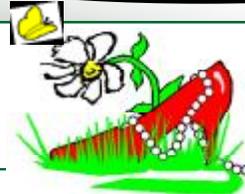


# Grace In The Wilderness



Isaiah 43:19 ...I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.



## The Abundant Life

By Sharon Hawkins

“I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan, and never, never let you forget you're a man! 'Cause I'm a woman, W-O-M-A-N, I'll say it again...”

Heard a joke the other day that says it's more important for a woman to be beautiful, than to be smart, because men can see better than they can think! lol! Don't know if that's true, but, if Grace Ankles, Today's Busy Woman, wants to survive in today's busy world she'd better be smart so she can make the grade in Juggling 101.

She juggles a household...and sometimes two if she's caring for elderly parents. She juggles a marriage...the secret to a happy marriage is to give 100% and expect nothing in return. She's a mom to kids...who grow up way too fast and who are juggling way too many things themselves (many of which keep her running up and down the road). She has a career...which has to come after her family but often demands to come before it.

Today's Busy Woman is a counselor, ambassador, secretary, treasurer, accountant, judge, lawyer, doctor, nurse, marketing specialist, tailor, interior decorator, chef, maid, fashion consultant, hair dresser, coach, referee, team player, event planner, greeter and that's just before she leaves her house. With little ones, she's a room

mom, team mom, PTA member, fundraiser, neighborhood babysitter, booboo kisser, morale builder, and face washer.

With elderly parents, she is a caregiver, appointment maker, and grocery shopper with 2 buggies. She goes to church, where she teaches, sings in the choir, prepares meals for those in need, stays in the nursery and serves any way she is called upon.

And that's all before she gets in her car, drops off her kids at school and heads to work full-time (and then some). And, we wonder why we're so tired all the time?!

A recent sleep study says that Today's Busy Woman gets 6.3 hours sleep on average per night. In the early 1900's, the average woman slept 9 hours a night.

Yesterday's Busy Woman had many children to care for, washed clothes in the creek, picked vegetables, ground her own flour, drew water from a well, prepared meals from scratch (really from scratch) over a fire and, just for fun, she helped her husband in the field. Yet she still managed to get more rest than we do. Unbelievable!

In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” He wants to give Today's

Busy Woman the abundant life, but that doesn't mean abundant tasks! Webster's defines “abundant” as present in great quantity; more than adequate, richly supplied, and abounding. He doesn't just want to help her with her life or be a part of it, He wants to be her life! Jesus wants her to find the joy that can only be found in a personal relationship with Him. He can supply everything that she needs.

... The phone rang and Grace laid her favorite book aside to answer it. Her mom was calling to tell her how much she and her dad loved the pie Grace had made for them and how much they loved and appreciated her. Hanging up the phone, she caught a glimpse of her handsome husband rooting for his favorite team on 're-run' TV and she had to smile.

It was a rare Saturday night when all her kids were home. Matt was in the basement with his friends playing LOUD Christian (smile) music. Gracie was giggling in her room with her best friend, Tiffany. And her youngest, Toby, had just appeared with a pack of Uno cards, a bag of chocolate and a begging grin.

As she shuffled the cards, she whispered a prayer of thanks for all the joy in her life. Then, it dawned on her...she was living the abundant life! Wow! And, guess what...she wouldn't trade it for anything!

Volume 3, Issue 5, Bi-Monthly

### Inside this issue:

The Abundant Life	1
Financially Speaking: God Smack	2
Titus 2 Wisdom for Women: Grandma Eunice	2-3
Widows: Daily Choices	3-4
What's To Let Go	4
Keeping the Temple Fit: Size Yourself Up	5
Bits and Pieces	5
A Garden In The Wilderness: A New Light	5-6
Hambone	6,7
I Am A Princess	7
About the Ministry	8

Teen Girl Conference:

EMPOWERED JESUS GIRL

October 16

Blue Ridge View Baptist Church Pickens, SC

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...



## Financially Speaking: God Smack

By Brenda Horne

It is inevitable that every time we are able to save money the car is going to tear up. And it will not be an "easy fix", it will eventually take every dime that we have managed to save.

