

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Thoughts from Rhonda Jackson, Co-Editor

As the holidays approach, and with them, travel, I'm reminded of the random encounters I've had 'on the road.' Although airports can be stressful places, fraught with make-my-flight rushing, shoe removing, X-ray-radiation, throngs of people grumbling, endless announcements, and a partridge in a pear tree, if I'm at the airport, I'm either traveling somewhere (yay!) or coming home (yay!) And despite the havoc, what I remember most are the *people*: the woman sitting next to me on our flight, who caught me peeking at her book and ended up handing it to me, after writing in it *There Will Be A Day...* (how did she even know I was waiting?) - the luggage porter my husband wished a happy Thanksgiving, who replied, "Every day's a holiday and every meal's a feast!" And most recently, the police officer walking a gorgeous German Shorthaired Pointer through the aisles. "Hello beauty!" I exclaimed. "You're talking to the dog, right?" he replied.

Scripture is full of stories about people whose lives were forever changed after their "close encounters" with Christ. Luke 19 recounts the story of Zacchaeus. The Bible tells us he was rich, and a tax collector – *popular! not!* – and that Zacchaeus wanted "to see who Jesus was." Short in stature, this *grown man* climbed a tree to get a look as Jesus and his friends passed by. I imagine he nearly fell out of it when the Lord stopped, looked up, and called to him, *Zacchaeus, come down immediately! I must stay at your house today!* Thrilled, Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus gladly, but the crowd harumphed, *He has gone to be the guest of a sinner!* To them, he was a chiseler – this little man with his ill-gotten gains – and apparently, they felt they had to degrade the tax collector, and inform Christ of the *type* he was getting ready to visit. Jesus reminds the crowd: *This man, too, is a son of Abraham...* Jesus didn't see the stubby grubby tax collector – He regarded Zacchaeus the same way he saw everyone: as a child of God. If our role as disciples is to emulate Jesus, then our goal is the same as His: not only to leave those who we randomly run into better than the way we found them (with a kind word, a funny quip, or a reminder of our blessings) but also, in Christ's own words, *to seek and save the lost.*



Celebrating Joyce Tanner

Charlotte Eliopoulos, Co-Editor

Joyce describes herself as "a wife, momma, mother-in-law, MawMaw, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, friend, neighbor, active in Girl Scouts, active in my church... but more importantly than all of these things, a *Child of the One True King.*"

Married to her best friend for 21 years, she has two sons and one daughter, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She and her family worship at the Source of Old Faith Baptist Church in Vidor, Texas where her husband Mike serves as the Pastor.

Joyce was not raised in church and was 23 years old before she came to know the Lord. She spent most of her childhood raised by alcoholic parents, experiencing all of the shame and guilt that goes along with that lifestyle. While still a senior in high school, she became pregnant with her daughter. As though that wasn't enough, shortly after this, her mother died of an "alcoholic death" and her dad was charged with negligent homicide in the death of her mom. He was later found not guilty, but that didn't change the fact that it made the headlines of the local small-town newspaper. Shortly thereafter, she dropped out of school and married her daughter's dad.

In 1978, she was the manager of a convenience store and one of her employees was a high school student who attended church regularly and loved the Lord. She knew Joyce wasn't a believer, witnessed her developing a drinking problem and as a result, "bugged" Joyce all the time to come to her church, which was the last thing Joyce wanted to do at that time. After several months of this girl "bugging" Joyce, she visited the church and found it wasn't as bad as she imagined it would be. She continued to attend and one of those Sunday mornings God spoke to her. As she describes it: "I'll never forget the pastor speaking about a young man that he had been witnessing to and the man kept telling him that he was not ready for that life.... that he was having too much fun. The next time he heard anything about the young man, he had passed away. Brother Bill was sad because he didn't know if he ever accepted Christ as his Savior. It was like God said '*Joyce, that's exactly where you are!*'" She went forward, knelt down, and Brother Bill led her to the Lord. Joyce felt that the burdens that were released that day were phenomenal.

Not long thereafter, Joyce's dad met and married another woman who gave him an ultimatum that he had to choose alcohol or her. He chose her, and Joyce and her dad were able to serve in the same church for seven wonderful years until his death in 1991.

