



The ENCOURAGER

NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
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Healing and restoration are promises in the Word of God that are ours to expect and claim. In the scriptures we find wisdom and instructions that are needed for us to successfully navigate through life.

Proverbs 4:20-22 NASB

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. ²² For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body.

The Hebrew word for “health” in verse 22 is “medicine.”

Our first key to healing and restoration is the Word of God. It is like a medicine for our bodies. If we expect healing in our life without the Word of God, we will quickly fall flat. For example, if you believe in food and have it in front of you but don’t eat it, you will starve.

It reminds me of Jeremiah 15:16, “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.”

Healing often happens over a period of time as we remain in collaboration with the Spirit of God and the direction we are given. If we do not receive an immediate miracle or answer to our prayers, we can be assured that God is walking us through whatever we are facing.

Isaiah 55:11 NIV

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

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Faithful Expectation *for* Healing

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If we need to see a doctor, then we take action to find the best one. When we meet with the medical community we rely on our Holy Spirit and common sense to establish our next steps with a settled heart. If you need wise counsel, then call a trusted spiritual friend. Never forget that the Word of God is true, and a miracle is still possible for you.

It is imperative that we stop unworthy and condemning thoughts the instant they enter our mind and focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. In looking to him in scripture and thought, we are reassured that he HAS fully paid the price for our sin and weakness. Healing is our guaranteed promise because of his shed blood and broken body.

Romans 8:34 ESV

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

The miraculous healing power of God is always working on our behalf in every situation. I may not feel restored or look healed, but I am because the Word of God says so. I may never see an angel, but they are real and working because the Word of God says so.

Hebrews 4:12 KJV

For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.

We can experience the healing, restorative power of God at any moment in our life no matter how many times we have been ministered to before. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything that you need to do or pursue that will make a difference for you in your life or specific situation.

Psalms 107:20 KJV

He sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

In every situation God's Word is a catalyst for the answers and directions we are seeking. Within its pages are countless testimonies of his faithfulness to what he has promised.

Acts 3:1-10 NIV

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. ² And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.

⁴ But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

⁵ And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

⁸ With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

We should be filled with wonder and amazement at what God has done for us through the accomplished work of Jesus Christ. Because of his sacrifice we have received what we could never earn and have full access to the mercy and restorative, healing power of a God who loves us as his children.

Praising God with you,

Tonia Shroyer

Lead Pastor
CFFM - Tipp City, OH



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I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ~Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

Jesus was very much down to earth in his daily life and activities. *He kept things simple.*

It was C.S. Lewis who said, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'"

To be a friend according to Scripture, we need to recognize Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Today, that means we need to live our lives like Jesus did—not doing things for want of reward or for something to come back to you. We need to build up each other and fill in where each other lacks.

As we go about our daily lives, we find people that we never thought we would be friends with. You don't have to agree with everything that is said or done to be friends. Some of the best friends that you will ever have are the ones with whom you don't always share agreement on all the same things—and that's OK.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV), "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." We are not all perfect, including our ideas and actions, yet the Lord still loves us and takes the time to listen to our prayers. In a similar way among friends, sometimes we need to compassionately step out of ourselves to acknowledge our own imperfections and shortcomings.

Friends are there to help make you better. If you are always agreeing, how are you to be better? Just because we don't agree does not mean, "I hate you." It means that we may have some fresh perspective that we

can glean from each other. Just as we don't all look the same in appearance, we all need people who don't look at the world like we do. Also, my relationship with someone may be as a friend, but their relationship with someone else may be as a parent or sibling.

God can often help us turn a stranger into a close friend. And those people that

we meet often cross our paths for a reason. The Lord may've opened that door so they could teach or help us.

We were never promised that our lives here would be easy. Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in

heart, and you will

find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

God is always present to help us as a father, and we are here to help each other as friends. What does Jesus mean when he says, "My yoke is easy"? I believe he is stating that when bulls are yoked together, they work together to pull a load that one alone could not pull. When we are yoked (working with) Jesus as a friend, the work is easy as he helps us through it all. When we work against him, it slows the whole team down, not just the one but both. That also means that when times are good and easy, he is still supporting us through it all.

Friends are there for you through all seasons of your life. When you are young, they give you a sense of place. In high school they help form the habits you keep into adulthood; and finally, in adulthood they are there to help keep you on the correct path over the long haul.

