

thanksgiving, I find that the list has no end; I can't begin to number His blessings on my life! They are like the sand on the sea shore.

Joshua 14:1-15; Psalm 55; Luke 7:18-35

*by Marjory McNair*

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## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, May 3**

1 Peter 5:1-11 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* (vv.8-9 NIV)

The devil is very real, despite what the world might want us to think. Verse 8 tells us he is *prowling* in order to *devour* us. In other words, he is actively seeking us. Have you ever discovered where he has a toe-hold in your life? I have. Most recently, he used familiarity and complacency to confuse me and try to keep me from God's purposes for me. I resisted leaving what was comfortable and known, though God was calling to me to follow Him. Stress, tears and anxiety became my constant companions. When I finally obeyed God, healing and peace began to flow back into my life as soft rain on dry ground. Verse 9 tells us to resist him in the faith. For me, that involved time on my knees in prayer, searching the scriptures, and seeking the counsel of trusted, Godly friends. I needed the help of Jesus to resist Satan's manipulations, and He was there for me!

Joshua 4:19-24, 5:1-9; Psalms 63, 98; Matthew 7:15-29

### **Monday, May 4**

Colossians 1:1-14 *You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.* (vv.7-8)

I love the personal nature of this passage—Paul recalling to the church at Colosse how Epaphras brought them along in their faith. Relationships are at the heart of our faith: our relationship with the Triune God, our relationships within the Church, our relationships with those who don't know God at all. God has brought so many loving, faithful witnesses into my life to encourage my faith and build my knowledge in the Lord in truth. Through their witness to me, I am continually encouraged to witness my love for God to others. I have also found that when my fellowship in the body of Christ suffers, there is something very important missing in my life.

I praise you, Jesus, for all my brothers and sisters in you that have entered my life and drawn me closer to you! Please help me to continue to learn from their example.

Joshua 10:16-27; Psalms 41, 52; Luke 6:1-11

## **Tuesday, May 5**

Colossians 1:15-23 *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.* (vv.22-23a)

What an amazing gift! Not only have we been reconciled to God through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, but we are also made *holy, without blemish and free from accusation*. However, it is also a gift with a catch; we must not vary from the hope given in the gospel. How many times have you heard, "We all basically worship the same god"? This is another lie from the enemy! In the gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." I recently had to leave the denomination I grew up in because its national leader doesn't believe this fundamental truth of Christianity. I want the gift, all strings attached!

Joshua 10:28-43; Psalm 45; Luke 6:12-26

## **Wednesday, May 6**

Luke 6:27-38 *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* (v.38)

Giving is one of those amazing gifts from God. The more you give, the more you get back! However, it's not actually how much you give, but rather the attitude of your heart that makes all the difference. Recently I was asked to be part of a leadership group in my new church. Initially my heart was hard towards this idea. I was still warming up to the new thing that God was doing in our lives when He brought us here. However, I committed to pray over the offer before I gave an answer. Over several days, and against my own judgment, God inclined my heart to say yes.

Thank you Father! By following your desire for me to give of myself, I'm beginning to feel a part of your plan there. It would have taken me much longer to experience all the warmth and friendship this body of believers has to offer was I not involved in this way. I'm excited to see how I can serve Him there. What I initially saw as *work*, He saw as *blessing*.

Joshua 11:1-23; Psalm 119:49-72; Colossians 1:24—2:7

## **Thursday, May 7**

Luke 6:39-49 *The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.* (v.45)

I am truly a work in progress. I know that God has given me a heart that strongly desires to know Him more. I find great comfort in the Holy Bible and in my prayer time with the Lord. However, just when I feel I

might be taking some small steps closer to the heart of Jesus, my mouth betrays the sin that lies within me! I never cease to be amazed and saddened at how easily my words can wound, as if I have a dagger between my teeth.

However, from time to time I have also experienced God's blessing when He has allowed me to bless others with words He has put in my mouth. I know they are not from my feeble brain, but rather from His Spirit working in me.

Thank you Father for showing me my sinful thoughts so I may turn from them, but also for showing me the wonder and beauty of your Spirit alive and living within me.

Joshua 13:1-13; Psalm 50; Colossians 2:8-23

## **Friday, May 8**

Psalm 40 *I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.* (vv.1-3)

Not long ago, we felt called out of our church home, which was not only painful, but confusing. Why would He ask us to leave a place that had blessed us so much; why couldn't he change the situation instead? Furthermore, if He was calling us out, where were we supposed to go from there? The loss of that fellowship was similar to experiencing the death of a loved one.

Praise God! After many months He has given us a new, firm place to stand, and He has not only put a new song in our mouths but also one in our hearts. We continue to love and cherish many of our brothers and sisters from our former church, but are already being blessed by our new church home. Thank you Lord for helping us to put our trust in You and for the provision you gave us as we discerned your will for our family.

Joshua 13:14-32; Psalm 54; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 7:1-17

## **Saturday, May 9**

Colossians 3:12-17 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.* (v.16)

When I read this passage, thoughts of my quiet time with the Lord come to mind. Times when God's scriptures are so deeply rooted within me that I know He has planted them there Himself. I also am reminded of wonderful moments of worship on Sunday mornings; times when I can't help but sing loudly with a smile on my face because it brings me such joy to sing in praise of God Almighty. The very thought that He chooses to be alive in me, unworthy as I am, is breathtaking. And when I come to Him in