



# **GOD STORIES**

**Book 9**

**And More**

**Divinely Directed**

**Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon**

# GOD STORIES

*"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.  
Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all  
his wonderful acts." Psalm 105:1-2*



**Book 9: GOD STORIES And More...  
Divinely Directed** are true and inspiring stories written by ordinary people that highlight an extraordinary God and what He has done in, for, and through their lives. All of these bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. By sharing these stories, the reader is reminded of the depth of God's

love and the importance of knowing Him personally.

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

In addition, interspersed in this booklet are heartfelt prayers, biblical principles and encouraging messages on how to daily live out our walk with Jesus Christ.

**30-DAY DEVOTIONAL:** This booklet may also be used as a 30-day devotional. As you read the stories designated for each day, ask the Lord, "What do you want to reveal to me? In what way(s) may I apply to my life the message(s) and/or the scripture passage(s)? Then pray and do what He shows you.

Our prayer is that everyone who reads this booklet will draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and for those who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior, we pray you will.

Walking with Jesus,

*Gayle & Myrna*

Dr. Gayle & Myrna Brogdon

Website: [www.god-stories.com](http://www.god-stories.com)

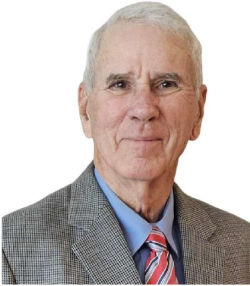
Email: [life4educators@aol.com](mailto:life4educators@aol.com)



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

## DAY 1: JUST ONE ROOM

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:  
and he delighteth in his way." Psalm 37:23*



**Gayle Brogdon**  
**Los Fresno, Texas**

"Do you have a room?"

"No, I'm sorry. We're full." After getting the same response from each hotel in Palestine, Texas and then in Tyler, Texas, Gayle asked, "What's going on that everything is full?"

"Last week's intense storm wiped out the electricity and everyone in the neighboring towns are without power. So, they came to the hotels."

Gayle returned to the car and shared what he learned. Perplexed and exhausted from driving 10 hours from South Texas (next to the Mexico border) to East Texas, we wondered what were we going to do? Suddenly Gayle pointed his index finger towards heaven and loudly prayed fervently, "Just one room, Lord. **JUST ONE ROOM!**"

Then he handed me the list of the area hotel numbers. After calling them with no success, I said to the last hotel receptionist, "We are 80 years old, have traveled all day and are exhausted. Can you recommend the hotels in the next few towns?"

She responded, "Since I don't know the neighboring towns, let me ask my General Manager." She returned saying, "We have '**JUST ONE ROOM**' that's in our system as not available due to it being out of order with the hot tub not working. It's clean and you can have it."

We arrived at the hotel 45 minutes later. As we checked in, the front desk receptionist, Jordan, asked, "Where are you from?" After telling her, "She responded, "Years ago my pastor from Boerne, TX was originally from Brownsville and his name was Danny, but I can't remember his last name?"

"Was it Mike Jones and his brother Danny?" I asked.

Excitedly she answered, "Yes!"

Only GOD could divinely direct our steps to the only one room available and to that young girl, Jordan, who had mercy and compassion in helping us.

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD...*  
*Psalm 37:23a*

## DAY 2: WHAT A GOD CONNECTION!

*"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps." Proverbs 6:9*

"What? Really?" I questioned inwardly. The woman's response took me by surprise! My reaction, in turn, made her eyes widen.

June 10, 2024 began like any other day with Gayle and I praying together, asking the Lord to direct us, give us eyes to see others spiritually that He brings across our path and to hear His voice as to what to do and/or say, all for His honor and glory.



**Myrna Brogdon  
Los Fresnos, Texas**

Gayle and I had traveled from Bluffton, Indiana, to see the Sight and Sound production of "Ruth" at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugar Creek, Ohio. After finishing our meal at an Amish style restaurant near the theater, I excused myself to the restroom. As is typical at large restaurants and theaters, a lengthy line spilled from the women's restroom. While waiting my turn, a loud, robust sneeze escaped me, leading to an apologetic exchange with the woman next to me, "I'm so sorry. Despite my efforts over the years, I've never managed a delicate, ladylike sneeze." We shared a laugh, and noting her friendly demeanor, I inquired, "Where are you from?"

"Canton, Ohio. And you?" she asked.

"Though we're currently in Bluffton, Indiana, you probably can guess I'm from Texas by my accent."

She smiled, "Yes, my sister, Brenda, just moved from Texas to Canton, Ohio."

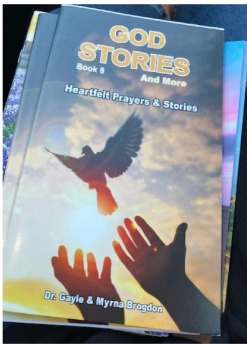
The mention of Texas piqued my curiosity, prompting me to ask, "Where in Texas did she live?"

"Los Fresnos, Texas," she answered.

I was astounded, replying instantly, "What? Really?" That's where my hubby and I live, too."

Just then, two stalls became available, ending our conversation. After exiting the restroom without seeing the woman again, I recounted the incident to Gayle. To our surprise, the woman reappeared, inviting us to meet her sister Brenda, who was on the restaurant's porch. It was incredible to think that God had led Brenda and us, both from the small town of Los Fresnos, Texas (8200 population), to cross paths in Ohio, 1600 miles away on that particular day and that exact time. We were certain, beyond any doubt, that God had directed our





paths as stated in Psalm 37:23, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way."

Gayle and I knew that our encounter with Brenda and Pam was a divinely directed God connection. For only God could do all that! Therefore, we presented His gospel tool, GOD STORIES booklets, to Brenda and Pam which they accepted with enthusiasm, saying they were looking forward to reading it!

After leaving their presence and knowing this encounter was no coincidence, but divinely directed, Gayle and I fervently prayed for the Lord to draw these women closer to Jesus Christ through the stories in the booklet of what an extraordinary God did in, for, and through the lives of the ordinary people featured in GOD STORIES. What a God Connection!

## **PRAYER: DIVINELY DIRECTED**



**Suzanne Soto**  
**La Feria, Texas**

Lord Jesus, I come before You this day and I ask that you direct my steps for Your pleasure. Show me what You want me to do, for I am a willing vessel to be used for Your kingdom. Thank You, Lord, for ordering my steps, so I meet those You want me to meet.

Let the light of Jesus shine through me to those who walk in darkness, so they may turn and give their hearts to You, Matthew 5:14. For only in the name of Jesus can men be saved, Acts 4:10-12.

In the morning, I will lift my voice to You and I will look up, for You are my God, early will I seek You, Psalm 63:1. You are the Shepherd of my life, and as a sheep in Your fold, I thank You, that I hear Your voice daily, John 10:27.

Let me proclaim with boldness the word of God, even to those who are not receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let me stand firm knowing that Your desire is that none perish, but all come to repentance, Acts 4:29 and 2 Peter 3:9.

Thank You, Lord, that my times are in Your hands and that my life is hidden in Christ, Psalm 31:15 and Colossians 3:3. All praise and glory to the One True God!! Amen.

