



INDISPENSABLE

God Needs You!

MARCELLA HERNANDEZ,

“Snowflakes, just as with people, it is known that no two are alike. Each shall be of its own design but shall together serve a great purpose. Under a blanket of snow, it is always just below freezing while the winter’s air above could freeze life in mere seconds. Snow is perfect within its place in God’s Plan and Design. Snow can reflect the color of a sunrise over fields that once were blinded from its radiance. It is then that the snows show the promise of the new day as it begins. Such a sight can only make you feel warm, that is the gift of a blanket to warm.”

- G.H.

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Marcella Hernandez

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the Lord. Without Him, I would not have been alive to write it.

It is also dedicated to my family and friends, who have supported me, been role models of a Christian and have prayed for me. Without them, I might never have known Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Some have already gone to be with the Lord, and I will see and be with them again someday in Heaven!

In addition, it is dedicated to the prayer partners and friends of Alpha Prayer International, who unceasingly and unselfishly pray for the needs of others, for this ministry and for me.

And last, but not least, it is dedicated to the sweet, loving pets I have known throughout my life. For those who have passed, I will see and be reunited with you again in Heaven!

FOREWARD

You are indispensable, and God needs you exactly where you are in your circumstances, whatever they are. Psalm 139:14 declares, "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."

In my case, I was born with Cerebral Palsy because the doctor was drunk when he delivered me with a pair of forceps. My disability has affected my arms and legs as well as my speech for 74 years. When growing up, I resented the drunken doctor. A friend then showed me a couple of verses from the Bible about forgiveness, especially where Jesus forgave the crowds that crucified Him. He asked His Father to forgive them because they did not know what they were doing. In another verse, Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer that if you do not forgive others that He will not forgive you. This has become my signature message, as churches and organizations have invited me to speak through my communication device, freeing many people from anger and resentment.

The Lord allows unpleasant circumstances in our lives, like the author of this book, Marcella Hernandez, who grew up with the after affects of Polio, and a paralyzed leg. Yet, I do not know of a stronger Christian. Her life is indispensable for His use and shows that you can become the same. You will not be able to put this book down!

Rick Hohn, Pastor
Spirit Wheels Ministry
<https://spiritwheelsministry.com/>

(As a side note - after writing the Foreward for this book...Rick, my dear friend said: *"The book must be great, as I ran into terrible hindrances from the enemy with constant interruptions. It was unbelievable!"*)

INTRODUCTION

God needs you. But we, as humans, carry a lot of “baggage” around with us. Things that have happened and people who have hurt us through the years. They have left scars on us...and we cannot seem to let go of the hurts. They hinder us from becoming who we truly were meant to be and doing what only we can do in this world. Many times, the Lord is the only One who can help us to let go and to forgive. We must allow Him to do this. Not only can He help us let go, but He can also show us the good in it. Yes, the good!

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Matthew 5:43-44

We must follow His example of forgiveness. As they were crucifying Him on the cross and He was experiencing agonizing pain, He said,

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

If we choose not to forgive others, then He cannot forgive us for what we have done, both to others and the sins we have committed against Him and God's Word.

"But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15

These trials can teach us if we are willing to listen and learn. They can set us free from the bondage of pain and unforgiveness. We then can see them as lessons from the Lord, instead of the painful memories that keep us bound. God needs us to be free, as He has so much waiting for us to accept from Him...both blessings and freedom. As we accept His healing in our lives, we will move forward into His plan for us. This plan will make us indispensable to Him, as only we can do what He has called us to do. Sure, He can get anyone to do it, but they will not do it as good as you can because you were born and designed to accomplish it.

The Dictionary describes 'Indispensable' as: *absolutely necessary, essential, incapable of being disregarded or neglected*. As we make ourselves indispensable to the Lord, He will watch over us, even more than a mother watches over her child...to ensure that he/she is not in danger or in need. Blessings will come down from Him, that cannot be imagined.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10

Tithing is not only money, but your time and talents! He wants you to use them, and He will even teach you how to do things that you have never done before. He taught me over the years how to build websites and how to create and use graphics...which I now do on a professional basis and for Alpha Prayer International. When He was teaching me these things, I had no idea where it was leading.

The Lord is the best Employer you will ever have in life, and the benefits are "out of this world!" As you know though, all employers will make sure that they can trust an employee. The Lord is no exception to this. You must be trustworthy. Do not quit your "day job" unless He tells you to. Ask Him what He wants you to do and do it with all your strength. You will know it is Him when it aligns with His Word (Holy Bible). He will never ask you to do anything that is in conflict with His Word.

*For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
Psalm 91:11-12*

The purpose of this book is to tell my personal story of how the Lord has unlocked the good behind all the pain and hardships thrown my way through life. Although they were difficult to experience, I now can see what they were each trying to teach me. I call them "Life Lessons." At the end of each chapter, I will tell what I believe was shown to me from that period of

my life and what I gained from it. Writing this book has been a journey that has led me down a path to freedom from painful memories. I would encourage you to also write down your experiences, determine what they have taught you and then let go...laying them at the Lord's feet. If He can use someone like myself for His great purposes and plans, He can use you. Be 'Indispensable' to the Lord.

As I began writing this book, the Lord said to me, "Enjoy the journey." I did not understand what He meant at the time, but it became clearer as I revisited the milestones along the paths of my life. I hope that you also will enjoy it, as you accompany me in both the happy and hard times to find the good in it all.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake with their surging. The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:1-3,7

CHAPTER 1

THE PROMISE OF LIFE

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You. When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the Earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your Book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

Psalm 139:13-16

I was a cute baby, like most. I had three years of a great childhood, with picnics, birthday parties, cowgirl outfit with boots and cowgirl hat, childhood playmates, and a Cocker Spaniel dog named Taffy, who would do anything for me. I was perhaps, a little bit spoiled.

My mom said that I was cranky and crying about everything that day. I went to bed and woke up needing to use the bathroom. As I was about to stand from the toilet, I could not stand up. I cried out to my mom and dad, “I can’t stand up!” My dad carried me back to bed and they called a doctor. He examined me and immediately diagnosed me as having Polio (Poliomyelitis). There was an epidemic of it in our city. Another young girl that lived close to us had caught it and was in an iron lung. They immediately took me to a hospital and I was placed in a quarantine ward along with other children who had contracted it. We were lying in rows of beds, with stoves between them, at the heads of the beds. On these stoves they would heat blankets to place over us, which was the treatment recommended by Sister Elizabeth Kenny at that time. She was a self-taught nurse from Australia. She had experienced success with her treatment involving hot packs and muscle re-education. I can still remember the smell of the wet, hot wool blankets they would lay across us. Although they had adopted the hot packs treatment, I do not recall anything being done with me by the medical profession involving muscle re-

education. I have learned since that this part of her recommendations for treatment was not well-received by the U.S. medical profession at the time.

In a few days, they moved me to my own room. It was a small room with a crib. One wall of the room had a glass window, looking out into the hallway outside my room. As people would pass through the hallway, they could see me in the crib, 24 hours a day. As I look back on it, it caused me to feel like I was on display...much like an animal in the zoo. My mom and dad came to visit me but had to stay outside the room. They would wave at me through the window. As a child, I could not understand why they could not come into my room. I would lie down on the mattress of the crib and cry. My sister could not come into the building, as she was young enough to be susceptible to catching Polio also. She would wave to me from the grounds of the building, one story below. I could see her through the window on the other side of the room. I felt loved because she visited me the best way that she could.

My mom and dad asked me if I wanted them to bring me anything. I told them that I wanted a fairy princess doll. The next visit, they brought me the most beautiful doll I had ever seen. A couple of days later the nurses came to move me to another room. They put me on a gurney to wheel me there. I wanted to take my doll, but they said no. They said that I could either keep the doll and stay in the "window room" or leave it in the room for another child and go to a room where I would be with my mom and dad. I reluctantly chose to leave the doll behind because I wanted to be with my parents. After I had been in the new room for a couple of days, the nurses decided to cut my hair. I cried and cried. I felt violated, as I thought they had done it without my mother's approval. They kept saying how cute it looked. I did find out later though, that they had asked her beforehand...but no one told me.

I went home in an old-fashioned woven cane wheelchair (which was not old-fashioned then). My dad worked with me to try and regain the strength I had lost in my left leg, which was the most affected by the Polio. He had taught me to walk a few steps in a new pair of shoes. He was so proud! He took me to the hospital to show them what we had accomplished. They came out to where our car was parked to see me. They were angry at him because they said that I was not strong enough for this. I remember how disheartened he was. It made me feel bad to see him so sad, after we had worked so hard.

I wound up with the hospital fitting me with a full leg brace. It was cumbersome and uncomfortable. I could not bend my knee, as it had locks at the knee to keep the brace from bending. I walked stiff legged. From then on, I used a brace to walk until I was almost an adult. The muscles in my leg continued to deteriorate and it would swell. My foot turned over on its side when I walked (they had to put an ankle strap on the brace to pull my ankle straighter), and I limped.

Life Lessons

For my parents and I, the realization had settled in that I would be a person with a disability for the rest of my life. Life would not be easy, but together, we would make it.

