



the ENCOURAGER magazine

July 2022



MY HELP

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH



ON THE COVER

The warmth of longtime congregant Monet Hamlett's beautiful smile seems to match the radiance of the summer sun during her photo shoot on August 28, 2022.

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2022

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if you declare with your mouth,
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God
raised him from the dead

you will be saved

Romans 10:9, NIV

THE MAGAZINE **STAFF** Jul 2022

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A WORD FROM **THE WORD**

PASTOR REGINALD L. ELLIOTT

Fear not:

*for the hand of Saul my father
shall not find thee...*

1 Samuel 23:17, KJV

MYHELP

God is my helper. Those words which are found in Psalm 54:4, were uttered by David during one of the many times he fled from Saul who sought him to kill him. On the occasion of the experience cited in Psalm 54, unlike some other times when Saul could not find him, Saul knew exactly where David was and sought him every day to kill him.


David was in trouble, 1 Samuel 23:15 tells us he was hiding in the wilderness of Ziph, needing encouragement, needing help.

Throughout his life, David had a habit of seeking help from God. On one occasion he said, that in times of trouble, I will look to the hills from which cometh my help. He was speaking of looking to God whom Israel viewed as dwelling in the high places. David constantly sought God's help and knew God would help him.

One of the great hindrances to our faith is our human tendency to try to figure out how God will help us. From David's life we can be taught a great deal that will help us learn to hold fast to faith and wait on God. God works in many ways. We must not try to confine God to our thinking. Let Him work as He chooses. Let God be God.



On this occasion, God used Saul's son, Jonathan, to encourage David. God inspired Jonathan to say to David, "Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel..." (1 Samuel 23:17, KJV) Further, a messenger came to Saul and told him the Philistines had invaded the land and Saul had to stop pursuing David and go fight the Philistines. David sought God's help and God used human instruments, Jonathan and the Philistines, to deliver David.

We may not know how God will help us when we pray, but we must believe He will. Just as He helped David, He will help you. Use your voice in prayer and praise and declare God to be your helper. Declare God to be your helper when facing life's challenges and watch Him help you. Victory will be yours because He who rules the universe is your helper. 

PERFECT PEACE

WINNIE LaFRANCE-CHAMBERS

When in need, some of us are guilty of seeking God's help last. We go through our contact list and even do a Google search before taking a moment to pray. It is not done intentionally; we just seek comfort in what we can see. I remember taking a ride in a hot-air balloon a few years ago. It was something that I had always wanted to experience so when the opportunity came, I was so excited. I've never been afraid of heights so I had no fear leading up to the experience. It wasn't until I saw how small the basket was in which we'd be standing. Three people in a small basket, the size of a laundry bin. Floating higher and higher by the minute. Although the scene was beautiful, I started trembling. I immediately began trembling once we began sailing over treetops. "You have to stop shaking like that!" The gentleman stewarding the hot-air balloon said. "We could all tip over if you don't stay still."

At however many feet in the air, I had nothing to turn to. The first thing I did was close my eyes and pray for peace and within seconds after opening my

eyes, my trembling stopped. I always reflect back on that moment when I think about where my help truly comes, and who is the true supplier of peace.

Bible Verses about God's Help

Psalms 50:15, NIV: "...and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

Psalms 54:4, NIV: "Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me."

Hebrews 13:6, NLT: "So we can say with confidence, 'The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?'"

Psalms 109:26-27, NIV: "Help me, O Lord my God! Save me by Your loving-kindness. Let

them know that this is Your hand and that You, O Lord, have done it." 🕊️

PHOTO BY: Winnie LaFrance-Chambers



PHOTO BY: Winnie LaFrance-Chambers

CHRISTIAN COMEDY **CORNER**

CAROLYN JACKSON
COLLIN DUNLAP

REMEMBER

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)

Why didn't they play cards on Noah's Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck.



The biggest test of my patience

throughout this entire pandemic is opening a plastic produce bag without licking my fingers.

Pretty wild how we used to eat cake after someone had blown out candles on it. Good times??



I felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery.

The GPS blurted out "you have reached your final destination."



I changed my password to "incorrect," so whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say "your password is 'incorrect.'"



500 Shopping carts in the grocery store and I keep picking the one with the weird front wheel that sounds like a squealing pig. 🐷

**Blessings 2U,
Sister Carolyn Jackson
Brother Collin Dunlap**



LIBRARY HOURS
Open Every Sunday
Before Service:
10:00am - 11:00am
After Service:
Until 2:00pm

THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

DESIREE COLLINS

**"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help."**

Psalm 121:1, KJV

The lyrics and message of this hymn says it all.