Here is an example of how this phenomenon works. I was in an accident several months ago. No one was hurt and the other driver was at fault. After many months, many phone calls and much aggravation, his insurance company awarded us only \$1500 for my totaled car. Well, with \$1500 I could replace my car with maybe a ... moped!

So after all was said and done, we decided to put the \$1500 in savings and find a used car. That's when it all started.

My husband drove his truck to West Virginia on a mission trip with our two daughters. I was unable to go due to work so I drove my oldest daughter's Jeep, since I was without a vehicle.

All was well for a few days, and then it happened. The A/C goes out on the truck...\$250. Next, the brakes and rotors went out on the truck...\$350 dollars. Then the Jeep blows a head gasket....\$650.

Ok, I thought, as least I still have \$250 left to put down on a used car for me.

But wait, that's not all, our mechanic

calls, the good news is he has fixed the head gasket, the bad news, the plugs and radiator have to be replaced. ....total to fix the Jeep \$900!!

My \$1500 down payment has now dwindled down to \$0. Am I irritated? YES!! I feel the insurance company's sole purpose was to cheat me as much as they could. The wreck was not my fault and yet I'm left borrowing cars or begging for rides while the man who actually caused the wreck is sitting pretty in a new truck. Then the Jeep breaks down and my husband is killing himself trying to figure out who needs to be where, since we only have one vehicle now. Why couldn't we keep the little bit of money I needed to get me a car? What is up with that?! I was so aggravated I could scream.

And yes, I can drive my daughters Jeep once it is completely fixed but I gave her that car to make my life easier. She has school, sports, practices, activities, church, youth, etc. Not to mention, I have a younger daughter who is active also. I wanted my car back!

I was wallowing in self-pity when ... whack ..a "God Smack"! I thought it was bad when I was young and my Mom whacked me to make me behave! Well, wait till you get a "God Smack"!

Yep, He smacked me right in my conscience. Then He asked me, "Who do you think you are? And why are you being so ungrateful?!"

He reminded me of how He protected the two small children seated in the back seat the morning I slammed into the side of that SUV as it darted out in front of me. He also reminded me that my youngest daughter was not in the accident because I had dropped her off at school just minutes before it happened. Then He made me think of His loving hands protecting my family as they traveled to and from West Virginia to share the love of Jesus.

As far as the \$1500 goes, whether I agreed with the amount or not, He provided the money to fix the truck and the Jeep. So instead of whining and complaining, I would be wise to learn from my "God Smack" and live out Phil 4:11-13. Being thankful for a God who provides my needs and protects my family, even when things don't go the way I think they should!

### Philippians 4:11-13

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*



## Titus 2 Wisdom for Women: Grandma Eunice

By Mrs. Sadie Rettberg

Some of you will remember Bryan and Eunice Clark. If you do, you will know just how special my Grandma Eunice was without me telling you. Grandma was not well enough to work in the fields as I recall and I stayed at the house with her. From the time I can remember until this day, I always thought there was no one like my Grandma Clark. I can't recall ever seeing her when she was not smiling, although she was sick a lot of the time. What a great example of a Godly woman! She did everything with love!

Grandma loved the Lord. Grandma

always went to church and was my Sunday School Teacher in the "Card" Class. When she was too sick to go to church, I didn't want to go.

Grandma loved her family and prayed for them. Grandma milked the cow and she took feed for the cow in a bucket. She poured the feed into an old beat up tub, turned the feed bucket upside down and sat on it while she milked. As soon as she started to milk, she started to pray. She prayed all the time she was milking. My Uncle Walt was in the Army, WWII and in Germany a good part of my memories at that time. Grandma did a LOT of worrying and PRAYING for him. He was go-

ing through some very hard times and the family was always worrying about him. I was small but I can still remember that my aunts, Verna and Birt, watched the mailbox like a hawk, looking for a letter from Walt.

I remember one Saturday that was almost Christmas time. My dad told Grandpa that he would take us all to Easley to see the lights and buy Christmas presents. I don't remember much about the trip except that everyone was looking forward to going. I think that I was probably four or five years old. Grandma got me a little necklace for Christmas. It was made of tiny washer-

## Titus 2 Wisdom for Women: Grandma Eunice (Cont'd)

like beads on a string. It was red. One day I was out in the yard and the string broke. The beads went flying everywhere. I was so upset. I still think about that and wish I still had my little necklace.

