

*Waldo Avenue*  
*Restoration Branch*

February, 2026 Vol 10 #02



## **No Women's Meeting in January**

Next Women's meeting should be February 14th barring any bad weather.

## **Zion's Ridge**

Zion's Ridge is the only Restoration campgrounds in Jackson county and a lot closer than Odessa. The grounds are beautifully lined with trees giving a feeling of being back to nature, it's hard to think it's so close to the city. Upcoming reunion will be Sunday, May 31st. through Saturday, June 6th. The kitchen building will be raised by then giving ability for inside activities. #

## **Pantry / Storehouse**

Donations needed: canned and non-perishable food items. See flyer on foyer desk for more information and thank you for helping this branch effort.#

## **On Being One**

Ray Zinser in his book, The Word of Christ pgs. 28-29, says: *The fullness of truth can be discovered only by keeping all the commandments of God or His Celestial Laws which means the acting out of truth...* Then he quotes Genesis 9:22-23: *"And this is mine everlasting covenant, that **when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward**, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end comes. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father, Enoch."* Then Zinser says; *When there are a sufficient number of people on the earth that will embrace the truth and look upward (totally committing to God and His purposes), then will the concourses of angels and the city of Zion celebrate in great joy and thanksgiving and the earth will tremble with joy because this is the signal for the city of Enoch to return.#*

***The important thing is not being afraid to take a chance. Remember, the greatest failure is to not try. Once you find something you love to do, be the best at doing it.***

## Tamela's Testimony

*The following is a continuation of her testimony from the January newsletter.*

When I started writing the next part of our story. I asked Steve what I should or should not share. His response was *Tell it all*. I said, *even the bad parts about you?*, He said *Yes*. God is the author of our story. He is the one who will be exalted and glorified and if our story can help others through their suffering then we should be faithful and share it.

### **Our Epic Faith Journey 2018**

Have you ever had a rug pulled out from underneath you? It can literally take your breath away -- leaving you stunned and gasping for your next breath. On January 26, 2018 life as we knew it changed in a moments time and left us breathless as we gasped for our next breath.

I was in Indiana visiting my parents and helping my Mom care for my Dad who had just had several strokes. I had been there for six days and was packing my clothes to go home to Missouri.

It was 9 a.m. when my phone rang, it was Steve. He was silent for a moment then in a calm voice said: *Tamela, it's going to be okay but as of today I no longer have a job*. This was such a shock because weeks before he had just been honored for serving 27 & 1/2 years at the University. He had a law degree and an MBA from there and had worked his way up the ladder. He had a very secure job as the Associate Vice Chancellor. He was respected and loved by everyone he worked for and everyone who worked for him.

My first question was *why?*

He said: *No reason was given, just have your things out by 5 today*. There was no 2 weeks pay, no 2 weeks notice and no severance given. H.R. didn't even know he was being let go. It just happened. None of this made any sense to us but obviously it made sense to God.

I sat down on the floor with my face in my hands. No tears just shocked. I suddenly recalled the events of earlier that morning. I woke up at 5 a.m. with the words *Great is Thy faithfulness* going over and over in my head. I thought God put it on my mind because He wanted me to share it with someone who needed to hear it. So I posted it on Facebook and prayed that Father would use it to comfort anyone who needed it. I posted Lamentation 3:22-23 as well. The Lord's loving kindness, indeed, never ceases for His compassions never fail; they are *New Every Morning Great is Your Faithfulness!*

With my face buried in my hands and tears rolling down my face, I realized those words at 5 a.m. were intended for me. God so graciously met me before the sun rose to let me know He knew everything we were about to face. I have treasured those words this season of my life. It's a constant reminder that God would not leave my side but walk with me through it all.

The drive home from Indiana to Missouri was long that day. It seemed like I was never going to get home. Halfway through the trip I thought I probably needed to change my mindset because I kept getting angry at the situation. Overall, I am usually a positive, joyful person so I

decided to try and find the positive things in this negative situation. I thought: *Ya know, Steve's a highly intelligent person, he's incredibly smart, he has a law degree, was an associate Vice Chancellor... this is not going to be a problem for him, He will start looking for a Chancellor position or a College President for a bigger University or College. We will be just fine.*

I also thought maybe God knew Steve would never leave his job for a better one because he was comfortable. So maybe just maybe, God closed this door.

What happened next in our story will not be a good reflection on the man I love and cherish, so before I share it let me tell you about Steve.

Soon after we were married, my parents were having trouble again and separated. This was causing a lot of stress for us. I was crying one night and apologizing to Steve for having to deal with the stress of my family...He grabbed my hand and said: *Tamela, when I was a teenager I realized how blessed I was to have such a wonderful family, with parents who loved God and created a wonderful home for me and my siblings. I prayed that someday God would bless me with a wife from a broken home so I could share with her what God had given me.* That's my husband's character.

