



Join me in memorizing a verse/s each month and let me know your favorites.

JANUARY 2022

The people walking in darkness
see a bright light;
light shines
on those who live in a land of deep darkness. **Isaiah: 9:2 NET Bible**

Last year I adopted a practice I learned from my fellow writers of choosing a word for the entire year. In 2021 I chose Trust.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding and He will make your path straight.' **Proverbs 3:5.**

Little did I know how much I would need this word, after learning my husband's diagnosis of bladder cancer. I leaned into this word, asking for prayers from our friends and family. We are very thankful that they found the cancer at stage 0 and after six uncomfortable treatments the cancer disappeared. He will still need more treatments to ensure it doesn't return, we are very hopeful.

In church on Christmas eve, I heard, as if for the first time, the verse from Isaiah and chose my Light or did it choose me? Our last two years of Covid and its variants brought much darkness. This verse spoke to me of hope. See the light, be the light, shine the light, share the light, reflect the light. The words, light or shine is in the Bible with 76 verses.

My monthly messages will be with this theme. The first step is to see the Light. Hold on, just knowing the presence of God is with us even when we think he may be asleep in the boat. He will not let us drown. I pray for you to be a witness to the Light that it may be a hand in the darkness to bring you to the Light.

DECEMBER 2021

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. **Isaiah 9:2**

It is now almost two years since Covid started and we face another unknown with a variant. We have been in a dark place also in our country with brother against brother, sister against sister.

But there is light, everyday people are choosing to be one for others, doctors, nurses, front line teams, and charities receiving historically high donations. Hold on to the light, know that God is with us and will never forsake us. He is in charge of this world.



Trust the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make our paths straight! **Proverb 3:5-6**

Blessings to you and your family as we enter the season of Advent. Let us rejoice and be glad in it, the light of the world is coming.
Amen

NOVEMBER 2021

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

Did you know you know that you encourage others with the way you greet them, express appreciation, give a motivating word, stop to listen to a sorrow, offer a prayer for strength, or give your time and resources?*

Lucinda has two devotional books that focus on a word a day. Today's word was Encourage. It's amazing how a devotional can be so appropriate for the day you need it. Couldn't we all use some encouragement right now and how simple it can be to give encouragement. Lucinda retells the story of Peter who is befriended by Onesiphorus and shows up at prison to claim he was a friend.

2 Timothy 1:16-17: May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me.

Let us take these words to heart and be inspired to encourage someone today.

*Lucinda Seacrest McDowell, *Ordinary Graces* (Abingdon Press 2017)

OCTOBER 2021

Happy are those who trust in the Lord,
who rely on the Lord.

They will be like trees planted by the streams,
whose roots reach down to the water.

They won't fear drought when it comes;
their leaves will remain green.

They won't be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Recently I hosted a meeting for Daughters of Abraham with the theme: Being comfortable with the uncomfortable. We are living with uncertainty on a daily basis. Our reaction to uncertainty is what is teaching us at the moment. Here are some quotes to stimulate your thinking.

Be comfortable with uncertainty because nothing ever goes away until it has taught us what we need to know. -Pema Chodron

Some changes look negative on the surface, but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge. -Eckhart Tolle

As you become comfortable with uncertainty, infinite possibilities open up in your life. -Eckhart Tolle

The group began with an icebreaker:

What is a soul trait or value that you want to develop in these uncertain times and why?

Some of the values that were shared:

- Patience in all things, waiting for God's guidance.
- Truly listening to one another with compassion and not anticipating what to say.
- Do your best and then rest, and let God do the rest, trying not to fix everything.
- Serenity, being at peace and not entering into the chaos or adding to it.
- Trusting God to be with us every step of the way.

What is a soul trait or value you want to develop?

May we all learn together to be happy trusting in the Lord.

Amen

SEPTEMBER 2021

Ephesians 3:16-17 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.

It is September. How did the summer go so quickly? Usually a time of excitement, September marks the fall...back to school, many activities and commitments. One of my favorite writers, Lucinda Seacrest McDowell has a book called *Dwelling Places*, a seasonal devotional. She begins with the word Dwell. She tells us, "In the original language of the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for dwell is yashah, which is translated 'to dwell, to sit down, to remain.' How can we possibly do this?" Yes, how can we? I started a practice of reading her devotionals every morning and dwelling with God after. Soon I found I craved this time to just be, be with God. Can you take the time to dwell with our Lord? To make God the most important part of your day? For me it is like breathing fresh air. Come, sit and be. Be refreshed, renewed. May it be so.

