



April 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the heart of America! As I write this newsletter, heavy rain falls from the sky turning Our Father's Farm into what I call, The Muddy Season. I have to be honest (as always), the Muddy Season is probably my favorite season because the rain waters the earth which responds with crocus, daffodils, green grass and buds on my soon to be stunning Jane Magnolia tree.

This season reminds me of the power of God's unconditional love to water a dry, cold, hard heart. Often, His love runs off the heart that's been battered and unprotected. But, sooner or later, the raindrops begin to sink in, which waters the heart and allows hope to enter. The Son can come in as hope grows promising a new life and beauty and joy and restoration. This is what the staff on Our Father's Farm gets to witness not just in the spring, but year round. It is grand and it is truly glorious!

Just yesterday, one of our new residents experienced the freedom that comes from fully surrendering her life to Yeshua as her Lord and Savior. Today, her face is literally radiant with His light! Without her saying a word, we all saw by her countenance that she had encountered the living God. Spring has arrived in her heart and life! And now she gets to follow on the path of trusting the One who is always Faithful and True!

Trust is at the heart of a disciple of Christ. In John 14:1 Yeshua says to Peter, "Do not let your heart be troubled (*Grk: terrified, disturbed*). Trust in God; trust also in Me."

I believe God feels pleasure when a human heart trusts that he/she is loved unconditionally by God. Trust is our gift back to God. God desires us to trust Him so much that He was willing to die so that we could give Him that gift of trust.

Why is trust such a rare and priceless treasure to God? I believe it's rare because trust often demands a degree of courage that is often considered heroic. When life is painful, frightening, unfair and abusive and we choose to respond by trusting that God is good and kind and faithful—that kind of trust is heroic and rare! And I have come to believe that child-like surrender and trust is a mark of maturity.

The greatest need for most of us is to have an unshakeable, unfailing trust in the fact that God loves you and me just as we are and not as we should be...because no one is as they should be!

I once read a story about a man who went to mother Teresa and asked her to pray for him to have clarity. Mother Teresa said, "I will not pray for that. Clarity is what you are clinging to and you need to let that go." The man then responded, "But didn't you have clarity?" She laughed and said, "I've never had clarity, but what I've had is trust. I will pray that you will have trust."

Heb 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that there is a God and that He gives rewards to all who earnestly try to find Him."

1. we must believe that there is a God
2. and that he rewards those who earnestly try to find Him!

Notice what Heb. 11:6 *doesn't* say—those who approach God must be perfect, never sin, pray for hours, fast 40 days, etc.

The truth is God simply loves you and me! Just the way we are and not as we should be!

Trust doesn't ease our pain, stop our suffering, heal our bodies or make wrong things right. But trust ushers us into the very presence of the Only One who can do those things and will, one day, do exactly that! When things are unclear, the heart of trust says, "Abba, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Trust is not a crutch. It is an urgent need for all of us—every day! It's the remedy for most of our fear and anxiety and melancholy, self-hatred and sickness. The heart that turns from distrust to trust is redeemed from the power of fear! The heart that turns from distrust to trust is redeemed from the power of fear!

1Th 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

1Pe 5:7-10 Cast every worry you have upon Him, because He cares for You. Be calm and alert. Your opponent the devil is always prowling about like a roaring lion, trying to devour you. Resist him and be strong in faith, because you know that your brotherhood all over the world is experiencing the same sort of sufferings.

1Pe 5:10 And God, the giver of every spiritual blessing, who through your union with Christ has called you to His eternal glory, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself make you perfect, firm, and strong,

When we choose to trust, our stress, fear and anxiety becomes a distant thought. When we trust Him with everything, we are changed. In the same way, the spring rain and the warm sunshine brings new life. And sometimes the process is a little messy, but what beauty follows! Just like the residents on *Our Father's Farm!*

2018 TRAINING SCHEDULE

- God Encounter Basic Training is all day Friday and Saturday. This is the #1 method we use to facilitate inner healing and an intimate walk with God.
- Advanced Training begins on Monday morning and goes through Friday at 5 pm (orientation is Sunday evening). This training is designed to equip you to become a facilitator of God Encounter sessions. This time includes daily bible classes, receiving and practicing the God Encounter sessions in a small group with a trained facilitator on a daily basis.
- Housing is available onsite for the Advanced Training. We limit the number of attendees. Early registration is wise. For more information or to request an application email: bev@harvesthome.org

TRAINING DATES:

God Encounter (basic): July 6-7
Advanced Training: July 9-13

God Encounter (basic): Sept 7-8
Advanced Training: Sept. 10-14

TESTIMONY: Cathy Tilden: "I so highly recommend this training!! After 30 years as a Christian, this teaching has revolutionized my relationship with God like nothing I have ever learned! I am forever grateful to you and your team, Rhonda, for generously sharing this with all of us!! Continued, abundant blessings to you all!"

THANK YOU, LORD: We are so excited to welcome back 28 volunteers from South Bend Vineyard Church in Indiana! This church sent a group last July who diligently worked on construction of The Refuge plus many other jobs. These men, women and young men worked in the hot sun and on their knees laying tile, putting up doors, trim and so much more! What was most amazing to our staff and residents was how they joyfully poured their lives out for the Lord and for us. It truly was a testimony of the love of God and a highlight in our year. We thank God for sending them to us again—we're not sure how we came to be so highly favored, but grateful none the less.

If you are interested in joining in the fun and work, call **Danny at 816-522-9011** for more information. This year we will be re-roofing one of our ministry houses, plus finishing the tile in the Refuge kitchen and building an outdoor baptismal and garden area. We'd love to have you join us!

RHONDA'S NEWEST BOOK FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN

THE KING'S GARDEN

The King's Garden is an allegory about a rose desperately trying to live between two boulders. After much hardship and pain, she cries out for help. She is soon rescued by a kind Gardner who brings her into His garden paradise. It is there she discovers He is so much more than just an ordinary Gardner. Under His watchful care, she faces her fears and learns to trust the One who is Faithful and True. The King's Garden is a story of hope and trust and love. It is my story and it may even be yours. *Money back guarantee if you aren't 100% satisfied.*

CALL 816-522-9011 OR ORDER ONLINE AT: www.harvesthome.org

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