



# Angel Wings Ministries

## Newsletter



SPRING/SUMMER 2021

ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

VOLUME 2021, ISSUE 1

### Where Do We Go From Here?

By Reverend Deborah Shepperson Smith

The year 2020 was the anniversary of the incorporation of Angel Wings Ministries. We had planned so many activities, starting with a 'Thank You' celebration of our loyal supporters. This was the first activity cancelled at the very beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak. Our enthusiasm did not wane because we thought this pandemic would end soon. The thought was jobs, schools, restaurants etc. could only be shut down temporarily-- like a couple of weeks or a month maybe. As the year went on everything continued to be shut down and events of all kinds were cancelled. So we scrapped all of our planned activities. Instead we learned to pivot like the rest of the world and reinvent our various platforms for fundraising and delivery of services. Our Angel Wings board and advisory board members rose to the occasion -- cutting the number of Secret Santa families served while stepping up the quantity and quality of service. Corporate as well as individual donors stepped up and gave from their hearts to help us meet our goals. And the thank-you's of those families were seen in their sighs of relief and, in some cases, tears of joy.



So where do we go from here? As we witnessed God furnishing everything we envisioned and planned for, we experienced God as Provider in the darkest of times. God gave us strength to push forward during the storm. We never gave up. As a result, it appears that moving forward we will provide *more* emotional support and encouragement to our families in the years to come. In some cases we will offer mentoring as the opportunity presents itself. We will continue to give assistance where needed and provide support to the families that are referred to us in their times of greatest need.

We thank God for the opportunity to share resources with families and their children. This is a demonstration of how God works in the lives of His people. "...My God shall provide all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." (Phillippians 4:19 NIV)

#### 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





## PRAYER POWER

### Where Do I Go From Here”

Rev. J. L. McLellan

Which way is right? Is he/she right for me?  
Now that my loved one is gone, what do I do?  
The COVID restrictions are being lifted; is it safe to go out?  
My career plans have been changed; I have no job at all!  
Angel Wings has just celebrated 20 years...  
The doctor just gave me an ultimatum...  
My life seems out of control! Now what?!?



Questions, decisions and choices, Oh, my! Unanswered quandaries. Puzzles. Dilemmas. Forks in the middle of the road. These are the stuff of which life is made. Nothing is clear cut--there's no direct road ahead anymore. Making any decision can be overwhelming--especially when I try to solve problems by myself. That's when prayer power comes in handy. Where do I go? Who do I turn to when no one else will listen? I go to the Rock. No, not the husky wrestler who's offering to run for president in 2022; I'm referring to the Rock of my salvation: "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth." [Ps. 121]

You see, if it had not been for the presence of God in my life, I would be in a pickle right now. I could have searched Google for a quick solution, or asked my equally unqualified friends. Or even worse, what if I'd struggle with the trial and error approach--going with my gut and failing the life lessons. But once I realized that prayer has revealed God's answers to life questions, then no matter where situations take me, I can rest assured. The psalmist David and singer Helen Baylor both reflect the principle of God's influence on decision-making. "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be?" [Ps.124]

I can reflect on the impact of spiritual Presence in God's Master Plan. Looking back on my life and seeing the footprints of Jesus in my path helps me to realize that if He brought me safe this far, then surely, God will direct me when I ask for guidance. **DISCERNMENT--THAT'S WHAT I NEED!**

*Dear Lord, thank you for the undeserved blessings you have poured into my life, especially, for those who have prepared me for the journey. I am grateful for the resources that make it possible to be ready when challenges present themselves. Thank you for wisdom and clarity of thought to focus on the real issue--not the visible symptoms or circumstances. Give me the courage to credit you when things work out in my favor and to praise You even when they don't. Now, by your Spirit, help me to recognize the nudge or small whisper that reveals the better choices. For it is only by Your grace I can make wise decisions. Otherwise, where would I be? If You don't help, then it won't get done according to your plan. I'll await your revelation; speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*  
*Amen.*



## Survival In The Midst Of A Pandemic

Paulette Privott

I sat down to write about how I survived the pandemic, thinking by the time you get to read this, it would be over. And yet, here we are --not yet out, but not knee deep in, either. We are in the midst.

