



A MINISTRY TO LOVED ONES
OF PRODIGALS & PRISONERS

A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

August 2023 Vol. 19 Issue 8

455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

10 am-2 pm

or by appointment

336-829-5060

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Prayer Support Groups

No Prayer Support
Meeting in July or August

Kickoff Prayer Support

September 7

6:30 PM

To be held at

Robert F. Miller Center

3315 Silas Creek Parkway

Winston Salem, NC

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

September 5 called

The Gospel on the Ground

By Kristi McLelland



The Living Water

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" John 7:37-39

Did you know that up to 60% or more of the human adult body is comprised of water. The brain and heart are composed of 73% water, and the lungs are about 83% water. The skin contains 64% water, muscles and kidneys are 79% and even the bones are watery at 31%.

I started investigating this because of my recent physical examination. My blood work showed that I had a renal insufficiency at the time of testing. My doctor advised me to drink plenty of water for 10 days and return for a recheck. He said I had probably been dehydrated but he wanted to make sure there was not another issue going on. So, I drank water as often as I could, and the results were quite different. Obviously, I had not been drinking as much as my body needed to remain in the normal range of the scale.

I started thinking of the Living Water and looking at this issue of dehydration from a spiritual perspective. How would it check out if we were able to have a test to determine how much of the Living Water we were taking in each day? Would we be well hydrated, or would we come up short? Jeremiah 2:32b says, "My people have forgotten me days without number".

We need to take inventory of how much of the Living Water we are taking in for our spiritual well-being as much as we do for the physical. I found in my research that water has the power to purify, to provide deliverance, and it can also destroy evil and enemies as the flood demonstrated.

Jesus as our Living Water never runs dry. He is always there to fill us up to overflow. Just like we must be intentional to drink water to maintain our physical bodies, we must partake of the Living Water available to us on a daily basis so that our tanks never run dry. Only His Living Water can nourish and sustain us (Matthew 11:28) in our spirit and soul. In John 14:27 the Word says His Living Water brings us peace and joy. So, I guess we actually do have a way of testing our spiritual tank don't we. If we drink daily from His well, we will have a peace and joy flowing from our lives that will shine out to everyone we meet.

Reflection:

1. Are you spiritually hydrated? Spiritual dryness comes from a lack of prayer and communion with God and meditation on His Word. Read a book of the Bible, follow a reading plan, or pick up His Word and read where He leads always applying His truths to your life. If you do these things occasionally maybe you need to make sure you are daily fellowshiping with God.
2. How can you rehydrate? Assemble yourself with others of like faith, meditate on His Word, keep a journal of God's download to you and review often, choose a spiritual mentor to hold you accountable, and involve yourself in an in-depth Bible Study.
3. The Living Water represents life to your soul. Partake of Him often by praising Him, singing along with your favorite praise music, listening to messages that help you to grow in your faith, and surrounding yourself with like-minded people who feed your spirit with the things of Christ.

Let His Living Water flow into you and allow it to flow out to others in blessing. Sometimes we become so spiritually stagnant that we only give off an unpleasant odor instead of providing a flow of water that gives life to others. He says, "And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward" Matthew 10:42

Keep pouring out!

Sandra



SHOW ME THE WAY

Our family is planning a trip this summer to a country we haven't visited in over 20 years. I started planning months ago—looking at the various options for travel, where we want to visit, where we would stay. After laying that foundation, I've started looking at what we'd like to see, when things are open and what we need reservations for. I've looked at how many flights of stairs certain places have and decided that viewing some sites from the outside will be just fine for me. I've looked to see what the weather might be like, what the customs are of certain areas and what foods we must try. I will be trying to learn a few words and phrases to ease our getting around. I've learned that smiling at strangers is frowned on, talking to strangers unheard of! I've started setting aside band aids, Tylenol and sanitizing wipes; things we might have need for. I've checked an abundance of books out from the library and follow certain groups on social media to learn more from people who have been there recently. I want to make the most of this trip by learning and preparing for it before we get there.

I often think of how similar planning for this trip to an unfamiliar area is to studying the Bible. The Scriptures are full of verses for direction, comfort and guidance, and I glance at them often. Sometimes I'll look to see what a particular word means in Hebrew or Greek; doing so often expands and clarifies my understanding of a passage. Looking at Bible maps to see where certain regions are, if they are near the sea or inland and their proximity to other cities, has been enlightening. Understanding the customs of the time brings new comprehension. The history that has shaped the people, the land and the animosities between populations makes some of Jesus' parables so much clearer.

The Tuesday Bible Study Group at OWLD completed a study in June by Kristi McLelland, *Jesus and Women*. Each week we learned about the significance of clothing, traditions, geography and words and how they played into some of the stories in the Bible. The study took familiar Scripture and made it so much more fascinating and applicable. The more I can understand of what my ancestors have heard, seen and done, the more grateful I am for what Jesus has done for me. What should I pack for my trip to exploring the Bible? My Bible, some maps, a dictionary ... a commentary can be helpful, and remember to invite our personal Tour Guide, the Holy Spirit, to come, too.

We plan to do another study by Kristi McLelland, *The Gospel on the Ground*, in the coming months. Keep your eyes out for the start date and join us! All the Tuesday Bible Studies lead to a greater understanding of the Scriptures as well as support, laughter and good fellowship; and the whole experience helps us to grow in the knowledge of Christ.

Jesus says to His disciples, "Come". Let us come to Him – and with Him - for a beautiful and interesting journey - the trip of (an eternal) lifetime!



Prayer Thoughts

God Heals Our Brokenness

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED, THROUGH FAITH.
EPHESIANS 2:8



Collin and his wife, Jordan, wandered through the craft store, looking for a picture to hang in their home. Collin thought he'd found just the right piece and called Jordan over to see it. On the right side of the ceramic artwork was the word grace. But the left side held two long cracks. "Well, it's broken!" Jordan said as she started looking for an unbroken one on the shelf. But then Collin said, "No. That's the point. We're broken and then grace comes in—period." They decided to purchase the one with the cracks. When they got to the checkout, the clerk exclaimed, "Oh, no, it's broken!" "Yes, so are we," Jordan whispered.

What does it mean to be a "broken" person? Someone defined it this way: A growing awareness that no matter how hard we try, our ability to make life work gets worse instead of better. It's a recognition of our need for God and His intervention in our lives.

The apostle Paul talked about our brokenness in terms of being "dead in [our] transgressions and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). The answer to our need to be forgiven and changed comes in verses 4 and 5: "Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive . . . [It] is by grace [we] have been saved."

God is willing to heal our brokenness with His grace when we admit, "I'm broken."



Taken from Our Daily Bread

Women's Day Retreat October 14th

Speaker is Dawn Bray

to be held in the Angel Room
at Calvary Central Campus
134 S. Peacehaven Road

Please register by October 5th
call 336-829-5060 or email
sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

*What a great way to step
into the Fall season*