



A MINISTRY TO LOVED ONES
OF PRODIGALS & PRISONERS

Happy New Year!

Family Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove

January 2024 Volume 24 Issue 1

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

No prayer support meeting
In January

Can we pray for you?

We have a prayer intercessor
praying each Tuesday in our
Prayer Room

Please call us at
336-829-5060
or email us at
sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We will be studying
Master Life

Come Join Us!

"This is the day the LORD has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it"

Psalm 118:24

Grace and Gratitude

On Wings is beginning 2024 with the words Grace and Gratitude on our lips for all God has done over eighteen years of ministry. In preparation for our Volunteer Dinner we looked back over eighteen years of provision and favor and remembered His faithfulness.

Gratitude is being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. When we express gratitude, we will have greater joy and satisfaction in our lives. We can express gratitude because of the grace God has shown us. Grace is overlooking an offense. It is paying someone else's debt expecting nothing in return. It is God's riches at Christ's expense. Just that fact alone should bring an overflowing sense of gratitude in our hearts which flows out of our mouth in praise to the One who gave His all for us.

So, I challenge you to make this a year that you express gratitude to God and to those around you. I have asked the Lord to stop me when I am about to grumble about a situation or person and instead to have a heart of gratitude.

The situation in Israel puts it in perspective as I think of the hostages being kept against their will in an underground space and the abuse they are enduring. It helps me to see my surroundings with a heart of gratitude.

So far in this nation we are not dealing with any crisis that compares to the atrocities the Jewish people are experiencing. Most of us get to lay our head down without the fear of sirens going off in warning of bombs headed our way. So many buildings have been destroyed and homes demolished so that many folks have no clean, safe place to lay their heads.

Sadly, we find most people in our nation grumbling instead of expressing gratitude for God's provision of a home, food, health, and a job. Exodus 16:8 states, "You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD". Wow, when I read that it caused me to stop and think. Who am I to grumble against my Lord who give so much for me?

Father, please forgive my grumbling and complaining over little things that go wrong. Help me to concentrate on all the blessings that come from Your hand. Turn my complaints into thanksgiving. Give me a new heart and open my eyes to see my blessings. Let me start this New Year with more gratitude than ever before. Be ever near to Israel, the nation You have chosen.

Have a blessed New Year.

Sandra



Prayer Thoughts

HEBREWS 2:1 SAYS,
"FOR THIS REASON,
WE MUST PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION."

It's scripture telling us to pay closer attention to scripture. In other words, it doesn't matter how much attention you're paying to scripture - you need to pay more close attention. No matter how great you think salvation is, there's always more. No matter how great you think God is, He's greater. No matter how amazing you think He is, He's even more amazing. No matter how much attention you're paying to God, you need to pay more, to seek Him more. You need to spend more time with Him, to be growing more in Him. You need to love Him more, praise Him more, know Him more, believe Him more, trust Him more, thank Him more, rejoice in Him more and serve Him more. Obey, worship and glorify Him more. Are you paying close attention? Pay closer attention. Because even the scripture that tells you to pay attention, is telling you to pay even closer attention. God is more, salvation is greater, and Messiah is more awesome. Also, 'more' is what God has in store for you.



TODAY'S MISSION -

Pay close attention as you read the word today,
and then pay closer attention.

Taken from The Daily Sapphire December 8th

"BEHOLD, I AM
COMING SOON, AND
MY REWARD IS
WITH ME, TO GIVE
TO EACH ONE
ACCORDING TO
WHAT HE HAS
DONE.

I AM THE ALPHA
AND THE OMEGA,
THE BEGINNING
AND THE END
THE FIRST AND
THE LAST."

REVELATION 22:13

Kathy's Korner



SMELLING GOOD IN 2024

I read a devotion this morning that intrigued me. It spoke of shepherds being shunned and avoided. They have a certain "aroma" that most find unpleasant to be close to.