Did you feel stressed? In the beginning, during the summer...heading back indoors for the winter... or were you questioning whether there may be another year like this one? None of us knew what was going to happen, how long it was going to go on nor how would we cope? I know someone that did know!! God pushed the pause button for some of us and fast forward for others. Some of us needed to slow down and some of us were ready to step up and add more to our already full lives.

Did you Zoom in and out of employer meetings, family calls and Telehealth connections? Remember when you could whisper in someone's ear, "Now we socially distance!" Yet, God can still whisper to you; are you listening?

What would YOU say has changed in your life over the past year?



Did you learn how to do something new? Did you discover a joy for something that had never interested you before? Did the quarantine give you a chance to find yourself, by not having to be distracted by others? This was a time for discovery, a time to focus and a time for growth. Growth in Christ requires focus, intention and purposefulness.

Did you change some of your bad (not too good) habits for better ones? Did you start to focus a little bit more on your health? Did you find peace whereas before, your day would look like you were on a fast-paced treadmill? Become a healthy vessel for Christ!! Celebrate Jesus and His sacrifice for you.

Have you walked outside to appreciate the beauty of nature? Have you seen the moon and stars at night? Have you heard the birds singing? How is it that you can take a breath, breathing in and out? You can see what He has already done and God still wants to do more. **Let your faith increase because you want your relationship with God to increase.**

*"Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting, you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so no one falls behind or drops out."* (Eph. 6:13-18, Message Bible)



## Where Do We Go From Here?

William Craig

Well folks, the days are slowly ticking away and the summer months are just around the corner. It was a rough storm this last year but the skies seem to be clearing up now. The storm isn't entirely gone. Every now and then you can hear rumblings of thunder in the distance but you can feel that it's finally calming down. People are opening the doors and shutters and letting the air freely flow through the house again. Soon we will all exhale and breathe again. But before we do...we all have some issues to consider going forward. Consider it your "*update preparedness guide.*"



Restaurants are opening to full capacity and some are even saying that a mask is no longer required inside. And in some cases social distancing will soon be a thing of the past. But *should it be* a thing of the past? It seems like we are so in a hurry to put safety measures behind us that we are forgetting it was the lack of safety measures that got us in trouble. In case you forgot, we had full buffet restaurants where people didn't wash their hands before jumping in line and were touching everything. Cruise ships with thousands of people on it all eating from the same buffet and again touching everything. I am not judging anyone here or on cruise ships...lol; I am just making general observations.

So are we going to pull up the 6 foot distance markers on the grocery store floors now since the virus is almost gone? Why would you do that? I never wanted people all on my back breathing down my neck while standing in line for anything, anyway. Common sense should prevail in situations like this. We should not invade personal space any longer, *regardless* of which virus attacks us next. It should have never gotten to the point where the CDC had to admonish grown-ups to wash their hands and keep their hands out of their mouths and faces to avoid sickness. We will have to consider these things from here on out. Should we keep up the plastic shields separating customers from store workers? Yes...we should. Don't get mad at that. Just think of it as a crossing guard near the school, holding you back until the speeding car has passed. That plastic shield was put there for your safety, my safety and the employee's safety. Yes, you may have to speak a little louder or listen a little more carefully but safety now should always be first.

After saying all that, will I recklessly go about my day as if nothing ever happened? No. Will I still wear my mask even after the mask mandates have been lifted by the state and city? Yes. Will I continue to be cautious and practice safety? Yes indeed. Will I still practice social distancing in crowded places and spaces? Yes sir...or ma'am. Folks, we may need to accept the fact that in order to prevent another spike in viral cases, it may require some life changes for all of us. Every man, woman and child will have to make some sort of change to their everyday routine to keep safe. So where do we go from here?

**I say, let's go bravely and cautiously forward!**



## Praising God For Milestones, Maintaining Hope, and Preparing For Post Pandemic Recovery

*Rev. Jeannette B. Gatewood-Johnson*



There was a time when global numbers for Covid-19 were rising in every category. Statistically, my zip code was number one in all of Baltimore City and Baltimore was number one in the State of Maryland for positive Covid-19 tests, hospitalizations, and death! I couldn't believe it!! I became dismayed, angry, upset, and frightened. Then, something else came over me...a sense of calm and courage from a deeper acknowledgement of the assurance that the God in me will do the work. But what work? The task seemed so large and I was only one person and seemed so small in the big scheme of things. My scope felt very narrow. Then, I thought again. I started thinking what can I do, how can I do it, who can help me and where will we get the money? I sure had more questions than answers. One thing I knew, I wasn't going to mention my embryonic, half-baked thoughts to anybody. The other thing I knew, I couldn't be the only person out here thinking like this!