I have sweet memories of my Grandma. She used to let me comb her hair. I would try to braid it and fix it all kinds of ways. Her hair was really long and dark. I don't recall it having gray in it.

Grandma was a great cook and she cooked with love. I loved her gravy and biscuits. She always made me little biscuits about the size of a half dollar. When I got married, my husband, Harv, started making homemade rolls. He always makes two or three "Grandma Clark biscuits" for me and our grandsons. This is just a sweet reminder of

my wonderful grandma. Grandma also made great popcorn balls and jelly rolls. She made fresh orange and coconut cakes at Christmas time.

Grandma loved God's creation. She loved her flowers. She had a row of daisies across the side yard that she really liked. She always had flower boxes on the edge of the porch with flowers in them. Grandpa and Grandma lived where Verna now lives. They had a big porch where Verna's back porch is now. Grandma didn't like to stay in the house and Grandpa got her a cot about 10 inches off the floor. She liked that very much because she could stay outside and see what was going on.

Grandma loved people and when she was able she was always trying to do things for the neighbors. She helped the

women in the area who were having new babies. The men would come for Grandma. I don't know if they got a Doctor or not but they came for Grandma.

As she grew sicker, she was not able to sit up for very long. I was barely nine years old and my grandma was just forty nine when she passed away. Most of her grandchildren didn't get to know what a wonderful grandma they had. But I was so blessed that I did. Everyone that knew my Grandma Eunice loved her! She was an awesome example of what a Godly woman should be!

*Philippians 1:3*  
*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.*

By Mary Beth Oxendine

## Cherished Still: New Widows—Daily Choices

*Proverbs 2:10-12*

*"For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul, discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you, wisdom will save you..."*

For those of you who are new widows, you are faced with so many changes overnight. The whole dynamics of your family change. You are now responsible for the things your spouse did plus the responsibilities you had. You realize that your dreams, your friends, your lifestyle and relationship with Christ are different. You are hurting and so are your children. You know you have two choices – turn it all over to Christ or turn your back on Christ. Daily you have to make that choice over and over again.

Bitterness, anger, fear, brokenness... these were emotions that were hourly and daily weapons that Satan used to try to make us turn our backs on Christ. Many nights all I could pray was: "Lord, help us! Lord, protect us! Lord, help my hurting children. Lord, heal my broken heart! Where are You, Lord? Do you still love us? Lord, please don't let us become bitter or angry!"

I went to the library and got on the

internet to look up anything about widows—there was nothing. So I got two CDs from a ministry Tom liked called Vision Forum ([www.visionforum.com](http://www.visionforum.com) or 1-800-440-0022). I ordered "Defending the Fatherless" and "The Role of Women in the Local Church". These talk about my role now in light of Tom's absence—how to help my children and how to run my home with Christ as the head. I already had the CD "Twenty-Four Hours Is All You Get", also from Vision Forum, which helped me order my days (along with FlyLady.com). The other things I found that helped were a CD called "Redeeming Love" from the book of Ruth by Pastor Adrian Rogers and the study of Ruth by Precept Ministries (Kay Arthur), then, two years later, the book *Grace for the Widow* by Joyce Rogers.

God reminded me of how Ruth in the Bible was significant to Tom and me when we got married. I surprised him at our wedding and recited the Scripture to him. Ruth 1:16: "Where you go, I will go and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God, my God." So God reminded me that all I needed was in Ruth, the book He wrote especially for widows. It tells of Boaz, who rescues the widow, Ruth. A beautiful love story! Also, Boaz repre-

sents Christ and Ruth, the Church.

Just months after Tom died, men started asking me to date. I wasn't ready—but I realized I needed to pray about it, as I did when I was 14, because I wanted God's hand in my life and choices. This is what I prayed: "Lord, if you want me to marry again, please send me my Boaz, but until that time, Christ is my Boaz. So, I still wear my wedding band because I have learned that Christ is my kinsman redeemer and husband."

While I was writing this, I got a call that another lady about my age just became a widow last night – suddenly! It broke my heart for I know her sorrow. She loved her husband as I loved Tom.