What we did not realize was that God needed me to be a person with a disability, because it was the only way that I would learn what He had to teach me about life.

The Polio experience left me with low self-confidence. I felt “different” from everyone else. But the love of my family, and the loving hand of the Lord on my life brought me through this. I can look back on it now and say that I am grateful for it, as it has given me more compassion for others, who may not be perfect either, according to the world’s standards. I have learned that the most important thing is not what is on the outside of a person, but what is in their heart.

CHAPTER 2

GROWING UP

When it came time for me to start school, I went to what we called, “regular school.” It was dubbed that, as it was not a ‘special school’ that persons with disabilities usually attended. The kids at my school did not have disabilities. I felt out of place and “different.” Some of the kids were very accepting and kind to me. We would play hopscotch and they would give me what we now call an “accommodation,” where I had more of an advantage in order to compete with them. I did not have to stand on one foot and bend over to pick up the marker. I did pretty well socially, but physically it was difficult for me to climb stairways and keep up with the other kids. I remember a teacher in one class I was in, had “story time” for her students. They would take their shoes off and sit on the floor as she read stories. It was difficult for me to sit on the floor with my brace, so she would let me go to another room alone and remove my brace. I could walk a little bit then without the brace, so I would walk back to the classroom after removing it and join the others. Then after story time was over, I would go back to the other room alone again and put my brace back on. While it was great that they were including me, it reinforced the feelings that had become consistent for me now, of being different and unusual from everyone else. I had not seen anyone else, up to that time, who had a disability. I thought I was the only one in my world who was like this. It made me very self-conscious and withdrawn at times. I felt like people were staring at me because I was different.

As a child with a disability, it was expected of my parents to bring me for medical checkups and evaluations quite often. Then there were regular periodic special events we needed to attend, like Doctor’s Conferences. I dreaded these, as my mom and I had to be at the hospital very early in the morning. A nurse would then push me in a wheelchair and accompany us to a place in the basement of the hospital, that looked more like a theater than a hospital. I would then be expected to change out of my clothes, except for my underwear, and take off my brace and shoes. All the doctors, male and female, would gather into this theater for the event. They would call us kids, one-by-one, to walk across the stage in our underwear, so that the doctors could see us walk. Then we were placed on a table, center stage and lying down, so that the doctors could come and examine us up close. After they were done, we went back to

the dressing room to get dressed again, and the nurse pushed me back upstairs where we would catch a taxi and go home. Again, I felt like an animal that was being observed...a specimen. I was so happy when I outgrew this requirement of me.

My mom and dad decided that it was just too much for me to climb the stairs at school, and I was placed in a school for kids with disabilities. It was enlightening for me to see other kids who had disabilities. I did not feel alone with my lot in life anymore. I was accepted by others who had disabilities also. I could relate to them and they to me. I attended schools for people with disabilities until I graduated from high school. It gave me a great deal of confidence growing up with my peers. As a bonus, I found that I was receiving a good education as well. Kids who went to our school temporarily, because of an injury, told us that our curriculum was a lot harder and more thorough than what they had been receiving in 'regular' school.

At one point, the school decided that we needed a physical therapist to make us do 'exercises' periodically. It turned out that the exercises involved the therapist requiring us to climb horizontal ladder-type, wooden gym bars in our socks. She would have me climb up one bar at a time and hang by my hands from each bar climbed. Before I reached the top, my hands slipped from their grip on the bar I was hanging from. My left leg got caught between the bars as I fell and snapped in half...it was broken. The therapist contacted my teacher, who came to see what had happened, as I still laid there. She said, "There must be something wrong, as Marcy does not usually react like this." I was crying in pain. They called my parents. My dad got there as quickly as possible, as he was at work. I was carried to his car. My teacher gave us a small stool to place under my left leg, to prop it up in the car. I was in terrible pain. We arrived at the hospital. The doctor examined my leg and confirmed that it most likely was broken. They wanted to x-ray it to make sure. It turned out that the x-ray confirmed that it definitely was broken. I was very thirsty, and My mom brought me some water to drink. We then found out that they were going to give me anesthesia to reset the bone. Because of the water I had drank, I had to wait hours before they could reset it. You are not supposed to eat or drink anything before having anesthesia. I laid there in pain, as I counted the minutes going by. My mom sat with me the whole time. I was so happy when they finally put me under...as I would not feel

the pain anymore. It took me months to recover from this. As a result, I had to wrap a bandage around my leg while wearing the brace afterwards, as it would swell after being broken.

As time went by, I experienced all the ups and downs of growing up...friends, good and bad teachers, boyfriends and even starred in two musicals that our school put on for the public...and yes, I found out that I was not good at, and did not like Math Class! Plus, I had a boyfriend who was the envy of all my girlfriends. I was experiencing the life of a typical teenager.

My mom and dad managed and worked at a Dairy Queen on a highway outside of town. A horse had thrown his rider, a local girl, in the area across the highway from our business. He had bucked and thrown her off his back. He ran away, across the highway, to a vacant lot next to our business. I asked for and received permission from my parents to watch the ordeal from the safety of the back bumper of our car, which was parked behind the building. The owner of the horse and some of the local men (including my dad) were trying to rope and subdue him. Just as it looked like they had succeeded in roping him, he stood up on his back legs and bolted. Everyone was shocked, as the ropes they had on him were ripped from their hands. He started galloping at full speed away from them and was heading straight towards me! My dad was seeing this and decided in a split second to try and save me. Everyone else yelled to him, "It's too late!" But my dad kept running. I was frozen in fear, as I watched the huge, black horse galloping straight towards me at full speed! His eyes looking straight at me. Just as the horse approached me, he raised up on his back legs again and threw himself down against the car, where I was standing. At that very instant, before he hit the car, my dad grabbed me, pulled me into his arms and we both went flying away from the car and into the gravel! I saw the horse hit the car, as we hit the ground. The horse then slid down onto the ground...stunned and badly injured. His head had left a large dent in the roof of our car. My dad carried me to the front of the building and sat me on the serving window ledge. I was still scared and I kept looking towards the side of the building, wondering if the horse would find us. A few minutes later, I heard the gun shot. He had been put out of his misery. We found out later that he was diagnosed as having what is called, Blind Stagers.

Britannica.com defines it as:

Blind staggers, symptom of several unrelated animal diseases, in which the affected animal walks with an unsteady, staggering gait and seems to be blind. The many possible causes include poisoning from ingesting plants containing a high level of selenium or from ingesting grasses infected with the fungal disease known as ergot. Magnesium or calcium deficiency may also cause blind staggers, as may inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or of the brain coverings (meningitis).

When I was twelve, I came home from school one day and was told that my dad had an accident at work. He slipped and fell from his work truck and hit his head on the concrete. He had fractured his skull from ear to ear. Two days later, his brain began to swell. At that time the medical profession didn't know how to remove part of the skull to temporarily allow for the swelling. My mom, sister and I rushed to the hospital. He was dying. We sat in the hospital waiting room, where my mom started praying so hard that no one dared to interrupt her. She was interceding for his salvation, she told us later. I remember hearing the walls and ceiling crackling as she prayed. Even the medical personnel heard it and could not understand what was causing it. Even though I had not personally made a commitment to the Lord at that time, I knew that the sounds we were hearing was from my mom praying and that it was supernatural. Suddenly, my mom stopped praying. A little while later they came to us and said that he had passed away. I had wondered if she had abruptly stopped praying at the very moment of his passing. She said later that she stopped because she sensed that there was no need to pray any more. They took all of us to his room to see him one last time. I had never experienced seeing a dead person before (much less my own father) and it was heartbreaking to see the ravages of death. I cried.

Not long after, my sister said that she had a "dream" about him. It was so real that she had a hard time believing that what she was seeing was a dream. She said that our dad was cleaning a mirror that was showing his reflection. He turned to her and said, "Take care of your mother and sister. Don't worry about me, I have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb." Then he turned and continued to clean the mirror again. My sister said that it made her wonder what her own mirror must have looked like. She says that she had never before heard the expression, "Washed in the

Blood of the Lamb (Jesus)” before this. Afterwards, she became closer to the Lord.

Life Lessons

I had learned how to relate to people from all walks of life, different personalities and different abilities. I would need these skills for the rest of my life.

I learned from the experience with the horse that although it may seem too late to do something, do not listen to others and give up...keep trying. I also realized later that my dad had actually outrun that horse...which in the natural, would be an impossibility. I believe that he outran him through the power of the Lord. I also look back on it now and personally believe that the devil was trying to kill me. The Bible says that he comes to kill, steal and destroy. Why did the horse break loose and then run straight for me...and when he reached the car, purposefully threw himself upon the place in which I had been standing?

I learned how to later forgive someone who had caused me great pain. The physical therapist was very sorry later, about my accident. She visited me at my home afterwards and wanted to take me to see a show later. I appreciated it but turned it down. I struggled with forgiving her, but today I can say that I hold no bad feelings against her. I feel that what she was asking us kids with disabilities to do was not wise. But we all make mistakes at times.