## DAY 3: DIVINE APPOINTMENT

*"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23*

Last year (2023), when our Pastor presented pictures of the Brazil mission trip, one picture of his granddaughter and a group of young Brazilian children gathered around her touched my heart. I knew then I had to go.

I was 74 at the time, living on a budget. I was willing to borrow the money, but before I knew it doors started opening and unsolicited donations flooded in.

On May 26, 2024 our group of 42 flew to Manaus, Brazil. At 3:00 am the next day we boarded the boat 'Paul Marin' and made our way to the Amazon Jungles. The only way to get to the villages from the Paul Marin was by Jon Boats. When our team of six loaded the Jon Boat that first time my thought was "If I perish, I perish."

After the first day I decided that I was going to be a support person for this team. But the next day our leader asked which one of us wanted to share in the village we were approaching. Out of my mouth came "I will." I looked around to see who said that and realized it was me!

In all my years I had never had the opportunity to lead anyone to Christ. I was uncomfortable talking with others about how to be saved when I didn't understand Romans 3:23. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." In preparing for this trip, I finally understood that because of our sin nature that passed down from Adam and Eve, we are indeed all sinners.

Normally the women and children were separated from the men while we met. The children were with their teacher so there I was witnessing to the adult men and women. When I stepped forward and began to share about Jesus, the Holy Spirit took over; nine accepted Jesus as their Savior, including the president of that village. It wasn't me; it was the Holy Spirit that did that.

I turned 75 June 3rd, the day we returned from that trip. On that bridge of time, I witnessed the Lord going before me and preparing the way. It was described to me as a 'Divine Appointment'. I will be never be the same.



**Brenda Garner**  
Sardis City, Alabama



## DAY 4: FAITH SPARKS FAITH

*"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1*



**Leigh Aten**  
Brownsville, Texas

His faith sparked my faith. Even though he worked 15 years for the railroad, I only really ever knew my dad, George Walter Hufham, as a missionary to Mexico. He left his position in Louisville, KY, at L&N railroad and moved our family down to Brownsville, TX. I was 5 at the time and reveled in the adventure of staying at the Holiday Inn, enjoying the swimming pool and eating cheeseburgers at the local diner. What does a 5-year-old know but living in the moment!?

What I didn't know until much later was that our house was being finished and my dad was getting a loan. He had sold our house in Louisville and now only had financial support from a few churches. The loan application kept coming back rejected because they couldn't understand how he would meet his financial obligations. He told them to run it through again. He knew God had called him to the mission field and he wasn't taking no for an answer. Miraculously, the loan went through, and we moved into the house.

There were many stories of God's goodness and provision over the years. Some I am sure I have forgotten, but some still remain to this day. I listened intently, and his stories of faith in God took hold of my heart. Both my parents regularly quoted scriptures to us growing up. One of my Dad's favorites was Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." If we had a need, we prayed! Sometimes, Dad would write down the need on a piece of paper, lift it in his hands to the Lord, and start thanking God for meeting our needs! One day, my brother noticed we were down to just a little milk and potatoes. All of a sudden, Dad came in and said, we're going to Kroger to get groceries! As he finished the shopping and arrived at the register, a man came up to my dad. He told him he'd been looking for him for two weeks and gave him a check for \$250! Dad asked the cashier if they would cash it. They did, and there was God's provision!



One big memory I have was after my dad had fasted for 40 days. He shared about seeing a young boy on a tricycle cross a busy road. The car ahead did not have time to stop and hit the boy. He said this young boy was struck by the car, knocked in the air and landed 30 feet away flat on the pavement. My dad went

*another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph. 4:32*

to check on the boy and said there was no life in him. My dad prayed for life to come back into the boy. Immediately, the boy took a breath!!! That little boy came to life! Someone in the neighborhood must have witnessed it because they came running up to my brother, telling him that my dad prayed and raised a kid back to life! Afterward, my dad took the child home. The 6-year-old said he had gone to Heaven! My dad prayed and led him to the Lord.

1976 found my dad with two other missionaries in Guatemala. The Lord told my dad he needed to get out of Guatemala, so they left without knowing why. Later that year, there was a devastating earthquake that hit Guatemala. This and many other instances God has shown His faithfulness!

After my dad's passing 10 years ago, I was clearing out his office. I came across some newspaper clippings and correspondence. As I read, I learned that my dad had written to his boss back when he was working for L&N Railroad. He asked permission to have a prayer meeting at work during lunch break. God gave him favor and the boss granted his request. He and coworkers met and prayed together. They were even given space to make a chapel. I wish I could ask him questions about it all! That will have to wait until our reunion one day. I thank God for giving me a father who led me to faith in Jesus!

\* \* \* \*

## **WHAT KEEPS ME GOING!**

*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

18 months sober and clean as of July 16, 2024! I've had some time to reflect over the past weekend and not a single second did I regret anything.

18 months ago, I was pulled from a dark place. I hated life and couldn't escape it without cocaine up my nose.

The relationships I've built since, without a doubt has been the driving factor that's been keeping me going. Not only my relationships with people but, with myself...and most importantly the Lord!



**Jacob Plattner**  
**Searcy, Arkansas**



## DAY 5: WHAT? GIVE AWAY MY ROLEX WATCH?

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



**Bobby Crow**  
**Cd. Victoria, Tamps, Mexico**

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

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

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

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

\* \* \* \*

## DAY 6: GOD RESTORES

*“The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.” Lamentations 3:22-25*

Years ago, our oldest daughter, at 17, decided she was going to leave home and live with her boyfriend in another city. She was turning her back on her family, on her friends, on godly counsel, and most of all, God Himself! This crushed us. There were lots of hurt and tears. Her four siblings were hurt and angry. They knew how wrong this was and it crushed their spirits. We prayed together, we kept hoping for a changed heart, and we sought godly counsel.



**Mike and Beth Jones  
Boerne, Texas**

God was teaching us. As the weeks and months passed, we hoped and prayed she would come home. Initially, in our thinking, for her to come home she needed to be repentant and willing to live by “our rules”. But as we prayed, the Lord was saying, “All I want you to do is love her. I’ll change her heart”.

A few months later she called and said she wanted to come home but was still determined to plan her wedding. There was no repentance or submission, but we loved her. Later that year, they did marry but our relationship, while cordial, was just surface. We continued to pray for repentance and restoration.

Two and half years later I received a letter from my daughter, who now lived in another state, and she began to lay out all she had done wrong and asked for forgiveness. I wanted to call her but I thought my response deserved more than a phone call. We drove 17 hours to surprise her. We had lunch together and I asked her why she wrote the letter. She said if she didn’t make things right with her father that she knew God wouldn’t bless her with a family. I told her, through the tears, “we absolutely forgive you.” After a three-hour lunch, we got in the car and made the 17-hour drive home.

Two weeks later she called and said she was pregnant! She is now the mom of 13-year-old twin girls and a 10-year-old son. God Restores!

\* \* \* \*

## DAY 7: BE THE CHURCH

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me...” Matthew 25:42-43*



**John and Mary Cavazos**  
Olmito, Texas

During Covid, I was disgruntled with the church. Many churches were closed and no outreach was going out beyond the four walls of the church. One night I had trouble sleeping and was praying and asking God – “Why doesn’t our church assist with passing the commodities given by the government?”

