)

L





There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Titus 2:3-5



October 22, 2012

*I really enjoyed reading all the journals. I wasn't sure what I wanted to write so I decided to enclose my favorite passage in the Bible. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 12-13.*

*Just as we are entering autumn, there are different seasons in life. As the passage says, sometimes God gives us different talents in different seasons of our life. Whenever I am not sure where God is leading me, I read this passage and it encourages me to enjoy all the different seasons of life.*

*I am thankful for our women's ministries. I love how our church has activities that include women of all ages and generations (seasons of life). We can learn so much from each other and support each other through life.*

*So that older women may encourage the younger women... (Titus 2:4)*

*S*



November 1, 2012

My favorite Bible verse since college has been! John 3:1.

When I read page 89 in the devotional book, it reminded me of this passage. Being the mother of 3 children and now a grand-ma to one sweet granddaughter. I know what a blessing it is to have children. As I well up with pride when I see my children showing God's love to someone else. I can imagine how God must feel when He sees us reaching out to others with His love.

We live in what is called a Christian nation. With the upcoming election. I pray that our leaders will continue to move us in the direction of doing what is pleasing to God. We all know as young children we seek to please our parents. I hope that at any age we can continue to be excited about what God has given us and be ready to share that with someone else. God's love is the greatest love we will ever know and to be called one of His children is the most awesome thing ever!

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1





November 28, 2012

*I am generally not one to share my feelings, but this "Cup of Care" gave me an opportunity to share something from pg. 57, "Love One Another." My parents divorced when I was 17, and I was simply devastated. I felt my whole world ended.*

*I am now in my thirties and I have not spoken to my father for thirteen years. I did not approve or agree with choices he made, so I felt betrayed by him. As I love my father, I really didn't realize the true meaning or depth of that love until recently. God does not want me to have a heavy heart or to carry the burden of the choices my father made. I am to love him through it all. Reaching out to my father is difficult and I pray daily for the strength to pick up the phone and try one more time to get him to become a part of my life once again.*

*Time truly does heal a broken heart and, with God beside me, I believe it will all come together. I am no longer sad, angry, or hurt. I have lived my life with God holding my hand the entire way and I will continue to hold tight. I can only hope that we all hold tight!*

*B*





December 16, 2012

I decided to just open the devotional book and that is what I would read. It opened to page 71, Eyes of Compassion. It is about needy, overlooked and ignored children.

I am the mother of two boys that are my life. I can't imagine them in need or not knowing how much I love them and what they mean to me.

What amazes me is that as much as I love and want to take care of my boys, God loves me more.

When we need Him the most, He scoops us up and rocks us like a loving parent, wipes our tears and pats us on the butt and says, "It's okay, now get back out there... I am right here." Praise the Lord!

There were 20 children murdered in Connecticut on Friday. I don't know why, but I know parents are dying inside, but those babies are dancing with Jesus tonight.

Unsigned





December 22, 2012

I am blessed beyond belief! It is by the Grace of God; I have done nothing to deserve all that the Lord has given me. He has blessed me with 3 happy and healthy children, an amazing husband, a loving family, trustworthy friends, my dream job of teaching third grade and the list goes on and on.

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalms 46:10

My biggest struggle is time. Each day feels like a race against the clock. I want to honor God by being the best Christian, mother, wife, daughter, granddaughter, friend, teach, coach . . . I can be. I just can't seem to find the time to do it all. After all, it took me over a month just to write in this journal! I thank God everyday for all He has trusted me with. Being so busy means that my time is spent focused on others. God has given me amazing opportunities to make a difference in this world. One of the best changes I've made is spending time with God in the morning instead of giving Him what little is left at the end of a hectic day.

I am sure most women can relate to the business of life. Most moms are pulled in a dozen different directions every day. It is good to know that God designed us to do so much. Turn to Him for strength and energy whenever you run low. When you just can't go anymore, "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

Have a Merry Christmas,  
S





December 27, 2012

This morning, I'm reflecting on the past year—and what a year it has been! We were leaving for India on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and we were so excited about the trip, but on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> we found out that D had cancer. We prayed and talked to the doctors and decided to go. I was to teach a class at the Bible College and we had so many other things planned so we decided that when we were in India we would be in India & enjoy the experience & deal with cancer when we got home. God blessed us every hour and day while we were there.

When we got home, we saw the oncologist. It wasn't an easy spring. After a month of testing, the doctor still didn't know the kind of cancer D had. He was in the hospital for a week with two ecoli infections caused by one of the procedures and after he was released from the hospital, I had to give him IV antibiotics for another month. The cancer was in his hip and he had to use crutches to walk.

He finally started chemo in April. I thank God every day that he is doing so well with the chemo. Yes, he's had side effects & he lost his hair—what was left—but he hasn't been sick like so many we see at treatment. He remains





on chemo but we are still trusting God for a cure. He doesn't have to use crutches, his weight is holding & he is very positive. Each day is a gift from God.

We haven't let cancer dictate our lives. Even though D was on crutches, he was able to walk L down the aisle at her wedding. We love T and his son A, and are so blessed L found him. N finally has a dad, too.

The support of our family and friends has been such a blessing this year, too. Some came out with me at the hospital, some mowed the grass for us, one friend sent D a funny card every week for months and, of course, the prayers for us.

I was in the shower the morning after we got the devastating news about D. I was so low and praying to God and I heard Him say to me, "Are you going to trust Me, or not?" No, I didn't hear an actual voice, but I heard it & the tone of the voice! I choose to trust and when I'm down, I think of that voice. He has never let me down.





*I read "No Worries" this morning. My goal for next year is to continue to trust God with everything—no matter what happens. He is faithful, and you can trust him too!*

B





December 30, 2012

*Some days when I feel like I am alone – no one is around – I forget God is always there waiting for me to come to him in my prayers. I have to be patient and quiet so I can hear him talk to me – answer me.*

*God, thank you for sending Jesus to us so we can accept him and have eternal life with him.*

*K*









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