

But giving thanks is a sacrifice
that truly honors me.

PSALM 50:23



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry November 2024 Vol. 20 Issue 11

Compelled to Serve

**"Your people shall be volunteers
in the day of Your power."
Psalm 110:3**

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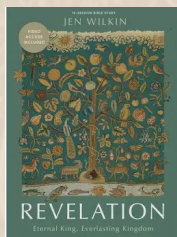
Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm

or by appointment 336-829-5060
sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Ladies Bible Study

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

We are beginning
a new study called
"REVELATION"
Eternal King, Everlasting
Kingdom
by Jen Wilkin



Come Join Us!

I love my "Experiencing God Day by Day" devotional. As I read it years ago, I came to the title, *Compelled to Serve*. Henry Blackaby writes, "One mark of revival, during which God comes to His people in power, is that God's people are compelled to offer their lives for His service. What we need is not more pleas for volunteers, but an outpouring of the power of God. When God comes among His people in power, there is never a shortage of volunteers or resources for His work!" On Wings has been blessed to experience God's Spirit moving for eighteen years.

When the call came to begin the ministry, the first volunteers we put in place were our prayer partners. I had learned the importance of prayer and believe as our intercessors intercede for On Wings and its outreach many things have been accomplished because of those prayers.

As we sought our nonprofit status, we selected our first Board Members and gathered around a table to plan and seek God's direction. It was at that table that our first logo came to be designed on a napkin.

Then our administrative team came together, and people came to volunteer their time and use their spiritual gifts to pour into our efforts. In those beginning days the need for volunteers was not great, but now in 2024 we have almost 100 serving in different capacities at different times and events. Some serve weekly, some daily, and some once a month or on special occasions as we go into Rolling Hills to minister.

Over the years we have had faithful donors as well who sow into our Bible distribution our Bible Correspondence courses, Retreats for Moms of Prodigals, and operational costs. We have been very blessed with donations which help us to provide housing for both men and women being released from prison to have a fresh start in life. The donations also allow us to minister to families and do other outreaches as God directs.

On November 14, we will again celebrate our volunteers at a Volunteer Celebration Dinner. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Gary Chapman. If you are one of our volunteers, we want to say thank you for answering God's call to serve with us.

We cannot do it without you!

~ Sandra



Prayer Thoughts

Hope in the Waiting



I remember it like it was yesterday. I'd find myself awake at 3 a.m. Unable to sleep, I'd go out to our family room and sit on the couch to pray, weep, and groan for our three prodigal children who were running from God. I felt hopeless. Cheated. My expectations for what my life would be like in that season were blown apart. I couldn't see an end in sight. My husband and I prayed, wept, talked, listened... yet no breakthrough. I asked myself, what good can come of this?

Have you ever asked that? Maybe you've experienced a loss of relationship, an illness or a death. Have you felt cheated, ripped off, or disappointed?

This is where we need hope. In the waiting. In the praying. Scripture tells us how to wait when it seems like no good can come of our pain.

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. (Romans 8:18-19 NLT)

A little later in the same chapter, Paul adds,

We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children. (Romans 8:23)

Did you notice how we are to wait? Eagerly! With eager expectation. Not just trying to get through it, but more like Christmas morning.

As a kid, I felt like Christmas would never come. Remember trying to sleep on Christmas Eve, waking up at 2 or 4 a.m. only for your parents to send you back to bed? You were bursting with eager expectation! You couldn't wait, couldn't sleep, and could hardly wait to see what was in those wrapped packages! When Christmas finally came, the wait was over. You leapt out of bed in jubilation and raced downstairs to tear open the gifts.

This is how we are to live in the middle of a season of suffering, with eager anticipation for the good thing that God will do with our pain, our suffering. So how can we do that?

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).

We wait with the help of God's Spirit, which is better than me trying to keep my chin up in my own strength. He takes on our groaning and communicates directly to the Father on our behalf. Prayer is not about having the right words. Prayer is often welcoming the Holy Spirit to pray through us. He knows what's in our hearts and the will of God for us.

So, can anything good come of what you're going through? The answer is a resounding YES!

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:28)

Not that all things are good, but God is at work in all things—the good, the bad, and the ugly. God is working out His purposes in our lives for our good, for His glory, and so the world will see Jesus. God changed me in my season of suffering. He took my weakness and taught me to pray and wait with eager expectation for the good thing that He would do in my life and the life of my kids. My mindset changed. Instead of, "What good can come of this?" I began asking, "God, what good thing will You bring from this?"

Do you hear the difference? That's courageous living.



THE HOPE

As November approaches I carry so many hopes and expectations for the month. November is when I look forward to family coming home, with good talks, shared memories, and abundant love. It is a time to set apart and remember the many blessings that have come our way and reasons I am to be thankful. It is a month when I sigh relief that political ads and mailings will cease to overrun the mailbox and the TV, and the unknown of our nation's way forward will be slightly clearer. It is a month of shifting perspectives and it leads into a busy end-of-year time.