AUGUST 2021

Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

My husband was called after his annual exam that he needed to see a specialist. Two and a half months later it led to an exploratory surgery for bladder cancer. The result was the best bad news we could have, it was stage 0 but with fast growing cells. I am so grateful for the stage and concerned for the treatment for the next several years.

I think family and friends go through the stress of waiting, hearing, understanding, and being by their side as well as the patient, at least that was with me. I clung to my faith and prayed. Asked God to forgive my doubts and worries which I seemed not to shake. I am instilled with respect for how my husband took the news. He is braver and more positive than I think I would have been and again thanked God for this lesson.

For those facing uncertainty, waiting for results, or getting them and are scared, we are not alone. Our Lord will go with us wherever we are, wherever we go. Sink into His arms and find peace. May it be so.

JULY 2021

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.

Isaiah 49:15-16

How are you feeling these days? Are you feeling a bit freer, like things are coming back to normal? Are you enjoying being outdoors more and being with people again? Some friends have told me that they are having a hard time relating to people, they've been isolated for so long. Some are still nervous or concerned about the new variant of Covid. Some are visiting family for the first time in over a year and hope that joy and love can surround them. Wherever you are, this message lets us know, we are in God's hands no matter how dark it may seem or how bright the light is around us. God knows us, loves us, and carries us by name. Feel His care, His power, His shelter, His joy for seeing us happy.

I hope you have time to enjoy a peaceful pace this summer. May you know you are in His hands. Amen.

JUNE 2021

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul. **Psalm 23:2-3**

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Mark 6:31

Ahh, summer. A time for us to take these verses to heart. If we look at Jesus as a model, he often went to the mountains or a garden to pray, to restore, to rest.

How do you find peace, restoration? Being with friends? Praying? Taking walks? Looking out at the ocean or lake? After all that has happened this last year, it is time to find some still waters to restore your soul. Be well and at peace. Amen.

MAY 2021

“She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.” **Proverbs 31:25**

May 1st would have been my mother’s 88th birthday, she passed 10 years ago.

I owe so much of who I am to her teachings and the way she lived her life.

She demonstrated how one can get up from tragedies, but not just get up but thrive.

She instilled in me my faith and for this I am forever thankful.

She was the wind beneath my wings. Do you have someone in your life that has helped you? Someone who helped you learn about God and to trust that you are never alone. I pray you know someone and you are mentoring someone who can learn from you. Amen

APRIL 2021

John 13:34-35 From the Message

“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples — when they see the love you have for each other.”

Jesus says these words after he has washed the disciples’ feet and broke the bread and shared his cup of wine commissioning it to us. He then told Judas to go and do what he must. His last lesson, his life’s mission he tells us to love one another. Jesus knew what was ahead, yet he never veered from teaching about love. A simple message but one that today seems so difficult to carry out with so much division. Yet can we start with kindness? Patience? The first verse of the Love chapter in Corinthians I 13 starts, ‘Love is patient and kind’. What would the world be if we just did those two things? May we understand the message of love and live our lives as Jesus asked of us. Amen.

MARCH 2021

“Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ **NIV Mark 6:31**

Rest. Jesus invites us to come with Him to a quiet place and be restored. Couldn't we use this right now?

It's been a year since the Corona Virus started. We've been through so much. Lucinda Secrest McDowell's terrific book, 'Life Giving Choices: 60 Days to What Matters Most', writes about the above verse. "It's clear even our Lord embraced this principle-self care is necessary in order to be restored and equipped for the tasks ahead. Immediately following that season of withdrawal and strengthening came the feeling of the five thousand!"

There is light at the end of the tunnel. We are getting there.

Take time for you, in prayer, in solitude, in communion with others to be Renewed and be able to respond to all you need to do in life.

May it be so.
Blessings!