"My Help Comes from the Lord" by:
Stephen Bray, Don Moen, & Marty Nystrom


I will lift up mine eyes to the hills
From whence cometh my help
My help cometh from the Lord
The Lord which made heaven and earth

He said he would not suffer thy foot
Thy foot to be moved
The Lord which keepeth thee
He will not slumber nor sleep

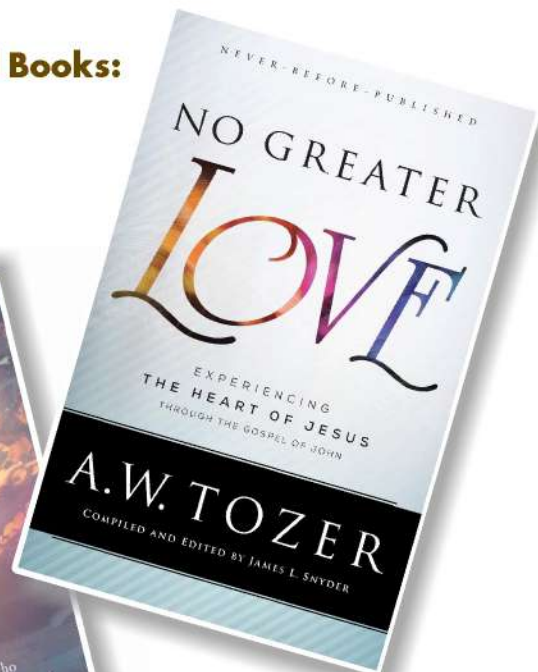
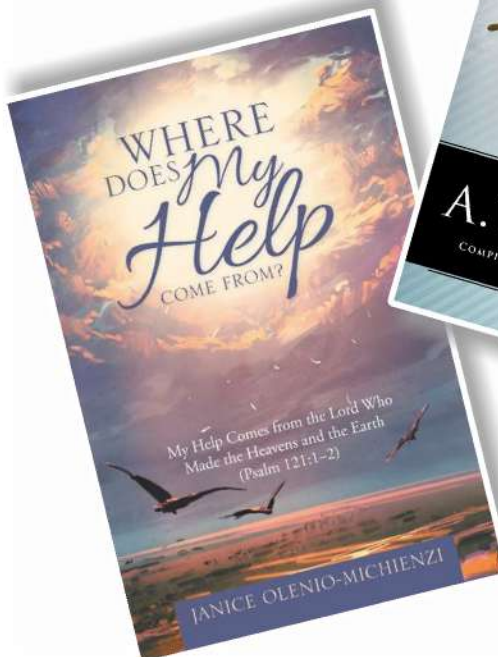
Oh the Lord is the keeper
The Lord is thy shade
Upon thy right hand

No, the sun shall not smite thee by day
Nor the moon by night
He shall preserve thy soul
Even forever more

Gonna keep my eyes on you Lord
I won't look to the left, I won't look to the right
I'll stay focused on you Jesus
All of my help cometh from the Lord

My help, my help
All of my help cometh from the Lord 

Recommended Books:





CALL ON HIM

TAYLOR LANDRUM

The Lord God is a present help in the time of need. Any Christian who has ever gone through hardship in their lives – which is all of us – knows this not only because the Bible tells us this is true, but because we have experienced its reality personally. To know God fully is impossible and only for Jesus Christ to do, but as Christian's, one of the things that we can rest assured knowing is that God is available for us whenever we call upon Him. Unlike people, God can be everywhere at once, and there is no limit to His power. Oftentimes human beings are so conditioned by the constraints of our physical world that we forget that God is more powerful than the laws of nature. Even greater still, God has power of the will of men and, therefore, there is nothing that He cannot do for you.

Interestingly enough, Christian's are as guilty as anyone else of limiting God's power by their own disbelief. God is so interested in our lives that He wants to be in constant communication with us through prayer – the Bible tells us that none of our problems are too small OR too great for God. From the biggest to the smallest of our trials in life, God is available to assist us, and His love for us tells us that He wants us to succeed. What can't we do if the God of the universe is on our side?

Too often we wait until things have gone wrong in our lives to call upon Him. Personally, when things are going smoothly, I get a false sense

of self-security – an unrealistic idea that I can handle my own life and am able to deal with my own problems. When this happens, God gets pushed from the forefront to the background because I am relying on my own limited and insufficient abilities to make my way in the world. God wants us to know that we *always* need Him, and that our successes are not a result of our own volition and skill, but instead are gifts from His endless grace.

On the bright side, when things are not looking as good in life, God is the first person to whom you can turn – not only because He is the only one who can truly help you, but because He is also the only one who is always there. God is not some mythical being in the clouds who looks down upon mankind with disdain, but rather is an all-loving *person*, who wants nothing more than to bless and help you. God is always only a prayer away, and whether you are in prison like Paul and Silas or in the belly of a whale like Jonah, He hears your prayers and is ready to answer them.