Unfortunately, although Joyce got delivered from the life of alcohol and small drug use, her children's father didn't. He continued in this lifestyle which led to them divorcing after 25 years of marriage. This was one of the toughest challenges of her life. She was scared to death being a single mom at age 44 with a teenage son. Fortunately, she had obtained her GED and an associate's degree which enabled her to be promoted to a management position. God allowed all of that to fall into place so that she was able to take care of her son. Then, in 2001, God led her to a Christian singles group in a neighboring town where she met what she describes as her "king in shining armor." She married Mike and they have shared 21 beautiful years. He was called into the ministry in 2005 where Joyce and he have been serving together since. She and Mike are raising their precious Melanie, who is eight years old. According to Joyce, "She is bringing such joy and happiness into our lives...not to mention, keeping us young!"

Joyce met and immediately connected with Kim in 2017 at a Ladies' Retreat in Winnie, Texas. It was right on the heels of a horribly destructive hurricane in which Winnie and the surrounding areas were badly affected. While the group was smaller than expected, God worked in a powerful way...and Joyce had the opportunity to sit and talk with Kim personally. Joyce describes Kim as being "just so authentic." After this meeting, Joyce started participating in Kim's morning Facebook Live teachings and found them highly inspiring. She also has participated in several of the zoom Bible studies and feels like she knows the other ladies personally. Then last year, Joyce was able to connect with Kim again when the FRIENDS OF FAITH Tour came to Winnie. This ministry has touched her life in unimaginable ways, and she appreciates all that the entire ministry team does to make this happen.



A Comment from Kim...

Every ministry leader needs a "Joyce Tanner" in her corner! Joyce is a good friend to our ministry, not only participating in many of our programs but bringing friends and family with her. As a pastor's wife, Joyce continually gives of herself to others, and we are so happy when she has the opportunity to allow us to pour into her heart. On our zoom studies, she uses the difficult parts of her own story as examples of how God continues to transform her life, step by step. And that authenticity,

along with her deep love for Jesus, inspires all of us. Joyce's words also encourage me daily when she joins us for our morning Lives! I am honored to call her a dear friend!

What's Happening!

Nov 9:
FRIENDS OF FAITH, Augusta GA

Nov 16:
The Grand Lodge, Baltimore MD
"Faith in the Fast Lane"

Dec 7:
Kim will be Filming for Inspiration TV,
Charlotte NC

Dec 9:
"Christmas at Kim's," Eatonton GA

Visit www.kimcrabill.org for information and registration.

Something NEW!

The "Girl, You've Got This" study is now available as a book with a participant's workbook and leader's guide, and coming soon, newly filmed teaching videos.

Girl You've G.O.T. This!: Why it's too Soon to Give Up: Crabill, Kim:
9798351794853: Amazon.com: Books



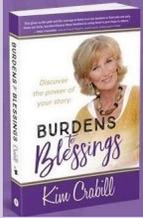
But wait, there's more! A new devotional: "Get Your Shine On" has just been released. I hope you will take a look and love it!

Get Your Shine On: Transforming Ordinary Moments into Extraordinary Times to Shine: Crabill, Kim: 9798355996161: Amazon.com: Books



Would you like to bring the transformational study of
Burdens to Blessings
to your church or home?

Email us at admin@kimcrabill.org to get all the details.



Look for these releases just in time for Christmas!



The Heart of Christmas

Create a Christmas legacy this year! Kim's new release, *The Heart of Christmas*, gives you a wonderful opportunity to preserve your story with each day's challenges, joys, prayers and blessings. Based on Kim's book, *Cup of Christmas*, *The Heart of Christmas* has daily December devotionals, beautiful graphics, and lots of room to journal! You will have a legacy, a memory, a journal...and most importantly, *The Heart of Christmas* will give you a way to hear God's voice each December day!

The Heart of Christmas: 31 Daily Readings for December: Crabill, Kim: 9798362043193: Amazon.com: Books



The Tattered but Treasured Tree

What value could a small, tattered tree bring to a family's Christmas celebration each year? In *The Tattered but Treasured Tree*, Kim walks us through the story of how that little tree became a treasure, and shares what God showed her along the way.

The Tattered but Treasured Tree: Crabill, Kim: 9798362166335: Amazon.com: Books

Thank you to our wonderful co-editors,
Charlotte and Rhonda!

They generously share their time and amazing talents
to bring Perk Up! to us through the year!

Thank You for Your Partnership in 2022!

Friends, as we come to the end of another year, I'd like to personally thank you for being a part of our ministry. Birthed through brokenness, we have worked together to make it a global voice of hope and healing.

