

# The B.A.C. Page



September/October 2011

## Help in Times of Trouble

By Carolyn Collins

According to one of our pastor's messages you are: in trouble; just getting out; or headed for trouble. Thoughts are: how did I get here and what can I do? Troubles are like quicksand: the greater the struggle, the deeper one gets. Help must come from beyond self.

I am reminded my help comes from the Lord and His Word. The Beauty and Truth of Jesus and His Word are amazing.

Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled, but to believe in Him as we believe in God (John 14:1). In John 16:33, Jesus says, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world; ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Psalm 23, written hundreds of years before Jesus was born into the world He created, is a depiction of the promises Jesus makes to us.

We must make the same bold declaration of faith in Jesus, the bedrock of truth and grace. "The Lord is my shepherd." And rest with verse six, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

In verses two through five, the psalmist recounts how Jesus provides for his needs. I find they are my needs also.

Physical needs (Matt. 6:25-34)

*I shall not want (Psa. 1b).*

He makes me lie down in green pastures. (v2)

He leads me beside the still waters. (v2b)

Jesus tells us not to worry about life, food, drink, or clothing because our heavenly Father knows we need these things. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added (Matt.6:25-34).

Spiritual needs (John1:1-14).

*I trust in the Savior for direction.*

He restores my soul (v3).

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Life Living needs

*I follow a Companion/Shepherd who has authority.*

His presence calms fears in the shadow of danger and death (v4 & Matt. 8:26).

His rod and His staff comfort. I am told shepherds use the rod for correction and the staff for rescue or protection.

Other needs (perhaps growth, healing, triumph, and/or validation)

*I feast at the table and rejoice.*

He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies (Psa. 23v.5. Jesus states that man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matt.4:4). He is the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

He anoints my head with oil (v5).

My cup runs over.

*Lord, you give us your Word to hold. May we study, understand, obey, and rejoice as our faith grows.—Carolyn Collins* 🌿

## Big Changes in the Media Center

Our teachers here at Bloomingdale Alliance Church have been a committed and hard working bunch throughout the years. They have studied and taught us and our families without complaint and have always given their best to the families who come through the doors each week. After many years, they finally now have a room to call their very own, the new Teachers Resource Center located just off the Media Center.



In years past teachers have had to look for resources that were located in three different areas of the church, and also wait for someone to come and unlock doors for them. Thanks to the hard work of the Children's Ministry Committee, whose members are Amy Mascunana, Kendra Collins, Carol Koffroth, Patrice Russell, Denise Boyles, Kevin Mascunana, and Sharon Govero, there now is one place with every resource we offer our teachers. Some teachers were pleasantly surprised by what was already available. Everyone has been excited about this new change, especially our Media Center Director, Patrice Russell.



So the next time you walk by the windows of our new Teachers Resource Center and see a teacher copying work or gathering resources, give them a big smile and wave to them. I just know they will smile and wave back.



# God's Creative Creations

We've all heard the question, at least in variations. If God took one of Adam's ribs, then women must have an extra rib, right? Or If God took one of Adam's ribs then men must have one less rib than women, right? It's these kinds of question that has stumped Christians for years, as seekers want answers to difficult questions.

**DID YOU KNOW** That your ribs are able to grow back if the bone is removed?

## The Regenerating Ribs

Although all bones can repair themselves, ribs can regenerate themselves.<sup>1</sup> Ribs are commonly removed during surgeries that require bone grafts in other parts of the body. The rib is removed from the periosteum (a tissue surrounding the bone) much like a banana would be removed from its peel while keeping most of the peel intact. The periosteum must remain, as it contains osteoblasts which build the new rib bone.



**So Adam didn't have to live his life without a missing rib! Just one of the facts the kids are learning in Sunday school this year.**

**To Read the full article by Dr. Georgia Purdom, AiG–U.S.**

**that was written February 4, 2009 go to:**

[http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v4/n1/amazing-regenerating-rib#fnList\\_1\\_2](http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v4/n1/amazing-regenerating-rib#fnList_1_2)

1. Keith L. Moore and Arthur F. Dalley, *Clinically Oriented Anatomy*, 4th ed. (Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999), p. 64



**"So Abraham called that place *The LORD Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, '*On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.*'" Genesis 22:14 (NIV)**

Have you ever been in a situation so desperate that it looked hopeless?

