



ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2021

ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

VOLUME 2021, ISSUE 2

Only God!

Rev. Deborah Shepperson Smith

I received word recently about a grandmother that Angel Wings had served during our very first year we started this journey. Betty was a hard worker, who cared for her two grandchildren due to unfortunate circumstances way back in 1996. Her transition brought tears to my eyes. It seemed only reasonable that a group of individuals could pull together to assist others. That first year, four families were our initial inspiration to do a good deed and assist others who find themselves in dire circumstances. It has now been 21 years that Angel Wings has served families, mostly at Christmastime and more recently, supplied school items, uniforms and other clothing at the beginning of the school year.



In December of 2020 our organization completed the distribution of our annual Secret Santa gifts of toys, clothes, hygiene kits and household products. We battled not only the effects of Covid-19, our isolation experiences, the shutdown of churches, but also the halt on travel to many places that we have frequented before the pandemic. Despite the odds as a collective group, we were happy that we served 41 families with 117 children of all ages. During those last days of purchasing, wrapping and distributing gifts, I felt lethargic but I kept pushing on. I postponed going for testing because I didn't have the energy to get dressed and make it to an urgent care center. That day I got an emergency call to help a family in crisis, a mom who had lost both her jobs during the pandemic. I remember writing a check for the family and one of our board members helped to deliver their "Christmas." This was December 23rd. I called one of my nephews to wish him a happy birthday; that was all I could manage. The next thing I remember was my husband calling the EMT's to rush me to the hospital. For the first 48 hours I was at the mercy of the medical staff who put me in isolation and wore masks and PPE. I had been diagnosed with Covid-19.

I floated on a sea of prayers sent across the airways from all over the country. The hospital staff providing my care bombarded me with fluids and medicines in one arm and from the other arm blood was drawn and tested. By the third day I was beginning to come around and that was Christmas Day. As I looked out the window of my hospital room and watched the rain beat against the building, I was at peace. I know God was watching over me. I was comforted knowing that Angel Wings had provided a glimmer of hope, a bounty of love and a miracle for many of our families who were surprised at the variety and amount of items we supplied them for the holidays. *(cont'd on page 6)*

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



Thank You!

To everyone who supported
and helped make our
2021 Annual Fundraiser
a success!



PRAYER POWER

Falling Up - Elevation, Inspiration, and Deliverance

Rev. J. L. McLellan

“Do not call to mind the former things; forget all that; it is nothing compared to what I am going to do...” [Isaiah 43:18,19 New Living Translation]

So, what’s this “falling UP” about? I mean, I’ve heard of falling in, falling out, and falling down. But what does falling *up* entail?

Actually, the fall season doesn’t bring out the best in me. Thinking about dead leaves, the dread of dreary rainy weather, back-to-school woes, ending of summer fun...this does not sound exciting or inspirational. On the other hand, when I consider fall as the interval stage between the highlight seasons, then I can look back at summer with appreciation, and look forward to winter holidays with hope. Kind of like the symbolic Sankofa bird of African lore.

Taking this new perspective implies that “falling up” can mean looking forward to achieving new levels and adventures ahead. Falling up can also refer to experiencing the development of actual underlying growth that does not become apparent until the following seasons. Likewise, prayer power involves inner spiritual growth. Though some believers have become accustomed to craving instant results, perhaps it’s time to develop a more mature approach to our prayer life. Maybe we need to think about those prayers that don’t get answered right away-the “How long, O Lord?” prayers.

If this is the case, then falling up includes the concept of wait time as well. Learning to wait is an agricultural posture. From parables we Christians have learned about seasons of sowing and reaping. But only mature prayer warriors take the leap of faith into practicing patience and perseverance during the wait time between the two.

During the time of waiting, the soul develops a dependence on God that demonstrates a new level of trust. That doubt or discontent which once plagued a worrier eventually dissipates, and a prayer WARRIOR emerges.

Now, I am called to recognize a breakthrough in my own spiritual journey-a milestone where I can look back on my life and acknowledge that I’m not where I once was, but I’ve still got a log way to go. Things are not as bleak as before; I can put my past behind me, and boldly seek guidance to move forward. Whatever afflictions or addictions or circumstances that brought me to this point will no longer hinder me; they have helped me make what I am today. I am an Overcomer! Thank God!

