

40-Day Prayer Walk Day 15

Passage: “I have become like broken pottery.” —Psalm 31:12

When Trey, my oldest, was a little guy, he delighted in buying small pottery pieces for me. He especially loved angels. Yet though he delighted in buying them, he would present them to me with tears of frustration. You see, in his excitement to get his special “prize” (that’s what he called his gifts) to me, Trey would unfailingly drop, bang, hit, or otherwise break the chosen Mommy-gift. But he was so determined to present his gift that he would give it to me anyway... but with tears because of his gift’s brokenness.

To soothe his little feelings, I would hold the gift in my hands and say, “But Trey, this makes it so special. No one else has one just like the one you are giving Mommy.” A big smile would break through the tears, and he would jump in my arms for a hug.

Do you ever feel like life has left you broken. In today’s passage, David did.

Prayer: My glued angels are some of my most prized treasures around my house. God feels the same about us. He sees our brokenness (as with Trey’s angels, it is hard to hide), but He delights in our courage to present ourselves to Him just as we are. That’s what David did, repeatedly, and like David, we can praise God this morning with these words: “Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love” (Psalm 31:21). Today, let’s pray for God to lead us to someone who also feels broken on the inside. And let’s invite her to our FRIENDS OF FAITH event; chances are...God has led you to one who’s hiding brokenness and seeks the wonders of God’s love and true friendship!

Practical: Our world needs to meet a God who is not looking for perfect people. As we allow our imperfections to show, yet remain passionate in our serving, we proclaim to those around us that their brokenness does not diminish how much God loves and values them. Team, we are being called, as friends, to deliver the greatest of all messages to our world: “God loves you! So much so that He gave His only Son to die and be resurrected...so that you might have life... beginning now and throughout eternity! It’s true, you may feel broken...be broken by life, but in God’s eyes you are His prize; our chips, cracks, and bumps just make us more special in our Potter’s hand.”

Let us be the friends who demonstrate this great hope...at our FRIENDS OF FAITH event!

Thanks for allowing me to share a special memory with you today.

Keep praying and praising,
Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk

Day 16

Passage: “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word.” —Acts 6:2

One day on Twitter I asked, “Ever feel lonely among the crowds? Story of my life until I realized it’s not about having people around; it’s about letting people in.” My messaging went wild! One woman responded, “This one hit me squarely between the eyes.” Another said, “I have been so betrayed by ‘friends’ that even though I feel lost and alone, I will never be able to trust again.” One of the saddest responses was, “Yes, this too is the story of my life but, as sad as it may be, I have found my only safe place is to walk in the darkness of being alone.”

Practical: These comments didn’t surprise me. I felt this way for many years. Yet I always hoped that one day I would bump into someone like me. Someone who looked like she had life all together on the outside but who knew almost everything was broken on the inside. I never found that person, so out of my desperate need, I created a whole group of such people. That group is now known as a global ministry named Roses and Rainbows Ministries, Inc. Today, over 25 years later, you and I are finding that what I so desperately sought is no different than what you and all women long to have: a safe place where everyone can come and find acceptance, free from any expectations, and where conversation is real and revealing so that our discussions can be encouraging and equipping.

Prayer: We each have the potential of a powerful ministry within us simply through the words we speak...when they are God’s words of hope and encouragement. Today, let’s first take the time to encourage our team. Take time to tell your directors, Linda and Donna, how you see their dedication and hard work. You can give personal examples. And then, look at how each team member is crucial to this team. Take a minute and write out words to encourage and affirm them this morning. Remember, unsaid words have never encouraged anyone! Speak those words that will pour “courage IN” – that’s what encourage means, you know! Then, let’s pray today for all those dear women who are stumbling through loneliness. Pray they will stumble into one of us this week. Pray God will use our words as a ministry of His accepting love. And pray these women will say “yes” to our invitations to come to our FRIENDS OF FAITH event where they will find a group they can trust. Friends, we can stop the loneliness—one woman at a time. We must!

Thank you, prayer partners. Your prayer is powerful!
Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk

Day 17

Passage: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” —Isaiah 41:10

It is the last inning. Bases are loaded. The score is tied. The last batter on the opposing team is up. One mistake and we would lose the championship. The ball is released by the pitcher and delivered...strike one. Another ball released and delivered...strike two. Tension is high. The next ball is released and...it is hit. Up the ball goes. Up. Up. Up. Gravity takes over just as the ball peaks over first base. Down, down, down the ball comes as the first baseman moves his body in place and steadies his glove to make the catch.

Practical: That evening of baseball was many years ago, but God still uses it with me every time I feel fearful. You see, that first baseman who had just helped win the Little League championship in our community was my six-year-old son. “Austin,” I proclaimed as I ran to him after the game, “I am so proud of you! How did you stay so calm?” As the sweat rolled down his little face, Austin looked up to me and said with great sincerity, “Mommy, I may have been calm on the outside, but I was shaking on the inside.”

When we committed to pray, we also committed to ask God what our part is in that prayer’s answer. The thought of how God might choose to put us in the game may make us a bit shaky on the inside. We may not want to be asked to do anything outside our comfort zone, just as Austin didn’t want that ball coming toward him at first base. But we can choose to rely on God’s strength, and that will give us the confidence to do what He asks.

Prayer: I read yesterday that God tells us “do not fear” in 365 ways throughout the Bible. That means every day of the year, He invites us to live fearlessly! Dear friends, God will be inviting you today to do something outside your comfort zone. I’ll pray for you today—and you pray for me—that we position ourselves to serve EVEN THROUGH the fear. Isn’t it exciting how God calls us beyond ourselves into what only His strength can accomplish through us!

