



Aunt Ruth by Carol Landis

Our family has been celebrating the life of my sweet Aunt Ruth. We're sharing stories of her loving ways, her humble, gentle spirit and her artistic abilities. The enjoyment she found in nature, a good book, a good laugh, and most importantly her passion to follow her Savior. Dear sweet Aunt Ruth wasn't perfect. None of us are. But thankfully, even though we serve a perfect, just and righteous God, He provided the way for us to be called His chosen, holy and dearly loved people (Col. 3:12). I needed to be reminded of this. I needed to be reminded that I was not a failure. I needed to be reminded that I, like Aunt Ruth, have a Savior. I needed to draw close to Him.

A cycle of busyness, coupled with a few nights of poor sleep, had worn me down. Although I had much to be thankful for (and I was thankful), "undones" and unmet needs flashed before me like an oversized neon light at nighttime. It blinded most everything else. I felt stuck and sucked dry. Yet once again the Holy Spirit used verses in my devotional readings to remind me of truths I intellectually knew, but was not currently applying to my circumstances:

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (Ephesians 6:10). My strength wasn't found in me. Strength was available, but I needed to choose to switch my focus to my Lord's mighty power.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Where had I placed my hope for these needs to be met? On my feeble, fickle self? Or on His glorious riches?

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you (Isaiah 26:3). I certainly lacked peace – where was my trust? Was I willing to release my agenda, and ask what He saw as priority?

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). Obviously, He wasn't surprised by my circumstances... Again, peace was promised in the midst of trouble.

A Holy, Righteous, Perfect God stooped down to realign me. He showed me what was lies and distortions of the devil (as Pastor Mark taught us last week), and reminded me that I was His chosen, holy and dearly loved daughter.

Sisters, I don't know what "undones," unmet needs, issues, or crisis you may be facing. But I know our Loving Lord desires to provide for you, and your heart, as He did mine. Let's encourage each other to focus on our Savior, and lean into Him rather than on our "stuff," or ourselves. Then we will experience peace. (And be remembered, like my Aunt Ruth, as one with a passion to follow Jesus.)

Listen to: [You Never Let Go](#) by Matt Redman

September 2020

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(Isaiah 26:3)*





Making Connections - Camp Staff

Alana Bergey: This summer I got to be a part of the summer staff at Big Sky Bible Camp as I worked as one of the two LIT (leader in training) leaders. The LIT program invites high school students to come serve at camp for a week, doing things like dishes, cleaning, running the camp store, etc., and my job, with my co-leader Andrea (see picture), was to oversee this and encourage, have fun with, and disciple these kids in Christ as they tirelessly helped out around camp.

God taught me a lot about what true servanthood looks like this summer. As someone who grew up being taught to look for ways that I can help out wherever needed, serving has always been something I have been glad to do. However, God showed me that servanthood does not just mean helping out whenever it is convenient for me, or whenever I feel like helping out. Godly servanthood is willingly humbling myself and giving up my desires in order to show someone else love through my dedication and care for them by helping out in whatever way they might need. I sought to model what God had been revealing to me in this area to the LITs, and the more I discovered about servanthood, the more I noticed a stronger attitude of community and joy as we all worked together even as we did jobs that were not necessarily "fun."

God also showed me a much fuller understanding of His sovereignty. As I met campers with difficult home lives and hard things to have to return to after their week of camp was over, I struggled with understanding God's control and how it related to sin's power here on earth. What God taught me, through my own personal devotions and the incredible discipleship that BSBC provides for its staff, is that He does not just use things for His good. God does not simply fix the messes that our fallen nature allows to happen here on earth. God *purposes* things for His good. From the beginning, God knew that He was going to make a situation, however awful and broken it might seem to us at first, into something that could give Him glory. Sometimes, in our humanity, we can see how it can be used for His glory, and sometimes we cannot. Nevertheless, we can rest in the fact that God is good and He is faithful and He remains sovereign.