God answered me in a whisper— “**You** are the church—what are **you** doing about it? Show my people the love I showed you during your bout with cancer.” Immediately I knew who His people were! It was the homeless, the

hurting from uncertainty and depression. There was social distancing and people were forced to wear masks.

Church was going on downtown in the Market Square! I visited a couple of times by myself and then started a grassroots street ministry by passing out breakfast tacos. I later bought bags and my wife and I wrote scriptures on them and stuffed them with homemade tacos. I had people help in making the tacos and added a small bottle of water, a salty snack and something sweet. We would go through sixty bags and offered them to whoever would accept them. Prayer was offered and “God bless you” was always stated.

Now my wife goes out with me and our church supports us in passing out small backpacks with socks, water, snacks, toiletries, blankets, beanies, etc. Mary and I feel joyful when we finish distributing the commodities. We know that we are obeying what God wants us to do by “showing the love of Christ” to His people!



## **DAY 8: I'M GRATEFUL**

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

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



**Cecil Cunningham**  
**Tulsa, Oklahoma**

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

On that day in my hospital bed, things started to change but it started on the inside first. I had many more obstacles, but I had learned a lesson in gratitude. As things got better, I continued to thank God for each day and was on a mission to pray for others, even the nurses and doctors who served me. I also prayed for other patients I encountered each day.

Wherever you are, Christ has good works for you to do and it starts by being grateful and looking at those people around you. So, get your eyes off yourself, be thankful, and look at the harvest fields around you.

## **CLING TO JESUS!**

When you find yourself in the dark about what's going on in your life, and you're not sure what you should do and where you should turn, cling to Jesus. When your bills are coming in faster than your paychecks, cling to Jesus. When your children make decisions that contradict everything you've taught them, cling to Jesus. When the doctor gives the diagnosis you most feared to hear, cling to Jesus. And on and on we could go... Cling to Jesus!



**Ron Corzine**  
**Ft. Worth, Texas**



## DAY 9: PRAYER – GOD’S AWESOMENESS



**Suzanne Soto**  
**La Feria, Texas**

Lord, Your presence is awesome. Who can stand before You? The angels bow before You and give You glory. You are ageless and timeless. The Ancient of Days. You were here before the foundation of the earth. The creator of the heavens, the stars and the planets. The beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. What can we offer You? What words can we say to You? We bow down before Your greatness. We give You the honor and reverence that is due Your name. Like Solomon, who wanted to build You a house, when heaven is Your throne and earth is Your footstool,

because He understood the magnitude of who You are. But You chose to live in men's hearts and to inhabit the praises of Your people. We bring sacrifices of praise into Your presence. As we lift our voices in awe, wonder and gratitude to You, You fill our mouth with good things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagle. Our hands and our heart are lifted up in praise to You. No one is greater than You.

We stand our watch and wait for Your presence to come in the room and fill every space. We invite You into our hearts, to change us and mold us into Your image. Burn away the dross that so easily clings to us. Refine us with the fire of Your presence. Do not stop until we are where You want us to be. Cleanse me, O Lord, and save me, that I may be a purified vessel, fit for the Master's use. So, come, magnify the King of Kings! Psalm 111.

## PRAY FIRST...BEFORE PANIC



**Betty Thompson**  
**Plainview, Texas**

One day I was literally racing around doing errands and had to get my daughter, Lezlie, to the airport, etc. etc. Then I discovered I had a missing credit card. Panic hit! I called the store - no! Frantically I searched everywhere.

Finally, I came to my senses and prayed, "God, You know where that card is; please show me!"

IMMEDIATELY the phone rings and the dog groomer says, "Found your card, Betty!"

Just a reminder I've got to remember to pray first... before the panic!

## DAY 10: GOD'S TIMING – ALWAYS PERFECT

*"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

Having grown up in a family that every single time the church doors opened--well, we were there. As a small kid you memorized the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer and by constant repetition you knew every verse of the hymns you sang regularly. However, without a relationship with Jesus as your Savior, the words had no power or meaning. So, all through my youth and teenage years I went through the motions. I had been trained up as a child in the way I should go...but no relationship.



**Lynn Johnson**  
**Lvford, Texas**

Then, in my early twenties, the Lord became real in my life and all that I had in my memory bank became powerful and real. My brother and I went on a 2-hour trip in my truck and started singing hymns and to our surprise we knew every word, every line, and all 4 verses. And the power in those hymns were now our fight song. 🎵 "This is our story, this is our 🎵 song. Praising our Savior all the day long" was real. Amazing grace was a very sweet sound. With relationship I now cherish the old rugged cross because it means everything. And with this crazy world we live in and our families live in, Onward Christian soldiers become our battle cry against every wickedness in high places. 🎵 🎵

God has a plan and prepares us for His service and for us to be useful in His kingdom. I was born like Ruth, for such a time as this and it's time to swing my SWORD 🗡️ that God has put in my heart. Don't get impatient waiting for your spouse, kids, grandkids, etc. to enter this fray. God has a plan for them. Keep praying and know God will move in due season if we just don't faint or quit. It's going to be 🎵 "Victory in Jesus Our Savior, Forever" if we just don't give up.

### 🎵 🎵 VICTORY IN JESUS! 🎵 🎵

I heard an old, old story  
How a Savior came from glory  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me  
And I heard about His groaning  
Of His precious blood's atoning  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory

O victory in Jesus  
My Savior, forever  
He sought me and He bought me  
With His redeeming blood  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him  
He plunged me to victory  
Beneath the cleansing flood

## DAY 11: WALKING WITH JESUS

*"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons." Mark 3:13-15*



**Ron Corzine**  
Ft. Worth, Texas

I remember as a young man singing a favorite old hymn entitled "Just a Closer Walk with Thee". The chorus was...

"Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be."

Walking with Jesus has more benefits than I will list in this short article. Let me share just a couple of benefits.

### **Walking With Jesus Means Action (An Active Lifestyle).**

It is estimated by some that in Jesus' earthly ministry, He walked about 3150 miles. That is almost the same distance as walking across China from the West to the East. You see Jesus led a very active lifestyle when you read the gospels. He was constantly teaching, healing, traveling, or spending time praying. Also...

### **Walking With Jesus Means Going In the Same Direction.**

From the very beginning, Jesus' purpose and path were laid out. He called the disciples to join Him in his earthly journey. That meant that they had to change direction. They had to give up what they were doing, their path, and their plans.

### **Walking With Jesus Your Life Will Be Changed.**

The disciples started as regular people. They were not well educated. And they didn't have much influence. Jesus often found them arguing about who is greater. Many other times they asked silly questions. Neither were they the bravest group. When Jesus was arrested, most of them ran off. And Peter who vowed to give his life for Jesus, denied Him three times. But as they walked with Jesus, observing His model, His life, His prayer, and His teachings, their lives were transformed. These same men became pillars of the church. They were emboldened to do great feats. May we walk with Jesus today as his disciples did long ago.