I started writing things down: my thoughts, my feelings, my goals, possible potential partners who shared my thoughts. Then, I started developing something that took the place of doubt and fear...It was passion! I realized that if I just acted on the idea, somehow, there would be an attraction in the Universe to bring the idea to fruition. It was not for me to figure out how, who, what, or finances.

I started thinking about the idea of *decreasing* positive Covid results to less than 3% in my 21215 zip code and in every community worldwide by decreasing numbers until Covid-19 is eradicated. I shared my passion and the idea with my family, and 2 of my closest friends. Then, I got a text from someone that I had never mentioned the idea to. "I know some people who are looking to invest in communities. Send me your ideas with your vision and mission statements and a short budget." I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

I submitted the requested information, however the idea was not selected for the project. But, I was not discouraged. In fact, I thought, I'll just get started with a grass-roots style with boots on the ground and passion in my heart. I can touch people one at a time until I reach hundreds of people at a time. She was working with a group of women who had a new thought about women engaging in the workforce and the community differently. Their latest community engagement was contact tracing and Covid-19 initiatives, because Black people were dying at higher rates than other races. Then, she asked the 64 million dollar question: "What are you doing lately"? Was this God showing up? I shared my ideas with her. She introduced me to the head of an organization promoting a new attitude and practice in the workplace--providing training, and community engagement for women of color. Their latest endeavor is promoting health equity, community outreach, bringing vaccines, information, hope, and empowerment for individuals to make healthy decisions.

As a new team member, I am realizing my vision as the Public & Community Health Program Director in an organization called ElevateHer, Inc. We have been awarded our first grants and are continuing to pursue more grants that focus on reduction in Covid-19 positive case counts and positivity rates within the Black and Brown communities in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC (not just 21215)!

Our goals are to not only to improve access to resources, but also increase TRUSTED presence and resources in underserved communities. We plan to do this through the following:

- Active partnerships with policy makers and community leaders working together to solve present challenges,
- Develop strategies for post pandemic recovery, and
- Place sustaining public health outreach projects in our communities that promote health, eradicate disparity and health inequity.

Ultimately, we hope to achieve and maintain systems for optimal health of the residents we serve.

### My takeaway from all this:

Praise God! My not giving in to fears and the deceit of defeat, my maintaining hope amid chaos, milestones in my life are all being fulfilled. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope..." I Peter 1:3 (NIV).

So...Hold on, hold fast, don't give up, and don't give out. There is life, sweet, sweet life after Covid-19. Maintain your physical, mental and emotional health. Recovery from the Pandemic is imminent and grounded in your spiritual health.

"Health is a state of complete harmony of the body, mind and spirit." *B.K.S. Iyengar*.

Be Safe and Be Well.



## ATTENTION!

This year our major fundraising event,  
**The Angel Wings Annual Crab Feast**  
Has been **CANCELLED!**



Although life circumstances have changed,  
our mission to serve families in need never will.

We must adapt to this new normal and  
we need *YOUR* help like never before!

We have **3** ways to help, and however you choose to give,  
it is *greatly appreciated!*



### CHANGE FOR CHANGE

We are distributing Jars  
to collect your loose change  
From May to November 2021

We are challenging you to  
help us purchase

**Forty - \$50.<sup>00</sup> Food Gift Cards.**

These Food Gift Cards will be  
distributed to our Secret Santa Families  
to help supplement their Food Budget.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO REQUEST A JAR CALL:  
410-982-7647



### RAFFLE



You could be one of **three** winners in our  
Cash Drawing to be held on

**August 6, 2021**

1<sup>ST</sup> Prize \$1000.

2<sup>ND</sup> Prize \$500. ■ 3<sup>RD</sup> Prize \$200.

Ticket Books are *only* **\$25.<sup>00</sup>**  
for **10** chances to win!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
410-982-7647

TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EMAIL:  
**AngelWingsMin@aol.com**

■ Winners will be notified by phone and/or email! ■

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Those who choose to support our project  
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mail it back to us along with your donation.

We also accept CASH APP:

**\$ANGELWINGSMIN**

***Please place your email in the memo section***

We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your donations will go to help families in need.