Loving God, Thank you for the seasons in life and the exciting changes they bring. You allow seasons to ebb and flow like a river. And only if we invite you into our lives can you bring us safely through them all. You are making all things new. Thank you for being who you are. Amen



Falling Up and In Love

Paulette Privott

Oxford Language Dictionary defines 'fall' (as a verb) move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level; lose one's balance and collapse; hang down; slope downward; drop away. As a noun, it is defined as an act of falling or collapsing; a sudden uncontrollable decent; a controlled act of falling; a downward turn in a melody.

Oh yes, there are many more definitions that I found defining one of the words in our newsletter theme. But did you notice what the definitions all have in common? They are moving in a downward direction!!

As one of your ANGELS IN THE FIELD, I am here to encourage you to personally change that direction. The dictionary gives a literary definition but I want you to take this expression to another context!! **We are FALLING UP - elevation, inspiration, deliverance!!!**

You ask me "How do I do that?" Well I'm glad you asked. First, we are going to **fall in love**. Remember how wonderful it is to feel love in your heart?

When God created the heavens and the earth, He also created man, Adam, in His own image. God created all of the animals of the world, male and female (we all know what that was about). And so God created Eve. Boy, is that love. God saw the value of companionship for man's survival. We build on our family tree as we add to our own branches. Elevating our feelings from not only loving ourselves, but also the desire and willingness to love others — sometimes complete strangers.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." [John 3:16] God loves us so much; He wants the best for us. To all who believe, He promises eternal life. Oh what a love. God's unconditional love has inspired me to turn away from false idols and know that His Son Jesus is the one and only God. I love you, God.

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." [John 15: 12,13] This is the greatest love of all!!! Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Washing away our sinful souls. I am delivered from my past. I rejoice in this news, knowing that when I profess my faith, I am a new creation.

"Upward and In Love" is where I want you to think about your life's journey. Push "LOVE" upward into the universe and watch your blessings come forth like water gushing from a fountain. FALL UP and IN LOVE.



ELEVATE

Paul Smith

Often in our lives we want to rise above it all. We get up in the morning, expecting the best of the new day, praying that the best outcome will happen. But for so many of us the hardest part is to start. We can't decide what direction we want to go in order to reach that next level. The real question is this: Do we elevate ourselves, or do we put ourselves in position for God to elevate us?

So, what is the next step? The next step is to "TAKE THAT NEXT STEP." Remember, success is a journey, not a destination. Start your journey with faith nourishment (meditation and prayer), proper physical nourishment, and an order to your steps. You would be wise to consider the biblical promise: *"The steps of a good person are directed by the LORD, and He blesses his path."* [Psalm 37:23] So, taking care of your body, mind and spirit is a good way to prepare for your journey.

Secondly, paying attention to the signs is very helpful when rising in your position. Reaching our goals often requires us to know what the expectations are in order to achieve that goal or level. However, managing the expectations frequently is difficult in these changing times. That is, being realistic and diligent requires you to "Do your homework; be ready to pay your dues!" It's important to know what classes, fees you may have to pay, internships or written theory or thesis may be required. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to get things done in ways we would never have imagined.

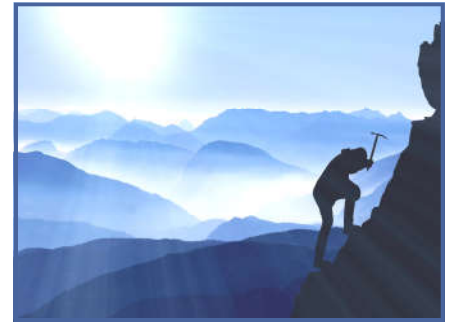
Now, go ahead and TAKE ANOTHER STEP! That will lead to your goal. We have much more technology at our disposal than ever before. Explore those things at your level which can help you

achieve the next one. Many useful apps are in your cell phones. Just speak to your smart phone on any subject and it will give you some information or guidance. You can also seek advice from an occupational mentor or career coach.