## DAY 12: GOD'S GRACE AND FAVOR

*"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching Thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Ephesians 6:18*

Growing up in a mainstream denominational church, I knew that people prayed. My mother would pray daily. Our friends and family would ask her to pray for different requests because they knew she was a praying woman.

I myself was a 911 prayer type of gal. I thought, I am a good person, I will be fine. But God had different plans. I was in a horrible marriage and wondered what I had done to deserve it.



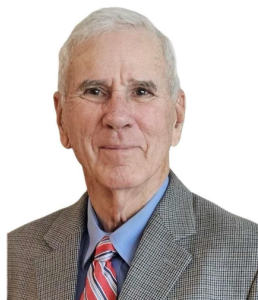
**John and Mary Cavazos**  
**Olmito, Texas**

Fast forward to my second marriage. My husband, John was diagnosed with cancer and through that, we were both received Jesus Christ as Savior. Thanks to my Pastors Bill and Anne, I learned what it was to pray, earnestly pray. I learned what it was to plead the blood of Christ over my children. I learned to pray for their protection. My son, on the road back from Chicago hit a wet patch and spun out of control. He called me and told me the only reason they were still alive was because he knew I prayed for him every day. The same thing happened a couple of Easters ago. My daughter and her baby were in a terrible accident after someone fell asleep and ran a stop sign. My daughter also said, Mom, I know we are here today because you pray.

So many times, and in so many situations, John and I have fervently prayed and sought the Lord on behalf of our children and grandchildren. God is so faithful! A good, good Father! A loving caring Father that only wants what is best for us, His children.

### DO GOD DEEDS!

When we do good deeds, they're actually GOD DEEDS. It's the Lord's goodness, His mercy, and His kindness pouring through us to bless others. We may be tempted to take credit whenever we manage to do something right, but we know where the prompting as well as the power comes from. The Lord alone deserves ALL the honor and praise.



**Gayle Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

Therefore, "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17) Let's "then, as we have opportunity, do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10) Continue being a blessing to others -- Do GOD DEEDS!



## DAY 13: THE FUN LIFE OF SUBMISSION

*"Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God,  
that He may exalt you at the proper time." 1 Peter 5:6*



**Lynn Crow**  
**Cd. Victoria,**  
**Tamps, Mexico**

Can I tell you that I have never understood why so many people have such a **HARD TIME** submitting to authority. In all our lives we will have to submit to parents, teachers, a boss, to a husband (the head of the home) or to any person in authority. It's a fact that is worldwide, never changing. The definition of submission is; "the action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person." Submission doesn't sound like a **FUN WORD** because it gives us the feeling that we are giving something up, taking something away from our life or our will. But it is the opposite because it's a Godly heart attitude or a surrender on our part and this always produces blessings and miracles.

Our highest honor is the decision to have a life of submission unto our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And to have **FUN, A HAPPY HEART** in knowing that we are yielding ourselves to God almighty and to His direction and plans for our lives. Let me give you an example in learning to **BE HAPPY** in submission.

Some years ago, I was invited to be a guest speaker at a large conference in the country of Serbia. I paid everything 100% for my travels, food, lodging and even sent a good financial offering ahead of my coming to pay for women that could not afford to attend. It was such a beautiful conference and I was to also preach the last message of the conference. But only an hour before my last session, the leaders informed me that other speakers had gone way over their allotted time and I would only have 15 minutes to close out the conference. (that's 15 minutes with an interpreter, so my time was 7 ½ minutes) I could have been upset, discouraged, even mad that I was on the other side of the world and wasn't given what was promised to me. **BUT** because I have learned to yield myself to submission with a happy heart, I totally smiled and told them it was ok, **AND IT WAS**. So, we had one more break in the session before I closed out the conference and I noticed that so many women from many countries stayed in their seats and didn't leave for a coffee break. So, I came to them, went down to each of the rows and just loved on them, hugged them, prayed over them (the Spirit had to speak to them because I didn't know their language) and I had so much fun. They were so surprised a speaker would come to them and love on them, and they opened their hearts and received **GOD'S HUG** with great joy! It was a highlight in the conference for me.

Isn't that what JESUS did for us when He submitted Himself to God when He said, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, NOT MY WILL, but yours be done" Luke 22:42.

LEARNING TO SUBMIT (HUMBLE YOURSELF) IS A HEART ISSUE AND IF YOU CAN SEE THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU WHEN YOU YIELD TO HIS SPIRIT AND YOU SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY, WHETHER EARTHLY OR HEAVENLY, YOU ARE ON THE ROAD TO A LIFE OF OPPORTUNITIES AND BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

## **DAY 14: TO THE END OF THE EARTH!**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

In my line of work, I drive injured workers to their doctor appointments. Since I work all over South Texas, I spend hours on the road with clients. Some clients are quiet and I respect their wishes. Others are quite chatty and I oblige. Recently, I was driving a new client home. While we were talking, she asked me where I met my husband. I told her the whole story about praying for a husband when I was younger. Then, how I was lonely when my best friend moved away and praying for God to send me a friend. God answered with the friend who eventually became my husband. We celebrate 33 years in December. I finished my story just as we arrived at her house. She quickly grabbed my hand and asked me to pray for her!! It caught me off guard at first but then I said, of course!!! I prayed for her healing and God's provision for her before I dropped her off. It's pretty amazing how God can open the door!! You never know how God will use your testimony.

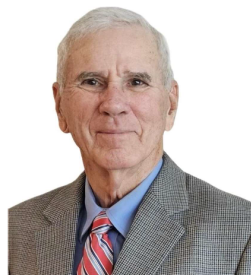


**Leigh Aten**  
Brownsville, Texas

## **HE'S DOING SOMETHING NEW!**

*"Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19*

Regardless of what it looks like, God is making a way even in the difficult circumstances. So, be of good cheer and trust Him. He's doing something new!



**Gayle Brogdon**  
Los Fresnos, Texas

## **DAY 15: GOD CARES AND ALWAYS PROVIDES!**

*"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8*



**Teresa Moreno  
Benton, Arkansas**

In 2007, I was blessed to go on my first mission trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras during one summer. I went with a team of 20 women plus my Pastor's mother, who was our leader. I was a single mom at the time and I was blessed to have a sponsor to pay my way, otherwise I would not have been able to go. It was a good chance to use my Spanish skills as Spanish was my minor in college.

In Tegucigalpa, our church had built a bakery, a beauty salon, and a sewing studio all with instructors and supplies to teach women in Tegucigalpa a way to earn a living to provide for their families instead of falling into the trap of prostitution.

One day we were having a special Women's service at a local church in town. The church had approximately 150 women sign up to attend. The ladies had prepared three huge stew pots of food for the women who were coming. One pot of beans, one pot of rice, and one pot of what looked like chicken bones in a red sauce. As the women started arriving most were bringing their children with them. We had anticipated this and prepared a children's room for them to have a child's Bible story, etc. The women kept coming and kept coming...more than the 150 women that we had planned for! More kept coming and we ended up with approx. 250 women plus more children! We looked at the pots of food and panicked! We don't have enough! What are we going to do???? We were starting to dig into our pockets and see if we all could come up with enough money to go get more food. My pastor's mom walked over and she said to us, "I see what you are doing! Come on over here and we are going to lay our hands on these three pots and pray for a miracle of the loaves and fishes!" And that's exactly what we did! She told us that are not going to skim on portions! We will give everyone a spoon of rice, a spoon of beans, and a spoon of chicken and red sauce. Then we stood behind those pots and served their plates as the women and children filed through for their meal! Remember, we only had enough food prepared for the 150 woman that signed up for the event. We served up exactly the same amount of food for each woman and each child until all 250 woman and children had gone through the line and were fed. Our spoons never hit the bottom of those pots!!! There was food left over in every pot! We fell to the floor on our knees crying and praising God for the miracle He let us be a witness to!