Whatever life throws at you – whether it be problems that you think you can solve on your own or massive problems that you might not even believe God can solve – turn to Him first. Once you have pledged your life to God and know His goodness, He will bless and keep you even when you forget about Him. How much more, then, will He help you when you always turn to Him, knowing that through faith in His power you have already won?



IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR **HELP**

CAROLYN **FLEMING**, RN

**"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own
understanding"**

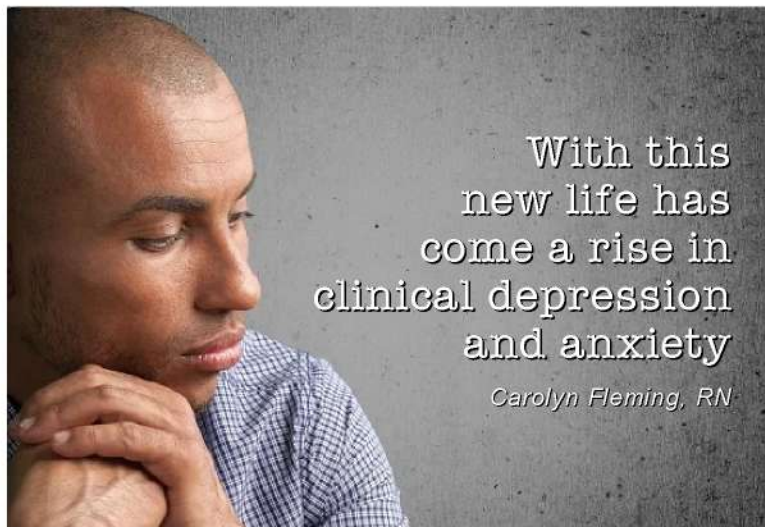
Proverbs 3:5, KJV

As believers we know that our ultimate help comes from God. But we also know that God has provided our world with people of wisdom and knowledge to help us navigate situations and circumstances too big for us to handle alone.

Covid-19 has changed the way we live. We wear masks in many public places. We don't shake hands or hug as much. Many corporations have limited in-office fulltime staff, and "Zoom" and "Google Meet" have become part of our culture for getting together at work. Many places of worship have restricted or limited in-person attendance and have learned to embrace the new virtual world where "Hallelujah" and "Praise the Lord" are typed in chat boxes.

Not many of us have been untouched by Covid-19.

Many have experienced it personally or had family members or friends contract it. Unfortunately, some have experienced the loss of a loved one due to the virus. With this new life has come a rise in clinical depression and anxiety. Therapists and counselors are probably working harder than they ever have. Despite this changed world, one fact remains constant. **GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE AND HE DOES NOT CHANGE.**



It's okay to get that extra help from trained professionals if you need to. Many people have therapists that at one time never dreamed they would need that support.

If you don't think you are at a point to

need professional counseling, there are things we can do to promote our own spiritual wellness.

Spiritual wellness has been proven to:

- help reduce stress, depression, and anxiety
- lower blood pressure
- strengthen your immune system and lower blood sugar
- help sustain concentration, memory, and cognition

There are a few things we can do to help ourselves:

SELF CARE: Dedicate at least 10-15 minutes out of your workday, no matter what, to take care of yourself. This can be in the form of prayer, journaling, or for some, exercise reduces anxiety.

MEDITATION: Use your mental muscles. Sit comfortably in a distraction free space for 5 minutes. Concentrate on your breathing. Count to 5 as you inhale, count to 5 as you exhale. Your mind may wander, just bring it back and focus on your breathing.

BODY CARE: Drink water, eat right, and exercise.

HELP OTHERS: Focusing on the needs of others is therapeutic for us. Finding a way to volunteer in your community, mentor someone, or a simple phone call to check on a neighbor that is alone, are all activities pleasing to God.

When we develop a pathway to personal spiritual wellness, we will start to experience a sense of inner peace and contentment no matter what is going on around us. But ultimately never be afraid or embarrassed to seek help if you need that extra support. God said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV). 🙏



MONET Hamlett

GETTING TO KNOW

ASSISTANT PASTOR LINWOODCHILDS



Where can I get help, the help I need? This can be a nagging question. Old or young, the quality of our lives depends on the help we select and receive. I asked Monet Hamlet to discuss this topic and give her perspective on our quarter's theme: My Help.

Linwood Childs (LC): When you think about the words, "My Help" what comes to your mind?

Monet Hamlett (MH): When I think of *My Help* I kind of think of my everything; I will say that I'm thankful and grateful that I have *not* had a life that has been filled with many obstacles and challenges. I'm so thankful and I'm grateful for God's help in everything. Whether big or small or even what might seem insignificant to some, it is still important to others. So, Lord, thank you for my help. Even when I'm in my car and on my way home, thank you Lord for letting me get home safely. So, to me He's like my everything.

LC: Awesome. So, give me an idea what you think is *not* your help. What doesn't help you?