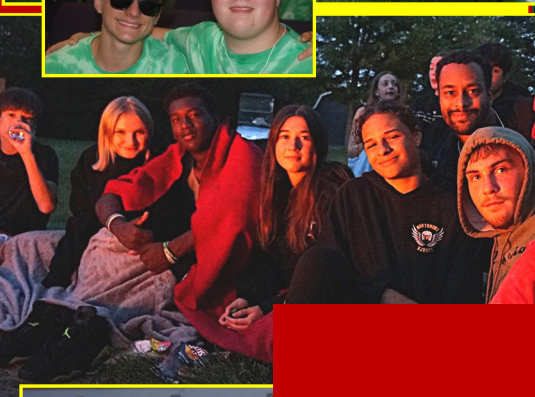
We are all busy and sometimes it takes someone you can trust to tell you that you are going down a bunny trail—time to come back to the group. They are the people you call at 4 AM when you have a flat tire to let them know that you are safe.

If you are looking for a friend, know that you always have one in Jesus. He is always open for a chat. You don't have to be in some reverent church to talk. Just as we can see God's majesty in the flowers that bloom in the spring or in the beauty of a sunset, the friends we keep don't stay the same; yet, the living Christ himself provides the constant friendship that each of us can experience with him by his Spirit. And each of us can have a unique life journey following our best friend, Jesus.



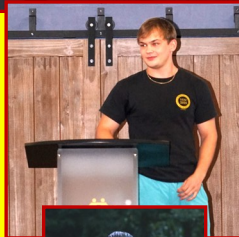
by **Cianna Marsh / Troy, OH**

Cianna Marsh was born in Utah. She has spent the majority of her life searching out and finding her place in the Body of Christ by involvement in areas of church and ministry service from child care to tech. She is currently the Live Stream/Video Director for CFFM. She and Michael Marsh have a daughter and reside in Troy, Ohio.



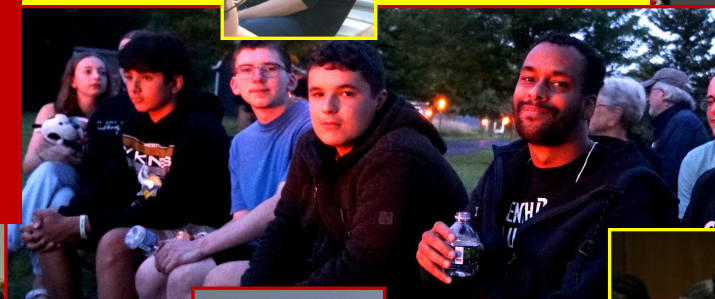
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Camp Master Balloon Popping Finale

By Amiri Mullens (*Game Clues Poem!* CFF YES Camp 2025)

I asked God one time why I couldn't hear Him. He didn't answer me; but then I saw Him in a dream. He asked me, "Child, what have you read? Read the Bible and you will know all you need to know."

I was praising and singing one day, and the music was very worshipping and powerful. Then I felt a cold but warm gust of air in a split second.

In that split second, my sins blew away and made me praise harder.

I was listening to a teaching, and it was a good one. Very powerful; you could feel the Lord's presence. Then before I think, I yell "Oh, the Lord is my Savior." I felt lighter the rest of the teaching.

I was reading the Bible, when one day I read that God helps everyone.

Don't matter if they are black or white or any color,

God helps each and every one of us that need and want it.

God wants everyone to know they are equal. We all have the pink on our tongue and the Lord in our spirit. We are the same and we are equal.



DAY IN THE WORD
LEADERSHIP & IDENTITY
AUGUST 2025/SAN RAFAEL, CA

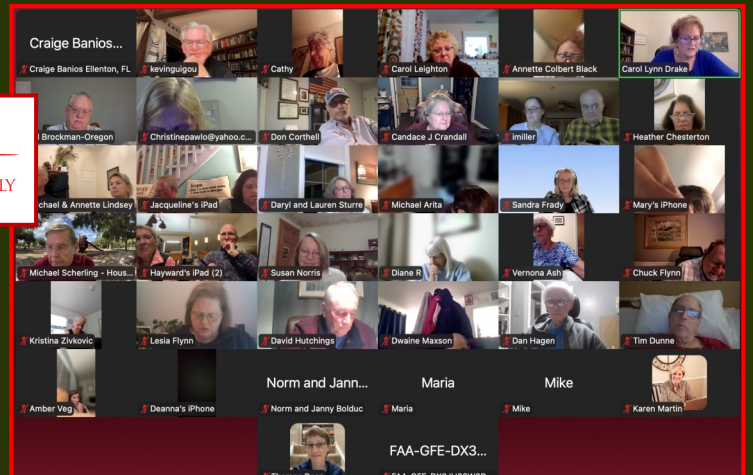


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Back in our first home, Eden—life was bliss. Genesis 3 says that the Lord walked in the garden in the cool of the day and talked to Adam and Eve as close friends. What a beautiful relationship they had!

