



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

March 2023 Vol. 19 Issue 3

455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

10 am-2 pm

or by appointment 336-829-5060

sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Prayer Support Groups

Prayer Support Meeting

Monday, March 6th

6:30 pm

Lavonda Rosenberg
our Hope House Women's
Administrator
will share her testimony

River Oaks Church

Clemmons, NC

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

at 6:30 pm

Room #4

Led by Jeff & Sherye Hall

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday

At On Wings Office

From 12:30-2:00

We will begin a new study

March 7

No Other Gods

by Kelly Minter



Mercy Walked In

"You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long.
Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
You are forgiving and good,
O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you."

Psalm 86:1

"Mercy is the impulse that makes us sensitive to hurts and lacks in others and makes us desire to alleviate them."

Tim Keller

On Wings Like a Dove Board members have an annual planning meeting which lasts for a full day. We pray and seek God's face for His vision and direction for the new year a month before the meeting. This year we prepared by reading the book, *Ministries of Mercy* by Tim Keller. This book's focus passage is from Luke 10 about the Good Samaritan. We believe Jesus has called us to a ministry of mercy as we work with families and their prodigals and reach out into the unreached population in our community.

In the *Ministries of Mercy* book this paragraph is one of the many that stood out to me: "Jesus uses the work of mercy to show us the essence of the righteousness God requires in our relationships. By no means is this an isolated example. In James 2:15-16 and 1 John 3: 17-18 Christians are charged to meet physical and economic needs among the brethren. This is NOT optional. If a professing Christian does not do so, 'how can the love of God be in him'. The striking truth is that the work of mercy is fundamental to being a Christian".

With our word for 2023 being Mercy we set out to pray for mercy recently as one of our residents faced a prior charge that she was now going to court about which had the potential to place her back inside. Our prayer was that God would change the heart of the judge and give her mercy and allow her to remain in our program.

When she arrived at court her lawyer explained that there was a great possibility that she was going to have to serve time for the offense. The program directors gave testimony of her desire to turn her life around as she came into the On Wings of Hope program in September. During that time she had secured a job, taken classes, been involved in Bible Study and been faithful to the ministry guidelines. Upon hearing her progress in the program the judge did give her mercy by allowing her to remain in the program while doing community service and a requirement to finish the program to the end.

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Someone pointed out this song called,
"Mercy Walked In:"

"I stood in the courtroom,
the judge turned my way

It looks like you're guilty
now what do you say?

I spoke up,
"Your honor, I have no defense."

But that's when mercy walked in

Mercy walked in and pleaded my case.

Called to the stand, God's saving grace.

The blood was presented that covered my sin.

Forgiven when mercy walked in."

All of us need mercy at times in our lives because we are spiritually bankrupt. I am sure you have received that mercy from God many times over the years. He looked down and saw us in our sin from the beginning of time and had mercy on us as He sent His Son to die on a cruel cross to save us from our sins. Did we deserve it? No, we didn't but He took our place and set us free for eternity if we have been willing to receive His gift of salvation. That doesn't mean we will be free of consequences for our sins, but it does mean that He will often make a way when we least deserve it.

We have a family joke based on a conversation that I had with one of our grandson's when he was younger. He wanted something and made the statement that he deserved it. I said, "we don't deserve anything but death". We laugh about it now because that really got his attention and he has never forgotten it. It is a true statement. God often gives us mercy which is more than likely undeserved.

I discovered that His first act of mercy was the covering for Adam and Eve when they sinned and were aware of their nakedness for the first time. God gave them a covering by sacrificing an animal. He sent Jesus as a sacrifice for our sin by the covering of His blood on our behalf.

~ Sandra

**LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY
TO THE THRONE OF GRACE,
THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY
AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.**

HEBREWS 4:16

Kathy's Korner



Trust

There are signs around my home indicating that the long, cold, dark Winter is coming to a close and Spring is at hand. Birds are building and sitting on nests, the early flowers are blooming and trees are beginning to bud.

It's a dependable rhythm of seasons. One that through the years I have come to anticipate and trust.

February brought the conclusion of the Isaiah study in our Tuesday Bible study. What a beautiful study on trusting God! We looked at trusting His comfort, His calendar, His character, His commands, His correction, and we trust that He is coming again!

The main theme each week was "TRUST". God tells us over and over again to "fear not", that "He is with us", and that He loves us and we are precious in His sight.

How often do I get caught up in my day-to-day stresses and trials and forget the One who stands ready to give me comfort and direction! How often do I grasp hold of what I can do for myself, and forget the One who sovereignly controls my calendar, motivated by His love for us and by the kindness of His will! Is there any situation, any problem that I will encounter that the LORD has not addressed? He calls Himself the Shepherd for those who are lost, hungry, hurt and needing direction and care. He calls Himself the Strong Tower for those who run to Him when faced with fears, confusion and enemies. He is the Mighty One, the One who sees, our Provider, our Healer and our Peace. The Scriptures are full of Names of God, one to meet every need we have. All that is required of me is to seek Him and call out His Name.