I learned how devastating it is to lose someone to death, especially a parent, who was only 50 years old. I am able to have compassion on others going through a loss. God needed me to learn that our parents and family are the most important people in the world. They love you more than anyone else.

I experienced, through my mom’s and sister’s faith, the undisputable evidence that the Lord is definitely real.

CHAPTER 3

MARRIAGE

I met my husband-to-be while I was in high school. He was a classmate. We graduated together and lost touch then for a couple of years. He called me one day to renew our friendship and we married about six months later. He also had Polio, at the age of one, and used two leg braces and crutches. We had a beautiful wedding. While we were being driven to our wedding reception afterwards, an unusual thing happened. A white dove swooped down in front of the car window (as the car sped down the freeway). The dove turned and looked straight at my husband and I through the windshield...then it fluttered away. My husband kidded with me and said that they had planned it. I kept thinking, "How did they do that?" Later, when I questioned him, he said that they did not do it. Then I really wondered about it! Was it a blessing on our marriage, from the Lord?

Our marriage was good and bad. He started drinking again, as he had before as a teenager. Most days, after work, he would drink a six pack of beer before going to bed. This went on consistently for years.

During this time, I decided that I wanted to prove to the world that I was someone who was important. I loved cats, especially Persian cats. I decided to start breeding and showing them. I started a cattery and had sixteen cats at one time. I felt that this would fulfill my dream. Then it happened! A Cream Persian kitten was born from my cats, whom I named Gladiator (nicknamed Rusty). He grew to be a huge, near perfect breed-type, Cream Persian cat. He was a sweetheart. He had the personality and gentleness of a kitten. When he became an adult and I started entering him in the cat shows. He started taking Best in Show wins! It was so exciting. People were looking up to Rusty and I. We were being noticed. I finally felt important, and I liked it. I was being recognized for what I had accomplished, and not just noticed because I was imperfect. That year he was the 4th Best Cat on the West Coast and 12th Best Cat in the United States. A Double Grand Champion! His show name was Gladiator, it fit him well.

That summer, after the shows ended for the year, I expected that people would be contacting me because of Rusty. My dreams of him winning had come true, but no one thought of us after the shows were over. It was an empty experience and letdown. Shortly after this, I had the occasion to talk to a girlfriend. I was half listening to her as she talked, when I heard her say, "And I got down on my knees and asked Him into my heart..." I heard those words and replied, "What did you say?" She said that she had accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Thoughts were going through my head. I had always believed in the Lord and thought that I would be the one who would tell her about Him, but I had never done so. And now she had given her heart and life to Him first, before me! I listened to her and continued to think about it. When I got home that night and went to bed, I immediately prayed, "Jesus, I don't care about all this anymore...I want You!" Then a peace settled over me, I knew it was from Him. I fell asleep in peace, knowing that the worst thing that could happen to me would be that I would die, and I was not afraid anymore. I told my husband the next day that I had accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior...to which he replied, "That's nice." Little did he know that our lives were about to turn upside down.

A few weeks later, I had another life-changing experience. I was praying and a strong presence came over me. I knew that I needed to lie down, or I would have fallen down. I laid down and felt a presence fill me from head to toe. It was the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, as described in the Book of Acts in the Bible. When I was able to sit up in a few minutes, one of my cats was looking at me in amazement, as if they had also sensed the presence in the room. After this, my life was never the same. I experienced boldness in the Lord, my prayers were stronger, I could recall scriptures easier, it was easier to follow the Lord, and I 'knew' things sometimes, which I would otherwise not know. The Holy Spirit has been given to us as a helper. Jesus said that it was better that He went away and sent the Holy Spirit to us. He said that we would receive power, after the Holy Spirit came upon us.

I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

After this, things got worse. My husband drank more and more, as I continued to get closer to the Lord. I began watching Christian television and learning more about my new-found faith. He began to have health problems from his consistent alcohol consumption over the years. His father had been an alcoholic. I wondered at times if he felt inferior because of his disability and drank to drown out these feelings. I would talk to him about the Lord. He would listen, but never took it to heart. One night he was sitting on the floor in front of the television. He was switching channels. He landed on the Christian television station and quickly changed the channel...then he flipped back to it. As he listened, he fell backwards on the floor. He sat up, looking around. I asked him, “What happened?” He replied, “I don’t know. I’m going to bed.” I wondered at the time if he had been ‘slain in the spirit’ by the Lord. An example of this can be found in John 18:4-6...

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.”

Then on another night he was sitting on the sofa with me. All of a sudden, his face took on a tormented look...as if he was in agony. I asked him what was wrong? All he could say was that he felt like he was burning. Again, he said he was going to bed. I wondered at that time if the Lord was giving him a taste of what it is like to go to hell. The Bible describes it this way...

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15

He started throwing up blood one day. He was rushed to the hospital ICU. His liver was hardening from the alcohol and the blood was backing up in his body from the liver not being able to process it. The pressure was causing the veins in his throat to break and hemorrhage. They were able to stop it temporarily, and he came home. Then it started again. He was hospitalized and told that he needed a liver transplant. However, first they would have to deal with his lung problem, which we had no knowledge of prior to this. Something had destroyed the lining of his lungs. He smoked marijuana occasionally. The only thing I could figure was that it could have been sprayed with pesticides before he bought it. They offered him an experimental procedure, which was used prior to this only on premature babies. They fill the lungs with a liquid to coat the lungs...which gives the person the sensation of drowning. It was operated like a "lottery" as to whether he would be chosen to receive this procedure. It was determined through drawing numbers. They filmed the drawing with many hospital medical personnel in attendance. We were so excited to find out that he had won the right to get the treatment! We thought that perhaps God was going to use this to help him recover. They did the procedure, but it did not work. His kidneys started shutting down afterwards. He was dying. My nephew, a pastor in Colorado, came to pray for his healing. At one point, a nurse asked him, "What if he doesn't get healed. I mean, how will his wife react?" My nephew replied, "We pray and believe. If the Lord decides to take him Home, then we know that this is His will. Until then, we keep praying."

Not long after this, the doctors wanted to meet with his brother and I. We went to the hospital and met with three of them in a room. They told us that they wanted permission to take him off the ventilator. I asked them, "Is he brain-dead?" They replied, "No." I said, "Then you are not going to take him off the ventilator!" They said that this was my choice and would abide by it. However, one of the doctors was giving me an angry look afterwards. I did not care. I was not going to give up yet.

My sister and I had been visiting him at the hospital for three months

straight, each day prior to this. She would come and pick me up after she left work. We both were exhausted that night. I fell asleep in my chair while watching Christian TV and waiting for her. As I woke up, I heard a minister on the TV say, "There are people out there who are dying, and they need to hear, 'Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me!'" I knew the Lord was telling me that we were to read this and the scriptures to my husband that night at the hospital. My sister arrived to pick me up and I told her what I had just experienced. When we arrived at the hospital, his sister and family met up with us, as they were leaving his room. She was in tears. We continued toward his room, dreading what we would find. When we arrived, I sensed a "darkness" in his room. He was struggling to breathe on the ventilator. I took out my Bible and began to read Psalm 23 and the first Chapter of John to him.

"Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me." Psalm 23:4

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." John 1:1-5

We kept reading to him, and as we did a peace came over the room. He was breathing easier and there was no more "darkness." "Light" had replaced it. Suddenly, we heard a loud cry from another room in the ICU. It reminded my sister of the cries as the green mist (angel of death) in the old Ten Commandments movie crept across the land of Egypt. She said she had to look down at her feet to make sure that there was no green mist in the room! It sounded like perhaps someone had passed away at that moment. I kept reading the Word to my husband even louder, to drown out the cry we had heard. After a while, my sister and I both felt like it was time to leave. I leaned down to kiss my husband and said, "Goodnight. I love you and I will see you in the morning." I did not understand at the time why I had said that to him, as I had no plans of returning to the hospital in the morning. Later, I realized that I must have meant that I would see him again when the dead in Christ are resurrected to eternal life! Although he had never responded to anything

before this, he nodded his head, "Yes." I knew then that he had heard everything we had read and said to him.

My sister and I left the hospital, experiencing great joy from the Lord. We were no longer exhausted. As she pulled up at my house to let me off, a thought came into my head, "What if you go in and there is a message on the phone that he is gone?" I thought to myself, "It's ok." I checked the phone in my house and there was no message, but a few hours later I received a call from the doctor. She said that he had passed away. I told her, "It's all right, I know where he is, he is with the Lord now."

At the funeral, as I stood by the aisle where the casket was making its way to the front of the church, I looked as it went by me. To my astonishment, the casket was pink! I could not believe my eyes. Then I remembered an incident between he and I, when I wanted to put a mauve carpet in our house, and he said to me, "You are not going to put a pink carpet in this house!" My husband's brother said that they chose the casket in a place where the lighting was not so good. Personally, I believe that it was a message from my husband, saying, "Thank you for helping me to find Jesus. I will go to my grave in a pink casket in thanks to you for bringing Him to me."

My Life Lessons

God needed me to learn that the only happiness and contentment in life is found only in Him. The world will use you for its own purposes and then throw you away. You will never be good enough or measure up. When we belong to Him, we are important...we are Children of the King!