Finally, document your timeline to verify the actions you have taken. You might have to certify that you have completed the requirements related to your goal. Going after milestones and achievements is hard. So develop partnerships with people or organizations that are at the forefront in your designated field. They can not only assist you, but also give encouragement when the going gets tough.

If this has been a faith walk for you, then you realize that God has been leading your steps all along the way! If not, then maybe you feel you have earned all the success by yourself. Whether you are in the first group or in the second will determine how you view your elevation. Depending on your view it has been with or without help. To us believers, we say God has brought us to this new height for new blessings, new opportunities, and new challenges. All to God's glory! After all, God is all in all!

[ed. note: "God is pleased with those who acknowledge that He exists, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:16]



WHY ANGEL WINGS PROVIDES SERVICE TO FAMILIES

By CEO Rev. Deborah S. Smith

People often wonder why Angel Wings does what it does, providing various services to families at Christmas time and preparing for the school year. Families can find themselves in situations not created by them but because their loved ones create them for a variety of reasons. Below is a true story of such a situation that happened approximately 55 years ago:

Finding FAITH

(A story of a family in crisis at Christmas)

Rev. Beverly Gaither, Glen Burnie, MD

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." (Heb. 11:1 KJV)

My mother and father (then) had five children. We were known as "stair steps," meaning we were just one year apart in ages. My father was a sailor. As adults, my siblings joked that we could tell when Daddy was home on leave. Our birthdays fall in the months of November and February.

Mama did not discuss with us what happened during that Christmas, when Daddy abruptly decided to take his paycheck and go to Hawaii. He left us without providing for food or Christmas gifts.

I cannot remember how we kids found out what Daddy did. I just remember a neighbor placing money in the pocket of the apron Mama wore. I remember when the neighborhood milkman left chocolate and white milk, at his own expense. My uncles, who had young families themselves, collected money from the family. They purchased for us a crate of oranges and apples. The Presbyterian Church where we attended provided each of us kids with a gift. The pastor visited our home and prayed for our mother and for us.

I received a doll that year and it was so special to me that I remember it to this day. I remember holding and hugging that doll like a friend. And that doll was a symbol of the kindness, love, and support we received from people who cared.

My father's selfish and prodigal behavior that year towards his family gave my mother and us children a greater faith and a greater testimony. I can truly say that through this experience God made himself known to us as a "Father" who is always faithful. A "Father" who is not only omnipresent, but who also ministers to those in need through human angels.

Over the years Angel Wings has provided gifts and hope to families who find themselves in dire circumstances. May God continue to bless this ministry, along with all the others in this mission field.



...our brother's keeper

Only God! *(cont'd from page 1)*

Some had lost not only one job but two; there were sick children, as well as an aunt who had 3 of her own and took in 3 of her sister's children while her sister was in rehab. There were a variety of situations and needs that we responded to last year - giving out toilet paper, detergent, and hygiene products for the household, along with underclothes, outerwear for all aged children, toys for toddlers, diapers for infants and tennis shoes for teenagers.

There were many needs and desires we resolved for families who found themselves in different situations which they did not necessarily create, but ONLY GOD could fix. We THANK GOD that He sees our situations and provides for our needs. Angel Wings is grateful to be His arms and legs in human action. We are *doubly* grateful for all the donors who make themselves available and who offer the financial resources and/or volunteer manpower to help restore families in this broken world. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 4:19 New Living Translation Bible]

It's That Time of Year for *The Secret Santa Project*

Your support helps the families with children that we serve.

There are many ways to give your support!

For information on how you can sign up with us to
SPONSOR A CHILD or a FAMILY OF CHILDREN:

CALL OR TEXT: 410 982-7647

EMAIL: angelwingsmin@aol.com

TO MAKE A DONATION:

RETURN YOUR DONATION CARD TO:

Secret Santa Project
3005 Romaric Ct., Unit B
Baltimore, MD 21209

WE ALSO ACCEPT CASH APP:

\$ANGELWINGSMIN

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

Thank You!
To our
"Angels in the Field"



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