If we do the possible, God WILL do the impossible on our behalf! It was such a

perfect trip for this single mom who struggled to have enough in my own life to experience this miracle! God cares and God always provides!

## **DAY 16: THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PROMPTING**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."  
Psalm 52:10*

I was 18 years old and sitting in the balcony of our church. Although I had grown up in a Christian home, I had not yet turned my life over to Christ.

While I sat in church with my friends, I knew that I had to ask Jesus into my life. I had a Sunday School teacher, Don, whom I greatly respected, and I wished I could speak with him. The minister was preaching, and I made my way down the balcony stairs to the foyer. I realized the congregation was inside the assembly room listening to the minister, but there in the foyer was Don! He later informed me that he felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit to go to the foyer.



**Lois Drayer**  
**Bluffton, Indiana**

Tears ran down my face and I told Don that I wanted to turn my life over to God. I am so thankful that Don obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit and God placed in the foyer right when I needed someone to talk with. That was 54 years ago, and I have never regretted my decision.

## **A CHILD'S SIMPLE FAITH**

*"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4*

I often babysat my niece Natalie when her parents were at work. We always had fun together: played games, watered the garden, read stories about Jesus, and attended church on Sunday. When Natalie's dad was hospitalized, I took her home overnight so her mom could stay at the hospital. Natalie began to cry because her dad was sick. I told her we needed to pray to Jesus to make her dad well. We knelt by the couch and I told her to pray first. She looked up to the ceiling and prayed, "Jesus, will you make my dad well?"



**Maria Ellwood**  
**Santa Maria, Texas**

Immediately, Natalie looked down at the floor and said, "Yes, Natalie, I will make your dad well." I was speechless after witnessing the trust and simple faith of a five-year old little girl that Jesus would heal her dad. Lord, teach me to pray like a child.



## DAY 17: IT'S TIME!

*"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means, save some."  
1 Corinthians 9:19-23*



**Suzanne Soto**  
**La Feria, Texas**

It all began with a thought. "It's time to meet the neighbors." I had just bought a home and moved into a new housing development that was still being built up with homes. Some homes were a year old, others were just recently completed and waiting for buyers. Other homes had recently been purchased with families moving in, like myself. And there were still places with empty lots available for sale. Everyone I met seemed caught up in their own little world. People were friendly, but nobody really stopped to talk.

Therefore, I decided to make God Stories bags and do a "meet and greet" the neighbors, welcoming them to the neighborhood, even though I had just moved in myself less than a month ago. What fun I had. I bought small items to fill up each of their bags. I put in a note pad, a pen, some snacks, some individual candy, and a God Story book and rack card. Then I wrote out a personal message on



a note card and put that in the bag. On the note card I included the scripture from Numbers 6:24-26. I also wrote, Hi Neighbor, I live at \_\_\_\_\_ address. I am glad to be a part of such a nice community. If you ever need prayer for anything, I will be glad to pray for you. You are important to God. Blessings.

Then I went around to each of the neighbors, introduced myself and gave them their welcome bag. I got a lot of surprised looks which turned into happy conversations. I learned that most of the people on my street had also recently moved into their homes. Some exchanged phone numbers with me. Others invited me into their homes, and some conversed outside. There were mothers with young children, border patrol agents, several teachers, a nurse, and others who worked from home. It was a wonderful time getting to meet my neighbors.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 says, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means, save some." God is no respecter of persons and neither should we be. Connect with people. Learn about them. See how you can bless them. What can you pray with them for? Show an interest in them. Be all things to all men.

P.S. Maybe at Christmas I will make cookie goodie bags, because Jesus is the reason for the season.

## DAY 18: WE WILL CONTINUE

It has been the greatest privilege of my life to have spent the last 25 years walking beside my best friend. My wife Lisa.

Lisa taught me how to be a boyfriend, a husband and a father. She had that quiet expectation and standard, that demanded a man, a man that would protect the sweet gentle kindness that she possessed, a man that would never waiver in his commitment, and one that could be molded into a loving father. Lisa allowed me to live out my purpose in this life, to pursue Christ, protect my bride, adore my daughters and experience love beyond measure. Even in her illness and physical limitation, Lisa taught me that the God given love for my wife truly has no end and extends beyond anything I could imagine. Ephesians 3:17-18 is entirely real to me today in a way I never understood before her struggle. It reads:



**Shawn Olbeter  
Lubbock, Texas**

*“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,”*

After she got sick, I would tell Lisa every day “Today I am going to serve you with my life”, and she would simply reply “I know”.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus is concluding his sermon and he gives us some very powerful guidance:

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.”*

When Lisa and I were 20 and 21, we made a commitment together that we would build our lives on the rock of Jesus Christ. We are far from perfect and made any number of mistakes along the way, but over the decades we never went back on that commitment. I could have never imagined the incredible storm that would come against our house, but I know this. We did not and will not collapse, we will not be moved from what we believe, we will find joy again, and we will honor Lisa in all the days to come. As for me and my daughters, we will continue to serve the Lord.



**My Girls**

## DAY 19: EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE HIM

*"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28*



**Yvette Perez**  
**Kingsville, Texas**

My elderly mother experienced a stormy year of health challenges a few years ago which affected my entire family. I know that many people suffer health issues, but if I was not an actual witness to my mother's monsoon of health difficulties, I may not believe this story possible.

The rain began with a fall which shattered mom's collarbone. This fall was serious because it was inoperable and added burden to her battle with severe rheumatoid arthritis. A month later, out of nowhere, and with no previous history, she was hospitalized twice due to recurring kidney infections.

When she was finally released from the hospital, my siblings and I were relieved until we had to rush her back to the emergency room where she was diagnosed with COVID. Watching our mother suffer was grueling for my siblings and me, because we could not help her; but thanks to the Lord, she survived.

She was only home a few days from the hospital when we noticed that mom was not herself. She was now slurring her words, almost babbling, and she was exhausted. She was so weak and incoherent that we took her back to the hospital where doctors could not tell us what was wrong.

On a day when her heart became erratic, a visiting heart doctor just happened to overhear the nurses tending to mom and he came in to help us. That same doctor listened to our account of all that had happened the last four months and he asked us to go see him at his office when mom was able. Eventually he ordered a test to check her heart for blockages which normally takes forty-five minutes; so, needless to say we were rattled when it took almost two hours for mom.

When the doctor finally came to us, he looked pale. He told us that he had never seen anything like my mother before and he called her a living miracle. He showed us a video of her heart and explained in layperson's terms that the main artery should look almost as wide as a thin straw, but when he showed us my mother's artery it was as thin as needle thread. My brother and I cried, and my knees buckled as he continued speaking. My poor mother did not have enough oxygen flowing to her body and brain this entire time.