FEBRUARY 2021

“Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was a still small voice.” **1 Kings 19:11-12**

Hello February,

Where I live we are experiencing an all-day Nor'easter. This seems to be an appropriate scripture. All around us we are experiencing storms. Challenging weather, job losses, death of loved ones, or even the simple desire to hold a newborn grandson or granddaughter but right now it isn't possible.

We know from the Bible God speaks in many different ways. Sometimes we need a more ardent voice, but God knows what we need. We can take solace, in these words, that there is a still small voice speaking to each of us, where we are, whatever is our situation.



However God speaks to us, it is in what we do with what He says that makes all the difference. When we surround ourselves with His word through reading, joining others in prayer, using the talents He has given us, we will recognize His voice and more likely be able to answer with our actions.

May you hold fast to His word and find comfort and inspiration to go forward.

JANUARY 2021

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Romans 15:13**

The beginning of a New Year, not just any year. We come out of a tumultuous 2020, that still has a grip on the near future with the COVID virus.

We have a change in presidential leadership, there are many issues that are still unresolved with Black Life Matters, Climate Change, Global matters.

How do we celebrate? How do we move on to a new year with hope? What are your dreams? Do you still have them?

Do we need a different New Year’s celebration? Perhaps a walk in nature? Perhaps just looking out a window to the sky and resting a moment? Reading something that will instill us with wonder, inspiration? Can we hear the still small voice calling to us?

“But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait patiently.” **Romans 8:25**

May you have the patience to receive the hope, joy and peace that God wants each of us to have.
Peace.

DECEMBER 2020

Isaiah 11: 1-3 and 6-7

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
The wolf will live with the lamb,



the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

Merry Christmas! How can we be merry with so much to fear surrounding us with Covid, with uncertainty of employment, illnesses and more?

Now more than ever we need to hold fast to our faith. To read our Bibles, be in community with people, share our stories and be there for one another.

Advent is a time of anticipation for the birth of Christ, to remember to dwell with him all our days.

We light the advent candles each Sunday with the first one being Hope, then Faith, then Love, then Peace and the last one in the middle to commemorate Jesus's Birth.

What better way to think of Jesus than with hope, faith, love and peace.

Let us bring these messages into our hearts that can help to calm our souls, strengthen us, inspire us.

Give him our burdens, we can give him our concerns and fears and 'Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.' (*Philippians 4:7*)

NOVEMBER 2020

Hebrews 10:23.24

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

It is the month of November. A month to vote in a Presidential election where our country is much divided. It is also the month where we have a holiday designed to give thanks.

Let us hold fast to our faith through all that comes. May we listen to one another not with fear or hate but for understanding. Can we agree to disagree, but still walk in faith and hope? May we wear on our hearts our compassion and love for one another, helping each other however we can to remember those in need.

Let us remember the words in our daily living that will comfort and guide us.

"Even there you shall hold me, your right hand will hold me fast." Hold fast to our Lord, hold fast to His love. Amen.

OCTOBER 2020

“Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do and he will bless you for it.” **1 Peter 3:9**

We are certainly going through a time of upheaval where so many issues are congregating to put us at odds with our neighbors. Mask/no mask, Supreme Court nomination, climate control, upcoming election. Dentists are reporting that they have seen more cracked teeth than ever before. Another report is saying that people are losing their hair because of the stress we are experiencing. Does some of this have to do with how we are treating one another?

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” **Romans 12:18**

I pray for us as individuals, as communities, and our country. Wherever you are right now, may God give us wisdom, patience, and a right heart to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 2020

“You will surely forget your trouble, you will remember it as waters that have passed away.” **Job 11:16**

“For in hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” **Romans 8:24-25**

We are now going on our seventh month of this virus that has altered our lives in so many ways. How are you coping? Have you found ways to keep faith, to keep your hope alive? For those that can, may you have inspiration and resources to help. For those who need help, may you find it.

I get my strength from appreciating God’s gift of nature, from looking up at the sky and seeing everyday a new canvas of clouds, sun or rain. Hearing that still small voice in the wind. Sometimes just sitting and looking, not reading or on a phone or a computer, just sitting. Let us find a way to be patient and know we are not alone, God is with us. Be still and know.

AUGUST 2020

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds, says the Lord” . **Jeremiah 30:17**

Recently several of my friends have had time in the hospital for major emergencies which is scary enough but add Covid on top of it. One day all is going along as best as we can through these challenging times and in a moment it can all change.

