

TLM Ministries

Newsletter of Terri McFarland

September 2008

Are You Ready?

During my basketball days, summer was the off season. Even though we didn't have scheduled competition we worked hard. In fact, when you talk to the best players they'll tell you off season is when the greatest gains are made. Many athletes will train with **extra** weight during this time. It's certainly not easy or comfortable—but oh how necessary in order to be prepared for the challenges ahead.

The Lord lovingly uses uncomfortable situations to change my perspective. This summer I helped facilitate a Bible Study trip with a pastor friend of mine to Jordan and Israel. It was a different role for me, but none the less impactful. One of our group learning experiences was to not tell our plans for the day in order to teach people to trust and follow even when they don't know what's happening next.

For certain personalities this is definitely not a comfortable scenario. One by one people would approach me hoping I'd give them a clue as to what was on the agenda. I encountered questions like, "Are we climbing *that* mountain?" "Just how wet are we going to get?" "Do I need my sunglasses?" or "Is this hike going to be short enough I could leave my pack?" At times they even looked for a hint of affirmation, "Since we've already gone to Seppori and Mt. Carmel, today must be Caesarea..."

I'm very inquisitive and could understand their angst. So I started to wonder why do we always want to know so much? Why is it necessary to know; When will the meeting end? Will I still have a job? How high will gas prices go? Why did they say that? or Who will be the next president? The Lord gently spoke to my spirit...**we want to be comfortable.**

There is a distain, anxiety and a fear of the unknown which can be very unsettling. Couple that with the natural human tendency to do, bring, or give only what is absolutely necessary and the questions come fast and plentiful.

This is not unlike the teenagers I teach. Students ask, "What's the lowest grade I can have for an A-?" "Do you round up?" "What is the last day to turn in the paper?" Just tell me what's the least amount of effort necessary to get the job done and I'm there. It's like the five bridesmaids who thought they had enough oil to last the night...but they didn't bring enough. (Matthew 25)

Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

II Timothy 4:2

Be prepared to bring it all! I suppose the coach and teacher in me believes a little extra preparation doesn't hurt. So as our trip in Israel progressed I began to bring more stuff in my pack, and every day something was needed. Water, propel, snacks, Band-Aids, ibuprofen, a bandana, and even my flashlight were given away simply because I brought what I had and gave up trying to figure things out. It was no longer all about my comfort—it was about trust—it was about faith.

What Jesus experienced in the garden could have been, *Lord, I'm pretty uncomfortable with the idea of going through this crucifixion but it isn't about my comfort it's about what You want—it's about others. I'm choosing to bring everything to the table.*

May we continue to learn to trust God when we don't know where He's going, how hard it will be, or when it will end. Let's choose to be ready in season and out of season.




Prayer Requests:


- A more sensitive and compassionate spirit
- Preparation for our upcoming Women's Conferences
- For open hearts at our ministry events

Praises:

- Safety during our summer travels
- For the eternal impact made in many lives
- Continued ministry opportunities

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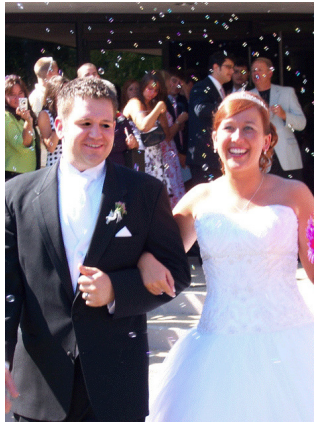


September 2008

Summer Pic's



With former students **Danelle Koetje & Alysse Perez** at Qumran overlooking the Dead Sea



My nephew and new wife
Jim & Lisa McFarland



Visiting with **Luke Miller** in England

Olympic Dreams

Ever wonder what it would take to be an Olympian? It's the dream of many young athletes and after watching the amazing comeback of 41 year old Dara Torres in the swimming venue, there are undoubtedly a number of middle age warriors who are dreaming again.

I really enjoy the Olympics! Every few years we watch the competition yield such amazing accomplishments that we are again filled with hope. You start to believe what was thought to be impossible may not be out of reach. After watching the first day of events I was so inspired I went out and ran 3 miles. :-) But to compete at that level...*what does it really take?*

Olympians embody perseverance, passion, commitment, desire and discipline. But probably none is more important than dedication—the ability to commit wholly and totally to a purpose especially when it's hard, when we're tired, and when no one else is watching.

It's easy to say "**I can't!**" Maybe what we really mean is "**I won't.**" *I won't* make the effort necessary to get out of debt, *I won't* take the time to see a marriage counselor, *I won't* give up

certain foods, *I won't* study for the test...and the list goes on.

Dedication requires the willingness to follow a plan. If you're fortunate you may know a great pastor, mentor or coach, but you must still choose to follow. The God-sized hole in our hearts makes us long to follow someone. Yet, once we decide who to follow—can anyone tell?

In **Mark 2**, four guys took their paralyzed friend up on a roof and started digging to get him to Jesus. Bringing their friend into His presence was that important. The Bible says, when Jesus SAW their faith, He forgave the young man's sins and healed him.

In **Matthew 9**, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years touched the hem of Jesus' garment and Jesus turning and SEEING her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well."

Does God see your faith through your actions as well as in your heart? As we give Him an effort He can bless, He will work along side us to fulfill His dream for our lives.

*It's how you
treat your
ordinary days
that determines
your big
moments.*

Ann Keimel Anderson



More Pic's



Photo by Robert Barclay

CMU Softball Alumni with our Coach **Margo Jonker** at her stadium dedication



Photo by Robert Barclay

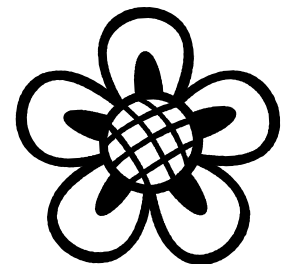
National Anthem at the CMU game

Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit for both today and forever.

I Timothy 4:7&8 MSG

Upcoming Itinerary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
August 4-8	FCA Basketball Camp <i>Muskegon, MI</i>	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
August 21	WTLJ 54 Recording Session <i>Allendale, MI</i>	10:00 am
September 12-14	MBCW Women's Retreat <i>Cadillac, MI</i>	All Day
October 24-25	TCOM Autumn Alive Retreat <i>Elkton, MI</i>	All Day
November 2	Holland Heights Worship <i>Holland, MI</i>	10:00 am
December 6	Special Olympics Fundraiser <i>Holland Heights CRC</i>	7:00 pm
December 21	Sentinel Pointe Worship <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	10:45 am



Go to www.tlministries.com for an updated schedule of events



TLM Ministries

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Ministry Update—Women's Events



This year Ken Wadley and I have been honored to participate in a number of women's conferences ranging from Christmas teas to three day retreats. Ken's talents as a keyboard player and vocal accompanist add a wonderful richness to these events. We continue to schedule for 2008 and 2009 and covet your prayers.



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