Have you ever sat at the kitchen table wondering how you were going to pay the electric bill? Have you ever stood at a door that's been slammed in your face by an angry teenager and despaired at having a relationship with him again? Have you ever had your heart broken so deeply that you wondered if you would feel whole again?

Sadly, we live in a broken world where desperate situations happen every day. I know someone reading this devotion is wondering how she will make it through the day because her situation looks hopeless. If that is you, I encourage you to keep reading. I believe God has a message of hope for you today.

# A Ram is on the Way

By [Glynnis Whitwer](#)

That message is found in the Bible, in the story of a man who was dealing with his own desperate situation. His name was Abraham and he faced the greatest testing of his life. After longing for a son for many years, God finally gave Abraham a boy, whom he named Isaac. Abraham never imagined God would test his faith by asking him to sacrifice his son. But it happened.

It had to have been the darkest day of Abraham's life as he trudged up the mountain, with firewood strapped to his son's back. Every step took Abraham closer to what he believed to be the sad ending of a hopeless situation—the death of his son. Yet in spite of his sorrow, Abraham trusted God. His heart wasn't soaring with joy. He wasn't dancing up the mountain. But he put one foot in front of the other. Walking through the darkness of the situation; obeying His God's commands.

Unbeknownst to Abraham, something else was walking up that mountain. Quietly. Out of sight. On the other side of the mountain. Something else was putting one foot in front of the other. Only Abraham couldn't see it.

For every step Abraham took, a ram on the other side of the mountain took a step.

All Abraham saw that day was his solitary journey of pain. As he got closer to the top of the mountain, his dread must have increased. I wonder if he asked himself any questions. I would have. I would have wondered why hadn't God intervened? Why hadn't God stopped this testing? Couldn't God see that Abraham was a man of faith? Why test him in *this* way?

But there was no answer. There was no voice from heaven. And so Abraham kept obeying his God's command. He put Isaac on an altar and prepared to sacrifice his one and only son.

And just at that very moment, at the very last second, when it looked like the end had come, God spoke, stopping the sacrifice. Abraham looked up and there caught in the thicket was a ram. Abraham took his son off the altar, replaced him with the ram, and offered the sacrifice to God.

Abraham named that place "Yahweh-Yireh" or "The Lord Will Provide." And the story was written down for generations of God-followers to read. It was written so that you and I today would read it as we face our own hopeless situations. It was captured in print so that you and I would know that God is already planning for our provision. We don't see it. We don't hear it. But we can trust that our God is at work. On your behalf, and on mine.

I choose to trust God today. A ram is on the way.

## Application Steps:

Read Psalm 91. List the promises God has for those who love Him.

## Reflections:

God's timing is not our timing. What are some reasons God might wait to answer our prayers?

Read the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22. What are some of the things Abraham did right that I can apply to my situation?

## Power Verses:

Psalm 91:14, "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name." (NIV)

Psalm 22:5, "They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed." (NIV)

## **What's Happening at Bloomingdale Alliance in September and October?**

- ❖ *Kids Church Resumes meeting on Sunday nights at 6:30 pm. This quarter we'll be looking at how to be a good worker for the Lord.*
  - ❖ *The Evangelism Team—O.A.C. will be at Reynolds Square in Savannah on Saturday, September 3rd at 8pm*
  - ❖ *The BAC Youth will be meeting pool side at the home of Willie and Cindy Koffroth on Sunday September 4th from 6pm—8pm*
  - ❖ *The Alliance Men will be having their BAMB meeting on Thursday September 8th at 6:30 pm and October 13th at 6:30 pm. Come on out and support your men's group.*
  - ❖ *The BAC Youth will be traveling to Orlando September 10th and 11th for "Night of Joy" Concert. Amy Mascunana and Willie and Cindy Koffroth are heading up the group.*
  - ❖ *Sunday Nights beginning September 11th will be offering two Small group studies. One is called "The Foundations" by Ken Ham. This is a DVD video Discussion study led by Richard Collins at 6:30 pm.*
- The other is Financial Peace University led by Joe Alford at 6:00 pm. To purchase your kit for \$99, see Pastor Ken Otto.*
- ❖ *Our Christian and Missionary Alliance District Conference will be held September 12th—15th . The focus theme this year is Equip 2011.*
  - ❖ *The Evangelism Team Seed Sowers will be at Memorial Hospital at 2:30 pm Sunday, September 25th*
  - ❖ *Don't Forget BAC Youth Girls, you will be helping with Dinner on Wednesday September 21st. Be at the church at 5pm.*
  - ❖ *There will be a DMMCMC meeting on Monday, October 3rd at 7pm*
  - ❖ *The BAC Youth will be having their second annual BBQ Fundraiser for Lunch and Dinner on Friday October 14th and Saturday October 15th*
  - ❖ *The BAC Teachers will be having their Annual Teachers Workshops this year at New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA. Dick Crider and his family from DiscipleLand Publishers will be the Featured Guest Speaker for the children's teachers. The Adult Teachers will be going through a Walk Thru The Bible Ministries October 28th and 29th.*