One may question why is all of this happening, and why are bad things happening to good people. Perhaps you have read the book of this title by Harold S. Kushner? Here is what he says:

‘Maybe God does not cause our suffering. Maybe it happens for some reason other than the will of God. The psalmist writes, “I lift mine eyes to the hills; from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, maker of Heaven and earth.” (**Psalm 121:1–2**) He does not say, “My pain comes from the Lord,” or “my tragedy comes from the Lord.” He says “my help comes from the Lord.” Harold S. Kushner from *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*.

Every night my husband and I pray for each one of our friends by name and know in our hearts that prayer is vital to our lives. We are living through some dark times but we know that: ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’ **John 1:5**.

Whatever you are experiencing now, fear of the future, anxiety of livelihood, fear of illness, grief, know you are not alone. I also had a health issue and I kept saying this verse just before a surgery, it calmed me and gave me strength. May it help you. Amen.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (**John 14:27 NIV**)

JULY 2020

I found this verse on Tessa Afshar’s facebook page and thought it was appropriate for where we are as a country, Covid 19 new rates of infection, Black Lives Matter, the division in our world... Our children growing up are experiencing such a time as this.

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” (**2 Corinthians 4:8-9**)

May God see into our hearts and give us the direction to guide our hearts, minds, souls, feet and generosity in doing what we can to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let God open our eyes to what we have done and what we need to do.

Peace be with you.

JUNE 2020

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. **James 3:18 from The Message.**



Dear Lord,

Every day seeing our news, we just think it can't get worse and it does. Our hearts are aching we are in such a state of shock, anger, fear, deep sadness, and concern of how we will go forward.

Help us Lord.

Help the friends and family of George Floyd. You have promised for those who are in mourning that they will be comforted. Please give them comfort.

For our neighbors who are still experiencing prejudice, injustice and inequality due to racism, please Lord we don't even know what to ask for first, there is so much to be done. Please help all of us to see our neighbor, to reach out, to understand the pain, outrage, frustration, humiliation, and fear. Guide us all to do the right thing to stand up and help one another. Help us to change the way things are to the way we can live with peace and respect for all.

Help us Lord.

Give us strength, give us courage, give us faith in each other that together we can change. Please give us the wisdom to answer the call of who is my neighbor and then to go and do likewise.

Amen.

MAY 2020

Philippians 4:6-8

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

If we ever needed peace in our hearts and souls, it is now during the coronavirus. This valley we are walking in feels like there is no relief. Yet we are seeing brave examples of courage, kindness, and selfless acts in so many ways. Our doctors, nurses, front line and back of the house hospital staff, our truck and bus drivers, grocery store workers, police, fireman, essential workers all everyday literally giving their all. Let us pray for them, let us contribute what we can whether that is masks, food, rainbows in the windows. It is a time to spend with our daily thoughts and prayers reflecting on the positive, the small progresses to help one another. Do not be anxious, the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds. Be at peace.

APRIL 2020

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the path of righteousness for His names sake.
Even though I walk thru the valley of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies
Thou anoints my head with oil, my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all of my days
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Amen.*

Take heart in these verses, our Lord is with us with all we are going through.

Here is a [sermon](#) I gave on these words ([click here](#)). My husband Roger introduces the 23 Psalm. May it give you some peace.

Amen.

MARCH 2020

*God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
2 Timothy 1:7*

These days it's very hard to read the newspaper and not feel powerless against all the trials that are happening, it can be overwhelming. More than ever do we need to be in communication with our God? To listen with our hearts and so direct our steps. What can we do with the gifts and talents God has given us to answer our purpose, our calling? Can this help us on a daily basis by moving forward with what we can contribute? May you consciously make time in your day to "Be still and know..." Peace.

FEBRUARY 2020

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. **Cor 1:13 4-18***

When I was growing up, I memorized the whole chapter of Cor 1:13. Seems like a fitting verse for February.

It is such a beautiful reminder of what we are suppose to be to ourselves and our neighbor. For this is what God wants from us, to love Him and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Imagine if we could do this... I find it helps to have this one in our hearts especially when someone cuts in front while driving, or someone is rude to you... maybe we don't know why that person is in a hurry could it be a doctor? Maybe the rudeness comes from a hurt or a health challenge in their life. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never ends. Amen, May it be so with you.