MH: One thing is negativity. I know it's a common word that people use now, along with toxicity. I'm just a person that didn't surround myself with negativity and drama; so what is not my help is when that is brought to me. I do my best to stay

away from that in whatever form it comes. Other's negative thoughts or negative perspectives and views, and those types of things are the opposite of what is going to help me.

LC: Give me an idea of how this developed. How did you come to have this attitude? What reinforcements did you have to develop that attitude?

MH: I would say it's more reinforcement. I have never really been the one to be a part of anything negative. As child, I didn't really want to get beatings. So, I try to do what was right. I surrounded myself with those who didn't want to get in trouble. I've always tried to do my best, to believe, to go after what was my best; to do what is right. But *reinforcement* simply because it is more peaceful when you're not involved in those types of negative things, it just falls in line with what God would want. Those things just bring about a good comfort, so my reinforcement was just the fact that life is so much more peaceful and happier without those things. So, I continue to see how life can be improved by not surrounding myself with those things or reinforcements that I really don't want to be involved with.

LC: Do you really consider it a personal cost not to
(Continued on Page 11)

I'm grateful
for
GOD'S
HELP
in
everything

Monet Hamlett





have those things?

MH: Yes, even though I don't think there was any one specific thing that was negative surrounding this decision, I think there is a personal cost. A few years ago, I went to your wife, Sister Francine, I told her I wanted to be part of the children's church ministry. It was time, and I felt as though God has called my life to work with children. This was something that I hadn't been doing anything about but felt as though I needed to, and to become a part of that effort.

I think that when you surround yourself with negativities it impacts your closeness to God. I made a conscious decision years ago that I was going to get closer to God, get more into His Word. I was going to serve the Lord, and that I was going to take action toward that. Any attitude of negativity, I think, takes away from my growth as a Christian, and growing more as a mother, as a woman, even as a daughter – all of that. Negativity takes away from all of that.

LC: Sometimes you get what you don't ask for. An acquaintance of mine was vying for a supervisory position, which he obtained. But shortly after COVID-19 developed, instead of laying him off they moved him to another department to supervise.



He hated the work, and it totally affected his attitude. How do *you* keep your perspective and continue to make good choices? In your experiences have you overcome bad thoughts and attitudes and stay positive?

MH: I'm glad that you shared that story because I can relate it, to certain questions in my life, and my company. I've been working for this company; it's been about 17 years. For the most part I've done very well; I took on a new challenge to go over and help develop our international team. So, I was there for about 5 to 6 years developing the enrollment offices. I was really enjoying it and I had a great relationship with my direct supervisor. I was doing very well in that role, and then...then the company



“You’re doing so well that we’re going to move you back over to the domestic side”. “You’re going to go to a team that is struggling, and where people are getting fired because they are not producing. We believe in you, and we know that you’re going to do great things there. This is going to be your niche...my thought was, “Yes, okay sure!” We’re going to move you from this position that you’re so comfortable in and put you into this position. So, when I got that news, I was very, very, very upset. Disappointed. There were some tears outside, and I

had to take ½ a day off. The manager that I have been working with and the others all realized that this information was *not* sitting well with Monet. So, in those moments I was even then, grateful to still have a position. I proceeded as if it was a negative, going to a team that was not doing well. I would say it took me a while. As I recall, I think they gave me the news like on Thursday and I started on that Monday. I was not happy about it but on Monday morning I started. In whatever situation, even when it’s something negative, I try to think about the positive. They saw something in me that they felt as though I could help. Although the job would be different, I am still grateful that I have a job and can provide for my family. So, I decided to look at the positive side and told myself even in this God has a plan for me. I said then, I don’t necessarily understand, but God has a plan for me. Fast forward to three months later, I am ecstatic to be in the role. Love my new team, especially my new director, who was great – she’s even better than the one I was working with before, I’m thriving where I am. I just had to tell myself to have a little patience. So, the moment may seem bad, but have patience. God knows what He’s doing. In those negative, and difficult situations there’s got to be at least one positive thing that you can pull from it and I try to fill myself with that. That’s what I did.

(Continued on Page 13)

LC: When did this occur?

MH: This happened in the Fall of 2019, just as the pandemic began.

LC: Could you have possibly seen the blessing that was coming?

MH: No! No not at all. I tell you it took a lot of prayer. I'm super close to my mom; we prayed. My mom encouraged me saying think about the positive. But at that exact moment, I didn't want to! All I wanted at that moment...I just want to be mad.

LC & MH: ROFL (Rolling on the Floor Laughing)

MH: I had to give it some time and, again, a lot of prayer. All the while I was looking for new roads, because this is not what I want to do.

LC: So, tell me your background.

MH: I work in higher education; I work in enrollment offices for doctoral students. I help advise doctoral students.