So, to those of you who still have your husbands, let me tell you: life is so short. I know your husband isn't perfect—because no one is—just love him as he is! Pray more than anyone for him every day! Thank God for him and talk well of him. Tell him every day that you love him and thank him for picking you, then respect him in all you do or say. Ask the Lord to help you be the help mate that he needs. Praise God each night as you lay down beside him. And if you become a widow, Christ is your only way through it. He is not your Enemy – He is your Savior!

## Step 2... (Cont'd)

Every day I have to remind myself upon waking in the morning to be thankful for where God has me right now. A dear Christian friend shared this song with me. I needed it so much:

*Satan has come against you  
Nothing you do is right  
You rely on strength within yourself  
But he's pulling on every side*



## What's To Let Go?

January 21, 1987... Jonathan Wesley Hughes is born weighing 2 lbs, 8 ozs. He is not breathing on his own and the doctors tell us to prepare for the worst. I am not a Christian at that time and wonder how I can let go of my newborn baby. I know there is nothing I can do and I feel totally helpless and hopeless. God took care of him and 3 months later he came home.

Ten months later, Jonathan is not progressing well and the doctors and therapists insist that he needs to attend a preschool for children with disabilities 5 days a week, 6 hours a day. How could I let him go to a place alone where no one knew how to care for him? He attended the school for 5 months and again, God took care of him and of me.

When he is 17 months old, he is diagnosed with cerebral palsy and is switched to another school for preschool children where he would spend the next 4 years. He rides a bus there and back and again, I ask "How can I let him go?" And again, God took care of him and of me.

When he is 2 years old, he is being wheeled back to the operating room and I think, "How can I let him go with strangers and what if something happens and I'm not there?" God brought him through.

When Jonathan is 3 years old, I ask the Lord to save me and really begin to understand that God had taken care of us and would always. But, that didn't change my desire to hold on.

Surgery at 5 years old and, like before, the same thoughts plague my mind as would numerous surgeries over the years. When Jonathan is 6 years old, he goes to public school in a regular class and again, I wonder how I can let him go. How can they take care of him and what if he needed me? Jonathan had asked the Lord to save him that summer and was not afraid and has never been afraid knowing that he is not alone but that

*Don't you know that he will defeat you  
If you try to stand on your own?  
But with Jesus Christ beside you, friend  
You'll never have to stand alone*  
**Chorus:**  
*When it seems you can't take any more  
He has a blessing just for you  
Just hold on, a blessing's on the way  
The trials that you've been facing  
You know they just can't stay  
Though you've been fighting a war in-*

*side  
Your help may come today  
Just hold on child  
A blessing's on the way  
Don't you know that there is a reason  
For the trials that you're going through  
It's learning to depend on Jesus  
Relying less on you  
For the Savior up in Heaven  
He knows just what to do...  
—Unknown*

By Valerie Hughes

God is with him. Each time a new school year started I would be sick with worry. Each time, Jonathan was fearless and grew in faith. Each time, God proved himself faithful in our lives! At age 12, Jonathan feels his call to preach and begins immediately going all over the US and even to Mexico preaching and leading others to Jesus.

Fast forward to 2005, Jonathan begins to have numerous health issues. He is hospitalized for migraines that last up to 2 weeks and leave him weak and sick for months. He goes through multiple tests and each time I am afraid. We receive no answers and are left with treating the symptoms when they occur.

In 2007, he has 2 seizures and is taken to the hospital where he spends the next several months. He aspirates during the last seizure and has pneumonia and then slowly, his body starts shutting down. His bowels, kidneys, intestines, and bladder seemingly die. He can't even swallow water. He is placed on a feeding tube. Numerous doctors and tests result in no answers. Jonathan asks us to pray that God will take him as he can't fight anymore. I beg God to spare him but am afraid this time, I will have to let go. He is sent home with the feeding tube and a home health nurse. Each time I go to his room, I am afraid. God keeps nudging me to trust him completely. In December, he wakes up one morning and asks for food! And just like God likes to do, for no apparent reason, Jonathan is better!

January 2009, Jonathan tells us he wants to go to Africa on a mission trip with a friend, Isham Gilcrease. We tell him we are not sure that's a good idea. Who would take care of him, help him with his needs and be there if he got sick? Isham assures us he can take care of him and Jonathan insists that it's God's will for him to go. May 17, 2009, Jonathan boards a plane bound for Africa. I think to myself, I can't let him go. God says to me, you don't have to let him go, he's with me! He has a wonderful trip

and I think, "Yes, it's over and we made it!"

