

Angel Wings Ministries Newsletter

"Hopeful In The Midst Of The Storm"



SPRING/SUMMER 2020

ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

VOLUME 2020, ISSUE 1

The Vicissitudes of Life

By Reverend Deborah Shepperson Smith

Vicissitude is a noun meaning a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant. And so here at this very present time we are experiencing the vicissitudes of life. It's like being in the twilight zone between light and darkness. One day we are coming and going as we please to appointments, hair salons, restaurants, stores, visiting family and friends, attending weddings, christenings, funerals, wakes; then the next day we are "on lockdown." [To be sure if you were a person of faith you would be attending church services, bible study, committee meetings, classes etc.] It's amazing that in all the coming and going we were passing each other totally unaware of how draining and nonsensical our way of living had become. When asked about the idea of slowing down, we were in the state of mind that the world could not go on without our being an integral part of it (whatever *it* is).



In Romans 8:28 the scripture says "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Many things have come out of all of this; we have had time to think and meditate, many have reordered our lives and given thought to our purpose, our wants, and our desires. We are reaching out more, reading more and yes, sharing more. Our cooking skills are improving because we have become more thoughtful, mindful. We have returned to the old ways: making soups, stews, pots of beans and some cooking cakes from scratch --if only to see whether we still *got it*. For many of us we didn't have the time or energy to do these things until recently. But now, having time to organize and de-clutter, we make our homes safer and more comfortable.

As we are shed the old life and simplify our new, we are reassessing our relationships, whether casual, or deeply romantic. We realize how much we miss seeing and being close to our circle of ever-changing associates ---enemy, friend or relative. Some of us are isolated and some of us may reside with another person or two, or three. Let us take this time to reassess our relationship with God as we shelter-in-place. In

your moments of prayer, meditation and spiritual introspection, hear God speaking to you.

Mission Statement

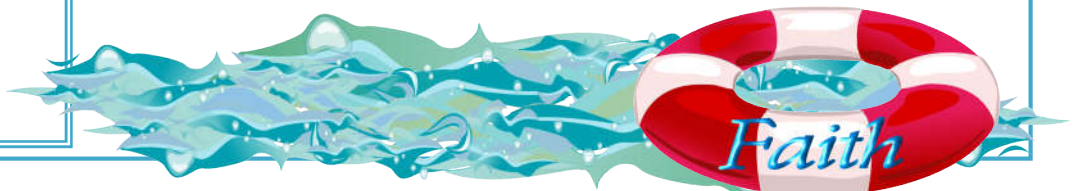
Angel Wings Ministries, Inc. is an interfaith spiritually-based outreach program dedicated to support children, individuals and families from crisis to wholeness.

Educate..... Serve..... Inspire

Vision Statement

We envision an interfaith community where families and stakeholders work together to empower *all* to wholeness

It is my prayer that we are listening. "Lo, I am with you always even until the end of time." We are safe and I know that He is the God of Love. Bake a cake make a phone call, do a grocery run for a senior or do something special for a family in need. Rather than complain and bemoan your fate, do something that will brighten someone else's day. Take this time to reach out and communicate to those you love and do an act of kindness to someone or a family in need.





PRAYER POWER

“What To Pray When You Don’t Know What to Pray”

Jacquelyn L. McLellan

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” Although those words were spoken by Thomas Paine almost 300 years ago, they still ring true today. Compared to his wartime experiences during the American Revolution, our country is being besieged by enemies even now--mainly biological and economic. And most people are not even aware of the spiritual warfare that rages on in the supernatural realm!

Where do we turn when there’s nowhere to go?
Who do I talk to when no one is there to listen?
How can I solve my financial problems? What about my elderly parents? My children and my grandchildren? DOES ANYBODY HEAR ME? DOES ANYBODY CARE?

In times like these find myself stuttering in my prayer closet. I can’t think of any fancy phrase or nice catchy expression to describe my troubles or opinions. So I have learned **just to be still**. Somehow, God knows what is in my heart if I slow down long enough for Him to get a good read on it. After all, God already knows the events; He’s waiting for me to react.

Once I recognize and acknowledge that Divine Presence in the stillness, I can feel the peace wash over me and cover me with His love. Then, and only then, I can remember the Promise He made: that He might allow me to go through the valley of the shadow of death, but He would not leave me alone and I would get through it!

So the prayer becomes a two-way prayer—I listen, God speaks. You may ask, “How can that happen?” More often than not, we learn the ways of

God by reading his Word. Not just glancing at a smartphone while the preacher starts the sermon, but by spending time in an actual study group or alone for a start. Therein lies the beginning of wisdom: first acknowledging that God exists, and that He is a rewarder of anyone who really seeks him.

No matter what the storm looks like—whether it be a lost job, a child struggling with addiction, a deadly diagnosis, or **WHATEVER !—God gives us hope.** It is that hope that pushes us through to the other side. Our faith in the Deliverer keeps our eyes on the prize, so to speak, and we can see beyond the present circumstances into the future of a brighter day. Case in point: It was this type of faith that brought African American ancestors to persevere through slavery, Jim Crow, desegregation, civil rights, etc. They fought, each generation in their own way, to “keep HOPE alive.”