Lucifer—the enemy—wanted to be the epitome of beauty in creation. He corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor (Ezekiel 28). “He became extremely jealous of the woman, because God made her the pinnacle of beauty,” so he made her the object of his attack. He tried to deceive her. “*Eve’s downfall* was that she believed the lie that in order to have everything, she had to take matters into her own hands.” “*Adam’s downfall* was that he didn’t intervene.” He was right there and saw the whole scene happening in front of his eyes. He sided with Eve.

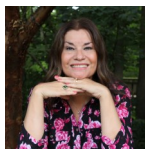
“Ever since that fateful day when Adam gave away the essence of his strength, men have struggled with the same. Men don’t want to speak up unless they know that it will go well. Don’t want to move unless success is guaranteed.” That’s the flesh. “The sinful nature of “Fallen Adam” is in every man, and he always wants the easiest way out.”

“The flesh is deceitful and treacherous. But your flesh is not *you*. Not the *real you*.” Paul says in Romans 7:20 that he is not the one doing it, but the sin within him is doing it. “Men, you are no longer defined by your sin, the *fallen you*.” “Your heart is good.” With the New Covenant you’ve got a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). “You are a new creation in Christ. That is the *truest you*.”

“The ancient war is for the human heart. But the war is not you against God. The *true* you is on the side of God against the *false* self. Knowing this makes all the difference in the world. A man will lose heart quickly if he believes his heart is nothing but sin. The only way to deal with your flesh is: to crucify it! We are never told to crucify our hearts, to kill the true man within. Stop taking the side of the flesh. Walk right into those situations you normally run from. Speak right to the issues you normally remain silent over. For you to grow in true *masculine strength*, you must stop sabotaging yours.”

When a man doesn’t stand up for himself and what he believes, but goes with the flow, “he deliberately chooses to push his true strength down and enables the false self,” thus eroding his strength every time he does that. Allow the *fire in the belly*.

“You sabotage yourself when you give your



strength away.” “Men, start choosing to live out your strength and you’ll discover that it grows each time.” Your strength is wild and fierce. It’s your gift to the world. It draws people to God through you.

Because we are in a war, we will be wounded by the enemy. “The wounds that we have received as little children and as adults, shape us. They come with messages that pin down the core of our hearts. When we embrace the message of the wound and agree with it, we adopt strategies to protect ourselves from being hurt again.” Those are the *fig leaves* we call *personalities*, and we hide behind them (Genesis 3:10).

“*Fallen Eve* ranges from *dominating* and *controlling* all the way to *desolate* and *deserted*.” She’s either calling all the shots or can never rock the boat.



The Fall & Restoration of the Heart

Part Two in a series
by **Juany Harbert**
inspired by and
with quotations from
John & Stasi Eldredge
at wildatheart.org

“As another way to hide, *indulgence* tends to be an escape, a substitute for the real thing that can never satisfy.” Things that have been said or done to her have assaulted the desires God had placed in her, and so she loses heart, longing for *feminine beauty* and purpose.

The offer from God is to heal our broken hearts and to set free the places that are held captive within us. In order to receive his healing, we must bring our wounded hearts into his hands.

Jesus’ ministry is to the wounded in heart. If we say that we have no wounds... we have no part in him (John 13:8). That’s what he does: he heals the wounded, and sets the captives free (Isaiah 61:1-3).

The inner healing process involves recognizing a wound or “asking Jesus to show us the wound. Then we ask him to heal it. We renounce it, and we forgive whoever hurt us. Forgiveness releases you.”

The restored heart is free to be resilient, to be a friend of Jesus, and to cultivate a heart like a child: **full of wonder**.

Born in Chile, South America, Juany Harbert has been a follower of Jesus since childhood. She works with her husband Mark in their online marketing business. They have functioned as full-time Christian ministers for many years, serving in several different countries and USA states. She and Mark have been married for twenty-two years. Their daughter Nicole is nineteen years old. They currently reside in Tipp City, Ohio.



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