May of this year, he leaves again for Africa, only this time for 3 weeks! I cry as we leave him at the airport, wondering, "How can I let him go?" Again, God reminds me He has him in his arms. Jonathan sees many souls saved and the rewards are really unknown until we get to heaven.

Jonathan is eventually diagnosed with autonomic dysfunction. He goes through what they call "flairs". During those times, he has a variety of symptoms including headaches, vomiting, high blood pressure, chest pain, swelling, and the list goes on. As he gets older, he has more and more joint pain and weakness associated with cerebral palsy. However, we are thankful that God is with us and has continued to touch his body allowing him more and more opportunities to serve Him and witness to others.

Had I not obeyed the Lord in "letting go" many times, some may have never accepted God's great gift of salvation. I would have never known the deep, abiding peace in trusting God and learning that our children are on loan from Him. Jonathan would have never experienced the joy of sharing his faith on foreign mission fields.

God is still teaching me that I am not letting go because Jonathan is not mine to let go. He is a gift from God to be shared with others. I am simply a tool that God uses so that Jonathan and his brother, Houston, are loved and provided for until we see Him.

### **Philippians 3:13-14**

*...Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*



# Keeping the Temple Fit: Size Yourself Up!

By Erin Lewis Of Curves

Wow! It's hard to believe that summer is past and we are heading into the Fall season! This is the time of year that our club is the busiest! Many women join to get ahead of the dreaded holiday pounds, which begin piling on at Halloween and finish at New Year's dinner! The average woman gains **10-15 pounds** during this time each year. But, you don't have to be a statistic! Get a head start and plan an exercise routine you can live with. A program that incorporates strength training, cardio fitness and flexibility (stretching).

In our last issue, we discussed your BMI (body mass index) as a number you should know to determine your health

and fitness. Another important number is your body fat percentage. This number tells you what percentage of your current weight is made up of fat. We have an Omron machine which we use to measure body fat percentage. Below is a chart indicating what is a healthy and unhealthy range of body fat percentages.

Age	Under-fat	Healthy Range	Over-weight	Obese
20-40 yrs	Under 21%	21-33%	33-39%	Over 39%
41-60 yrs	Under 23%	23-35%	35-40%	Over 40%
61-79 yrs	Under 24%	24-36%	36-42%	Over 42%

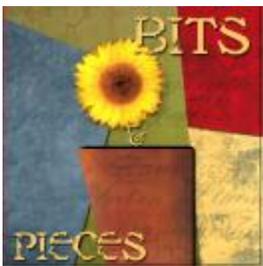
As we all know, extra body fat is un-

healthy and leads to a host of chronic diseases. Next issue we will discuss your waist-to-hip ratio as the third important number you should know.

*You may send your health and fitness questions to me @ [lewisbe@bell-south.net](mailto:lewisbe@bell-south.net) I'd love to hear from you! Bring this newsletter to the club and receive a free Fitness Assessment. You will also receive 50% off our joining fee - just for being supporters of the GITW ministries! You may also call the club to schedule a consultation, (864) 898-2400.*

*3 John 1:2: Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

By Anonymous



## Quotes

"A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice."

"Always imitate the behaviors of the winners when you lose."

"A man is known by the company he avoids."

"Bad habits are like a comfortable bed. Easy to get into, but hard to get out of."

"Concern should drive us into action, not into depression."

"Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it. Bite off more than you can do, then do it."

"Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of what you already have."

"Efficiency is intelligent laziness."

"A closed mind is a good thing to lose."

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

"If for a tranquil mind you seek, these things observe with care: Of whom you speak, to whom you speak and how, and when, and where."

"A man has no more character than he can command in a time of a crisis."

"A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another."

# A Garden In The Wilderness: A New Light for Pop's Kitchen

By Sharon Hawkins



It had been a long day. I had just put on my pajamas, climbed into my recliner and opened my laptop when my cell phone rang around 10:30 p.m. I didn't recognize the out-of-area phone number so I didn't answer, I thought it was a wrong number. Within seconds, my home phone rang and caller ID showed the same number. Instantly, I knew something was wrong. It was the medical service that monitors my dad's medical alert necklace calling to tell me that they had received a signal and had tried to call my dad but there was no answer. I was first on the call list.