At the beginning of this year, we believed God had big plans for us to accomplish, and we have seen Him lead us to share hope in more ways than we could ever have imagined. I hope you know that our 2022 ministry work could not have happened without your partnership, and we are so grateful.

As 2022 ends, we are working to finish strong! The final months of the year will bring the distribution of Season 8 of the COFFEE with Kim TV show, the release of five books, completion of the 2022 Friends of Faith tour, and 65 episodes filmed at Inspiration TV, now airing in 150



countries. Projects in 2023 will extend our reach in volume and new territories. It will be your investments that undergird our projects in the new year, as well as every division of our ministry.

As you consider your year-end giving plans, I'm asking you to choose our registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, Roses and Rainbows Ministries, Inc., where your donations are tax-deductible. When you invest in our ministry, you are truly changing lives with God's healing and hope. Please remember that no money goes toward paid staff or office space. All proceeds from sales of my books go directly back into ministry work. We value every hard-earned dollar you contribute as a monthly giver or as an annual contributor. To partner with us, we invite you to click below or to send your check to Roses and Rainbows Ministries, Inc., PO Box 1461, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. Be assured of our prayers for you and your family as we enter a new year of possibilities!

Have a blessed holiday season!

Kim

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Are You a Worrier?

Healthy Living Tips from Dr. Charlotte Eliopoulos, Co-Editor

The well-being of our loved ones...meeting a deadline at work...what we're going to wear to the reception...being accepted in a new group.... There doesn't seem to be any lack of items to cause us to worry.

Some people think that worrying serves a useful purpose in that it minimizes surprises by preparing them for various outcomes, motivates them to take actions, or demonstrates that they care. In reality, worrying is a waste of time and can cause more problems than it solves, leading to high blood pressure, difficulty sleeping, headaches, shortness of breath, dizziness, trembling, nausea, irritability, memory problems, poor concentration, and elevated level of cortisol (the stress hormone).

If you are a worrier, consider the possible reasons and their validity. Make a list of the items which cause you to worry and your ability to control them. Develop a plan for managing the items you can control and make it a goal to stop worrying about the items you can't control. Talk to a friend and get his or her support to help keep you accountable for your plan to stop worrying. Make an effort to stay in the present, not thinking about mistakes of the past or what could go wrong in the future. Engage in progressive muscle relaxation exercise. Take some time each day to sit quietly, meditate, and pray; Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:27, Psalm 55:22, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Matthew 6:25-34 can prove helpful for this.

Cook's Corner with Nancy Spicer

Layered Baked Ziti

The holiday season is almost upon us! This is a delicious dish to make that can be frozen ahead of time and baked hot and fresh on a busy day. You will be pleasantly surprised at the hint of cinnamon in the sauce. This is family and guest friendly. Serve with garlic bread and Caesar salad. Enjoy!

12 oz dry ziti pasta, cooked al dente

Sauté 1 chopped onion in 1 T olive oil until tender (4-5 minutes). Add 2 minced cloves of garlic and sauté 30 seconds. Add 1 ½ lbs lean ground beef. Stir occasionally about 5 minutes until beef is no longer pink.

Stir in 30 oz tomato sauce, 1 T. lemon juice, 1 ½ T dried oregano, 1 t. sugar, ½ t cinnamon, and 1 t kosher salt. Simmer over med high heat for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.

Melt 3 T butter in large saucepan over low heat. Whisk in 3 T flour. Cook, whisking constantly for 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in 3 cups milk. Increase heat to medium, whisk constantly for 5-7 minutes until thick and bubbly. Stir in 1 cup grated parmesan. ½ t kosher salt and ½ t black pepper. Stir in



Ziti.

In a 13X9 pan, spread additional 15 oz tomato sauce in bottom of pan. Layer as follows:

Ziti mixture

1 cup parmesan

Beef/tomato sauce mixture

12 oz shredded mozzarella

1/3 cup fine breadcrumbs

Bake in preheated 350 oven for 20 – 25 minutes until bubbly and cheese has melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

To make ahead for a busy evening: Store the unbaked dish in the freezer. Thaw out in refrigerator overnight. Let stand at room temperature for 1 – 2 hours. Add about 20 minutes to baking time.



Charlotte Eliopoulos
Co-Editor

If you have feedback, or an idea for a story, tell us at newsletter@kimcrabill.org

To learn more about our ministry, please visit www.kimcrabill.org



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