Pushing past the fear,
Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk Day 18

Passage: “Pray without ceasing.” —1 Thessalonians 5:17

I ran across a quote from an anonymous source that said, “Prayer is where the action is.” I giggled at this collision of today’s Bible verse and modern slang. From what you are telling me, a lot is indeed happening because of our constant prayer.

Practical: Take time to be still today. Shhhhhh....just listen: what is God whispering to you alone? I’ve asked God to take us deeper, to give us His secrets to making your FRIENDS OF FAITH beyond anything anyone has ever seen! I believe that’s what He desires. So, grab some paper and a pen and let’s quiet ourselves for a full hour today to simply listen to the answers to our prayers. If we allow it, prayer can truly be where the action begins anew today.

Prayer: God, in our silence, please reveal Your secrets. Take us deeper than we’ve ever known in Your will. We are ready and committed to make Your answers to our prayers the action we take. Whatever You want, Lord – to invite, to donate, to serve, to set-up, to decorate, to forgive...we long to do whatever we can to serve our community with Your love and to bring glory to Your Holy name.

God’s answers – our action!

Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk

Day 19

Passage: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.” —Romans 8:26

A friend sent this quote to me: “If you only pray when you’re in trouble, you’re in trouble.” Ain’t that the truth! But while we might have more to pray about when we’re in trouble, we don’t always know how to put our anxiety or sadness or pain into words. That’s where the Spirit comes in. He sees us struggling—sometimes literally moaning and groaning—and He translates that into words that go directly to God’s heart.

Practical: Today’s verse is an amazing promise: When we don’t know what to pray for, we can admit that to God, and His Spirit will pray on our behalf. What’s nagging at you—about your life, a loved one, our FRIENDS OF FAITH event? Let’s face it, those right in the middle of God’s will are also right in front of the battle lines! You are under attack...take time to share your personal prayer request with your team today. Sometimes, it’s not a “thing”...that can be easily articulated, it’s a “feeling” – oppression, self-doubt, fears – that’s hard to describe. What are you having trouble putting into words? Don’t carry this alone, share with your team and together you all can give it to the Spirit and let Him translate for you. Then relax in the knowledge that your Team is praying as God hears and understands.

Prayer: As diligent as we are about our 40 days of prayer for our FRIENDS OF FAITH event, we are sure to have personal struggles that we’ll miss if not careful. Don’t take personal battles as a negative, this is how God is strengthening you! Today, let’s invite God to show us what He would like us to pray about. Or take it a step further and ask His Spirit to pray through and for us.

God loves you so much!
Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk Day 20

Passage: “Come, see a man.” —John 4:29

Have you heard the song “Live Like That”? It begins, “Sometimes I think, what will people say of me, when I’m only just a memory, when I’m home where my soul belongs? Was I love, when no one else would show up? Was I Jesus to the least of those? Was my worship more than just a song?”

If love is who I am, the song lyrics continue, “then this is where I’ll stand, recklessly abandoned, never holding back.”

Practical: The woman of Samaria, whose story is found in John 4, has been an example to me of the service I want in my life. She was an outcast of society, labeled a great sinner. She could have lived her entire life in regret and self-pity. Instead, she accepted Jesus at His word, was transformed, and then ran to her community declaring, “Come, see this man!”

The next lyrics of this song could have been written about her life: “Am I proof that You are who You say You are, that grace can really change a heart? Do I live like Your love is true?”

Prayer: Congratulations! Together, we have prayed 20 days and now we are halfway in our prayer walk! Today’s prayer is intentionally placed because not only is it found in the center of our prayer walk, but more importantly it reflects the heart of our mission! You see, our ROSES AND RAINBOWS ministry has always prayed that each woman who attends any of our events will leave forgetting the names and faces of the people doing the work and only recall the God of mercy and love they experienced. Let’s pray this for our FRIENDS OF FAITH event. I know as hard as you are working, as much as you are giving and donating, I know our heart’s desire is the same: to not be personally remembered but to make the precious name of Jesus known!

Oh, how we love Jesus! Oh, how He loves you and me today.

Kim

40-Day Prayer Walk

Day 21

Our Count changes today to our FRIENDS OF FAITH COUNTDOWN

19 Days until FRIENDS OF FAITH

Passage: “I looked for someone among them who would...stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land...but I found no one.” —Ezekiel 22:30

While no one may have answered God’s invitation in Ezekiel’s day, you stand in the gap today. Your prayers this morning form bridges that will carry many from the storms of this life into the saving graces of our Heavenly Father. You may never know the lives that are being transformed because you pray.

Prayer: Today, let’s pray someone finds each woman God wants to attend our FRIENDS OF FAITH and extends a personal invitation. And then let’s pray each invitee finds the courage to accept that invitation. So many gifted and strong women appear “together” on the outside, but life has left them broken and crumbled on the inside. May our prayers get them to FRIENDS OF FAITH so that through open and honest conversations they will witness God’s great love and perfect plan for even the most broken.

Practical: God may be tugging at your heart to invite someone you know to FRIENDS OF FAITH. It’s time to beef-up the registration surge! Ask God to give you your remaining list of women for whom you are to be the bridge from their hurt to His hope. Don’t be surprised by who ends up on your list. Don’t question. Just go to those women—by phone, by note, by visit. Let’s rewrite today’s passage to read, “I looked for those in your area who would stand in the gap and reach those around them, and I found you!”

This is the week when you should receive merchandise to be sold at your event. Books and other purchasable items will be provided for women to take home. Who is in charge to receive these items? Why not go ahead and pray over this merchandise! Let’s send these ladies home with a way to grow their renewed faith.

Blessings,
Kim