I quickly called my brother who often visits my dad at night to help him with his bath. I wanted to see if he was already headed to Dad's. I talked with

him and found out that he had not been able to go by that night. My husband, Scott, was in the recording studio so I decided to leave my boys and go check on Daddy. As I flew down the road on two wheels, thoughts raced even more quickly than that in my mind. Had he fallen? Was he in pain? My mom had always taken great care of him, but since she went home to be with Jesus in 2008, my brother and I have watched over his care. We are blessed with some awesome ladies who help us take care of him. But he was alone that night.

As I drove up into his yard, I noticed the lights were on in the house and the main doors of the house were open. I called Scott to tell him that "I was going in!" (*I guess in case I never came out!*) Was I going in to find a burglar? I opened the

back door and saw the TV was on. I turned it off and called to my dad. At first no answer, then faintly I heard him. I ran down the hall to find the attic door down and the stairs suspended. I climbed the stairs. My dad was lying on his side on the floor of the attic.

"Daddy, are you ok? What are you doing up here?", I asked. He said, "Yes, I was trying to get to the light!" I thought he must be confused so I started questioning him to determine his state of mind before trying to get him down. I asked, "Why were you trying to get the light?" He said, "What difference does it make? Are you going to get me down or not?"

I could tell he was getting aggravated so I climbed on up and, with all my might, I rolled him over and propped him up.

## A New Light (Cont'd)

He was content with that for about 15 seconds, then began complaining that he didn't like the way he was sitting. He thought his legs needed to dangle out of the attic door to be comfortable. Reluctantly, I put my back to his and started trying to push him over to the hole. I was worrying that he might topple out of the attic door so I was trying to hang on to him at the same time.

When I realized that the stairs were for 200 lbs. only and my dad weighs around 170 by himself (and I weigh, well, more than 30 lbs. ;o)). I called my brother and my husband to let them know our dilemma. I think they were both in shock. They each kept asking me to repeat myself. Both quickly hopped in their trucks and were on their way.

As I sat waiting for my heroes, I started talking to Daddy. I asked one more time what he was doing in the attic. He said that he had been thinking that the light in the kitchen wasn't bright enough. He knew there was an old light in the attic that had been taken down before the one currently being used had been installed. He planned to get it down from the attic

and put it back up. He got tired and laid down to rest, then couldn't get up.

Like any good daughter, I scolded my dad. The old light had been in the attic for 44 years (*honestly!*) and they have new ones (*better ones!*) at Lowe's for \$12.99. My brother and I could take care of that for him, if it needed changing (*which it didn't!*) I felt I had done my mom proud because it was exactly what she would have said to him. I desperately hoped my pep talk would keep us from going through this again...ever!

As we had our father-daughter talk, I looked around and saw my baby stroller, baby bed and many treasures from my childhood. Back to back there with Daddy in the attic, I realized what a gift it was to still have him and for him to be able to get up in the attic having had Parkinson's for over 20 years. God has blessed us so much by taking such good care of Daddy. He's better than he's been in over 5 years and that simply doesn't happen after so many years with Parkinson's without the blessings of an Almighty God!! After a while, the worry lifted and I began to giggle...and giggle...and Daddy did too!

Finally my husband and brother ar-

rived. One at a time, they popped their heads up into the attic to evaluate the situation, each found it hilarious after realizing Daddy was okay. They knew they couldn't carry him down the stairs because of the weight limit, so they did the only thing they could do--they called the Rescue Squad. After another hour, 8 brave Easley Rescue Squad Workers lowered my dad down with sheer muscle and the help of a homemade harness. They were all trying really hard not to laugh out loud (Daddy included). Our harrowing adventure was finally over. We thanked them all profusely.

Since that time, Daddy has had other adventures. Since he's felt stronger, seems he thinks he's invincible. With him, you've got to be ready for anything! No matter what else happens, I will never forget our night in the attic and how grateful I am that God continues to watch over my precious dad!