God wanted my marriage to teach me that happiness cannot be found through marriage alone. But, if the Lord is at the center of our relationships, happiness can be found through Him.

I learned that we should keep believing for those who do not know Jesus yet, and pray for them. Do not give up hope.

I found out later that God needed Rusty, my beloved and beautiful Persian cat, to help heal the great sorrow in a man's life. Rusty was not just a show cat, but he was to be used for a higher purpose and plan for the Lord. God needed him, and I had to learn how to release him from my perceived needs, to fulfill God's plan.

CHAPTER 4

WHO AM I?

After my husband passed away, I began the process of finding out who I was, without him. I found out what I liked and did not like (as opposed to what we liked). It was a growing process and very enlightening. It took about a year to recover from his death and to find myself again.

I started dating some, as I did not completely know how to live alone at this time. It was quite an eye-opener. Even though I thought, "This time I will find a Christian husband, and it will be wonderful," I had a rude awakening. Some Christian men may not be who you think they are. They are not perfect yet and may sin at times. It was disappointing, but the Lord was showing me to look to Him only and not put my trust in man.

During this time of finding myself, my mother, who I was caring for in my home, worsened in her condition. I had to call an ambulance for her one day, as she was getting worse. They kept her at the hospital, and she continued to deteriorate. At one point, my sister was told by the hospital that they would be putting a sign above her bed, that if her heart stopped, they would not resuscitate her. We both discussed it and agreed that it was time to let her go to be with the Lord and that she was in His hands. One night, while visiting her, she was propped up in her hospital bed. A male nurse was trying to get her to respond to him for a test he wanted to do. She would not respond or open her eyes. As I watched though, I saw her open her eyes quickly to glance at him, and give him a look of, "Don't bother me," and then closed her eyes again. He finally gave up. After he left, as she was sitting there, she raised both arms straight up in the air, as if she was seeing something wonderful and responding to it. She then lowered them at the same time. The next morning, she had passed away.

In the months after this, I would go out on what I called 'prayer drives.' I would go to different locations and pray there. One day I visited the cemetery where my parents are buried. They had a beautiful pool of water on the grounds, with a fountain and swans living and swimming around it. As I was watching them, I saw a vision. The water became crystal clear coming from the fountain and as it mixed with the pool of water, it became crystal clear also. The swans became as white as snow, and one swan, who was limping, was healed, and started running and flapping his wings! I believe that it was a vision of what this Earth will look like after the Lord begins to reign here. Where everything will be made perfect again.

I then drove to the ocean. I was parked in a spot up on a hill overlooking the ocean. The whole ocean seemed to be changing before my eyes. It too, was becoming crystal clear. I drove down from this hill to get closer to the water. I parked alongside Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in a cutout area overlooking the ocean. As I sat there, a strong wind stirred and blew towards my car. It lifted my right front bumper off the ground and then the wind was gone. As I looked towards the ocean, a huge wave was coming in towards the shore. It was the size of a tsunami! It was moving slowly and gracefully, with white foam blowing off the top of the wave into the air. It was amazing! I looked to see if people driving on the highway were looking also. The traffic was moving along as usual with no indication that they were seeing what I was seeing. This confirmed to me that I was still seeing a vision.

I now had to start working. My husband had been the only one working before this and I stayed home. I started working as a receptionist in a large skyscraper office building. I had a good job. I was not wearing my brace now, as it was uncomfortable and really did not fit me well anymore. I used a crutch to walk. My leg was crooked, and I was self-conscious about it in public. Every morning I would enter the building from the parking garage, through sliding glass doors. I felt like I was onstage when I entered, as people were coming down an escalator, facing the doors. I dreaded going onstage each morning! One morning, before Christmas, I headed for my 'grand entrance' at the glass doors again...full of dread. As I walked through, a man dressed as Santa Claus was walking in front of the doors, between myself and the escalator. He shouted in a loud voice,

“There she is again...trying to walk like me!” He was walking with a crutch and limping just like me! I could not believe it! I started laughing. I knew that the Lord had orchestrated this, to help rid me of the dread and embarrassment I felt. From that day on, it never bothered me again. “If it is good enough for Santa, it is good enough for me,” I thought!

My Life Lessons

I was reminded again that relationships cannot be relied on to bring happiness. The only perfect relationship is when we know the Lord and His Holy Spirit as our best friend.

I again was reminded, when I lost my mother, that we can lose those who are closest to us at any moment...but we have the hope, through the Lord, that we will see them again in Heaven, and that all things will be made perfect there.

The Lord wanted to show me a glimpse of the perfection of this Earth to come, through a vision. Although they look real to our eyes, they are in the spirit realm at the time. I once “saw” Jesus on the cross in a vision. I could see his head moving back and forth in agony. It was a shadowy image, as it seemed to be very dark and cloudy. I think that He had spared me the graphic details of what He really looked like at that time. I will say that it looked so real, that I thought that I was actually there. I closed my eyes and opened them again, and the image was gone. This was years before I experienced the visions of the swans and the ocean.

The Lord taught me to not be so self-conscious about my appearance. It does not matter about how others see us. What is important, is how the Lord sees us!

CHAPTER 5

DO ANIMALS GO TO HEAVEN?

I have had many dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, saltwater aquarium (by the way, they are very difficult to keep), turtles and even a lizard, in my life. In all cases, it was so hard to say goodbye to them when they died, after such a short lifespan. So many people mourn for their pets over a long period of time, but I am the type of person who likes to go out and find another animal to love after about a week's time. I cannot bring them back and loving another animal helps me to heal from the loss.

After I became a Christian, the nagging question always remained, "Do animals go to Heaven?" There seemed to be no clear answer to this. Five incidents have happened in my life that have helped me to shape my beliefs on this.

-Crusader

Crusader was my Persian show cat, which I purchased from another breeder. He was a large Cream Persian and the daddy of Rusty (Gladiator). He suddenly became ill one day. I lifted him into my arms and held him. I knew that he seemed to be dying. I then sensed a strong, supernatural presence that walked into the room. I felt as if it was an Angel. I spoke and said, "Take him." At that moment he died. He went peacefully. I believe that he was taken to Heaven by the Angel.

-Rusty (Gladiator)

After I accepted the Lord and became a Christian, I did not want to show Persian cats anymore. I knew that they did not enjoy it and it was hard on them. I gave them away to other cat lovers that I thought would give them a good home. A lady contacted me in another state, inquiring about my cats. I felt led of the Lord to ask her if she would like to have Gladiator? She said, "I would love to have him, but I can't afford it." I replied, "No. I mean for free." She could hardly speak...she could not believe it! I told her how I was feeling since accepting the Lord and did not want to exploit him anymore. I shipped him to his new home shortly afterwards. A few weeks later I called to see how he was doing. She was not home at the time and I spoke to her daughter. I asked her how Rusty was doing and she said, "We

don't have him anymore." I was shocked and could hardly contain my anger. I asked her to have her mom call me asap when she returned home. I was so upset. The lady called a little later and confirmed that he no longer lived there with them. She then told me the story. She said that Rusty and her brother had taken to one another. She decided to give him to her brother. Then she explained, "You see, my brother's little girl drowned in a pool accident lately and he has been very depressed and upset ever since. When he and Rusty took up with one another, I immediately felt that it was the best thing to do. I thanked her for telling me. I told the lady that this was a true miracle because Rusty was normally afraid of men. When the judges handled him, he liked the women, but the men judges frightened him. I knew then that I had truly heard from the Lord in this and had done the right thing. Rusty was an "Angel" in his own right, in disguise.

-The Rapture

One day I was wondering if our pets would go with us when the Rapture happens. I asked the Lord and felt that He had said, "Yes, they will go also." One night, as I watched a well-known evangelist on Christian television, He started talking about pets and the Rapture. He did not believe that they would go with us. He said that he asked his neighbor if he would take care of his dog after the Rapture, as he knew that his neighbor would not be going either! As I listened to him, I said, "Lord, I believe that You told me that our pets will be going with us in the Rapture. If this is true, please tell this evangelist also." The next week he was on the show again. He started out by saying, "I've got to tell all of you that I was wrong! The Lord told me that our pets will be going with us in the Rapture!" When I heard this, I was stunned! It confirmed what the Lord had told me.

Noah

Years later, I again asked the Lord the question regarding our pets being taken in the Rapture. He replied,

"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be with the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:37-38

I thought about what He said and realized that the animals had been saved from death, along with Noah and his family, during God's judgment by the flood. Another confirmation.

