



Out of the Darkness by Alana Bergey

Winter can be a difficult season. The daylight seems to last but a second and the cold always seems to seep in. Besides the physical darkness, life far too often can feel full of emotional darkness as well. A relationship suffers, a family member receives a difficult diagnosis, you enter a personal battle with depression or anxiety, the list goes on. When experiencing poverty of light in any area of life, it can cause intense pain and feel suffocating.

The book of Micah is set in a time of severe turmoil among God's people. Chapter one prophesies Judah's coming destruction and chapter six outlines Israel's punishment. Their lives are going downhill, yet in the final chapter of Micah, the attitude turns to one of triumph and of praise. Micah 7:8 specifically stands out as a word of courage and victory, despite external circumstances: "Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light." Micah speaks directly to those who wish him evil and hurt. As the voice of the people of Judah and Israel, he declares that their enemy has no right to defeat them. They will rise and they will have light once more through the Lord.

What I find most compelling is that Micah acknowledges the place of darkness in which he sits. He does not try to ignore the situation or ignore the difficulties he faces. Evil, hurt, and pain are present, but there can still be light. This light comes directly from the Lord and He promises that with it comes fruit of its own. Ephesians 5:9 shares that "the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth." As we put our faith in the Lord and in his protection, the qualities of light will overpower the qualities of darkness.

We are not called to sit in self-pity and self-loathing. Although we may experience darkness, we can praise God for the victory and for His light which will be our guide and our truth within any dark situation. The days are brightening and spring is here.

What are areas of your life that need the light of the Lord? How can you be praying prayers of victory over that darkness?

"Do not gloat over me, my enemy!
Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light."
(Micah 7:8)

March 2021





Making Connections



Hi, my name is **Maggie Shreiner**. I am the wife of Noah Shreiner, who is the son of Tim and Cheryl Shreiner. I grew up in Dillsburg, PA, which is just south of Harrisburg, PA. I have two siblings, and we were all homeschooled by my mom until 7th grade. Both of my parents grew up on farms in the Dillsburg area, so much of my childhood was spent on my grandparents' farms working and playing with my siblings and many cousins. I grew up attending a Brethren in Christ Church in Dillsburg. I enjoyed playing many sports as I was growing up and even played soccer for Messiah College my freshman year. I graduated from Messiah College in 2020 with a degree in Human Development and Family Science.

Noah and I got married in May 2020 and decided to move to Souderton PA. I am currently a home health aide and work with two wonderful women in the area who have Cerebral Palsy. I have loved working for them, and their family has quickly become my second family.

Life has moved very quickly post-graduation as Noah and I are expecting our first child in mid-March 2021! So much of my time recently has been spent at home resting and preparing for baby girl Shreiner! I enjoy cooking and baking and finding fun new recipes to try on Pinterest. Noah and I have a shared love for the outdoors. We love to hike, camp, kayak and many other outdoor activities. Noah and I also happily accepted the offer to be youth sponsors this year at Franconia. We have both enjoyed getting to know the youth and joining them in many fun activities and trips!

The past year has been quite the journey with many joys and disappointments. However, we know that God has everything worked out and His timing has yet to let us down. He has blessed us in so many ways and continues to provide even when it feels like things aren't working out the way we planned.

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" -Matthew 6:26

We would appreciate prayer as we become first time parents and are still trying to get the hang of marriage itself!





What's Happening for Women

Are you itching to get out for some exercise and good conversation after a long winter? Come join us for a

Walk in the Park

**Tuesday, March 23
6:30pm**

at Franconia Park
(meet near the Pavilion
at the Allentown Rd. entrance)

Walk for however long you want.
You are welcome to invite your
daughters and friends.
No signups necessary.

We hope to see you there!



**Thursday, March 11
11:00am**

What: Playdate for preschoolers
and moms
Where: At church
*More details to come
Invite friends!

Save the date:

*Ladies' Tea
April 24th*



Bingo Night
Pictures!



March 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Free of Me Study 8:15pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Free of Me Study 8:15pm	9	10 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	11 Mommy & Me Playdate 11am	12	13
14	15	16 Free of Me Study 8:15pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 Walk in the Park 6:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm Free of Me Study 8:15pm	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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