## [Bringing the Light Invites a Fight](#)

August 15, 2011

*The following is compiled from adapted excerpts of reports written by Kevin Oberg and Andrew Schaeffer, Alliance field workers who recently accompanied a short-term outreach team to Kenedougou, Burkina Faso's westernmost province.*



A youth group from the Moses Lake (Washington) C&MA Church has adopted the village of Samorogouan. For several years they've invested in this village through prayer, giving, and sending two short-term teams to minister.

During the group's recent trip to Burkina, one of the activities on their itinerary was to visit the chief of the village of Djiguan, which is next to Samorogouan. We—Kevin, Toby Hull (another Alliance worker), Andrew and his sons, and Abigail, an intern—accompanied them.

Upon arriving in Djiguan we were treated to a royal welcome—benches and chairs had been set out for all 28 people! (We learned that the chief had encouraged all villagers who weren't in their fields to attend the meeting.) After the customary greetings began, the Moses Lake youth presented the chief with gifts—a shirt, a soccer ball, and a flashlight.

### **“We Were Living in the Dark”**

We were absolutely amazed at his response. He thanked the team and then proceeded to tell us that the flashlight was a very appropriate gift.

“It's as if we were living in a dark hut without any windows when, suddenly, someone opened the door and let the light shine in,” the chief explained. He was referring to several months earlier when an evangelistic team of Alliance workers and pastors had spent a couple of nights in Djiguan. They had shown the *Jesus* film and announced the good news about His substitutionary death on the cross for our sins.

### **“Settle Here and Teach Us”**

“This light helps us to see,” the chief continued. “We want it to remain in our village; so we offer you land in our village so you can settle here and teach us.”

After the meeting, we followed the village elders to a large property next to the main road and across the street from a little market—an ideal spot for a church and pastor's house. As we began touring the land together, one of the Moses Lake team members, Nate, suddenly bent over with sharp abdominal pains.

Concerned that he might be suffering an attack of appendicitis, Andrew agreed to take Nate back to Ouagadougou (the country's capital) for a medical consult to rule it out. We praise God that the illness wasn't serious!

So what caused this excruciating pain? We can't help but wonder if it wasn't the enemy doing everything in his power to resist the entry of the Light of the World into Djiguan. Much collaborative work is taking place to push back the darkness in Djiguan and throughout the Kenedougou province. But the enemy yields his ground so reluctantly.

### **More Challenges**

Many on the Moses Lake team shared that they were sensing God's leading into ministry. Yet there were many setbacks on the trip—lost luggage at the beginning, the scary moment when Nate became ill, and then a delayed flight that caused the team to miss their flights in Paris and London and arrive home about 48 hours after they were supposed to.

Was this more work of the enemy, trying to discourage them? Our prayer is that through these trials, each team member has become stronger in his or her faith and drawn closer to God.

As we advance into the enemy's camp, we are wielding the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Yet we are also desperate for your prayers for protection as we preach the good news and claim imprisoned souls for Christ's Kingdom.

### **What You Can Do**

Pray for safe travel, good health, and fruitful ministries for the many short-term teams visiting Burkina Faso this summer and other sites worldwide.

[Give to Alliance Great Commission Ministries online.](#) In doing so, you partner with Alliance workers like Andrew and Kevin, who are bringing the light of Christ to those whose communities have dwelled in darkness for centuries.

