



Unanswered Prayer by Carol Landis

"Why do you say...and complain... 'My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God?'" -Isaiah 40:27

The stories are varied, but the disappointment, weariness, and pain are the same. Often included is the struggle to trust. And I hurt. A hurt that clings long after my ear has heard and my heart has sympathized. For I too, have known this pain. For me, the simple solution of surrender and trust, or hopeless commiserating, hasn't been helpful.

Recently, reading Matthew 7, these words of Jesus stood out to me. "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts...*how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*" (v.7). I also noted Luke 11:13, adds the phrase, "*how much more will our Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.*" To have confident trust in God's goodness and faithfulness, and depend on the power of His Spirit to bring change, while living in the midst of God's silence, or what seems like inaction, is taking God at His Word. Yet, when nothing changes, how does one do so?

I feel reminded of the quote, "you cannot keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair" (Martin Luther). I believe the following truths, and others like these, are what needs to "nest."

- ~ My Savior understands disappointment, betrayal, pain, death (Mark 14&15).
- ~ Jesus loves, knows, and cares for me (Rom. 8:37&38; John 10:14; 1 Peter 5:7).
- ~ God's ways are eternal. (Rev. 1:8; Isa. 55:8&9).
- ~ God wants to walk with me (Isa. 43:2, Matt. 28:10)
- ~ God is able to do more than I can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20)

These cause me to remember times I've experienced the faithfulness of God. Times I've known peace when nothing changed (and situations grew worse), when He provided for my heart; times I was awed by the power of God to change my circumstances, or me.

"Do you not know? ... The LORD...the everlasting God...will not grow tired or weary...his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary... increases the power of the weak. ...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar...run...walk and not be faint" (Isa. 40:28,29,31, NIV).

Dear Lord, when waiting, we easily become weary. With Your Spirit, please strengthen us, so we can hold onto the hope of who You are, and in what You do. Amen.

October 2023



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



Making Connections

Meet our Brides!

Jason and Kaila Landis. Jason and I met at a local young adults group my friends and I decided to try out on a whim. We began talking after Bible Study one night among a group of his friends and quickly found interest in each other. We started dating soon after and enjoyed becoming more involved in young adults, participating in service opportunities, trying out local restaurants, and working on projects together. Jason proposed while on a boat in the Hudson River on February 4th, 2023. We took on wedding planning and buying a home all at once and are happy to say that we were joined in marriage on June 10th, 2023 at Franconia Mennonite Church and have settled down in Blooming Glen, PA. We are beyond excited for the Lord to continue to reveal His will to us as we follow Christ closely and strive to worship Him in all we do.



Pictures from our Ladies' Game Night





Get Involved!

Upcoming activities

Esther Bible study

Thursdays 9:30-10:30am
Sept. 28th - Nov. 16th

Mom's Market

Saturday, Oct. 7th
9:00am - 12:00pm

Sewing Circle

Tuesday, Oct. 10th
8:00am - 4:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Oct. 10th
7:00pm

Scrapbook Crop

Saturday, Nov. 4th
(Contact Gerry Moore if interested in attending)

Mom's Night Out

Friday, Nov. 17th

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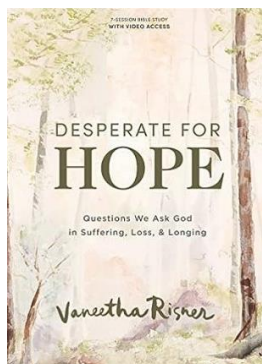
\*\*\*You may notice that The Spice no longer has a fourth page. We decided to simplify the newsletter by replacing the calendar with a list of upcoming activities. We hope you will take a minute to add these dates to your personal calendar each month.

## Bible Study Opportunity

### *“Desperate for Hope”*

*Questions we ask God in Suffering, Loss, & Longing*

By Vaneetha Risner



Have you ever asked, *Why am I going through this? What if this never gets better? Does God really care about me? When life falls apart, it's easy to feel alone and slip into despair—disillusioned with God, hopeless about the future, and doubting your faith.*

*In this 7-session study, Vaneetha Risner tackles the hard questions and offers a scriptural framework to help you find hope in your pain. She will be a gracious guide through this difficult topic, walking with you as you meet women in the Bible who suffered loss, and sharing her own experiences of longing and grief. In the end, you'll find that the answers to your deepest questions can be found in the character, goodness, and sovereignty of God.*

**If you have interest in participating in this study,** or just have questions about it, please email Women's Ministry by clicking the link below, or talk to Lori Menzies or Julie Kratz. (We are currently gauging interest and will then decide on a meeting time for this study.)



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

Women's Ministry Co-Chairs: Gail Reinford & Sydney Leaman  
Team Members: Charity Veltre, Heidi Yoder, Janet Derstine, & Julie Stitt