LC: Oh, I personally know a gentleman who, just before COVID struck, moved into his own apartment and purchased a new vehicle. About two months into the pandemic his company severely lost sales. He came to work one day and they told him that this was his last day. They gave him a severance package and sent them home. Of course,

*S*ometimes we must
go through things we
don't understand.

Monet Hamlett





he was *not* happy. Yet about a couple of months later the company was doing so much better that they reached back out to him and to the other 40 people they laid off, to ask if they could return to slightly different positions but work from home instead of coming to the office. He had two months off, with pay, and returned to work, but didn't have to leave his home. Who would've known that such blessing could come from such trauma?

MH: God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes we must go through things we don't understand but, wow, I know he's grateful, or at least he should be.

LC: We talk now and I ask him how he got through those days. He says he doesn't know, but it wasn't easy. Sometimes God blesses us in ways that we truly, truly do not understand how He got us from there to here.

How long have you been at this company? It sounds like you really like it.

MH: Let's see, I have been with this company, it will be 17 years in September. Being so young when I started with them, it just gave me a lot of good growth and potential. It has not always been peaches and cream. I am a person that likes to do
(Continued on Page 15)





what I do well. So, I mastered how to do it well and am able to sustain the life that I like. And it supports me and my son. But originally, I did not expect to be here this long. When I started, they would tell you they did not expect Monet to be here very long. I think the first 9 months to almost a year everything was pretty tough. But God knows what He's doing, He gave me the world's best manager. She helped us and nurtured us, but I probably would still not be here if I had any other manager. But once things began to click and I developed some maturity it went from Monet having to *always* struggle, to being one of the top enrollment specialists and getting bonuses and raises along the way. I remember having a conversation with my director looking back at the first year and noting the change that took place, and noting serious concerns. Quite possibly having to have had a different conversation. Maybe discussing that maybe this is not the best fit for me. At the beginning it was rocky, and I did not necessarily know that I would stay there. But how things have changed! I've been grateful to have had various opportunities and working different parts of the business, to help develop different parts of the business, and going from the international to the domestic side of the business. I've had the opportunity to work with the University of Liverpool and Walden University, and I work with

various higher educational brands. I found something that I now like and do well. But it was a s-t-r-e-t-c-h! In spite of the fact that at one time I had a really horrible manager. Let's just say he wasn't from heaven! But God let me know that He was still going to sustain me and allow me to do well. I interact mostly with doctoral students and listening to them plan, and their goals – it motivates me. Although sometimes it may at first seem to be repetitive, but every conversation is new, as every person is new and has his or her own goals.

LC: It seems that God has sent you help from so many different directions. Sometimes it's in the form of an opportunity or someone's testimony, or even a conversation.

MH: He's definitely given me endurance. Help is not always in opportunity but it's endurance in getting through situations. I haven't thought about it as much as I have now, but you're right; it comes from many different formats.

LC: Over the years has your perception of your help changed?

MH: Hmmm. Yes, yes because my help doesn't have to come any longer in the form of a promotion or raise, or new car, or apartment. It doesn't have to be anything tangible.



Again, I think that through my growth and maturity I have in fact become successful, I have raised a great son. So yes, my understanding, my thought processes, and how I see my help and how I see my support has evolved. If 2020 has shown us anything it is that *things* can be taken away so quickly. I realize now that my hope and help can come even the smallest things from God.

LC: So, if I understand you, Monet's perspectives on things have indeed changed. What do you see now that you didn't see before?

MH: I think was more solution-driven, asking myself how I can make this or that work. But now I go back to the Word. I'm part of a Bible study with my cousins and I share with them that I'm seeking to learn more about what's in God's Word. Solutions before were me thinking this through, until I figure out myself, until this seems to make sense. And sometimes I maybe get to God's solutions, but I'm actively working on developing and praying better, focusing on what God wants and how He can help me get through. So now it's lets find help in the Word to see how his Word moves and leads me.

LC: Awesome, that's great because trouble can lead people in the wrong direction.

MH: It can!

LC: Trouble can cause you to lose your perspective, your hope and generally go in the wrong direction. Often our most effective help is to keep traveling in the right direction. As God is our help and you get successfully through the challenges and changes, how has your view of God changed?

MH: I am so much more grateful! As you get older you just see life much differently and with a lot more gratitude. God is in everything, not just the big things! Everything. I think that my view of Him as changed in that He helps in everything, and I need Him for everything. It used to be okay I'm in trouble I need to go to God. But as growth and maturity happens and participating in Bible studies and reading my Bible more and becoming active in the church it just helps develop and helps me grow more as a Christian. I realize that God is everywhere and not just here for the big things, but the everyday needs. I realize that I *should* call and that I *can* call Him and pray, "God be with me even in the simple tasks". But Lord, I need you in all aspects and parts of my life.

LC: Who are you helping now? Who are those that you can serve because of your experiences?