This heart doctor went on saying that he could not believe that she had survived the fall which could have ruptured that thin artery, and how she survived COVID he could not fathom. He said that as a man of science, he could only say that my

mother was still alive because of God. He refused to release her and scheduled her for emergency open heart surgery. The surgery was grueling and recovery for mom was another rough seven months, but one morning she said, "I have had time to think of the past few months and how horrible it has been, but I praise God for each illness and every bad thing that happened because HE led me to Dr. Stone who saved my life. The Lord turned all the bad for my good." Enough said.

## **DAY 20: LET THE LORD'S LIGHT SHINE!**

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

It was a normal Tuesday at our antique store and auction house. I was doing some work at a building about a block from the store when my wife texted me saying that she needed me at the shop right away. I stopped what I was doing and headed to the store expecting to speak with someone about a possible auction, antiques to buy or who was wanting a discounted price on a more expensive item.



**Rod Feters**  
**Ossian, Indiana**

To my surprise when I walked in the store, I immediately recognized a friend from high school that I played football with standing in the middle of the front room. We had not seen each other in over 25 years! We both smiled, shook hands and gave each other a hug. He told me that he had business in the area and wanted to stop to see me.

What he said next about put me to my knees. With tears building up in his eyes, he said, I need to tell you thank you for the impact that you have had in my spiritual life. I looked at him puzzled as he explained in more detail. He said that he was never raised around church and did not know anything about a relationship with Jesus. He went on to say that when I received Christ as my Lord and Savior right after high school that he noticed the difference that a personal relationship with Jesus had in my life. He went on to say that over the years that he could never forget about the difference that he saw Christ make in me. This, in turn, led him to seek a personal relationship with the Lord. He went on to say how his wife and children are all serving the Lord as well. He said, you had a huge impact on my family and you have never met most of them.

I was able to thank him for the kind words but that it was not about me. It was just the difference of the Holy Spirit in my life. He smiled really big and said that he knew that, but that he wanted me to know that he saw me live a life that desired to serve the Lord.

On a typical day that I was “busy” with work, the Lord sent a simple reminder to me that we are His witness in all that we say and do. None of this was about me. It was praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords that if we allow Him, He will use us in His kingdom work! What a mighty God we serve!

## **DAY 21: LISTEN FOR THE VOICE**

*“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16*



**John Cavazos**  
**Olmito, Texas**

In 2002 I was diagnosed with cancer. While waiting for the biopsy results, I remember saying to God, “I thank You for the fifty-two years of life You have given me. I thank You for my children, Eva, Laura, Johnny, Monica and my wife Mary. I thank You that You are a God of second chances. If You are ready to take me... I’m ready to go!” At that moment I felt God’s love embrace me and I felt engulfed in His love. I wanted to feel that love forever in His presence. Weeks later I found out I had Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, at a lower stage. God gave me His promise that by His son’s stripes I was healed!

The last twenty-two years of my life, I have learned to listen to His voice, and be obedient to His word.

In 2007, mom passed away, and I retired from public education. I was asked to be principal of my church’s school, grades K-12 grade. After the first year, during the summer I was visited by three representatives of the local school district. They asked if our school was accredited and I told them that we were. They continued to share the local school district’s dilemma. Approximately four hundred students were not graduating from high school because they couldn’t pass the state mandated exam. They asked if the students could take one class from our campus and graduate through our school. The students met all the graduation requirements. I informed them that our school didn’t have any dual enrollment classes. They said that if we could provide the students with a class in Bible as a literature course, they could graduate under our school’s name! That fall we graduated eighty-eight students complete with diplomas, cap and gown and graduation ceremony! Bibles were donated to the students through the Gideons and many students were exposed to the Word of God! God had responded to my question - “Why am I here at a Christian school?” It was God’s plan to further the Word of God!

*“Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16*



## DAY 22: BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31*

I came to know the Lord in 1980. When I experienced the beautiful presence of the Lord in my life, I wanted that for everyone else, especially my family. I started visiting a nondenominational church. What these godly pastors were sharing was specifically for me (that's how I felt).

Our two youngest children were still living at home (ages 16 and 17 years old). I started inviting them and my husband to go to church with me. They would say yes but come Sunday they would change their minds. Around that time, I got a booklet titled "How to Win Your Loved Ones to the Lord" by John W. Bullock. I kept praying the prayer of faith over my family and claiming God's promises for us. About a month after I started attending church both my children assured me that the coming Sunday they would be going to church with me, for sure. Come Sunday my daughter was getting ready to go but my son said, "Mom, I am not going to go with you." There are so many things that I could have said but I praise God that He kept my mouth shut.



**Maria Elena Rivera**  
San Antonio, Texas

I went into my bedroom and my son followed me, plopping himself on the bed. I then went into my bathroom where I had the booklet and started praying and doing all the author had written. When I came to the part about getting into agreement with another believer I just said, "Lord, I don't have anyone here to get in agreement with so I get in agreement with You. Amen."

I opened the door to come out of the bathroom and my son said, "Okay, mom, I'm going to church with you." Instantly, the floodgates of tears opened and I could not do anything to stop them. My son said, "Mom, don't cry. I said I was going."

All I could reply was, "Go, get ready. You just don't understand." I had just experienced a manifestation of God keeping His Word. Soon after that both my children received Jesus. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

*Believe*  
ON THE LORD  
*Jesus Christ*  
AND YOU  
SHALL BE *Saved.*  
Acts 16:31

## DAY 23: WHAT A RELIEF!

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." John 14:26*



**Myrna Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

Have you walked into another room and wondered why you're there? Or looked for your glasses to discover they've been on top of your head the entire time? Many can relate to these typical normal "forgetful" moments.

One day when I was 35 yrs. old, I shared with my sweet hubby Gayle that I plan to ask the doctor at my yearly physical "Why do I keep forgetting things?"

After conducting his examination, the doctor asked if I had any questions. I replied, "No, but I have this nagging feeling that there's something I was supposed to ask you, but I just can't remember what it is."

When I arrived back home, Gayle asked, "What did the doctor say?"

Shaking my head and laughing, I replied, "I forgot to ask why I forget."

Throughout the years similar minor forgetful moments occurred such as, I may recognize a person, but pull a blank on the name or not remember a memorable event that happened years ago. As I began to age it began to bother me and I often lamented about my brief times of forgetfulness. One day I realized God had changed my "lamenting" attitude about forgetting.

Beginning in 2022 to the present the Lord asked Gayle and I to share God Story after God Story of what He had done in, for, and through us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ the past 47 years. Most of our God Stories we had forgotten, but the Holy Spirit would vividly bring them to our remembrance. It finally dawned on us. The Holy Spirit remembers what we don't and reminds us of what He wants us to remember. Therefore, there's no need to lament but to have a positive attitude instead. If we're supposed to remember a matter, then the Holy Spirit will bring it to our remembrance. And if He doesn't, then we don't need to remember it! As we're living out our later years, this revelation is so comforting and assuring. What a relief!



## DAY 24: TRUST GOD!

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

Trust...A simple yet profound word.