-Grace (Gracie)

The fourth, and most powerful of all the confirmations is the story of my cat, Gracie. After I lost my last Persian cat, I set out to find another cat, whose name I had decided prior to finding her, would be Grace. I wanted to adopt a cat from a shelter, as there are so many who do not have a home there. I looked for a cat for a few weeks but found nothing. During a period of heavy rain in our area, I decided to go to a local animal shelter to see if I could find a cat there. It is hard for me to be out in the rain, as I usually wind up getting soaked when I enter or get out of the car when it rains. As I neared the shelter, the clouds broke open over it and the sunlight was beaming down on the building. I thought, "Is the Lord telling me that Gracie is here?" I got out of the car and went into the building. I was led to the cat room. There, a lady brought me a small black and white kitten. She clung to me and did not want to let go. I must have held her for almost an hour. The lady asked me, "Are you ready to put her back in the cage, or are you in love?" I replied, "I am in love." They put her in a cage, and we went to complete the paperwork on her for adoption. They asked me what her name was, and I replied, "Grace." The lady said, "What?" I said again, "Grace." She wrote it on the paper. I could not take her home with me, as they required her to be spayed first. They would spay her in the morning, and I could pick her up afterwards. She must have thought that I deserted her at the time when I left her there. I went back the next day to get her. They brought her out in the carrier I brought for her. She was standing up, looking scared, as if she was wondering, "Where are they taking me now?" I felt sorry for her. But she soon learned that I had returned for her.

She was a loving kitten. I could hold her close, and she would assume the position she was in when I first found and held her. A few days later, as I was holding her, I sensed that she was not as strong as usual and was laying her head on my shoulder a lot. She seemed ill. She had come down with a virus that was circulating at the shelter she came from. She was very sick and almost died. One night, after she recovered, I was about to give her a treat, which she was always very excited about. However, this time her attention was drawn somewhere else. She turned and looked at the TV. I had the movie, "Jesus of Nazareth" on. There was a closeup of Jesus on the screen

and she immediately started walking towards Him, mewling in a longing way to Him. When she reached the TV in the armoire, she stood up to get closer to it...and then He was gone from the screen. She sat down and kept looking at the screen, hoping to see Him again. After a few minutes she decided that He was gone, so she came back to me for the treat. I believe that when she almost died, she was in His presence. She acted like she recognized Him and knew Him. She had/has never interacted with the TV like this before/since. Once in a while she looks at it but then turns her attention away, because she does not see Him.

He loves all of us. He loves His creation...and His creation loves Him.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:29-31

Life Lessons

Jesus loves animals. He is their Creator...He made them. They seem to have that realization built into them and it surfaces at times. I believe that if He saved the animals from death in Noah's time, He will do the same today. I'm not sure if it will be only our pets, or all animals. But some day it will be known.

Gracie was near death and was in His presence. Animals do go to Heaven. She was so drawn to Him, that she wanted to be near Him again. She has never "talked" to me the way that she did to Him. She perceived and knew that He loved her. I love her, and she knows it. And she loves me. But His love was perceived by her to be so much greater than any love that she has ever known.

CHAPTER 6

NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

Approximately twenty years ago, I experienced an unusual period of my life. One that I will never forget. It was Thanksgiving. I spent most Thanksgivings at my family's home, but this year they came to my apartment to celebrate. I was having problems with my boyfriend and knew that he would not be one of my guests that day. I decided to make a plate for food and take it to him, as he lived in the same apartment building. Kind of a "peace offering." I prepared the plate and took it to him, prior to my family's arrival. I knocked on the door. He opened the door and said, "What do you want, what are you doing here?" I told him that I had fixed a plate of food for him. In irritation, he grabbed it from me and slammed the door in my face. He later told me that his prior girlfriend was there with him at the time. I went back to my apartment, feeling dejected and sad. When my family arrived, we had a great meal together, talked, and watched TV for a while. It was a nice holiday, other than my encounter with the boyfriend.

I prepared for my journey the next day. I would be going to a friend's parent's home, which was about an hour away. Her dad was very ill, and I went to pray for him. The next morning, I fed the cat, made sure to put the anointing oil vial in my purse and started my journey, fully intending to return that night. I had an uneventful drive and found their home without too much trouble. It was already dark when I arrived. It looked at first like no one was at home. I went to the door, knocked, and saw someone inside the home coming towards the door. My friend and her family welcomed me and were glad to see me...happy that I arrived safely. We talked for a while and then I went into the bedroom, where her dad was. I started praying for him, and as the spirit of the Lord came on me, I started singing, "I will glory in the cross, in the cross, lest His suffering all be in vain. I will weep no more, for the cross that He bore, I will glory, I will glory in the cross." While I was singing, my friend's mom started crying. My friend said that she had not cried the whole time of her dad's illness, until that moment.

We then went back to the living room, and I told them that I needed to be going home. They said that it was not a good idea, as it was late, and that I should spend the night there. I do not usually like to stay anywhere overnight, but I felt like I should this time. We went to the kitchen, and we had a cup of hot chocolate. We went back into the living room, and I sat

down in the recliner chair to watch a movie. It was the Story of Ruth, a Biblical movie. I was enjoying it but became very sleepy. I remember closing my eyes. I still could hear the sound from the TV, and heard my friend lie down on the sofa nearby. It got very quiet, other than the sound of the TV.

Suddenly, I heard someone open the front door of the house. They walked slowly and deliberately towards my chair, walked to the opposite side of it and stood there. I could not open my eyes to see who it was. They then walked across the room, towards the bedroom where the dad was. I heard the door to the bedroom open slowly, as it had a squeak to it. As it opened, I heard a young man's voice, the sweetest voice I have ever heard, say, "Papa, Papa!" Then I heard an older man moaning. The older man then answered the younger man, and they started talking in a language that I could not understand. As they talked, the door started closing and shut.

At that point, my friend on the sofa woke up. She came over to my chair and tried to wake me. I could not respond. She then went into her dad's bedroom, and I heard her talking to her mom. She later told me that she said to her mom that she could not wake me and wondered if she should call my sister. They decided they would and then decided to also call the paramedics. My sister told me later that after my friend called her, both she and my nephew started praying for me.

The paramedics arrived and immediately put me on a heart monitor. I could hear it beeping in the background, as the paramedic asked my friend some questions and went through my wallet. As I listened, I started experiencing a "sinking" feeling in my body...I knew I was dying. I prayed inside myself, "Lord, help me, I don't want to die yet!" Right after this, I heard the heart monitor flatline. The paramedic yelled, "Her heart has stopped!" He immediately started CPR chest compressions on me. After the third one, my heart started beating again. He and the other paramedic immediately put me on a gurney and wheeled me to the ambulance outside. It was very cold that night. When I was placed in the ambulance, I said something to him about how cold it was. He said that the heater was on, and then I said again how cold it was. He replied, "Well, you know heat rises." He said they were going to take me to the hospital, but I refused to go. He said to me, "I have to advise you that if you do not go with us, you may die tonight." I told him that I trusted the Lord to take care of me and

that He can do anything. I was worried that it was such a small town, that their medical capabilities might not have been adequate to care for me. They helped me get out of the ambulance and then helped me walk to the house. They had me sign the release and left.

My friend asked me what happened, and I told her I did not know. I went and laid down on the bed. The vent in the room was blowing cold air in my face. I turned on my left side and began to have trouble breathing again. I was so exhausted I could not turn back over. Then I felt air (breath) going into my nostrils, like someone was breathing for me. I fell asleep like this.

The next morning, I woke up, still on my left side. I sat up. My chest was sore. My blouse was buttoned up to my neck, so I unbuttoned it to look at my chest. I was badly bruised from the CPR but right in the center of the bruise was a perfect circle of oil. I knew it was the anointing oil. I looked around the room and there, across the room sitting on a table, was the little vial of oil. It was out of my purse and out of my reach. I wondered who had put it on my chest? I asked my friend about it and she said that she had not done it. I remembered that my blouse was still buttoned up to my neck. Who had done this?

I also had a vision that morning, after I got out of bed. I was strongly believing at the time that the Lord would heal me from Polio. I saw myself in the vision with the Lord. He took my crutch from me (that I was walking with at the time), and I leaned on Him. Then the Lord spoke in my spirit and said, "One day I will come for you. You will lay your crutch down and you will lean on Me, and I will help you walk."

But You, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and He answers me from His Holy Mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. Psalm 3:3-6

Life Lessons

As time went on and I thought about the events of this night, some things became clearer to me. The person who stood by my chair was Jesus. He saw that I needed help and He went to His Father to ask for help. The older voice I heard was God the Father. He was

moaning in agony over the current state of His creation of Man and the Earth. The breath I felt was from the Holy Spirit, who breathed for me that night, when I could not. And the anointing oil on my chest, in a perfect circle, had been applied by an Angel of the Lord. The cause of all this I learned later, was anaphylactic shock. I am allergic to aspartame and there must have been some in something I ate or drank. I went to the doctor later and was given a clean bill of health to return to work. I have not experienced another episode of this since that night. Of course, I have avoided consuming this substance ever since.

Always be ready to meet the Lord, as you never know when you will breathe your last breath. Tell others about Him, as they can meet Him at any time also and need to be prepared.

Always have important information in your wallet or purse (such as insurance cards, etc.), because if you are not able to talk, they will look in these places for information about you.

Take good care of your body. It is like a finely tuned machine and needs the things that are good for it, to thrive. Do not eat junk food or chemicals. You never know how they may affect you (or your pets, for that matter!). Eat organic foods as much as possible.

Enjoy your life. Do not depend on others to make you happy. They can let you down and may cause you to become depressed. Knowing the Lord is a good source of happiness in life. He cares about you and will not let you down.