### Isaiah 46:4

*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*



## Hambone

When we first met, he was terrified of the slightest movement and frightened by the smallest

sound. He cowered and ran away with his tail tucked between his legs if anyone came near him. All of his actions indicated that he was mercilessly beaten and abandoned. An observer sadly remarked that he was more afraid of people than of cars.

When I went into Holly Springs Country Store to buy water for this hound dog, I learned that countless people have tried to get him to come to them to no avail. Plenty of people concerned about the plight of a pitiful dog were buying dog food and giving him water. At first, I believed this was enough to satisfy me. His physical needs were being met. He wasn't coming to me. There was really nothing else I could do. I would leave him in the care of others.

I left the store and stayed away for several days. However, this fellow's dark brown eyes, long ears, and handsome face were already etched in my mind and

on my heart. After telling a friend about him, she wanted to ride up to see if he was still there. Of course, I didn't turn down the opportunity!

Ignoring the looks from passersby, my friend and I sat in the grass on a blanket in front of the store for two hours. We talked and had a good time while we tossed out ham to the dog. He'd get closer and closer, but never within ten feet. We'd have to walk away for him to eat. We'd go back to the blanket and start again. People would come by and encourage our efforts. They'd tell us that no one has been able to get near him. They'd speculate about what his terrible past must have been. They'd talk about what a good dog he would make for someone. We learned that the locals started calling him, "Hambone." The story is that in trying to win his affection, someone put a hambone out for him. He hurriedly snatched it up and went in the woods to eat it. The name stuck.

If you know me, you know that evening wasn't my last visit to the store. I could see that this dog wanted so badly to be

close to someone. He'd get to a certain point and would whine and whine, but wouldn't get any closer. He wants to be loved, but is too fearful.

He doesn't know what I know. I know that all he needs is a few good belly rubs and a ride in a truck.

Over the weeks that I have been going to the store now, I've seen many people try to lure him over. They'll whistle at him and try to take food up to him, but he runs away. I'm thankful that I am only one of many that has compassion for this poor dog. Yet, I learned from experience that those methods do not work. Sadly, they only frighten him.

So, I sit in front of the store. I know that by now those that frequent the store are shaking their heads at the crazy lady feeding the dog. Regardless, I toss out biscuits. I'll start out with them away from my body and then try to toss them closer and closer in. Hambone will now come over when he sees me pull up. One day he actually wagged his tail when he saw me. He'll follow me around the parking lot, although trailing several feet behind. When I am sitting still, he'll get

By Liz Rampy

## Hambone (Cont'd)

three feet or less away, but that's it. Still, progress is progress. When he does get fairly close, I'll tell him that he's a good boy. I'll tell him that I don't want to hurt him.

I wonder about the people in your life that are lost, confused, saddened, or battered. Who are those that want to love, and to be loved, but don't know how? Who seems to be pushing love away? Perhaps that is the person you need to demonstrate love to the most.

"Love is patient. Love is kind..." (1 Cor. 13:4).



## I Am A Princess

As a little girl, did you dream of living your life like a Princess or homeless and living in the gutter?

My guess would be that all of us dreamed of living like a Princess and all that that implies. My childhood dream was very simple. All I wanted was to be a wife, a mother, have my family attend church together and for us to live happily ever after. We all have goals and plans for our lives. We graduate high school with a plan to begin college or get a job. After college the plan may include marriage and a family or building a successful career. Whatever dreams or plans you may have had for your life, I dare say that very few or our lives ever turn out the way we think that they will.

Proverbs 16:9 says "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps".

How many of you have been living out your dreams when suddenly something happens that changes the whole course of your life? Job is one of those people. He had a great life. He had a wife he loved, children he adored, riches beyond compare and he loved the Lord. Job 1:1 says "Job was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil." For all those who knew him, Job didn't deserve to lose his entire family, his health or all his possessions but that is exactly what happened. It is beyond our human ability to understand the "why's" of this world. Why do parents have to bury children, why do people get horrible diseases, why do marriages end in divorce, WHY do bad things happen to good people? I felt a little like Job when I lost

Or maybe you are the one. Has your baggage left you guarded and skittish? "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," (2 Timothy 1:7). Trust Him.

Are you uncertain of God's intentions? "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," (Jeremiah 29:11). See what He has for you.

