



New Directions

A Ministry Update from Marlene VandenBos

Winter
2011-2012

For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end. Psalm 48:14

Blessings

We have had an unusually mild Fall here in eastern PA, so it is hard for me to believe Christmas is only two weeks away as I begin this letter. But, I'm listening to Christmas music in the background and for the first time since Bert died, I have put up some decorations. I felt like doing it last year, but I just ran out of time. With this year's warmer temperatures, it was more pleasant to go up to the attic and bring down all the boxes. So... "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"

I hope all is well with you and yours...that you are finding joy, no matter what your circumstances. As I minister to people with intellectual and physical disabilities, mental health issues, chronic pain, and those experiencing grief, I am reminded that life is often difficult and sometimes overwhelming. I, too, struggle at times with loneliness and life's many challenges. Within myself, I have no solutions, no easy answers. That is why I continue to need the TRUTH of God's Word to light my way, to direct my path. And that is why I continue to point others in that same direction. As I teach at Inglis House and Woods Services (residential facilities for those with physical and/or intellectual disabilities) and as I mentor young women with various special needs, all I have to offer them comes from the Word of God. The love I have for these friends comes first from God's love to me, which has transformed my life.

A powerful way that God often speaks to me is through music. This summer I was introduced to the music of Laura Story as we sang some of her songs at camp. My "current" all-time favorite song of hers is called "Blessings". It plays often on my Christian cable channel and as many times as I've heard it, I always want to stop what I'm doing to reflect on the power of the words. As I include some of the words, I hope that this song will encourage you and challenge you, as it has done for me. And maybe you will want to go to youtube to listen to all of it and/or download it from iTunes.

Thank You

Without your prayers and financial support, I literally could not do what I do! It is a privilege to serve with H*VMI, using the gifts and strengths that God has given me. My monthly paycheck COMPLETELY DEPENDS upon the gifts that come in from you each month. Due to deaths, limited incomes and the current economy, my support has been gradually declining over the last two years. Perhaps God could use you to help with this need on a regular basis or with an end-of-the-year gift. Please note the enclosed envelope...or, check out other options for giving (via credit card, etc.) by going to the H*VMI website at www.hvmi.org. You can click on Make A Donation or Our Missionaries (and then click on my name) for further details. All gifts are tax deductible! THANK YOU so much for whatever you can do!!

Blessings

by Laura Story

We pray for blessings

We pray for peace

Comfort for family, protection while we sleep

We pray for healing, for prosperity

We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

All the while, You hear each spoken need

Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops

What if Your healing comes through tears

What if a thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us

When darkness seems to win

We know that pain reminds this heart

That this is not, this is not our home

It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops

What if Your healing comes through tears

And what if a thousand sleepless nights

Are what it takes to know You're near

What if my greatest disappointments

Or the aching of this life

Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy

And what if trials of this life

The rain, the storms, the hardest nights

Are Your mercies in disguise



Leonard Hage Turns 100!!!

On September 29th my Dad celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends. We enjoyed being together as a family for a whole week, listening to stories from my Dad's great store-house of amazing memories. Some of the stories we had not heard before!!! It was also fun to spend time with my sister and her family, visiting a few of the Grand Rapids, MI sights.



Ministry

God graciously gave us another successful summer at camp, along with a good year of teaching Bible classes in various residential facilities. It's always our prayer that those that hear the Good News will be impacted by the message in the days to come.



Friends

This past year I have been blessed once again with the gift of special friends. I am SO thankful for each one of you!



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