

# Women Of Grace

February Edition 2024



**1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide to faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**



*Women*  
OF GRACE

For such a time as this

## The Depths of Love

With the holiday season behind us, and having made many wonderful memories with family and friends, we now have time to reflect on what lies before us this year. Perhaps many of you made new years' resolutions of which you may have already forgotten about. No worries, it happens to all of us! It is always hard to make changes in your life to become a constant and remain for the rest of the year.

Although things in our life do not always remain constant, there is always one thing as a child of God that does remain for 365 days a year no matter what - that is the love of God.

The word 'love' in our society is used so loosely and in such a shallow manner such that it is short lived and is only felt for a time or a season. True love is not lust as the world seems to portray. It is not of the flesh but rather of the spirit. It is completely embodied in Christ and you cannot separate God from love. It is who He is. The love of God as we know it is rooted deep and lasts a lifetime and into eternity.

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from  
the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

~ Romans 8:38-39

Imagine that, there is NOTHING that can separate us from His love – There is nothing you can possibly do and there is no place on earth you can go. I am so thankful that His love trails me wherever I step foot on this earth or when I fly through the sky or swim in the depths of the sea – He is there!! Not even death shall separate you. What a promise!

You might ask yourself, "Why is it that the love of God is so deep? What makes Him go the distance?" As I thought about this myself my mind went to the cross of Calvary. As you read about the journey of the cross in the in the Gospels you begin to understand all that Jesus went through and when you internalize all that went on and feel the anguish and the pain He suffered you begin to see a deep rooted love for mankind. He willingly took on all that He did for one reason, and that was so we would know forgiveness.

You see, there is something powerful about forgiveness and what it will bare. A forgiving heart loves deep and gives you personal depth. I believe that in order to truly love is to forgive. We cannot find that deep rooted love like the love of God until we know forgiveness. Love does not dwell in hard places, it does not co-exist with strife and anger. It does not pour out of bitterness. It only flows out of tenderness and a heart that is not easily offended.

So many of us today are not able to love like we desire simply because we carry a spirit of offence everywhere we go. When we are offended the focus becomes our hurt, our pain, and

our wounds. Just like when the Philistines stopped the flow of the wells of the Israelites in the book of Genesis with earth (with things such as rocks and boulders), we too can stop the flow of God's love when we allow hardness in our life.

Paul admonishes us to put off many things in the Book of Ephesians.

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, but put away from you with all malice.*

*~ Ephesians 4:31*

And then he follows this verse with some things that we must put on:

*And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

*~ Ephesians 4:32*

That's right, He wants us to be tenderhearted and forgiving one another as He forgave us. This is the key – we have to forgive in order to love deeply. Loving deeply does not come natural to us as humans. This level of love only comes from our Father. It is easy to love someone who has never hurt you but it's a different story when you have been hurt or disappointed by someone or even worse, they have left a scar on your life.

Its when we can fully understand the statement of Jesus at the cross, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do", that we are able to move on and love freely again. To love freely is love unconditionally, to love freely is to love deeply and without abandon.

So today as Woman of Grace, let us learn to let go, allow God to heal, walk in the newness of life, and be a light that radiates this deep form of love that only comes from above.

Blessings to you all,  
Sis. Becky McGillan

## **Kids' thoughts on love and ways to make someone fall in love with you (great for wedding speeches):**

- "Tell them that you own a whole bunch of candy stores." (Del, 6)
- "Don't do things like have smelly, green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love." (Alonzo, 9)
- "One way is to take the girl out to eat. Make sure it's something she likes to eat. French fries usually work for me." (Bart, 9)

## **How can you tell if two adults eating dinner at a restaurant are in love?**

- "Just see if the man picks up the check. That's how you can tell if he's in love." (John, 9)
- "Lovers will just be staring at each other and their food will get cold. Other people care more about the food." (Brad, 8)
- "It's love if they order one of those desserts that are on fire. They like to order those because it's just like how their hearts are on fire." (Christine, 9)

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

Elaine - age 5

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

Chris - age 7

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

Jessica - age 8

And the final one...

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said,

"Nothing, I just helped him cry."

# Stories Of True Love...

## *Sis Stella Thorgeirson's Story...*

How I met my husband

My future husband and I attended the same church for two and a half years. But we had never seen each other. Not that the church was that big there was maybe 60 people in the congregation.

I had been attending a church for 3 years I was a single mom with 3 kids, the only thing i knew for sure was what I didn't want. so, with that in mind I prayed for the solution, and this is how the prayer went Lord Jesus all I know is what I don't want, but Lord Jesus you know what I need. I don't want to be alone, and I want someone that love you as much as I do. I know it was not a long prayer, but I had faith God would answer my prayer. In 1998 I had gone back to school at an adult education center to finish high school while there I started grade 11/12 computer course it was not going well; I was so frustrated I knew nothing about computers. One Sunday morning while at church I was talking to my pastor's wife explaining how much trouble I was having with my computer course; she says to me you should ask Bro. Thorgeirson to help you and I asked where he is, I had never met him. I was told he was in the sound room, so I went and knocked on the door and he opened the door I introduced myself and explained that the pastor's wife had mentioned that he could help me with my computer course. Bro. Thorgeirson gave me his cell number and when I had trouble with my course, I would call him, and he would help me. He had 3 kids and I had 3 kids and on Sundays after morning church we all spend time together Kids would play, and we would talk go for walks Bro. Thorgeirson was always such a gentleman. from the time we met to the time he proposed was 3 months and 3 months later we where married and that was 23 years ago.