(Continued on Page 17)



MH: I love working with the youth. I feel as though if I had another life, or if things had gone differently I would've been a schoolteacher. I would've gotten in education in another way. It's really the youth. I've always had a passion for the youth of various ages. Just being able to provide help to navigate the world they live in. Navigating relationship challenges, especially being young

Christians seeking to make right decisions. With the world filled with social media my focus is on helping our youth, of all ages.

LC: I fully agree. My prayer is that our young people will not see our instruction as only an adult speaking to them, but as God speaking to them. In closing tell us something about you that is not



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Monet Hamlett



obvious, that people would not know.

MH: I love to shop, especially clearance shop. I also really used to like to read. I would actually read a book in a day. If I liked the book, it would be done in a day. I had a friend who would watch a movie while I was reading a book. I would be done the book before the movie ended. I used to love to read and then I stopped for a long period of time. Then I recently started really reading, and I read everything. I definitely read in the Bible study. I like motivational books. I like reading novels and was in a book club. I'm getting back into it. I like the paper books and I don't like the audiobooks or a tablet, but I actually like to read the paperbacks. But since I work for an online university, I've had to adapt. But if it is a choice between an e-book or paperback, I want the paperback.

LC: You are singing to the choir. I use e-books but I prefer paperback.

MH: I also like to travel, a lot. I love reading about


your daughter's trips. I'm working up the courage to do solo trips like she does. I'm always waiting for my friends. But I love reading about her trips. I travel – that is one thing I love to do. I will go back to places I like but I prefer to go places that I've never been. I love new experiences, so for me I prefer to make memories. I prefer having experiences over tangible things. I don't mind gifts, but I prefer to build experiences and to enjoy quality time together. So, I like marking off the places I've been. I'm a list-driven person. I have lists for places that I'm going to and things I'm going to get done. And I love checking things off.

LC: What place would you like to go back to?

MH: I would love to go back to Greece. Greece was beautiful and I would love to go back there. Of course, I went to Athens and other cities, and I have one that I will love to go back to. But next I'd rather go to the island parts rather than the major cities.

LC: Where would you like to go for the first time?

MH: Now, I would like to go to Spain!

LC: Thanks so much. God is *our* help with all our plans, dreams and lists! 

Godly Rest

FAMILY FOCUS

CRYSTAL A. HOOD

Seeking and walking in Christ in this world is full of perils and moments in which making it through takes tremendous effort. We feel that we are creeping and crawling along just to move forward in our life and spiritual journey. It also seems that we often find ourselves coming from one difficult situation and into another difficult situation. These are things that any Christian who is striving to walk in life according to God's Word has experienced or will experience. The joy of the Lord is that as we continue in Him, He provides us help, but it is not necessarily by removing our trouble as it is by giving us an opportunity in the midst of our trouble to have rest.

In the book, *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, the main character CHRISTIAN has, with excruciating effort, made it midway up a hill called Difficulty. At this point the Lord of the hill provided an arbor for the refreshment of weary travelers. An arbor is a shady garden alcove with sides and a roof formed by trees or climbing plants trained over a wooden framework. Here CHRISTIAN takes refuge and refreshes himself by reflecting on the gifts of salvation that he has received.

These moments of rest serve as venues for us to recover, heal, restore and strengthen ourselves both

physically and spiritually. They are not meant for us to stay or to deeply fall asleep, which halts us in our journey. Rest is a brief moment to regroup and prepare to go forward, especially when we are involved in an intense spiritual battle.

Another example is in the Old Testament. 1 Kings 19 records how the prophet Elijah fled to the wilderness because his life had been threatened by Jezebel. She was married to King Ahab of Israel and encouraged him to have the people worship the Tyrian god Baal-Melcart. Most of the prophets of God were killed by her command. Elijah prayed to God that he would be allowed to die. God sent angels to bring food to Elijah. He was allowed to rest, but he did not get to fall into a deep sleep. He was awakened and told to eat.