Anna Martin (Program Director at Bethany Birches Camp): I am not someone who takes great changes easily. They simply stress me out. When we decided to run camp this summer there were many days filled with regret, fear, confusion, and questioning. How do we do this? Is anyone going to get sick? Is this really the best way to practice our mission this summer? How do I help my staff feel confident in leading campers? Is this a mistake? I wish these were only questions that rang in my head the first few weeks we were planning for the summer, but these were constantly on my mind. Thankfully we serve a God who is very present at Bethany Birches. I have seen God move in many exciting, surprising, and shocking ways in my years here, but this summer was surprising.



Making Connections, continued (Anna)

Maybe it was because everything felt so special, and it just felt good to be together no matter the circumstances. All I know is that the sound of laughter was sweeter, the campers smiles brighter, the staff more energized, and the peace more deeply felt. As a program director I get the blessing of getting to watch camp happen. I get to walk around and just listen to the noise, and see the smiles. These were the moments when I felt God's peace. Even though camp felt different, it felt so good. We were together, we were praising God, we were swimming in the pond, and getting muddy in the mud pit. What could be better? Masks or not. I am confident in this: God wants us to stop, listen, watch, and just be amazed (Steffany Gretzinger's song "Forever Amen" reminds me of this). Feel God's peace, feel God's steadiness, and know that not even a pandemic can take that away from us!

Listen to: [Forever Amen](#) by Steffany Gretzinger

Laura Bergey: I was blessed to be able to spend six weeks of this summer once again serving at Bethany Birches Camp in Vermont. The past three summers I worked in the kitchen, but this summer I got to counsel! Although the summer camp program involved less weeks than normal, it was the best one yet! I loved getting to know campers as individuals and challenging myself to share about who God is to me and how He loves them and wants to be part of their own lives. It was the best feeling when campers opened up about struggles with me and I was able to listen and



speaking life over them. This summer we still got to swim, do the mud pit, play group games, cook meals over a fire, sing at fireside, and other fun activities...just with masks, distancing, and more hand washing:!) The staff was incredible. We laughed together, cried together, went on spontaneous adventures, and had discussions about God and life. Bethany Birches always provides a family-like community that I never want to leave, and this year did not disappoint.

Those six weeks were not just full of fun hanging out with great campers and staff, but they were redemptive for me. To share about this summer, I need to tell of the events leading up to it. In the spring, I struggled with disappointments of my YWAM missions getting cut short and I was searching for how I could minister to people around me this summer. I wanted to be involved at camp, but I struggled to fully dedicate my whole summer. However, every time that I spoke to Anna Martin I did not feel at peace until I surrendered it all. While in YWAM I grew deeper passions for wanting to be involved with youth back at home. I realized that overseas missions did not seem to be my calling—instead I wanted to disciple youth back home. God used these crazy circumstances to allow me to use my gifts and passions right where I wanted to be. If I spent my full term in YWAM, I would not have gone to camp and had this experience. I'm still in awe of how God orchestrated it all and was able to use me when I gave him my "yes" of surrender.



What's Happening for Women

For this month's Walk in the Park,
we will participate in the

North Penn Pregnancy Resource Clinic's

not without **HOPE** walk

Franconia Women's Ministry
will hold our own walk on

Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 7:00 pm
At Franconia Park (meet at Allentown
Rd. pavilion)

- If you wish to fundraise for the Pregnancy Resource Clinic, please visit www.prcnorthpenn.org.
- If you aren't able to fundraise, you may bring a donation that night
- Or you can just come and fellowship with other women while walking, no donation required!

Mark your Calendar

Sewing Circle

September 8 & 9, 8am-4pm

*Space is limited; contact Janet Derstine (215-723-7413) to sign up

Walk in the Park

September 22, 7pm

Outdoor Moms' Market

October 17

**Special thanks to Kelsy Weaver for giving The Spice a fresh new look!*

MCC Project of the Month:
Bar soap (Dove for infant kits)

CONTACT US:
franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | caroldanlandis@gmail.com

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | kgreinfeld@comcast.net

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | bjderstine2@gmail.com

Janet Crawford | 215-721-1325 | writemejc@gmail.com

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | bnjfallon@verizon.net

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | jskratz@gmail.com

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | sjstitt1@verizon.net

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