I believe that I will walk again and be healed in Heaven. This will happen when He comes for me...either in the Rapture or to take me Home to Heaven!

I made up with my boyfriend later and was able to tell him what happened to me. I know that things such as this made an impression on him spiritually and helped him prepare to be ready to meet the Lord at the time of his own death. We would visit the beach and look at seashells in the little stores along PCH and he would ask, "Marcy, who paints these?" I would reply, "You know Who." He would then say, "You mean JC (Jesus Christ), Himself?" I would answer, "You got it!" The Lord confirmed to me that he is with Him now. He would

also say to me, when I would talk to him about the Lord, “You mean, don’t get caught dead without Jesus?” I would laugh, and say, “Yes!” He told me on many occasions that He had Jesus in his heart. He was a Shakespeare buff, and gave me a book called, ‘Shakespeare’s Flowers.’ In the book he wrote to me, “God shall be my hope, my stay, my guide and lantern to my feet, Henry VI.”

CHAPTER 7

CAN I TRUST YOU?

With the promise of achieving wonderful things through the Lord, come these words from Him also, “Can I trust you?”

Many are the great men and women in the Lord, who have fallen during their assignments from Him. This was due to them giving into the temptation of thinking that they were doing these wonderful things on their own. They lost sight of the Lord’s greatness and started focusing on themselves as being great. At this point their self-made kingdoms began to crumble and fall.

I remember the time that He asked me this very same question. I was reading a book written by a famous evangelist, who said that he also was asked this very same question by the Lord. When I came to the part of the book where this question was presented, I thought about it for a few minutes and then sensed a strong spiritual presence that entered my room. I heard the words in my spirit...Can I trust you? I replied, “Yes, Lord...You can trust me.” Again, I heard the same question in my spirit, and I answered the same way. And then a third time the question rang in my spirit. This time I hesitated before I answered, and I contemplated the depth of the implications in answering it. After pausing a while, I answered again, “Yes Lord...You CAN trust me.” I had made a commitment in my spirit regarding this. The presence then left my room. I believe that I made a commitment to the Lord, that whatever He does through me, I must remember and acknowledge Him and His greatness in it. I can do nothing without Him.

Once He is comfortable in trusting you, your assignment will begin to fall into place. It will become clearer and clearer what He wants you to do. It will be yours alone. Do not try to copy what someone else is doing. It may be fine for them but could be difficult for you. He knows what you are good at, let Him tell and show you what you should do. You will not regret it. If He needs you to do additional things, He will either teach you Himself, or will create a way for you to learn how to do it. But always remember, He is doing it through you, it is not you. Some people receive words of knowledge (they are given information about something, that they had no prior knowledge of); some are prophets (they are given information on what

is going to happen in the future); some have the gift of healing (they can lay hands on the sick and they will recover); some are watchmen (they can understand when they must warn others of what may be about to happen); some are given gifts of powerful prayers, singing, pastoring, speaking, teaching, preaching, faith, miracles and more.

He has also given me the responsibility of being a watchman. This is similar to what they called the watchmen on the walls. In history, they would guard the walls around a city, by watching for invaders who might try to break through in the cover of darkness at night. They would wake everyone up and warn them if they saw anything suspicious.

Life Lessons

Never think that you are doing wonderful, miraculous deeds on your own. The Lord is doing them through you. You are His vessel.

Seek the Lord earnestly to find what your calling is...and then do it with all of your might. You are an important part of His body of believers, and He needs you. Be indispensable!

CHAPTER 8

THE TRAIN

In February 1995, a local pastor of a church I was attending gave me this Word of Knowledge from a vision he received from the Lord...

“I see a train. You are one of the boxcars of the train and you are carrying precious cargo. You need to hook up to the engine and let it pull you!”

I did not know what to make of it at the time. I wrote it down and filed it away in my memory. In 2012, I began Alpha Prayer Ministry. The prayer partners and I have seen many miracles happen through answered prayer by the Lord through the years. Many of the original members are still with me. However, I never really connected this with the prophecy I received years before.

I believe that the train is “the train of life.” A friend of mine had a dream a few years ago. She was riding on a train with other people. The train would stop periodically to let a new person on, or to let someone off. I believe that those who boarded the train had just been born and those who got off had passed away. She said that everyone wore armbands. The armbands had written on them your purpose in life...what you do. And the ticket you held determined where you would be going...your destination.

I think that the precious cargo I have been and am carrying is the true, first-hand evidence, through my life, of the goodness of the Lord in adversity. He is always there for us, in all circumstances...good and bad. He never leaves us or forsakes us. If He seems to have left us, it is because we have left Him first. He yearns for the closeness in spirit with us, that we may understand His love and purpose for our life.

There was a time in my life, when I was so caught up in everyday happenings and events, that I did not think about Him that much. I was “busy.” As I left for work one morning, I was sitting in my car, waiting for the security gate of my apartment building to open. I had the radio on. At that moment, Lloyd Ogilvie, a Presbyterian Minister, who served as Chaplain of the United States Senate from the 104th through 108th Congresses, shouted out on the radio, “Wake up...wake up! There is a whole world out there, going to hell, and you need to wake up!” It shook me to the core of

my being. I felt as though it was aimed specifically at me. From that moment on, I started living my life again for the Lord.

The engine I needed to hook up to, which would pull me, I believe is the His Holy Spirit and the Word of the Lord (Holy Bible). The Holy Spirit was given and sent to us by Jesus. He knew the power of the Holy Spirit in His own life here on earth and wanted us to have access to it. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Comforter. He is our best Friend and is with us always, to guide, protect and tell us all things. He is the power behind the Trinity.

The Lord's Word is the truth that never fails. It is the light that shines in the darkness. Its truth will defeat our adversary, the devil.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will by no means pass away. Matthew 24:35

In April 2021, the Lord directed me to build a website for Alpha Prayer International. He directed me in what to do to construct it each day. It was ready to launch in a time span of one weekend! I kept adding to it after this and advertised it around the world with a modest ad. In the first month it was well-received worldwide! I operate Alpha Prayer International "shoestring" budget. Ministry does not always have to be expensive, to be powerful for the Lord!

And now, He has directed me to write this book. One morning, as I was getting out of bed, He said to me, "You need to write a book." I thought to myself, "Write a book? I don't know how...and about what?" And that is when it all came to me, about the goodness of the Lord in my life and how to be indispensable to the Lord. He can and will use anyone in a mighty way. The most important things are to give Him your heart and your life. He will do the rest!

Life Lessons

Never underestimate the Lord, and His ability to change your life for the better.

Never underestimate His awesomeness!

Never underestimate yourself, when you are yielded to Him fully.

Never underestimate His love for you. Remember He died for you. If you had been the only one, He still would have went to the cross to die for you alone.

CHAPTER 9

RAPTURE?

We are living in perilous times. I personally have not seen anything like this in my lifetime and neither have the people I know.

In recent years we have seen signs in the Heavens. Blood moons falling on Jewish Feast Days, one after another. A solar eclipse that crossed our nation in the configuration of the first part of an X. It has been predicted that another eclipse is due to take place in 2024, and that it will cross in the opposite configuration to draw an X over the U.S. Time will tell...

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.'
Acts 2:20-21

The blood moons continue. Just recently there was another, along with a solar eclipse a few days later. Since that time, climate change has continued. The western part of the U.S. has had a record wildfire season, which started earlier than usual, along with record heatwaves. It has been reported that a massive die-off of sea life along the west coast has taken place due to the high temperatures. Tropical storms and flooding are hitting the east coast. All of this is in conjunction with the pandemic we have been dealing with, approaching two years now. My husband's nephew and sister fell victim to the Coronavirus and have passed away. The good news is that they knew Jesus as Lord and Savior. I will see them both again one day.

I heard a report today that the moon is wobbling. They say that during the times that it does this, it will cause changes in the ocean tides which can cause massive flooding. Time will tell...

The spirit of lawlessness is rampant in our cities right now. Many people have a disregard for the law; they are shooting and killing others, for insignificant reasons; police chases happen almost every night. Just the other day, a father and his ten-year old daughter were both stabbed by a man who got into an argument with the father. Yesterday, the story of a man and his wife, who got into an argument with a store clerk. The wife shot him. It continues on, and on.

The Lord has told us in His Word...

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. Luke 21:25-33

Why is this happening? It is the beginning of the Great Tribulation, prophesied in the Book of Revelation, which was written not long after Jesus was resurrected and disappeared into the clouds, as His disciples watched. Mankind has turned its back on the God Who created it. We have legislated Him out of our schools, and society. Our young people have grown up as a generation that does not know Him or even know about Him. For the most part, they are Godless. They have very few morals. They are even mixed up as to what gender they are. They are lost.

Will Christians escape this terrible period of time, 'The Great Tribulation' that is coming upon all the earth, through the event we call 'The Rapture?' I believe that we will, because of the scriptures that indicate this...

