

Grateful for our hope in Christ

November 2021

s Thanksgiving and Christmas Day approaches the thoughts of being thankful could be darkened by uncertainty. Especially as we continue dealing with the pandemic and its fallout. All of the uncertainties are having their physical, emotional, financial, social and even spiritual impact on us. It is in times like these when so many feel weak and vulnerable, that our many layers of coping are being tried and are found lacking, so we are being forced to seek out help.

Being diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney and Liver disease approximately 15 years prior, I had learned to cope with, or so I thought, many of the fears and physical issues that come with the disease. But then one morning I woke up with severe pain; every time I took a breath I thought I was going to pass out. The diagnosis came back: a ruptured liver cyst. Treatment was take pain medication and wait for the blood to be absorbed. Easy-peasy day one, then night came and as soon as I began to lay down the pain intensified. There was no way I could lay down.

I had to hold it together. I had things to do, business to run, family to take care of. But I was weak and scared and there was nothing anyone could do. At week 10, I was at the end of my rope. I had been crying out to God seeking relief yet, it felt like my prayers were not getting through. I headed

to pick up my morning coffee, which was part of my coping strategy and as I went to get into my car, I momentarily looked up at the sun and for a brief moment I could not see. I slid into the car and immediately I was reminded of God's promise "I will never leave you or forsake you".

My next thought was "but where are You now?" And, in that same moment the thought came "just like your physical eyes are blinded by the power of the sun, that doesn't negate the sun's presence. So it is when you can't see or feel Me". It was another two weeks until I could climb into my bed, but ever since then I have encouraged myself with the FACT that God is with me even when I can't see or feel evidence of His

presence. If this holiday season you find it difficult to count your blessings, here's one: God says, "He will never leave you or forsake you". And if you feel blinded by your situation, call and come talk with one of our Biblical counselors and let them walk with you until you can see again.



Marie Bishop, RN & Biblical Life Coach

In Christian love.

Lanie

Prayer from our Jounder Donna Lee Robart

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Our God and Heavenly Father, hear our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. For You are the fairest, yet greatest Creator and King of all the world. Our hearts admire, adore, and love You. Our frail vessels are full of peace and joy during this time of year when we

remember Your faithfulness to us, Your children. You created us in Your image.

We bless You for the soul You have created, for adorning it and sanctifying it, for the body You have given to us, for persevering its strength and vigor, for providing senses to enjoy delights, for Your royal bounty providing for our daily needs.

Thank You for our relatives and friends, for the ability to serve others, for a heart that feels sorrows and necessities, for a mind to care for other people, for opportunities of spreading happiness around, for loved ones in the joys of heaven.

Taken partly from the Valley of Vision Book



Congratulations! A big shout out goes to Maria for completing the two-year discipleship program. "I'm amazed by the people He has placed in my life because through them I have witnessed Christ; being comforted, encouraged, and taught. I'm honored to not only graduate the program but also work with the Resale Shop and the development department, seeing another side of the ministry. Thank you to all who have invested in my healing and growth." -Maria



Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors!



LEVCO



Thank you to Bicycle Sport for donating this great bike for our residents, giving them a fun and safe means of transportation around the city.