### **Learn More**

Check out exciting, [short-term missions opportunities](#) through The Alliance.

Read how many Burkinabe are being wooed to Christ through [the witness of joy-filled believers.](#)

# Generation to Generation

RAISING CHILDREN OF FAITH

September 2011

## ***Grandparents – embrace your opportunity and responsibility to extend your heritage!***

God bless grandparents who are just exactly that... grand parents. Some look at that stage of their lives as the time to get away from kids. "I raised mine, now you raise yours." If the empty nest means we are supposed to abandon the lives of our children and their children and only offer a small, paltry, insignificant amount of time with them, then maybe we should be called "grandpittance" and not "grandparents." Many grandparents, full of love for their children and their children's children, recognize the great opportunity to teach and inculcate values by passing them on to their third generation.

When things were tense or a trifle boring at our house, our kids took off to Grandma's. They were pampered. They weren't pressed to perform household tasks. She filled up their bellies. They napped. Yet our values were enhanced and lived out through their lives. Perhaps taught more subtly there, yet taught indeed. Grandma Ledbetter was hammering home the heritage she had already given me.

The "grand" in front of the title of parent simply means a parent higher in rank. Parent is a word that means to produce and maintain. Being a grandparent means one who has been promoted in rank, given more entitled authority to maintain what has been produced.

Grandparents, your influence can give a heritage beyond even your immediate family. If you have no grandchildren around, adopt some! Look for couples who are lost and befuddled in their job of parenting. Look for children of single parents. Look for kids unintentionally abandoned by over worked, over extended parents and offer that extended heritage. Plan some family moments with them. Their mom and dad may be more occupied with their occupation than inculcation of their true values. What a great opportunity for you to make a compelling impression.

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The "grand" in front of the title of parent simply means a parent higher in rank.

## Make It Real | *Tame the Tongue*

**Point:** Our tongue is powerful and should be used to glorify God in ALL that we say.

**Supplies:** You will need a candle, squirt gun and a Bible.

**Activity:** Light a candle and set it on a table that can get wet –best outside. Then, have each child take a turn standing back several feet to extinguish the candle with the squirt gun.

**Ask:** Was it easy to put out the candle?

**Ask:** How is this like trying to hold back your words when you are mad or frustrated or being pulled into gossip conversations about others? (It is hard, as we have a choice on how we respond to different situations with our words.)

**Read:** James 3:1-12

**Ask:** What does James tell us about how the tongue is like a fire? (It can get out of control and do damage.)

**Point:** What you say and don't say is important. Once the words are out of our mouth, we can not get them back. Satan uses our words to divide and pit people against each other. We do not want our words to get out of control and "burn" people like a fire can. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can control our words and use them to encourage and build up one another. Remember: Use your tongue as you should - for God's glory and good!

Taken from: Family Night Tool Chest, Simple Science Copyright 2009 by Heritage Builders. Get this book at [www.heritagebuilders.com](http://www.heritagebuilders.com)

## Kidology Corner | *Family Devotions for Mealtime*

Here is a Family Meal Devotion from Kidology.org. Find more in the Family Devos Zone!

**1 - Let's Play:** You'll need a blindfold for this game! Take turns blindfolding each member of the family while everyone else in the family stands somewhere in the kitchen. The blindfolded person calls out "Good" and everyone else must answer "ness" so that the blind person can try to find them! Once tagged the family members return to their seat. The last person tagged gets to be the next person blindfolded. Give everyone a chance to play.

**2 - Let's Talk:** How does it feel to be blindfolded? Have you ever been lost in the dark?

**3 - Let's Read:**  
Ephesians 5:8-9  
*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.)*

**4 - Let's Think:** The Bible compares being lost without God to being in spiritual darkness. You have to grope around to find your way in life. Too many people spend their whole lives feeling around for meaning responding to different voices but never really seeing clearly how to live their life. But when you "live in the light" there is nothing to make you stumble. (1 John 2:10) God shines the light of His truth on your life and you are able to do what is good and right!

**5 - Let's Do:** Make a list of the good things that God has blessed your family with and take a few minutes in prayer to thank God for His blessings.

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