I pondered how a shepherd would end up smelling like their sheep. It's not from walking near them or keeping watch on them. Shepherds often sleep with their flocks, will barricade a pen with their body to keep intruders from entering and to shelter their sheep. A shepherd will also carry a sheep across their shoulders when the sheep becomes injured or ill. Shepherds integrate in with their flocks to protect, lead and care for them, even at the expense of smelling like them!

When I take this line of thinking and apply it to our Shepherd and our King - it is so humbling. By rights, kings were pleasantly perfumed. You would know royalty was close because you could smell them, even before you could see them. But our King willingly stepped into our lives taking on the stench of us helpless, vulnerable, rebellious sheep, so that He could protect us, carry us, lead and care for us. He takes us from being filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and exchanges it for rich robes. (Zechariah 3:4)

What does this have to do with starting a new year? Confidence and blessed assurance. Jesus does not shun us for our shame, our tendency to worry, the strongholds we still struggle with, our propensity to continue to sin... . When we turn to Him and share our burdens with Him, when we confess our sins and shame, our Shepherd forgives us and embraces us. He takes our stench and replaces it with His royal, sweet aroma.

Let us commit to following in the footsteps of Jesus this year, staying close to Him and becoming more like Him.

Jesus has good plans for us in 2024!



On Wings has been privileged to minister in the Rolling Hills Community for about ten years. It is listed as one of the unreached people groups in our area. We have seen it transformed during those ten years. We took bicycles, Treasure Boxes, Bibles, Clothes, Pocketbooks, hygiene products, children's pillows and 90 boxes of food.

What a blessing to see the smiles on the children's faces. It blesses our souls to bless these folks who struggle to make ends meet. Pray for them to know the love of Jesus as we go into their community each year.



Thank you to each one of you who had a part in preparing the boxes, donating clothes and pocket books as well as providing food or helping to distribute the supplies.

It was a glorious day!



Book Review: God's Word

"If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction"
Psalm 119:92

Where did 2023 go? Seems like the older I get the faster time goes. I have to work a month ahead to prepare our newsletters and several months ahead to plan outreaches and activities for the year which propels me into a different mindset. Because of that it seems like the year is gone quickly.

The Lord has prompted me to focus on the words Grace and Gratitude for 2024. God's grace and mercy should evoke gratitude to rise from our hearts and out of our mouth.

This year I feel led to share with you twelve of my favorite books. Number one book is of course the Bible. What a gift God gave us as we continue to read His Truths in the writings of men taught and directed by the Holy Spirit.

As a young Christian I learned stories in the Bible but never really read it with understanding. In Hebrews 4:12 we read: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." I wasn't seeing that at the time but now I clearly do.

God's Word leads and guides us in His ways, but we have to read it, meditate on it, and allow it to transform our heart and mind. God will speak to us through His Word as the Holy Spirit reveals it. His Spirit uses God's Word to instruct us in the ways of God.

As I did my devotions one morning in 1998 I read a passage in the Living Bible translation as follows: "I will paralyze you and you will not be able to come out of your house".

I knew in my spirit that God was preparing me for issues my husband was facing as he developed a disease called Guillian-Barre which is a nerve and muscle disease that would leave him paralyzed in the next couple of days.

This is when the Word became alive to me as it prepared me for what was coming. A few days later I was led to a passage in Job which gave us a promise for the future; "You will return to your duties" '. It took almost a year but praise God he did return to work.

My recommendation is to write down the verse God is highlighting for you in your own situation and meditate on it, watching to see how God fulfills it in your life.

Reading Jeremiah 2:32b always makes me sad; "Yet My people have forgotten me days without number". Don't let that be said of you. God's Word should be our first go to in the morning hours and our last thing at night. Study to show your approved all during the day also so you can rightly divide the word of truth. His Word is the most important privilege we have as His people. Make a plan to read it this year and stick to it. You will be blessed as you do.



~ Sandra