## *Sis Heather Morin's Story...*

I have good love story about me and my husband . I met my husband years ago went he wasn,t living for God. We were to get Married but I ended in 2 months before the wedding. Then I went away and he did too. Then he got saved have his heart to Jesus . He wrote me a letter and told me about his change life and I read it left my mother house in st Martin's and move to the city of saint John and got a room up town. In two weeks we got married.c is

# Stories Of True Love...

## *Sis Terry Corbin's story..*

Our Love Story began on September 2nd, 2012. We were set up on a blind date and we went to Pizza Delight. My granddaughter Madison who was 2 years old at the time went with us as well. My sister was the one, who orchestrated the blind date, and her husband went with us also. The date went well. Maddie seemed to like him, so I figured if she liked him he couldn't be all that bad.

We seemed to hit it off from the start. So much so that unbeknownst to Jason after our second date I was picking out bridesmaid dresses. Thankfully he didn't know because I am sure it would have scared him away!!!

On November 6th (my birthday) Jason came to visit with an engagement ring. I know crazy right, after only dating 2 months.

Then on February 16th, 2013 we got married with Maddie as our flower girl. Again I know crazy right, after only dating 5 months. I guess in hindsight it was a good thing I started looking for bridesmaids dress so early!

Now we will have been married 11 years this month and enjoying sharing our lives together. What started as a whirlwind courtship has been a HUGE BLESSING an a GOD SEND.

God Bless

Terry Corbin

## *Sis Crystal Ingraham's story*

### My Little Love Story

I was living in an apartment in Fredericton with my 9 year old son. My first husband had died with cancer. Loneliness just was very much at this time. A few people at church had told me about this single man named Paul, who they said was a great Christian man. They even offered to introduce me to him, but had sort of forgot about it. So one night I was very much struggling with loneliness and I was reading psalms 91 and after i was done the thought came to my mind... I am going to write him a letter and invite him to our church BBQ. So the day he got the letter he called me and the one thing he asked me was the color of my hair. Anyways he didn't come to the BBQ because he had other plans but said he would come over Tuesday night to meet. He did and we have been seeing each other ever since. My friend who had answered my door had red hair and when he came he looked to Heaven and said wrong because he has specifically been praying for a woman with dark brown hair lol. He knew when he seen me I was the answer to his prayer. He has my letter in his nightstand by his side of the bed to this day. We have been married since 2002!

# Stories Of True Love Continued...

## *Sis Vicki Olafson's story...*

Two people from different provinces started Northeast Christian College the year of 1998. One from Manitoba and myself from New Brunswick. So of course as the Christmas banquet is approaching and by this time we both have that crush happening. so I told my friend, you better tell him if he is going to ask me to the banquet he better hurry up and ask me. Yes he finally did ask.

So as the year continued we had our Friday night date nights. Our first date night we went to eat at Kings Place downtown fredericton. Then most date nights we would take walks at the Fredericton walking bridge and going out to eat.

That first summer apart, he went home to Manitoba and I was in NB. He bought me a plane ticket to visit him. First time on a plane and by myself. But of course all worth it when you're in love.

So as the second year of NCC started and we were back in the same province we continued our Friday date nights and throughout the week we would be chaperoned by James McGillan, now known as our Pastor James. You would've predicted that.

Oct 30/1999 As we strolled across the Fredericton walking bridge. He got down on one knee and asked me the question to Marry him. So of course I said YES. Who wouldn't say yes to this amazing guy that treated me like a queen. He says well lets go to the jewelry store and put a ring on that finger. As he wanted us to pick it out together. He didn't want to get something I didn't like. That's who he is, always thinking of others.

So April 21/2000 on Good Friday we said our I DO's and he whisked me off to Manitoba. We came back to NCC that fall as a married couple and finished our 3rd year of college and found out we were expecting our first child. Oct 16/2001 our first son Jared was born. Then two years later on March 27/2003 our daughter Deidra was born, then two years again our last baby girl Madison was born on February 19/2005.

The Lord has provided and has blessed me richly with my amazing husband and 3 beautiful children who I'm super proud of. To God all the glory is given.

# Making a Prayer Bag...

## Prayer Bag Instructions..

These prayer bags are a special place to write down special specific prayer requests. When the Lord impressed this idea upon my heart, His instructions were to take a medium to small bag ( can fit in a bible case / purse etc ) cut up several pieces of paper and on one side of each piece of paper, write out a bible promise verse. Then on the other side of paper write out prayer requests. Then to end the written prayer request with a sincere "Thank You Jesus, Amen". Then He said to take anointing oil ( olive or whatever you may have in your home) and lightly anoint an edge of the papers. ( you could stack them together and anoint an edge of them all at the same time) In Jesus name. I was encouraged to keep these prayer bags somewhere that I would see it each day, and hold it while I am praying, and to Thank Jesus for answered prayers. I have more than one bag and I tend to keep one in my purse and when I reach in to get something I can feel it and be reminded to again Thank God in advance for answered prayers... as if they were already answered. God is in our present and future and He knows the answers are on the way!. Also Mom and I will write on each request when it was answered and how, Looking back on each one is a Huge faith building resource, a visual one, as sometimes we tend to not always remember every request and answer. I pray each one of you that makes your own prayer bag find it a source of comfort and strength and of course in the building of your faith! |

Love & God Bless each one,

Sis Michelle McManus



# *Note From The Editor...*

*I Just wanted to say a big Thank You for all who have sent me their stories and to Sis McGillan for doing this month's devotional! We want these monthly magazines to be a source of encouragement and strength to all who read them ( and some smiles and giggles as well :D ).*

*Next month will be themed :*

*Miracle Stories*

*I will be in touch with each one to see if you all have a miracle story to share!*

*Love & God Bless*

*Sis Michelle McManus*