My high hopes for November don't always pan out. Family members can't make it home, the dinner table sometimes misses the "Norman Rockwell" appeal, and politics carry their own degree of stress.

Kristi McLellan, in her study, "Luke in the Land", wrote of "hope", which is "tikvah" in Hebrew. Hope is a strong expression of faith, of waiting expectantly for God to bring His plan to fruition. Hope comes from knowing that God has a plan, and a purpose, and that He will bring peace out of chaos. Hope is the assurance of what I am waiting for a faithful God to accomplish, even when I cannot see it with my earthly eyes. Hope is active, not passive; it is holding on to the cord that binds us to God, despite our difficult circumstances, our disappointments, our failures.

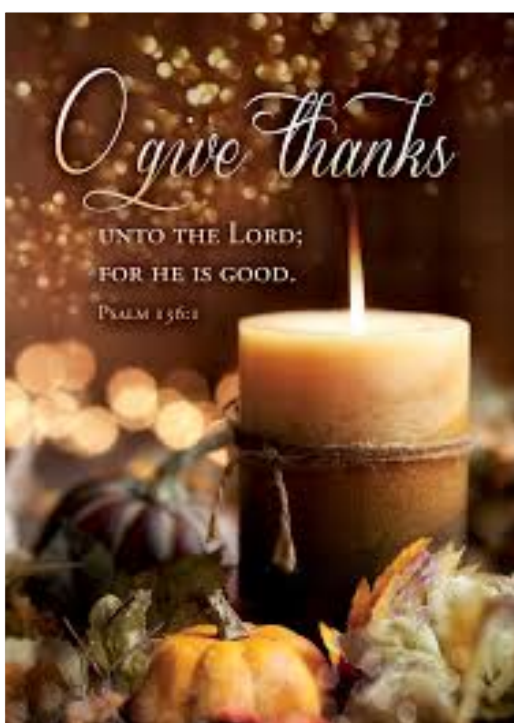
When the elections are over, God is in control. Thanksgiving will have pleasant, cherished times, with many loved ones home – and some not home – along with some disagreements and disappointments; God is in control. The hectic pace of the concluding year, with so many expectations and desires, will bring lots of fun and failures; God knows and He is in control.

My list of thanksgivings this year will include many answered prayers, many times I saw God working, and many blessings received. I also have a hope list, of matters in which I am confident that God is working. I am waiting expectantly; I am looking for the peace, and for Him to accomplish His purpose in many areas that have been prayed about for so long. I am holding on to tikvah, for the God of hope to do what only He can do.

May this November be filled with much thankfulness and much hope!

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope."

- Psalm 130: 5



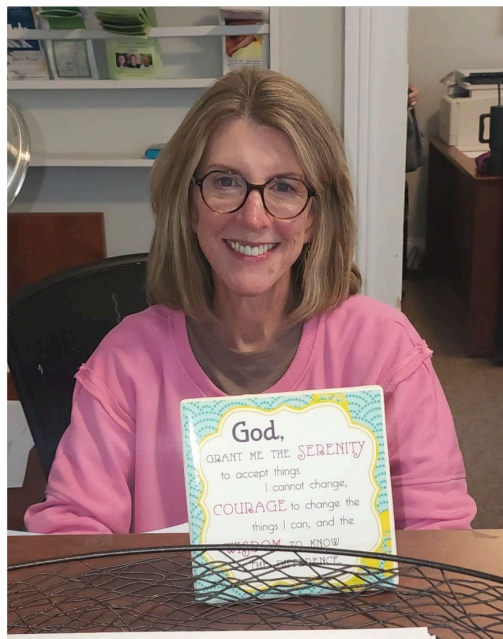
Happy Thanksgiving

**HAVE A BLESSED DAY AS YOU CELEBRATE
ALL THAT GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE AND
ALL THAT HE IS STILL DOING...**

**EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE GOD WORKING,
HE IS WORKING!**

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23



TUESDAY
CINDY HUGHES



WEDNESDAY
LYNDA HOBSON



THURSDAY
KATHY VANHOY

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW OFFICE STAFF VOLUNTEERS

WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT HOW THE LORD BROUGHT THESE THREE LADIES ON BOARD. OUR WORKLOAD INCREASED SO MUCH AFTER WE BEGAN PROVIDING HOUSING AT ON WINGS OF HOPE THAT WE PLACED OUR PLEA ON FACEBOOK AND THESE LADIES RESPONDED. THEY ARE CATCHING ON QUICKLY AND WILL BE SUCH AN ASSET, NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT TO ALL LEADERS INVOLVED IN THIS MINISTRY. THEY HAVE BEEN A GODSEND. GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING ON OUR BEHALF.

We thank Him