The gospel singer-songwriter Douglas Miller says it best [*adapted excerpts*]:

In this life you’re gonna be tossed by waves and currents that seem so fierce.
But in the word of God I’ve got an anchor that keeps me steadfast, immovable despite the tide.

But if the storms don’t cease
And if the wind keeps on blowing in my life
My soul is anchored in the Lord.

As I keep my eyes upon the distant shore;
I know He’ll lead me safely to that blessed place
He has prepared!

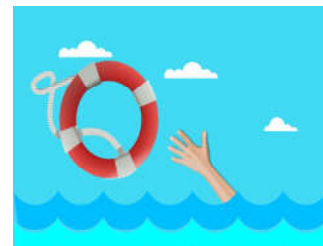
“Be still and know that I am God.” [Ps. 46:10]



Rising Above the Feeling of Fear

Paulette Privott

Where ever you are on this planet, you too, are sharing the anxiety of the Coronavirus pandemic, Covid 19. You wonder, “is it in my neighborhood, is it where I shop for groceries, is it on my feet?” Rest assured, it is somewhere around. Prayerfully, you have escaped it’s clutches!!



Fear is **False Evidence Appearing Real**. Think about it. People have different kinds of fears: success, flying, even failure. I could go on and on. Look at it this way: how can you be at your best, when there’s that THING out there holding you back. Have you ever noticed, you don’t push yourself, if you don’t think you will be successful. However, when you’ve got your mojo working and your project is amazing, there is no FEAR that can stop you. FEAR is just that: a FEELING. It is a negative feeling!! Yes, it feels real at the moment but the feeling does go away. That negative space in our minds, wants to control and dominate our movements, our thoughts, our happiness. Our little brains cannot manifest the magnitude of God’s brain. He has BIG plans for you; are you ready? You are on the roller coaster of life, ups and downs, a little wiggle to the left, then a jiggle to the right. That’s right, the path is not straight nor easy but it is do-able. Those challenges, hiccups and detours are there to develop us. The roadblocks are the lessons God puts in our path to make us better at what we have been positioned to do. Yep, that’s right, God has been molding and shaping you into this awesome individual, who is not frozen by fear, not stopped by adversity, not handicapped by limitations!!!

We should not want to live a life fearing what it has to offer. Overcoming FEAR means developing your FAITH. Don’t live under a cloud of fear. Live knowing that a full and abundant life has been preplanned for you. Live fearlessly, not recklessly. Know that the light that God has put in you, can shine from the moon and back! Share that light with the whole wide world! Fear is to be in darkness; choose to let it remain hidden and unused!

God does not give us the spirit of FEAR!! So let’s move away from fear and towards FAITH. Take a minute and think about all of ways you have been blessed. Wonderful things have occurred in your life, that you may not have asked for, but happened to you in such a glorious way. Psalms 23:1 reminds us that “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”. God’s got this!!! It is He that has brought you this far. Renew your FAITH, trust in His POWER, have no FEAR!!

Respectfully submitted by Paulette Privott



Hopeful In The Midst Of The Storm?

William Craig

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 – Happy New Year! You all remember don't you? Exactly where you were. Who you were with and what he said or she said that night. All the issues of the past year pushed to the rear of your mind as you set your sights on January 1st and forward. And then the storm came. Not a bad ice or snow storm but a different kind of storm this time. A huge deadly storm. One that would come from far away and large enough to cover entire countries and leaves a path of destruction in it's wake. And although the storm was that massive, meteorologists were unable to see it on their Doppler radars. We were busy in the gyms working on our resolutions or on doing our daily duties and nobody saw this coming!

And then just like that....our way of life was changed. By the time the month of March 2020 had rolled around this country was in a state of panic. The NBA postponed their entire season....wow! This sent a shock wave through the world and I don't know about you but that signaled to me like the robot used to signal to Will Robinson on *Lost In Space*...DANGER ...DANGER ...DANGER. And then Major League Baseball said they were delaying their season and then PGA, then local schools and churches and businesses were all shut down and the economy flat lined in an instant. Like I said...life as we knew it had changed. We have lost mothers and fathers and doctors and bus drivers and musicians and mechanics and almost no segment of America has gone untouched. How did this happen and why? Many of our leaders have pointed the finger at China to blame them for this fiasco and others blame the United States for not preparing for something like this. Regardless of who did or didn't do what...are we ever going to get out of this storm? I don't know for sure....but....what if this world has been judged and we are now getting the punishment we deserve? Regardless of your religion or belief, evil is never smiled upon nor does it go unpunished.

What have we done as a nation that makes us so good that we don't deserve what is happening to us? This nation that we live in has done and still is doing some horrible things. We war with each other just to show how powerful we are and then steal their resources just to prove a point. A country that looks down on the poor and exalts the rich. Punish the economically burdened for stealing a Snickers Bar while the rich fat cats literally get away with murder and other high crimes. And people today are contributing to those horrible things by living any kind of way and disregarding the lives of others just to get what they want. Brothers rising up against fathers and sisters against their mothers. All while the poor suffers still. Young kids running amok in the streets like monsters shooting and killing the elderly for money. You really think this world doesn't deserve judgment? Ok, hold on while I get down off my high horse to talk to you.