JANUARY 2020

*But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands. **Psalm 31: 14-15***

On New Year's Eve, my husband and I review our year, write the key things that happened and what we want to see for ourselves for the future. For our 20th anniversary, I made him a scrapbook of all these notes and our Christmas letters which also serves to highlight our adventures. Now it is easier to remember so much as I usually take photos and it is a great way to review the year.

I just read a blog by Edie Melson, who I can highly recommend if you are a writer. She suggests choosing a Bible verse for the year ahead and one word to help with God's direction for you. So this is the verse I have chosen and Trust is my word. How about you? What verse speaks to you? What word will you chose for 2020?

Blessings to you and your journey.

DECEMBER 2019

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 4:6-7***

This month can be hectic with presents to buy, wrap, send. Demands at school, work, home. A sentimental feeling about Christmas that tries to make all things wonderful and lovely even if it puts one under so much stress. An ever expansive to do list that seems to grown instead of diminishing. Reflections of Christmas pasts which can be laden with wonderful and possibly difficult memories. We tend to make it all more complicated that it really needs to be.



It is the 50th year of [Charlie Brown's Christmas](#), where he yells out, "Can anyone tell me what Christmas is all about?" And our wonderful Linus takes center stage and tells the story from Luke.

This month let us remember what it is all about. The scripture above celebrates this Christ child who came to earth and gave us the biggest present of all!

May your days be Merry and Bright, and may all your Christmases have His light!

NOVEMBER 2019

*My times are in your hands. **Psalm 31:15***

Recently this verse was on a daily devotional. Somehow I didn't recall this verse and yet I think it is so powerful. When I say it, it feels like I put order in my day. It also wakes me up to remind me how am I spending my time? Do I realize what a privilege it is to be in God's World? Do I spend my time accordingly knowing I am in God's hands. How do I organize my day, what do I prioritize, how do I spend my time effectively knowing this is the day that He has made. I started saying this verse throughout my hours and it has helped me to answer these questions. Sometimes it is just in trying. I hope this verse can help you as we start to enter into the wonderful season of the Holidays. May we make them a part of times in His hands.

OCTOBER 2019

*"We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His Love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." **Romans 5:3-5***

After 35+ years in Corporate America, I feel that perseverance was something I understood and worked many hours toward in very challenging times, especially when we went through reorganizations. With increasing leadership responsibilities, I saw how important character was in motivating and supporting people. Character is not something you can learn from a class or a video, it may influence you but character is something that is built over time.

When you Google how to build character one entry says:

Be Humble. Humility is the beginning of wisdom.

Live out your principles and values. Whether it's "love others," or "do the right thing," living by your principles will make decision making easier and your character more steadfast.

Be intentional.

Practice self-discipline.

Be accountable.

I have always loved these verses, because it's a progression of life. We all go through trials that sometimes last longer than we would want. These trials build our abilities to cope which builds our character that leads to hope. What comforting words to know that there is hope in all this world - we have the Love of God. What is your definition for Character? May the Holy Spirit guide you to living your life with Hope. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 2019

*"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." **Colossians 3:23***

When I worked in Corporate America (for many years), I used to say this verse a lot! And I know it may be correct to say people instead of men, but where I was it was pretty accurate.

I wondered to myself was I working for the Lord or was I working for the Corporate structure after putting in so many hours every day. What gave me solace was working with people, mentoring them, getting them new opportunities, that gave me the most joy in my job.

Now that I am retired, I am not putting in a 60+ hour week as then but my heart is so happy to be full time working for the Lord in a conscious way.

No matter where you are on life's journey look to how time is spent. God bless you in your endeavors, the challenges, the victories, the joy of serving our Lord.

AUGUST 2019

*"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul" **Psalms 23: 2-4***

What a beautiful message for us in the summer. Do we need to lie down in a green pasture and listen to the water floating by? We can look up at the sky and be grateful for this time of year, when the sweetness of the earth brings forth delicious peaches, nectarines, corn on the cob, garden tomatoes. Restore your soul, slow down, listen and be with friends and family. And save time to be just by yourself, thankful for God's spirit upon you. May you take these verses to heart and rejoice for God's goodness. Amen.