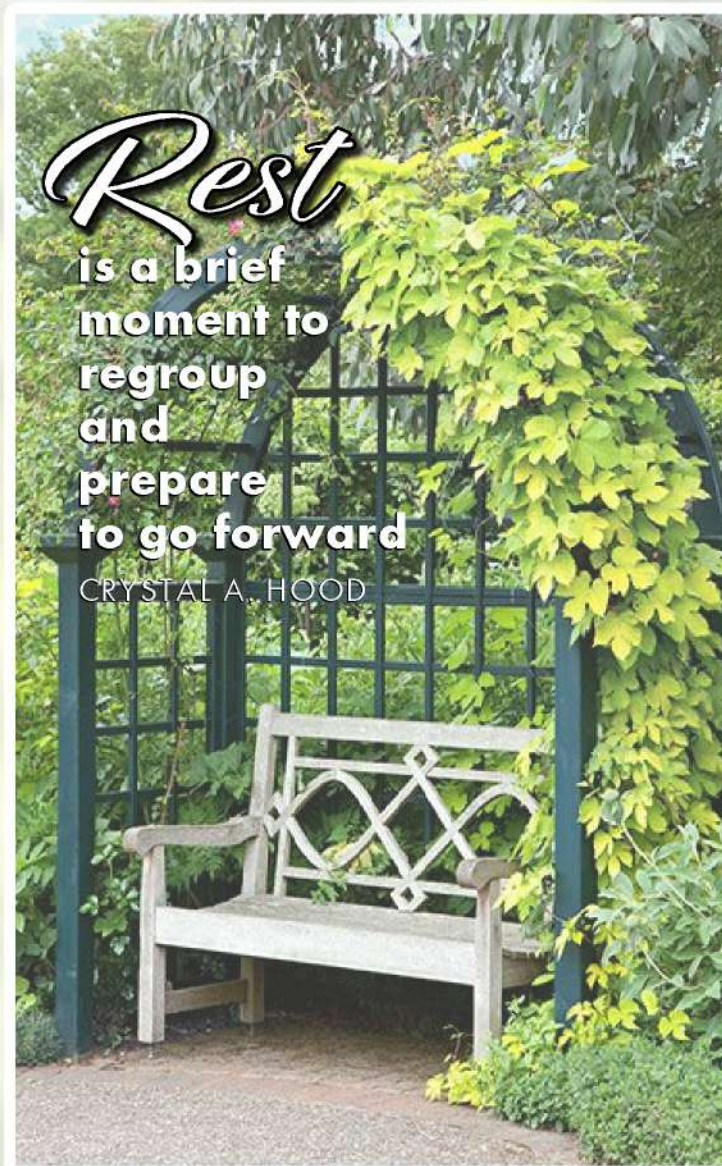
Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." And he looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

A second time the angel of the LORD returned and touched him, saying, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. And strengthened by that food, he

walked forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God (1 Kings 19:5-8, BSB).

Often people seek God to be delivered from their challenges in life. When it does not happen they turn from God and seek other avenues to avoid the difficult places. What they misunderstand is that along our path our loving Father provides both an opportunity to be refreshed and to be challenged. They are both a blessing that demonstrates His goodness is beneficial toward our sanctification (spiritual growth), and shows His guiding protective hand.

Elijah was distraught to the point that he just wanted to die. God helped him by allowing him to



rest and providing nourishment for his journey ahead. The character CHRISTIAN rested and was refreshed by thinking on the confidence he held in his heart that at the end of his journey he would be accepted into Heaven because of his faith in Jesus as Savior.

When we experience Godly rest the Holy Spirit will minister to our emotional, spiritual, and physical needs. As you journey on your path experience God's helping hand in your life by embracing

whatever challenge He has allowed to come before you, taking advantage of the moments He gives to be refreshed, and then continuing forward singing praises to the Lord in order to sustain your strength.



THE BEAUTY & SPLENDOR OF JEHOVAH JIREH

FEATURED **ARTICLE** KIM ODOMS-BOLDEN

Early July 2022, storms rippled through parts of the Maryland and in some areas the storms were torrential and, in epic proportions, gave birth to a tornado. Tornadoes are not common in this area. Early in the morning I was greeted with water dripping in the master bedroom ensuite through a fan vent. Directly above the vent is the attic. Above the attic, yes you guessed it, above the rafters through the plywood, is the roof. It was soon discovered that shingles had been removed from the roof by the fleeting remnants that ran rampant the night before and into the early morning hours. The roof was a seasoned twenty-eight years old. It was later determined the roof required replacement. Estimates ranged from eight to thirteen thousand dollars. During this lean time, I could not figure out how the roof was going to be fixed. I needed help. Clearly, I heard the voice of God tell me to call a company that had recently provided weatherization updates to the attic, basement and throughout the rest of the home. They did nothing with my roof. I had tried several times prior to the storm for them to return to fix items they left undone or left out of



sorts, and had no return responses.

I thought I've tried that to "no" avail. Besides, Lord, they didn't do anything with the roof – they worked on the interior of the home. Almost immediately, a Biblical story (from John 21:4-6, NIV) entered my mind. Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples fished all night long and caught nothing. Yet, "Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to

them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Needless, to say I made the phone call and spoke with a decision maker and the following Monday, three days later, a carpenter arrived at my home. Five hours later the roof was fixed and the carpenter informed me the shingles were in good shape and the roof is good for another five years.