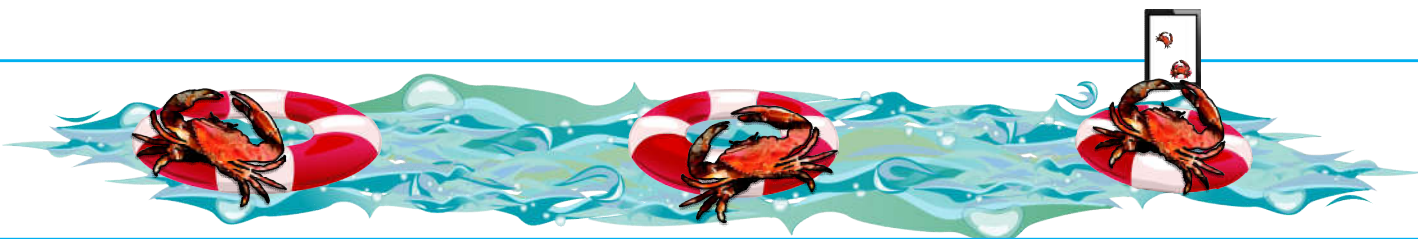
Will the winds blow these storm clouds away so we can return to our normal way of life? Is there any hope in the midst of this storm? I really don't know folks. Even when things start to open back up slowly that does not mean that the storm is over. We may just be in the eye of the hurricane and I am afraid people will get caught outside unprepared again and we may face this for a while. But for the sake of the kids I hope that we are not being judged. Maybe this is just the warning shot for all humanity – a deadly storm that is almost over for us now. The rain is beginning to ease up and we will soon be able to come back outside and get back to our jobs, or ride the bus or skip through the parks or eat pizza at the mall or sail away to the Bahamas (yeah, that's me). So, will I remain hopeful in the midst of the storm? Yes... I will. You should...We all should.



A GREAT BIG *Thank You* TO OUR 2019 SUPPORTERS

The Board of Directors and the Advisory Board Member are so grateful and thankful for ALL Donors, Adopters, Volunteers and Supporters for your help and support for our Angel Wings Activities and PROJECTS. We are extremely grateful for the many supporters and organizations listed below who have gone above and beyond to help the many families we endeavor to serve.

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Janice West and Certified Home Specialists Realty Co.



To Our Families, Friends and Supporters

Greetings,

We value and appreciate you so much. It is our hope and prayer that you and your family are doing well and remain safe during these difficult times. We also offer our condolences if there has been a loss of a loved one in your family. These have certainly been very challenging times in all aspects of our lives as we attempt to make the most of adjusting to the new normal.

Just as we get accustomed to new guidelines, they change. Are we in phase 1 or phase 2 and what does that mean? What will we have to do or not do to be in compliance? Where can I buy masks? Can I make my own masks? Where can I buy Lysol spray, bleach, or toilet paper this week? When will schools and jobs reopen? Will our favorite restaurants, stores, or businesses survive? Are we reopening everything too soon? How will I survive? There seems to be more questions than answers.

But, be of good courage, good cheer, and fear not! This won't last forever. No matter how many negatives, there are so many more positives for which we can be grateful. Be encouraged to stay positive and count our blessings. Just remember, Angel Wings and many other organizations are available with resources to support and assist in so many ways. There is no need to suffer in silence. Continue to love one another, bless one another, help who you can, and have faith in the knowledge that this too shall soon pass.

Angel Wings Board of Directors

Angel Wings Ministries, Inc.

WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL THIS YEAR!



**A Fundraiser to Benefit
The School Uniform Project
& The Secret Santa Project**

During the Coronavirus quarantine with social distancing mandates, we are honoring requirements regarding social gatherings. Many of our **Annual Crab Feast** patrons have expressed concerns about their level of comfort even if the ban is lifted on gatherings with more than 10 people in attendance.

As we have worked towards your comfort and entertainment in the past, we feel we must continue to offer a comfortable setting as well as an entertaining event. Although we will not be at our usual celebration location, we anticipate that you can be in your own safe space and we'll still provide the entertainment. So....pull up your sofa and enjoy our virtual event!

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Angel Wings is dedicated to our mission to serve families with children and appreciate your suggestions and honesty during these uncertain and changing times. We thank you for your continued support of our annual crab feast fundraising tradition to provide needed services for our community.

TO JOIN OUR VIRTUAL EVENT VISIT:
www.angelwingscrabfeast.com

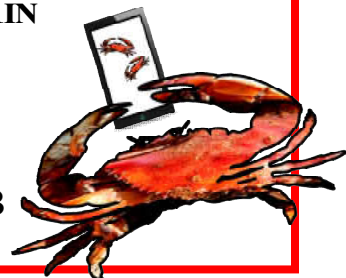
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