Hambone may never come to me. If not, I hope that my efforts have helped pave the way for him to trust someone who will treat him right. All I can do is

wholeheartedly and tirelessly show him love. It is up to him to trust me and accept it.

Maybe you are witnessing to someone and feel that your efforts aren't working. Keep gently tossing out those biscuits. And if you are right on the edge of accepting Jesus, but you keep holding back, know that He loves you. He is eagerly awaiting for you to come to Him.

### *Psalms 138:8*

*The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever...*

By Marie Pritchett

my son when he was just 20 years old and almost lost my daughter to a major head injury just 2 years later. I could not help but ask God "why". I was not a bad person. We were a happy family, we took our children to church, I taught Sunday school, my husband was a deacon, HOW could this happen to us? The dreams we had for our family and for our son were totally shattered. The life we had planned out was now destroyed. But, like Job we learned valuable lessons about the sovereignty of God, His grace and our need to totally trust in the Lord. Now are these lessons easy? Absolutely not! For my family it is a daily challenge.

Often we wonder why God allows something, and we question or doubt God's goodness. The Book of Job teaches us to trust God under all circumstances. We must trust God, not only WHEN we do not understand, but BECAUSE we do not understand. The psalmist tells us, "As for God, His way is perfect". If God's ways are "perfect," then we can trust that whatever He does—and whatever He allows—is also perfect. This may not seem possible to us, but our minds are not God's mind. It is true that we can't expect to understand His mind perfectly, as He reminds us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts". Nevertheless, our responsibility to God is to obey Him, to trust Him and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not. Ladies, God deserves our utmost love and praise in ALL circumstances we may go through NOT just the good ones.

Job questioned the cause of his misery but would never turn away from God. He suffered so deeply that his wife couldn't stand it anymore. She told Job to "curse God and die". In other words, get it over with. It's no use. Often human tragedies like the loss of a child, a career, a home or maybe even a dream can lead to an even greater tragedy...the denial of any meaning to life. This was the great temptation that faced Job and one that each of us will face at some point in our lives if we haven't already.

During difficult times in our lives the only answer God gives is a deeper revelation of Himself. We learn that He is the answer we seek. There is something about our questioning minds that longs for answers. I know I did. If only I knew the reason Josh died then maybe I could handle the pain a little easier. Yet placing God's infinite wisdom into our finite brains would be like trying to fit the statue of liberty into a thimble. It just wouldn't fit. No one promised us that this life would be easy but once we are saved we do have the promise of eternal life. Life with Jesus and life with our precious loved ones who have gone on before us.

God is able to bring Beauty out of ashes and Hope out of despair. When I asked Jesus to come into my heart as a young girl I became a child of the KING. So you see, my childhood dreams did come true...I am a true Princess after all.

### *1 John 3:1*

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*



## Grace In The Wilderness Ministries

139 Commons Way  
Greenville, South Carolina 29611

Sharon Hawkins Phone: 864-380-2358  
Email: [sharon@wildernessgrace.org](mailto:sharon@wildernessgrace.org)

Marie Pritchett Phone: 864-979-5281  
Email: [marie@wildernessgrace.org](mailto:marie@wildernessgrace.org)

### FOCUS SCRIPTURE VERSE:

Isaiah 43:19  
...I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Grace In The Wilderness is an out-reach ministry for Today's Busy Woman. Our mission is to encourage women of all ages:

-To look upward to God as they discover Him in a new and deeper way,

-To look inward as they discover who they are in Christ, and

-To look outward as they discover God's plan for their lives.

We appreciate your prayers and support. Donations are also appreciated and may be made payable to Grace In The Wilderness Ministries (address to the left).

This is a free bi-monthly email newsletter. To subscribe for an electronic or paper copy (\$10/year), please just call or email us.

Watch for our  
Grace In The  
Wilderness Teen  
Conference Oct. 16,  
2010, at Blue Ridge  
View Baptist  
Church, Pickens, SC

Check us out at  
[www.WildernessGrace.org](http://www.WildernessGrace.org)

*Just do your best, pray that it's blessed, and He'll take care of the rest. —Keith Green*

Grace In The Wilderness Ministries  
139 Commons Way  
Greenville, SC 29611