Resounding in my ears, piercing my soul and resting in the deep recesses of my heart was, and is, the voice of Chandler Moore and Naomi Raine

singing the song “Jireh”: “I never felt more loved, than I am right now, wasn’t holding you up, so there’s nothing I can do, to let you down, doesn’t take a trophy, to make you proud. I’ll never be more loved, than I am right now, going through a storm, but I won’t go down, I hear your voice, carried in the rhythm of the wind, to call me out. You would cross an ocean so I would not drown, You’ve never been closer, than You are right now. **You are Jireh, You are enough, You are Jireh, You are enough.** I will be content in every circumstance, You are Jireh, You are enough, forever enough, always enough,

always enough, more than enough, forever enough, always enough forever enough. I don’t wanna forget how I feel right now, on the mountain top, I can see so clear what it’s all about, stay by my side


when the sun goes down, don’t wanna forget how I feel right now. Jireh, You are enough, Jireh, You are enough!”

I
knew
it
was
JESUS

Kim Odoms-Bolden

As my Father, Alpha and Omega, God Almighty, Adonai, Jehovah Jireh would have it, the carpenter was an expert roofer. His name was Jesus (pronounced Hay-soos). But **I knew** it was Jesus (pronounced Geez-us), the One and Only! The cost was all on Him and I am eternally grateful!

The lyrics of the song also include, “If He dresses the lilies with beauty and splendor, How much more will He clothe you? If He watches over every sparrow, How much more does He love you? More than I can ask, think or imagine, according to His

power, working in us, It’s more than enough, more than you ask, think or imagine, according to His power working in us, it’s more than enough! Jireh, You are enough...in every circumstance!” 

HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

LET US PRAY
ANGELA HUNT BONITTO

As a child of God, we have the Holy Spirit as a gift from God. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will come and dwell among us to help us. He also said the Spirit will teach us in all things, and bring all things spoken by Jesus to our remembrance.

When we further examine the Holy Spirit, we learn that He not only dwells among God's people or teaches us, but He is our comforter, advocate, intercessor, counselor, and a strengthener who will be with us forever. Additionally, He is the Spirit of Truth whom Jesus said the world cannot receive because it does not see – He is only for the believer.

How do we reconcile with the Holy Spirit today? We pray for a deeper understanding of His spiritual nature, which enables Him to be with us when we need Him. From the beginning of time the Spirit was with God forming the universe (Genesis 1:2). Later the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Now the Spirit gives us liberty. It is because of the Spirit that the Scriptures come alive for us today and give us power to be confident mouth-pieces for God (2 Corinthians 3:3, and Zechariah 4:6). When the Scriptures become alive for us, we believe.

The Holy Spirit makes the impossible possible. You'll recall Antoinette Tuff, the front office worker at a Georgia school. She calmly stopped a school shooter by talking him down. She later told reporters it was the Spirit of God that guided her because she didn't even know she was calm and didn't know what she was saying. The Spirit intervened and saved more than 800 students and 100 employees that day.

The Bible says the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Therefore, if you are weak and need strength to get through your day, invite the Holy Spirit into your heart. The Spirit helps us in our weakness. If you feel bound, weighed down, burdened, 2 Corinthians 3:17 says the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit is there is FREEDOM.

Look at this illustration. A young boy tried to move a huge rock. He pushed and pulled with all of his might. No matter how hard he tried, the rock didn't budge. His father watching asked the boy if he used all of his strength to move the rock. The boy answered, "I have used all of my strength!" The father responded, "No you haven't. You haven't asked for my help."

Bottom line, like the boy needed help, we need the help of the Spirit. We need the fellowship of the Spirit every day. So, open your heart, welcome the Spirit and ask for His help. Amen!

Let Us Pray...

*Heavenly Father, we seek communion with you.
Holy Spirit enable us to walk in the way that the
Lord intended us to walk and live this life. Influence
our thoughts. Fill us with Your peace and love.
Teach us Your ways and strengthen our faith so we
may not waiver. Give us wisdom to complete the
task at hand because the harvest is plenty but the
workers are few. In Jesus name we pray. Amen!*





ON THE INSIDE COVERS

Inside Front: CCC feasted on The Word delivered by Evangelist Mildred Woods during our Mother's Day service on May 8, 2022.

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2022

Inside Back: Congregants Marilyn Lewis and daughter, Kennedy, grace the inside cover of this issue with their beautiful smiles after service on April 10, 2022.

Photography By: Michael R. Spry © 2022

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

8516 Thomas Williams Way
P.O. Box 2292
Columbia, MD 21045

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY:

10:00 AM Church School (All Ages)
11:00 AM Meditation & Prayer
11:15 AM Morning Worship

COMMUNION SERVICE:

1st Sunday of Every Month

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

Noon-Day Prayer 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Noon-Day Bible Study 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM
Evening Prayer 07:30 PM - 08:00 PM
Evening Bible Study 08:00 PM - 09:00 PM

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS:

Youth Bible Study 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

CARE & COMFORT MINISTRY

Sis. Linda M. Byrd: 410-313-9673 / Sis. Donna Givhan / 410-997-3276
columbiamdcareandcomfort@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Church Website: www.columbiaccmd.org

CHURCH LIBRARY

Open Every Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM and after service until 2:00 PM