JULY 2019

*Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. **Ruth 1:16***

At our terrific spring retreat, Award winning author Tessa Afshar shared with us the story of Ruth and how life had brought many changes in her life including the death of her husband, father in law and brother in law. She makes the brave decision to move with her mother in law to Bethlehem, a town where she would not be welcomed because of her former beliefs. She bravely sought out a new life and through many other challenges she has a happy ending to her story. How often we worry about taking the next step, thinking about leaving a current job, or a new move, or joining a new place of worship. Let us learn from Ruth and her bravery, her trust. Tessa suggested to say this verse for 30 days to God and see what plans He has instore for you. Peace be with you.

JUNE 2019

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

I have known this blessing for many years, perhaps you have it memorized too?

I have always loved these words and how they make me feel. I have used this in writing to friends who are going thru a difficult time. What I recently discovered is this blessing was from God to Moses. God told him to tell the Israelites His blessing when they were in the wilderness. Are we in the wilderness now with all that is surrounding us from daily news... Take heart. Say these words aloud and sit with them awhile...Be Still and know.

Peace unto you.

MAY 2019

I have been asked to speak on Mother's Day at my church and I have chosen 3 scriptures for this and the one my mom loved the best is from Matthew.

*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **Matthew 6:28-30***

She used to say this to my brother and I whenever life seemed to be out of order and some challenges were facing us individually or as a family. When she said it, it changed the conversation, once we let it sink in. She had a strong faith in God and I am so thankful for her lessons.

The other verse is from **Proverbs 22:6**. Think this is so appropriate for all she taught me not only by her words but her actions.

*6 Teach a child in the way she should go,
And when she is old she will not depart from it.*

The last verse I have chosen is **Romans 5:3-5**

3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

My mom had a very difficult beginning in life, she experienced many tragedies and has always amazed me how she was able to get up from each of these and not be bitter or angry but to embrace life and thrive. She taught me this verse by her actions and joy of life. I am forever grateful. Rest in Peace, Mom.

May one of these verses help you in this glorious time of year when all is growing and bursting forth life.

APRIL 2019

How can it be April already? It is one of my favorite months... the buds of all things are starting to show; the air seems fresher and days are getting longer... we can be so thankful for the seasons...

Easter is early this year and with it I am taking a non-traditional approach with this month's verse.

Jesus died for our sins in a most grievous way that I can't imagine the suffering and pain...

His resurrection brought us the forgiveness of sins, yet we can be so judgmental about others and not offer first compassion, right judgement, and most importantly forgiveness. We are all too quick to see something wrong in others when we have our own soul homework to do. How can we even compare how much Christ freely gave us and how we hold onto petty grievances in our daily life? Let us recognize the generous gift we have received and offer our forgiveness. May the Lord help you see a way to give peace in your hearts. Amen.

*How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. **Luke 6:42 New Living Translation***

MARCH 2019

*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. **Psalm 90:12***

I retired 2 and half years ago... perhaps when I was working I am not sure I would have understood this verse as well as I do now.

I believe we live our lives not thinking about an end but of a tomorrow and what we need to do or accomplish. And yes, this is important...but wisdom sometimes comes when you have time to reflect, to appreciate, to acknowledge all that has come before. All the lessons that you have learned and how perhaps you could have done some things differently... where ever we are on life's path may we share our experiences with others both our joys of doing what is right and also what our challenges have been and how did we handle them... Wisdom is sharing with others.

God bless you on your journey.

FEBRUARY 2019

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3: 5-6***

I just got back from a trip to Jordan and Egypt, it was so mesmerizing... in Jordan we saw the place where John baptized Jesus, where Moses looked out on the promised land... where the daughters of Zelophehad were, in Egypt where Christ, Mary and Joseph lived for 3 months, where Moses was pulled from the bullrushes, where Jeremiah is in his final resting place... and so much more...

I was inspired by it all and have made the commitment to start writing a book about the Daughters of Zelophehad, a wonderful story about 5 daughters that changed the course of history for women to inherit... a great story in Numbers 27: 1-11... stay tuned...

I thought this was a great verse for this intention and also again for starting the new year with hope and assurance.

God Bless you on your walk!