*These things, says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:
“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My Word, and have not denied My Name...because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the Name of My God and the Name of the City of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new Name.
Revelation 3:7-12*

What does it mean to persevere? The dictionary describes it as: *to persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly.* Jesus has placed this stipulation on keeping us from ‘the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.’ Personally, I believe that the hour of trial could be the mark of the beast. What could possibly be a greater trial, than to choose between Jesus and not being able to buy or sell? And yet, to take the mark will result in eternal death and torment in the Lake of Fire, which was prepared for the devil and his ‘fallen angels.’

And so, we are to persist in our undertakings for Him, maintain a purpose (to continue to tell the world that Jesus is alive, loves them and will save them from their sins)...all this in spite of difficulties, discouragement, while remaining on-course. Concerning this, we also revisit unforgiveness. As we have already touched upon in prior chapters. If we do not forgive others, He will not forgive us for our sins. He is coming for a church without spot or wrinkle...

*That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be Holy and without blemish.
Ephesians 5:27*

If we harbor unforgiveness in our hearts, could we be left behind after the Rapture? The raptured church is to be Holy and without blemish.

In the parable of the ten bridesmaids who were waiting for the bridegroom, it says:

Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." But the wise answered, saying, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. Matthew 25:1-13

The foolish girls were not prepared...and so they missed him when he arrived. When they tried to make up for their lack of preparation, He shut the door and said that He didn't even know them. Likewise, Christians should stay prepared at all times for the Rapture, or they may miss it, from going back to living their life according to the world's way...the very opposite of Jesus. He tells us...

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:42-44

CHAPTER 10

FORGIVEN & INDISPENSABLE

It is my sincere hope that this book has inspired you to reach new and exciting heights in your walk with the Lord. You are important to Him, and He wants you to be everything that you were created to be. He will move both Heaven and Earth to accomplish this if He needs to.

It also is my hope that you have seen how important it is to let go of the baggage of unforgiveness against others, yourself, and maybe even the Lord. Some people blame the Lord for things that He did not do, or things that He allowed to happen in their lives. If truth be told, these things can be attributed to our own inability to listen to His warning, the cruelty and disregard of others in our lives, our wanting to control our lives by making bad decisions, and so the list goes on. He wants to help us, but we have to allow Him to do that. He will not force you to let Him do anything against your will...even if it means that He might lose you for eternity. You have to be willing and want Him to help you. He has given you a free will.

If you do not know Jesus as your own personal Lord and Savior, I would encourage you to do so right now. Tomorrow could be too late, and you would go into eternity without Him. The consequences of this are dire.

Speak to Him earnestly and pray:

“Dear Jesus, I accept this gift from You. Please forgive me for my sins against You and others. Help me to follow You for the rest of my life. Send Your precious Holy Spirit to help me (as He did You). Teach me Your ways. Come into my heart and life. Help me to live for You and guide me each day. Thank You, Jesus. Amen.”

If you prayed the prayer above, let us know (<http://www.alphaprayer.org>), or tell someone that you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10.

Jesus is now your Best Friend. He will never leave or forsake you. We encourage you to find a good church that teaches the whole Bible and the full gospel of Jesus Christ; and recognizes Jesus as the only begotten Son of God and a member of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). Read and study the Word of God (Holy Bible).

You are now about to embark on the greatest adventure of your life, with Jesus!

Enjoy the journey.

CHAPTER 11

INSPIRATION

The Names of God

EL, ELOAH: God "mighty, strong, prominent"

ELOHIM: God "Creator, Mighty and Strong"

EL SHADDAI: "God Almighty," "The Mighty One of Jacob"

ADONAI: "Lord" – used in place of YHWH, which was thought by the Jews to be too sacred to be uttered by sinful men.

YHWH / YAHWEH / JEHOVAH: "LORD" The revelation of the name is given to Moses "I Am who I Am" (Exodus 3:14). This name specifies an immediacy, a presence. Yahweh is present, accessible, near to those who call on Him for deliverance (Psalm 107:13), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11) and guidance (Psalm 31:3).

YAHWEH-JIREH: "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14)

YAHWEH-RAPHA: "The Lord Who Heals" (Exodus 15:26) – "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities.

YAHWEH-NISSI: "The Lord Our Banner" (Exodus 17:15), where banner is understood to be a rallying place. This name commemorates the desert victory over the Amalekites in Exodus 17.

YAHWEH-M'KADDESH: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy" (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28) – God makes it clear that He alone, not the law, can cleanse His people and make them holy.

YAHWEH-SHALOM: "The Lord Our Peace" (Judges 6:24) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

YAHWEH-ELOHIM: "LORD God" (Genesis 2:4; Psalm 59:5) – a combination of God's unique name YHWH and the generic "Lord," signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.

YAHWEH-TSIDKENU: "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16) – As with YHWH-M'Kaddesh, it is God alone who provides righteousness (from the Hebrew word tsidkenu) to man, ultimately in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who became sin for us "that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

YAHWEH-ROHI: "The Lord Our Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1) – After David pondered his relationship as a shepherd to his sheep, he realized that was exactly the relationship God had with him, and so he declares, "Yahweh-Rohi is my Shepherd. I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

YAHWEH-SHAMMAH: "The Lord Is There" (Ezekiel 48:35) – the name ascribed to Jerusalem and the Temple there, indicating that the once-departed glory of the Lord (Ezekiel 8—11) had returned (Ezekiel 44:1-4).

YAHWEH-SABAOTH: "The Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 1:24; Psalm 46:7) – Hosts means "hordes," both of angels and of men. He is Lord of the host of heaven and of the inhabitants of the earth, of Jews and Gentiles, of rich and poor, master and slave. The Name is expressive of the majesty, power, and authority of God and shows that He is able to accomplish what He determines to do.

EL ELYON: "Most High" (Deuteronomy 26:19) – derived from the Hebrew root for "go up" or "ascend," so the implication is of that which is the very highest. El Elyon denotes exaltation and speaks of absolute right to lordship.

EL ROI: "God of Seeing" (Genesis 16:13) – the Name ascribed to God by Hagar, alone and desperate in the wilderness after being driven out by Sarah (Genesis 16:1-14).

EL-OLAM: "Everlasting God" (Psalm 90:1-3) – God's nature is without beginning or end, free from all constraints of time, and He contains within Himself the very cause of time itself. "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

EL-GIBHOR: "Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6) – the name describing the Messiah, Christ Jesus, in this prophetic portion of Isaiah. As a powerful and mighty warrior, the Messiah, the Mighty God, will accomplish the destruction of God's enemies and rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).

Jesus, Yeshua

And thou shalt call His Name Jesus. Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Holy One, Lamb of God, Prince of Life, Lord God Almighty, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David, Word of Life, Author and Finisher of Our Faith, Advocate, The Way, Dayspring, Lord of All, I Am, Son of God, Shepherd and Bishop of Souls, Messiah, The Truth, Savior, Chief Cornerstone, King of Kings, Righteous Judge, Light of the World, Head of the Church, Morning Star, Sun of Righteousness, Lord Jesus Christ, Chief Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, Horn of Salvation, Governor, The Alpha and Omega.

JESUS IN DISGUISE

So many people are in need these days. You see them everywhere, pushing shopping carts or on the streets.

I am going to relate a story that was told to me, by a beautiful Christian who is not rich himself, but has a heart to help others for his Lord Jesus. He said that one day he saw a man going down the street, pushing a shopping cart. He wondered how long this person had to work, going through garbage and trash, to find enough bottles and cans to recycle to buy his next meal. He told his son to go and get the bags of plastic bottles they were saving in the backyard to take in for recycling. His son brought them out, and he gave them to this man. The man stopped and looked at him closely. He said, "I know you...you are Martin!" He said that he had never met this man before in his life. He said that he got goosebumps from this, as he could not imagine how this man would have known his name.

I reminded him of a scripture...

And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:39-41

The next time that you see that homeless person on the street...is it a homeless person, or is it Jesus, wondering what people will do with this outcast of society?

Will you help that person, or will you pass them by?

Jesus in disguise?

FIRE

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with FIRE. Matthew 3:11

Indeed, the Holy Spirit comes upon us with fire...some fall under His power when it hits them. The Lord is Mighty, and at times we cannot stand in His presence. How long has it been since you experienced this? Have you grown cold in your walk with the Lord?

Now is not the time to forget the awesome power of the Lord that is available to you, as a believer. There is a lost and dying world out there, and time is short. Have you become wrapped up in the things of this world? Are you listening to music or TV shows that promote a world view in your mind? May you be reminded of what our Lord says about this...

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2aaaaaa

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

He is coming soon...the "Migration" (Rapture) is about to happen. Merriam Webster Dictionary definition: *to move from one country or place to live or work in another*. He has impressed upon me that all of Heaven is now preparing for this event.

AND HE SAID UNTO ME, IT IS DONE. I AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END. I WILL GIVE UNTO HIM THAT IS ATHIRST OF THE FOUNTAIN OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY. REVELATION 21:6

FIRE!!!

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

The weather is crazy, isn't it? Lack of rain, with resulting drought and fires; too much rain, with resulting flooding; lower temperatures than normal with record snowfall; higher temperatures than normal; hailstorms in the summer; tornadoes, and on and on.

Experts are already predicting that as early as next year (this was written in 2013), we could see shortages because of crop failures (this has begun now in 2014). What will this mean? Shortages and higher prices.