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



**Sara Gonzales  
Mercedes, Texas**

I'm also reminded of the scripture that talks about casting your cares on Him. The Lord wants us to give (cast) our burdens whether big or small to Him. He carries our burdens.

At times when feeling overwhelmed, I write all my cares down on paper, crumple the paper up and I cast it towards heaven and say, "I give these to You. They are no longer mine to solve. I trust YOU Jesus. Amen" This simple activity gives us a glimpse of the Lord taking our cares into His mighty hands and bringing us peace, rest, joy and love.

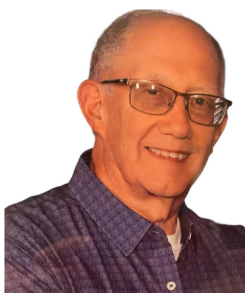
I recently had major back surgery. Moments before surgery, I must admit I was nervous and doubt almost set in. Thoughts trickling in... maybe I should cancel...is this really what God wants for me? I began to pray. I took my cares (worry, fear, doubt) in my hands and cast them up towards heaven and ask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

Immediately, my feelings of nervousness, fear and doubt went away. I was faithful to look to Him and He took my cares away.

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

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

## DAY 25: GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER



**Paul Diehl**  
**Harlingen, Texas**

In 1989, my family and I were in Communist China where I was teaching English. One of the Chinese teachers, Mrs. Chong, became our good friend. In the spring of that school year, we realized that we had not seen her husband for quite a while. When we asked where he was, she said he was out of town. Finally, she confided to us that he had been in the hospital for six weeks. Hearing this we asked if we could visit him. She, however, emphatically said no we couldn't.

However, the next day she approached us with an interesting question. "Do Americans have hemorrhoids?" The doctors wanted to know how Americans deal with hemorrhoids, Mr. Chong's ailment. Preparation H? Following our discussion came an invitation from the doctors to visit and share what we knew.

To give you some background, family members were responsible for the patient's meals. So everyday Mrs. Chong visited the hospital with food. The usual course of action for severe hemorrhoids was herbal soaks, and the consumption of medicinal teas. If there was no improvement within two months surgery was performed. Mrs. Chong had been in the hospital every evening for seven weeks taking care of Mr. Chong.

Our teaching partner, Christine, Jason, Matthew and I went to the hospital to see the doctors. Mrs. Chong acted as our translator. Besides the limited conversation there were crude drawings of body parts as we shared what we knew. The audience was made up of doctors, Mr. and Mrs. Chong, and about ten other patients. As the two young doctors prepared to leave, I mentioned that when I visited someone in the hospital I like to pray asking Jesus to heal them.

All the laughing as a result of my statement would have convinced everyone that I was the champion of Comedy Central. It was the belly hurting, infectious laughter that got all of us. But, when things calmed a bit, Christine, the boys and I laid hands on Mr. Chong's shoulder and prayed. That night was the first night in several years that he slept through the night. The next day he was home. God demonstrated His power to Mr. and Mrs. Chong and the doctors. The Lord is in the business of making Himself known so people may believe and be saved.

## DAY 26: SUPERNATURAL HEALING

*“Lord my God, I called to You for help, and you healed me.” Psalm 30:2*

Three years ago, on May 29, 2021, after finishing my Saturday cleaning, I bent down to pick up a tissue from the floor and immediately felt a pull on my lower back. I stayed slightly bent due to excruciating back pain! I thought, oh no! I had experienced this pain in the past! It was painful, and I did not want to go through that again!

So, the rest of my Saturday, I had pain standing, walking, and sitting. Trying to get into bed that evening was a challenge! Every time I moved, the sharp pain was constant in my lower back!



**Hilda Flores**  
**Brownsville, Texas**

The following day, my husband left for work, and I stayed in bed, still in pain, just crying out to God for His healing touch! At 10:12 a.m., I heard an incoming text. I slowly rolled over to reach for my phone. I didn't recognize the number and noticed the person had left me a voice text message. My dear sister in Christ, Pam, from Tucson, Arizona, sent her greetings and notified me of her new cell phone #. I texted her back and thanked her for sharing her new #, and I asked her to please pray for me because I hurt my lower back yesterday and was in pain. Then, minutes later, she sends me a powerful voice text message prayer! Listening to her powerful prayer, I felt God's anointing healing power on my body! IMMEDIATELY, my back pain was gone! I quickly sat up at the edge of my bed, praising God, and then stood up with my hands raised, two things I could not do before due to the pain! I thanked Him for His supernatural healing! I have experienced God's physical healing before, BUT I had never experienced HIS instantaneous healing power! PTL! Thank you, JESUS! He healed my lower back! No more pain! HALLELUJAH! If He did this for me, He will do it for you!

### SCRIPTURES:

“Lord my God, I called to You for help, and you healed me”. Psalm 30:2

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” Psalm 103:2-3

\* \* \* \*



## DAY 27: AN OPEN DOOR

*"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Revelation 3:8*



**Myrna Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

We had been traveling for hours May 30, 2024. Hungry and tired, we stopped in Dexter, Missouri to eat lunch at a restaurant. Before leaving the car, I put in my purse Book 5: GOD STORIES And More ... Showers of Blessings. Gayle carried Book 7. We prayed, asking for the Lord's leading as to who He wanted to receive encouragement and a booklet.

Our waitress was swamped, serving multitudes of tables. Therefore, she hurriedly moved here and there, not stopping at our table long enough to engage in any conversation with her.

As she scurried by us as we left the table to leave, I asked where the restroom was. She hurriedly took me there and quickly left. I had felt she was the one to receive the GOD STORIES booklet, but the opportunity hadn't opened. So, in the restroom stall, I quietly said, "Lord, I must have been wrong about our waitress being the one."

As I left my stall to wash my hands, my eyes opened wide with a huge, surprised look on my face. There she was washing her hands. It was so obvious that God had opened this door at His perfect timing with no one around to distract her. She listened intently to what I shared, took the booklet and thanked me. After Allison left the restroom, I praised the Lord for His leading, His timing and His future plans for her life, asking Him to change her life for His honor and glory. What an awesome God we serve!

## BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER!



**Gayle and Myrna Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

Your encouraging words spoken today may make an impact and be remembered years later. One person did just that on our wedding day November 8, 1963. My grandmother Lizzie Scoggins gently said five words that the Lord would often bring to our remembrance throughout these past 60 years of marriage. I'm sure many people spoke encouraging words that day, but her

biblical words of marital and relationship advice are what we remember and what resonates clearly even today. "Be kind to one another."

*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one*

## **DAY 28: TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR FINANCES**

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." Ephesians 3:20-21*

My husband JC and I have been married for 8 years. When we were newlyweds, we were saving up to move from Mexico to Colorado to attend Bible School, which was a big leap of faith! In preparation for the move, we sold our truck and my husband's motorcycle and saved up the money to buy an American car that we could use in the States.

When we received the money, I asked JC if we would tithe from it. He was surprised and told me that if we took out the tithe, we would have less money, and we needed every bit of it for another vehicle. I didn't want to pressure him, but I told him that if the money were only mine, I would definitely take out the tithe. After that, I didn't bring it up again, but I prayed! I asked the Lord to speak to his heart.

