



## Anticipate the Presence of God by Carol Landis

Highlighted in my Bible is the phrase: "For to you I have committed my cause" (Jeremiah 20:12b). In his complaint about the troubling condition of his country, and his disappointment in God's response, Jeremiah oscillates between despair to noting the power and presence of God. I relate to Jeremiah's double bind. Even though I've experienced and been awed by the power of God, when situations don't unfold as I desire, I often become stuck in despair. Thus, I need reminders such as these:

Esther 3-6: Haman, angered by Mordecai's refusal to bow down to him, even though it was commanded by the king, convinced King Xerxes to issue a decree to destroy all the Jewish people. In addition, Haman had gallows built to hang Mordecai. But, "that night (King Xerxes) could not sleep; so he ordered...the record of his reign, to be...read to him. It was found recorded there...Mordecai had exposed... two...officers...who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes" (6:1,2). And nothing had been done to honor Mordecai. *The reminder of a king who couldn't sleep.*

Daniel 6: The decree was written; King Darius made it official. All who prayed to another god or man would be thrown into the lions' den. Yet, "three times a day (Daniel) got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God...asking God for help" (vs.10,11). Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions (v.22). *The reminder of God sending his angel.*

Acts 12: Putting James to death pleased the people, so King Herod arrested Peter also. "But the church was earnestly praying" (v.5). "...the night before...trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with...chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance." An angel woke Peter, "...the chains fell off Peter's wrists." The angel told Peter to follow him, "...they passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate...it opened for them by itself, and they went through" (vs.6-10). *The reminder of the power of a praying church.*

Believing God's presence would be all they needed, no matter how the situation unfolded.

While these circumstances were nothing they desired, their faith led them through the trials. It seems depending on their prior knowledge of God's faithfulness and His promises, fueled their belief that God's presence with them would be all they needed, no matter how the situation unfolded.

*Lord Jesus, in a country being invaded, a palace, lion's den, and jail, You provided. In situations I do not choose, please help me cling to Your faithful promises, release my desires, and hold on for the "ride."*

# May 2025 |





# Making Connections

Meet **Gerry Moore**.

I grew up in the Harleysville-Telford area and attended Christopher Dock Mennonite High School. During high school, I started working at Landis Supermarket in the deli. It was during this time that I met my husband, Jerry. I remained at Landis Supermarket for 30 years, with the last 16 years spent working in the bakery. Eventually, the early morning hours became less enjoyable, and I transitioned to a fulfilling career at Living Branches as a Life Enrichment Coordinator.



At Living Branches, I had the privilege of working with older adults, creating meaningful activities to encourage engagement, connection, and joy in their lives. My mission was to help residents recognize the beauty and purpose they still had to embrace. Though I retired in 2020, I continue to serve as needed, filling in for Life Enrichment staff when support is required.

This September, my husband and I will celebrate 51 years of marriage, a milestone of God's goodness and grace. We are blessed with four wonderful children. Our oldest son, Jason, lives in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Our daughter, Amy, lives in Missoula, Montana, with her husband, Rob, and their two sons, Owen (9) and Eli (6). Matthew resides in Pennsburg. Andrew, our youngest, lives in Port Republic, Virginia, with his wife, Susannah, and their two daughters, Sienna (10) and Saige (7).

With family spread across different states, we cherish the opportunities to travel. Our grandchildren bring so much joy to our lives and keep us young at heart. On a recent trip to Montana in March, we tried cross-country skiing for the first time in our 70 years—a memorable experience that amazed our grandson, Eli, an expert snowboarder.

I have many hobbies that bring me joy, including photography, scrapbooking, card-making, baking, knitting, and crafting with my grandkids. They all love working on projects!

Our family also enjoys weeklong trips to Lake Anna, and for our 50th wedding anniversary and our 70th birthdays, we gathered for a special family trip to Pigeon Forge—a time of celebration, reflection, and thanksgiving.

Additionally, I find joy in serving through Shine, a tutoring program for students with English as a second language. Shine meets weekly on Tuesday evenings in the fellowship hall. My husband and I run transportation once a month, and I help serve meals when extra hands are needed. These students bring so much energy and enthusiasm, and it's a blessing to be part of their journey.

One Bible verse that has deeply shaped my journey is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* This verse reminds me to remain steadfast in prayer, not just in times of crisis but in the everyday rhythms of life. Though giving thanks in all circumstances is not always easy, I hold onto the promise that God is working for good even through difficult seasons.

As I reflect on my life, my family, my faith, and the opportunities for service I am overwhelmed with gratitude. God has been faithful, weaving moments of joy, learning, and love into my story. No matter where life takes me, I hold fast to His promises, knowing that He is always present, always good, and always guiding my steps.



# Get Involved!

This month we had a women's movie night at church on April 27. Ladies brought their comfy chairs and we enjoyed lots of snacks. We also collected food to benefit the Bean Bag Food Program in Souderton. Thank you to all the ladies who joined us and helped us purchase food to serve families in need!



## Other Upcoming Activities

### Sewing Circle

Tuesday, May 13

8 AM – 4 PM

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, May 13 at 7 PM



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