I have felt in recent years that the Lord has called me to be a "watchman," who warns of things to come. I know that perhaps some people see me as a gloom and doom person...but I have the urging in my spirit to warn people of possible impending emergencies.

As Christians, we compare what is happening in our world to what the scriptures in the Bible tell us. Remember the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another; and there was given unto him a great sword.

And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked and behold a pale horse; and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
Revelation 6:1-8

The black horse is generally thought to be famine, with an entire day's wages being spent for one loaf of bread, and barley being used instead of wheat (which is supposedly less nutritious than wheat), because it's cheaper.

Be prepared, as much as you can. Let the Spirit of the Lord lead you in what you should do. If He does not return for us beforehand, we will go through some of this. Another hard thing will be that many will not be prepared and will be begging us for help. Use this time to share the hope that we have in Jesus. Never will He leave us or forsake us.

Remember Joseph and the 7 prosperous years, and then the 7 lean years?

And the seven years of famine began to come, according as Joseph had said; and there was famine in all the lands; but in all of the land of Egypt there was bread. Genesis 41:54

He will take care of us, but we must be wise also...

9/21/2014 – FOUR HORSEMEN UPDATE

Since posting the above, we are even deeper into the fulfillment of the end times...

Peace is harder to find in our world, and brutal terrorism is assaulting us on the nightly news broadcasts almost daily...along with natural disasters.

Read again the scriptures of the Four Horsemen, and you will see not only that the black horse is riding, but the red horse has now joined him.

10/25/2014 – FOUR HORSEMEN UPDATE

Ebola...

Pestilence. One of the signs of the Pale Horse.

Yes, we have had famines, earthquakes, droughts, floods, epidemics, in the past. But these signs are converging on us all at one time...a sign of the end times.

Be ready. Our Lords coming is nigh at hand. If you do not know Him, He is waiting for you with arms open wide! He loves you. Open your heart to Him.

5/31/2021 – FOUR HORSEMEN UPDATE

The pale horse is continuing to ride in our world. Death from the coronavirus has taken many lives worldwide.

There is no time to wait in accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Do not wait too long, or you could be left behind when He comes for us. He loves you and wants nothing more than to call you "friend." Just ask, He will not turn you away. The only reason He keeps waiting is His hope that one more of us will turn to Him to be saved!

Hang on to Him through all the times to come...He will never leave you nor forsake you!

JUDGEMENT 9/7/2015

There has been much talk and speculation lately about the possibility of the United States falling into the judgment of the Lord for its sins.

The parallels with the judgment of Israel in Isaiah 9:10 are absolutely stunning, to say the least. But can it be true?

We know that the nation that we live in today has gone down a slippery slope since that sorrowful day of September 11th, 2001. It has slipped into a cesspool of materialism; not valuing human life (abortion and physician-assisted suicide); terrorism; disrespecting authority; same-sex relationships, and now same-sex marriage (I'm sorry, but God's Word says that this is sin...if you don't like it, you will need to take it up with Him. I did not write the Bible); persecution of Christians who respect and believe the Holy Bible; and last, but not least, disrespecting the Word and laws of the Lord.

Are we better than Israel? Would He judge them, after He had entered into a covenant with their nation, which includes following and respecting His laws...and then not judge our nation for the same sin? Of course not.

Right now, our nation is standing on "spiritual quicksand." We have been warned.

In the Book of Jeremiah a warning is given to repent and turn to God. The destruction of Jerusalem stands as a memorial for all time, that when a nation rejects God, the inevitable result will be ruin. Jeremiah also has a message of hope. Although Judah has abandoned God, God has not abandoned them...and would once again show Himself mighty on their behalf if they turn from their wicked ways.

It is up to this nation...the ball is in our court. Will we foolishly reject the God of our nation's founding fathers...and suffer disgrace and ruin...or will we fall upon our knees and ask for forgiveness, turning from our wicked ways?

The choice is ours.

O DEATH WHERE IS THY STING? 5-26-2013

I lost a very dear friend. He and his wife had been friends of mine since 2002. They were both beautiful Christians. He was severely disabled. He had a deterioration of the spine, COPD, fibromyalgia, and multiple sclerosis.

To top everything off, his wife also was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's a few years back. He insisted upon being her caregiver and took care of her every need. He cooked, did the laundry, cleaned the house, and took care of their pet dog, from his power wheelchair. It was only just recently that he relented and allowed outside caregivers to come in and do housework and such.

His wife worsened. She was hospitalized, and he went every chance he could get, in his wheelchair, through the streets to visit her...even though the wear and tear on his body at this point was taking its toll. The doctors announced that she would not be able to return home and would be placed in a Personal Care Facility. He said to me, "This leaves me with that guilty feeling that maybe if I did just a little bit more..." I assured him that no one could have done more than he did. And no one could have expected more from him.

I had not heard from him in a month after this. He would usually send me updates weekly. I decided to email him to see if everything was ok. The email bounced back to me. I sent another...same thing. I then decided to call their home and got a signal on the phone that the line was disconnected. Thoughts went through my head...maybe he had decided to move closer to the facility that they had moved his wife to and did not have time to let me know. I wondered also if something had happened to him, as he was not in the best of health. I decided one day to search their local newspaper online...nothing. I thought, "well, at least I know he's ok." The worst part about it was not knowing for sure. I then decided to do an online search. I typed his name and city into the search engine, and there it was...his obituary. It was in another newspaper. He had passed away at the age of 53. I was in shock. I found out later that he was unable to breathe and died alone at his house. But then it came to me that we are never alone...as a mighty host of Angels surround us!

The Lord reminded me that I will see him again someday...as he is safe in the arms of Jesus now. No more pain, no more sorrow.

The Lion and the Lamb, 2-24-2020

Jesus is described in the Bible as being both a lamb and a lion. How can this be? What could be exact opposites more than these two animals?

When Jesus walked on this earth, He was what could be described as humble and lowly, except for the time that He lost His cool in the Temple, where people were selling things. This Temple was the most Holy Place that one could imagine. The very glory of God Almighty dwelled in this place, in the Holy of Holies, where no man could go except the Temple Priests...and people were using the Temple to make money. They were even selling live animals to be sacrificed. When Jesus saw this, He turned their tables over and even chased them out with a whip! "It is written," He said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" (Matthew 21:12) Apparently, they may have even been charging top dollar for what they were selling and ripping people off. Aside from this, He was always forgiving, loving, and kind.

When He was betrayed by Judas and was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane as He was praying, He did not even resist when they arrested Him. In John 18:4-7 we see the following scenario take place...Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am He," Jesus said.

When Jesus said, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. This shows that they were not able to take Him without His permission. He was as a lamb going to the slaughter, innocent and humble. He went to that cross willingly because He knew that this was the only way to save humanity from their sins. He had to take our place. The King of the Universe came down from Heaven and glory to take our place!

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood - to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate His

righteousness, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand (by humanity) unpunished – He did it to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the One who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:23-26

And now we will look at Jesus as a lion. In Revelation 5:5-14 it says,

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed, He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. And when He had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your Blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (And all of Heaven fell down and worshipped Him!)

The slain Lamb, Jesus, has now become the Mighty and Powerful ‘Lion of the Tribe of Judah!!!’ He is mighty and to be feared by the devil and his cohorts. Do not let the devil fool you into thinking he has any power over us, if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The devil is a defeated foe, and his time is short.

Next time he attacks remind him of this and call for the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” to come forth to deliver you from your enemies. Amen and amen.

THE PASCAL LAMB – 3/6/2020

When the daily sacrifices start again in Israel, the Bible says that they will be stopped at one point by the antichrist.

“And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up (the antichrist proclaiming himself as God, in the Temple) there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Daniel 12:11

The Bible says that the time of the Tribulation will be a total of seven years, before Jesus returns on a white horse in Israel, on the top of the Mount of Olives, during the Battle of Armageddon, and takes possession of this earth. About midway (3 ½ years) through the seven years, the antichrist will proclaim himself as God and require everyone to worship him and take the mark of the beast (without which you cannot buy or sell). To take the mark is to deny the true God, Jesus and Holy Spirit, by giving your allegiance to a person who is being indwelt by the devil himself. People who accept this mark will lose their eternal souls.

When the antichrist stops the daily sacrifice, it will be shortly after the midpoint of the Tribulation. So many things are happening globally now...for instance, the coronavirus outbreak. It is causing a mass hysteria, with people buying out hand sanitizers and masks. Fear has been running rampant in some places, as well as a spirit of lawlessness.

Jesus compared the end times to a woman giving birth...and that the birth pangs would increase in intensity the closer we get to the end times.

“If” we are that close...how then should we be living our lives? Jesus is coming in the Rapture to take those believers, who are ready to go with Him, out of this world before the worst parts of the Tribulation occur. Are you living for Him now, or wrapped up in the concerns of this world? He says to “occupy until I come,” but not to ignore your relationship with Him. He is always to be first in our lives. We are to be ready and expecting Him at any moment.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians:52 & 58

Keep living your life for Him...that He may say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”