



Overheard In An Orchard by Carol Landis

*Said the Robin to the Sparrow,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush around and worry so."
Said the Sparrow to the Robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."*

-Elizabeth Cheney

These words put Jesus' "do not worry" instructions, found in Matthew 6, into poetry. It was a favorite poem of my maternal grandmother, and repeated often by my mother. Its message has been etched in my mind since early childhood, yet living it is a challenge.

Recently I felt impressed to apply this truth to my life. Pondering each phrase, I recognized a few lessons from these birds. First, they don't waste a lot of words when delivering a clear message. Immediately they cut to the heart of the problem. Poetry's form of rhyme, rhythm and a limited amount of strong words is the perfect frame for this conversation. Lesson #1 stood out: simplify. Eliminate unneeded excess. Keep life simple.

Second, I noted "rush around" and "worry" were tied together. This felt new to me. I've been attempting to live out a phrase by Dallas Willard: "Ruthlessly eliminate hurry," but I never realized how worry feeds hurry.

Still, living out these two lessons is a challenge. I felt like Paul in Romans 7. The desires of my mortal body often triumphed over my good intentions. But - what about the hope of vs. 24b & 25? "Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!" I wasn't meant to do this on my own. If I want to simplify my life; if I desire to eliminate those hurry and worry twins, I need to remain in Jesus. He is my way through. As He says, "Remain in me and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me (John 15:4)." Like a tomato withering on a broken vine, so had I.

My feathered teachers, remind me to remain connected to my Heavenly Father. Only then, can I rest in His care.

October 2020



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

Meet **Ariana Freed** (interviewed by Carol Landis):

“When I realized all God has done for me, I asked Him to give me His eyes. I want to see as He sees.” Ariana shared this desire of her heart, as we began talking together. Two years ago, after a hard time in her life, and feeling very alone, God powerfully met her. She now wants to tell others about her relationship with Him. It's been encouraging to discover the more she shares of Jesus, the easier and more natural it becomes. She desires to make disciples, not simply be a follower of Jesus. The devotional book, *“Take Back Your Life,”* has become very helpful, and she also participates in a young adult Bible study using this book.

Ariana was born in Ecuador, and moved here with her family at age 12. She is the daughter of Priscila and Daryl Freed and older sister to Sara and Cristina. The importance of love was always very evident within her extended Ecuadorian family, as they are very close-knit, yet she was excited to move here and experience a new world.

Ariana recently returned from serving at Victory Bible Camp in Alaska as part of the recreational staff and as a counselor. Although not a camp person, and being more familiar and comfortable with the city than the forest, she felt God leading her there. This is one of many times she noted God leading her. She smiled as she shared of now enjoying hiking, and of having a brand new appreciation for the outdoors and being able to feel closer to God there. A highlight of Victory was seeing how God used her gifts in the lives of the campers, and seeing God in the kids. Many of the campers have difficult life experiences, so hearing their faith in God was powerful.

Currently, Ariana attends Montgomery County Community College for International Business, and plans to transfer to Temple next semester. Taking this career path was the result of her Dock Senior Experience, as part of a mission team to Mexico. Ariana is also employed as a manager at Chipotle in Montgomeryville and provides childcare for Rhett Halteman two days a week. When I commented on her busy schedule, she said she's found that when she puts God first in her schedule and prioritizes him, then, like tithing, everything else falls into place.

Being grateful has also become very important to her. As a young child, she remembers her grandmother helping her practice reading skills by reading out loud everything she saw. Recently, as an adult, she used this practice to adopt a more grateful spirit and say out loud all the blessings God has given her. Even if things do not look all bright and happy at the time, you can always find a reason to be grateful for them. She also values her mother's wisdom, that if you are going to compare yourself to someone, only compare yourself to those who have less, not more. She likes to begin her prayer time being grateful and realizing what she has, and who God is. “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 a hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11). Her desire is to always trust in God's timing rather than doing everything in her timing.





What's Happening for Women

Upcoming Bible Study

Seeking God-sightings: Times we have seen God at work

Led by Doris Diener and Reenie Hoover

Although we desire to see evidence of God's presence among us, sometimes we miss Him because we simply don't notice or perhaps we explain His work by attributing it to more "scientific" or "logical" reasoning.

Our sessions together will be a time of sharing our (possible) God-sightings, in whatever form they may come:

- In scripture passages or Bible study
- In podcasts, conversations, BFGs, reflections
- In circumstances
- Other

Study details

Starting – **Monday, Oct. 19, 7:00-8:30pm**
4-6 sessions

Place will be determined by size of group

Please **sign up** (choose one):

- Women's Ministry table
- Email: Doris - lddiener@gmail.com or Reenie - grhoover5@gmail.co
- Call: Doris - 215-723-1570

Walk in the Park

Come walk and chat with other ladies from church

When: **Saturday, October 24, 9:00 am**

Where: Franconia Park (meet near the Pavilion at the Allentown Road entrance)

You are welcome to invite your daughters or friends. Wear walking shoes and bring a water bottle.

Moms of Preschoolers – Play Date!

October 8th, 9-10:30am

At the Church Playground

*Sidewalk chalk and a bubble machine will be provided!

OUTDOOR Sat Oct 17
9:00 to noon

Children's clothes, books, toys and more
FREE ADMISSION ~ Bake Sale
\$10.00 tables available
contact: Franconiamomsmarket@gmail.com
Franconia Mennonite Church

There will be something for everyone including fresh baked items and homemade soups.

Mark your Calendar

Sewing Circle

October 13 & 14, 8am-4pm

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

Scrapbook Crop

November 7, 8am-6pm

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

Christmas Crafts:

Rag Balls and Ribbon Trees

November 14, 9-11am

*More information to follow

MCC Project of the Month:

New flat, twin-sized sheets

October 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Liberia Drive Thru Dinner Fundraiser 4:30-6:30pm
4 Communion	5	6	7	8 Moms Of Preschoolers 9:00-10:30am	9	10
11	12	13 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	14 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	15	16	17 Moms Market & Bake Sale 9am-12pm
18	19 Bible Study Begins 7:00-8:30pm	20	21	22	23	24 Walk in the Park 9:00am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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