The next day, JC left the apartment and as he opened the door coming back into the apartment, he heard me say, 'Ok, Dad, thank you so much!' He then said he had taken the tithe to the church, and I told him that my Dad had just called me and told me that he's going to give us a truck we've been looking at in the US. JC had prayed and told God that he really liked that truck and wanted it. We believe that God honored our obedience in giving the tithe, and JC has never struggled with being faithful with his tithe and offerings no matter the amount! God always surprises His children with more than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).



**Daniela Guerrero**  
**Cd. Victoria,**  
**Tamps, Mexico**



## DAY 29: COMFORT OTHERS

*“who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1:4*



**Leigh Aten**  
**Brownsville, Texas**

Over the last decade, there have been many times I was in need of comfort. Losing a job, a friend, loved ones, and financial difficulties are relatable to most.

Recently, I was lamenting a relationship lost. I had apologized, prayed, invited over and even sent a birthday gift. Crickets! I got nothing! Even though I had decided I would not have any expectations, I thought I would at the very least receive some acknowledgement. I was wrong! To put it mildly, it stung!

A few days later, a friend reached out to me. She was also having conflict in one relationship and needed some help. I was able to share with her that she was not alone! I too understood the problems that can arise with friends and family. Life is messy! She was able to share with me and we talked for a little while. I reassured her of God's word that says, “As much as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.” As much as we love someone, we cannot change them. We can love them by praying God's will towards them. Sometimes, comforting others is just sitting and listening. After we finished our call, I felt God had opened my eyes to His purpose. I was able to comfort another person going through something that I had already been through. This gave me a new perspective and left me feeling joyful that my experience could help someone else! God will use us if we are willing!! He turns our mourning to joy!

## HE DIRECTS OUR STEPS!

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

As a kid growing up in the 80s, I was raised in a Christian home. My mom led me to Jesus when I was only 6 years old. We prayed together and asked God to write my name in the Lamb's Book of Life! We went to church, read the Bible and learned to honor the Lord. I remember in my prayer time asking the Lord if He would show my future husband that he was supposed to marry me. I really wanted God to guide my husband and let him know that I was the one. I was only 11 or 12 at the time but I wanted to trust God with my spouse!

In my senior year of high-school, my best friend moved away and I was a little lonely. We would spend so much time together. After she left, I sat by

myself in the balcony at church. I decided to ask God to send me a new friend. Not long after praying, a young woman who sat in the balcony asked if I would like to join them for lunch at a Mexican restaurant. I was only 17 and didn't have any money at the time. I indicated that I would like to join them but I didn't have any money. A young man piped up and said they had enough money for everyone. That was our first group outing with new friends that God sent me! We continued to hang out and go to lunch after church. I enjoyed their company and felt honored that these twenty-something adults would invite me into their social circle! As it turned out, the young man had graduated from the same Christian high-school. He was also the manager at the nearest Pizza Hut and delivered our personal pan pizzas every Wednesday since our school did not have a cafeteria. We continued to hang out and one day he invited me to see a movie. Since he was 23 and I was only 17, I told him I needed to ask permission from my parents. They met him and allowed me to go on a date. We continued to date and a month later a very strange thing happened! He told me that he didn't know how but he knew that he was supposed to marry me!! Wow!!! I did not see that coming!!! He did not know what I had prayed as a pre-teen! We did not know each other very long!!! So, that night I went home and prayed again. I told the Lord if this is really who You want me to marry, You need to put love for him inside of me!!! We continued to date for 3 years and I was hooked! On July 31, 1991, Todd asked me to marry him! Of course, I said yes! We were wed December 7, 1991. We have been married for 33 years and looking forward to many more!!! What is so interesting is how God knew who we each needed as our helpmate! We both have strengths and weaknesses that complement the other. God knows what He is doing! He guides our steps when we trust Him!

## WHAT IF?

Everyone has a story and history...of which, we may not entirely know. What if we take some time to put ourselves in another's shoes (trying to look at things from the other person's perspective), wouldn't we possibly be moved more with compassion towards that person (like Jesus was towards others) and less likely to be harsh or so quick to be judgmental/critical?

*"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*

*Matthew 9:36*



**Gayle Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

## DAY 30: SHOUT IT FROM THE HOUSETOPS



**Myrna Brogdon**  
**Los Fresnos, Texas**

What would have happened if the woman at the well hadn't shared her testimony about Jesus with the men in town?

Our God Story about what Jesus Christ has done in, for and through our life is a powerful tool in leading others to believe in Him. For example, "many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him **BECAUSE** of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did.' So, when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of

his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world'" John 4:39-42.

When I was 33 years old, I was longing to have a daily personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I often wonder what if Betty Thompson, a Christian educator, hadn't befriended me, an unbeliever, over 47 years ago? What would have happened if another Christian hadn't given me the book, Shout It From the Housetops, to read about an authentic Christian who lived out unashamedly his personal relationship with Christ on a daily basis? As I was reading this book, I thought "I wish this story was true. I don't know any Christians like this."

In addition, what would have happened if our 9-month-old son's nurse hadn't come in the hospital room to administer him his pain medicine and seeing the book in my lap say (without ever knowing what I had just thought), "That book is a true story. It's an autobiography." And then boldly share what Jesus had done in, for, and through her life, including healing her son. She even stated, "This is the first time I've ever shared like this while on my job."

Because these Christians didn't have a fear of man, but boldly and lovingly lifted up Jesus Christ, the Lord drew me unto Him. For you see, four days later when our son was released from the hospital and at home alone, I cried out, "God, if you are real, I want to know You and deliver me from cigarette addiction." The peace of God that passes all understanding flooded completely over me. I was radically saved and instantly set free! Jesus became personal to me!

Forty-seven years later, Betty Thompson, the precious Christian who befriended me in 1977, says, "This story brought home to me how important our testimonies are and how the Holy Spirit uses them...as small and simple as they are!" In the Matthew 10:27, Jesus instructs his disciples: "What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, **SHOUT FROM THE HOUSETOPS** for all to hear!"



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

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

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

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

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

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



# THANK YOU!

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”*

*Proverbs 27:17*

Above all, words can never fully express our heart full of love and gratitude towards You, Jesus Christ, for Who You are, what You’ve done for and are doing in and through ordinary people **ALL** for Your Honor and Glory!

We thank each of the Christians who shared in **Book 9: GOD STORIES And More** encouraging messages and their personal stories of what the Lord Jesus Christ did in, through and for them.

Thank you for reading **Book 9: GOD STORIES And More... Divinely Directed**. If you have been encouraged and touched by the Lord through this booklet, please take a few minutes and share with us at [life4educators@aol.com](mailto:life4educators@aol.com).

With Christ’s love,

*Gayle & Myrna*

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We want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** in advance for you becoming partners with us in this gospel outreach endeavor!

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A photograph of a river flowing over rocks in a forest with autumn foliage. The river is in the foreground, flowing from the bottom left towards the right. The water is white and frothy as it flows over the rocks. The rocks are grey and jagged, with some moss growing on them. The forest is in the background, with trees having yellow, orange, and red leaves. The sky is not visible.

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