



# Our Powerful God and a Thankful Heart

by Carol Landis

*"Blessed are all who take refuge in him." Psalm 2:12b, NIV*

Her story caught my attention. She wrote of a slow-moving blue car traveling parallel with their cruise ship mile after mile as they passed through the Suez Canal. After snapping a picture of the "car," and enlarging it on her laptop, Vicki Kuyper realized it was really an armored truck – guarding their ship on the 102-mile journey through the canal. This reminded her of God's protection (Daily Guideposts, 9/8/22). I understood the comfort of seeing tangible protection in a volatile place.

Yet our Heavenly Father has much more power, and is more dependable than an armored truck. Do I depend on Him? My God lives within me (Acts 17:28). He is with me always (Matt. 28:20), no matter where I am (Ps. 139:8-10). He has rescued me from darkness and redeemed me (Col. 1:13-14). He will protect me from evil (2 Thess. 3:3). He offers light for my next step (Ps. 119:105), and with His Spirit, He is ready to strengthen me with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (Eph. 1:18-21). He forgives (Ps. 103:7-8). His love exceeds the heavens (Ps. 108:4). He is faithful (1 Thess. 5:24, Heb. 10:23). And these merely skim the surface of the deep waters of promises given to us in the Bible.

God gives divine reassurance. His promises are an anchor to enable us to focus on His eternal kingdom. Indeed, when I depend on the power of Almighty God, and am not distracted by attempting to work up enough of my own strength, intelligence, or perseverance, nor thinking what someone else could do for me, these promises are an immediate game-changer. Applying them to life's uncertainties and placing my confidence and trust in God shrinks the size and power of what threatens peace and joy. Troubles may not immediately dissipate, but like a pin-pricked balloon, they lose their power.

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us." Eph. 3:20, NIV*

As I pondered God's promises, I recognized that they provide the framework for a thankful heart. Thankfulness creates contentment and peace, and brings hope to a world that is starving for it. In addition, when I declare who God is, and what He has done, I show Him the respect and honor that is due Him. This Thanksgiving season let's share the wonderful message of a Powerful God whose care far exceeds the protection of an armored truck.

*Father God, please open our eyes so we see You as tangible as an armored truck, but without limitations. Thank You for being our bullet-proof, Satan-defeating God who lives within us. Amen.*

## November 2022



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



# Making Connections

My name is **Lori Cassel**, and I have been a member of Franconia Mennonite Church for 8 weeks. I am married to Galen, and we'll celebrate 40 years of marriage next August. We have 3 children- a son, Josh, married to Kim, living in Souderton with their 2.5 children- Levi (12) and Taylor (9), and baby #3 due in February; two daughters, Jess, married to Brandon King, living in Apple Creek OH with their 2 sons- Everett (almost 8) and Elijah (5); and Jenessa, who is 16 and in the 11th grade at Quakertown Christian School (QCS).

I am the Director of Admissions at QCS, a position I've held for almost 3 years. I love sharing the QCS story with families and sharing our experiences of having had Jenessa there since kindergarten. God has proven Himself faithful and, as I speak to families about who we are as a school, we're seeing our enrollment steadily growing, and more families and students are being introduced to Jesus. I love sharing our mission, which is "to equip students to be leaders through an exceptional education within a culture emphasizing Christ-like love, peacemaking and service". Our students know they are safe, loved, and uniquely gifted by God. With the hiring of Dr. Eric Bishop as our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and then a short while later hiring Stephen Schrag as our Head of School, so many exciting things are happening! QCS has been dually accredited (by Cognia and MEA), and we just found out last week that our high school classes are now NCAA approved! And, in the last year, a chapter of National Honor Society has been established. The future is looking very bright at QCS and we are in awe of how God is moving His Kingdom forward in Quakertown.

Something else exciting happened to Galen and me this year- Galen is now working at QCS as the Facilities Manager! After working at Clemens Food Group for 40+ years, he was able to retire and come to QCS. God opened doors in unimaginable ways and has given Galen a job where he can use his gifts of service for the Lord. This has been such a wonderful thing, as we often ride to work together and have lunch together every day!

God has put opportunities in my life that I would not have expected, but His ways and His plans have proven to be so much more than I could have ever dreamed! I'm excited to see how He leads us next and how my wonderful Franconia Mennonite family will play into that plan. To God be the glory, great things He has done!







# Get Involved!

## Christmas Wreath Craft Night



Fabric

Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

7:00-8:30 pm

Come enjoy a fun night of creativity and fellowship, making wreaths for Christmas! You can choose to make a fabric wreath or a ribbon wreath (see pictures), and you will be guided through the process.



Ribbon

This is a great activity to do with your friends or daughters!

Light refreshments will be provided.

There is a suggested \$10 donation for each wreath.

Please **SIGN UP** by Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer or by emailing [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

### Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,

For daily provision, Your mercy, and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share

So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

—Mary Fairchild



# November 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Isaiah Study 9:30am & 7pm	4	5
6 Mark Gregston Parenting Event	7	8 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	9 Christmas Wreath Craft night 7pm	10 Isaiah Study 9:30am & 7pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30pm	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## CONTACT US: [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | [caroldanlandis@gmail.com](mailto:caroldanlandis@gmail.com)

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | [kgreinford@comcast.net](mailto:kgreinford@comcast.net)

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | [bjderstine2@gmail.com](mailto:bjderstine2@gmail.com)

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | [bnjfallon@verizon.net](mailto:bnjfallon@verizon.net)

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | [jskratz@gmail.com](mailto:jskratz@gmail.com)

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | [sjstitt1@verizon.net](mailto:sjstitt1@verizon.net)



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