Just as predictable as the changing seasons is the faithfulness of God. He is a Promise Keeper and He has promised to be with us...always. What a Mighty God we have!

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God
I will strengthen you and help you,
I will uphold you with
My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

An Addict's Journey

My addiction and alcoholism led me down avenues that I never would have thought myself capable. Each line I crossed made me more ashamed and more self-loathing, craving isolation so I didn't have to see myself through anyone's else's eyes. After all, I could not even stand to look at myself through my own. After being fired from a job for behavior related to my drinking, I rarely looked in the mirror at all, too unable to reconcile the person I saw with the person I knew myself to be.

I have been to rehab...broken my own bones to get prescription narcotics...been institutionalized...gotten a DUI. None of these would be my bottom. My bottom came when I least expected it, when I finally became sick and tired of being sick and tired.

This past December, I celebrated four years of sobriety from alcohol and pills.

I am thankful every day for my sobriety. It is the foundation upon which I have built my life. Unfortunately for me and my family, this foundation could only be built when I had stripped away everything else in my life--even my family who loved and cared about me--until all I could see was my alcoholism. Only then could I face the devil that controlled me and ask for the divine help I needed.

My mom never gave up on me. Calling her after six years of silence and hearing her burst into tears on the other end when I was expecting anger was one of the greatest gifts of my sobriety.

I don't have any magic words of advice to get anyone sober. I wish I did. I too have lost friends and family members to these vicious diseases. My only advice to anyone waiting on their loved one is not give up. As long as they are breathing, there is hope.

And when you get that call, that call I hope every single one of you gets that your loved one is safe and healthy and misses you, make sure you let them know you're overjoyed. That you're not angry. That you missed them too. I promise it will be a gift to both of you.

~Anonymous

THEN THEY CRIED OUT TO THE LORD IN THEIR TROUBLE,
AND HE SAVED THEM OUT OF THEIR DISTRESSES

HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM,
AND DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DESTRUCTIONS.

PSALM 107:19-20

Prayer Thoughts

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

I lift up my child to you in prayer.
Awaken my child to your Love and your Power.

I fervently pray that today my child would come to the end of his/her wayward journey of addiction and begin to run to you.

Do miracles, Lord.

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen

THE MYSTERY AND POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the voice of our heart and when we pray for a loved one who is lost, we are aligning ourselves with the heart and will of God.

1 Peter 3:9 says "He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." So if that is true, why do we have to pray? Why can't God just do what He wants? That is the mystery of prayer. When our spirit man prays, we release a supernatural power in the heavenly realm. John 5:14-15 says "And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him." So when we pray, we are partnering with God's will for our loved ones. Our spirit is agreeing with the spirit of God. We literally became God's prayer partner. There is a stirring and a shifting that occurs in the spiritual realm when we pray. Things are accomplished through prayer because when we pray according to the will of God, He moves.

God is greater than the enemy and He is the one who fights our battles, He is the one who saves and delivers. Our job is to pray and believe and not doubt in our heart. God will contend with those who contend with us and He will save our children. (Isaiah 49:25). He is fighting for our children...It is already done in the unseen realm because God said so, believe that It is done despite what you see in the natural.

As soon as I pray, you answer me, you encourage me by giving me strength.
Psalm 138:3

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
James 5:16

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
Matthew 18:19

FINDING REST FOR YOUR WEARY SOUL

Women's Retreat

APRIL 28-30

CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER

Elizabeth Gunter will be our speaker
CO-AUTHOR OF RUACH JOURNEY STUDY

SPACE IS LIMITED!

TOTAL COST FOR RETREAT IS \$150

INCLUDES ROOM, MEALS AND STUDY MATERIALS

**EMAIL SANDRA
AT SANDRA@ONWINGSLIKEADOVE.COM
OR CALL 336-829-5060**

FULL AMOUNT IS DUE WHEN RESERVATION IS MADE

**NO REFUNDS IF YOU CANCEL AFTER APRIL 14 BECAUSE
ONCE YOU HAVE RESERVED A ROOM, THE MINISTRY IS
FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE WHETHER YOU ATTEND OR NOT**

**TAKE MY YOKE
UPON YOU
AND LEARN
FROM ME,
FOR I AM
GENTLE AND
LOWLY
IN HEART,
AND YOU WILL
FIND REST
FOR YOUR
SOULS.**

MATTHEW 11:29



We welcome
**LATASHA
HARDY**

**SHE IS OUR NEWEST
RESIDENT TO THE
WOMEN'S HOPE HOUSE**

PRAY FOR HER!