JANUARY 2019

*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness*

and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Behold, I am making all things new — Revelations 21:5

Happy 2019 New Year!

It is amazing we are already here...it seems that 2018 went by so quickly.

Over the holidays, I heard from so many how difficult this past year has been...death, divorce, lost jobs, challenging diagnosis, anxiety on a daily basis of where we are as a country...

If you also had a difficult year...here are two verses that you can hang onto and step by step walk in faith.

For all of us these verses can have meaning. We like to make new year's resolutions. Is there something you want to work on?

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it

May we walk with confidence that God is with us, Emanuel.

DECEMBER 2018

Isaiah 40:1-3

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

3. Tenor Air — **Isaiah 40:4**

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

4. Chorus — **Isaiah 40:5**

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Handel's Messiah is one of my favorite pieces of music...it is so inspirational and I so enjoy the lyrics that come from the Bible...May be a lot to memorize but if you think of the music may also be helpful.

This month can be for some a time of celebration being with family and warm traditions...it can also be a time of angst for those who have experienced loss this year. Let us have eyes to see those who may need us, a gentle word, a simple gift of being present for that person and either listening or just being with them. In the merrymaking of this Holiday let us remember what we are celebrating..."for the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Merry Christmas! Blessings to you for a meaningful, peaceful and joyous Christmas.

NOVEMBER 2018

Psalm 34:18 *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*

Matthew 5:4 *“Blessed are those that mourn for they will be comforted.”*

Days after we are mourning those who perished in Pittsburgh. These verses comes to mind... can we all do something to help those who are in mourning. Pray, contribute, support your local Jewish community. When my mom passed away, it was very hard on me, we were best friends and she died suddenly. His still small voice and the people that God put in my path helped me thru this very difficult time. Those who wrote more than just my thoughts and prayers are with you...words of comfort, words of understanding, words of acknowledgement of my love for my mom this was like balm for the soul. Since then I have understood how important words are at a time of grief and have made a practice of doing the same for others. May we pray to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.

OCTOBER 2018

Psalm 139: 6-10 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee your Presence? If I go up to the heavens you are there. If I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the other side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.*

When I say these verses I feel so assured that no matter where I go, what I have done or not done...God is with me. He is here to make by path straight. I especially like the last line...beginning with “even there”, emphasizing no matter where I am in life’s journey...he will guide me. And the last of that line “Your right hand will hold me fast.” Does that feel wonderful? Comforting? Loving? Wherever you are in your life, no matter what wrong turns you have taken, know that God is here, he if very present in our lives, we need only be still and know that He is talking to us.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Psalm 14:19 *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight oh Lord my rock and my redeemer.*

I need to remind myself daily to think and act on this verse. Sometimes that’s not easy in reading the daily headlines, or a disagreement with a family member or friend....it is in these times we need to look at examples of ways about expressing ourselves so that we can be our true selves but also mindful that we are all Children of God. May we have peace in our hearts and souls.

AUGUST 2018

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if it is excellent or worthy of praise, think about these things.*

I find great comfort in knowing this verse...as I think this verse is not only asking us to think about these things but most importantly to act on them, to embody them. How can I make a difference in this world that seems to be at odds and experiencing many natural disasters..if I think about how to be noble does this help me to order my day in what I will work on and accomplish. May our Lord talk to us through these thoughts and then our actions. Amen.

JULY 2018

Isaiah 31: 40 *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

This verse was read at my mother's funeral. It gave me solace in knowing my mom lived by these words... she was such a mentor to me in life... she taught me how to get up from defeat, from the things that knocked you down, but not just how to get up but to embrace life and live it with gratitude in walking with faith. God bless your days, your challenges and your ability to get up and thrive with our Lord beside us.

JUNE 2018

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

When I read the headlines it is so stressful and so alarming. We are living in unprecedented times. Where do we go for our compass? Where do we go for our strength and direction? This verse speaks to me and I hope it will for you. God give us wisdom to know what to do and strength to accomplish our journeys.

MAY 2018

Jeremiah 29:11 *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.*

I love this verse... and seems appropriate to launch this new website. When you think of the word prosper it means to thrive, flourish, bloom, get on well. So, whether we are experiencing being on the mountaintop or in a valley, we know that we have a future that is waiting for us for good.