He's compassionate, caring, understanding, humble, a good listener, honorable, logical and incredibly smart. He's intelligent, great speaker and teacher, man of integrity, provider, a loving devoted Father and Grandpa. He's strong and a leader, adventuresome, emotionally stable, has a great smile, funny sometimes (it's those

Dad Jokes that get me). He loves me unconditionally and most of all he loves God with all his heart, mind, and soul.

If someone were to ask you to list the qualities of your spouse, I am sure you would have an amazing list too... But what if - they stop being all those things? What if a sudden decline in health or a stressful life situation causes them to lose all the attractive aspects that made them who they are?

Would you still love them? Stand beside them? If your reasons for loving your spouse only have to do with their qualities and those qualities slowly disappear, your basis for love is over. The only way love can last a lifetime is when I's unconditional. It now becomes a choice to love them. I didn't know it - but this was about to become my reality and to me it was more traumatic than the job loss.

I love the promise of Isaiah 43:2 "*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, when you pass through the flames will not set you ablaze.*" I needed this promise for what I was about to go through.

About a month after Steve's job loss. He was losing his ambition to move forward and was slipping into depression. He asked me to give Him time to recover, so I graciously did. But time was passing and the bills were piling up. We still had two children in college and my homebased business was not enough to keep us floating. This made the pressure for him to find a job urgent.

I finally got up the courage to talk to him about applying. I said to Steve - *you've*

**MY MOTHER WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF  
GOD'S. THEY HAD ONGOING CONVERSATIONS.**

Della Reese

*had a month to relax, you really need to start looking for a job.* He yelled at me (which is something he never did) and said: *I don't have to work and you can't make me.* (Not his character). I yelled back - *we can't make it if you don't work we'll lose everything we worked so hard for....*he just walked away.

One of Steve's passions in life was to be a provider for his family and to take care of us, not just financially but, emotionally and spiritually and now all of a sudden he didn't care.

As the weeks passed Steve's depression grew, he was sleeping till noon, stopped showering, had no motivation to work or have fun, he just sat in a chair and stared or watched TV (again, not Steve's character). In the meantime, I was carrying all the burdens of our household, paying bills, managing our rental properties, mowing the yard, running my home based business, leading worship at our church, selling our things to make money to get by. Everything became my responsibility and it was exhausting. Life was beginning to break my heart. I was struggling. I sought God every day and faithfully prayed for Steve to *snap-out-of-it*, but nothing changed.

I continued to encourage Steve to look for jobs and occasionally he would go into our office at home and try to work on his cover letter and resume but he wasn't getting anything accomplished. When I

noticed he was struggling at the computer, I asked why and he would say - *I can't think, it's too hard for me to focus, I don't understand what I'm writing, it doesn't make sense to me.*

He asked for my help so together we started writing cover letters and resumes. Most days it was just me writing but by God's grace and strength we did it. Steve got ten interviews in five months for positions as college presidents and chancellor of some big universities all over the U.S. He would make it to the top five candidates in almost all the interviews but never got the job. We started praying specifically that God would close the wrong doors and open the right one.

Those five months were so long and difficult...it was taking all my time and effort to keep Steve moving forward. He started having more bad days than good days. He started having panic attacks daily, his short-term memory was getting bad, he was becoming irrational and not processing information. His motivation to do anything was zero. He had one more job interview and made it to the top two candidates. We thought for sure he would get it but he did not. We were back to square one.

I clearly heard Father's voice that day, say: *Go do something bigger than yourselves.* I just pondered that... (continued next month).

***I used to worry too much, take myself too seriously. I had to learn that perfectionism slows everything down. All it does is keep you motivated by fear.*** Ann Hathaway.

# Are You a Positive Person?

Do you see the roses or just the thorns? Is your glass filled or spilled? Take this quiz and find out.

**1. The *diet* doughnut-okay the 3 you ate for breakfast had enough calories to feed a small horse. You've been eating so healthily lately!**

- A. Who cares? People love you for who you are, not what you weigh.
- B. You'll just put this little slip-up behind you and have a healthy breakfast - like fruit, yogurt and oatmeal, tomorrow.
- C. You should have known! *Doughnut* and *diet* don't belong in the same sentence.
- D. You give up on healthy eating then and there. It's impossible to change your habits anyway.

**2. A massive power surge zapped your computer. CTRL+ALT isn't going to help this time. Your hard drive's fried.**

- A. You pull out the backup disks with a first draft of your proposal. You can rewrite it, no sweat!
- B. After taking (another) deep breath, you call the IT help desk. Let's see what they can do.
- C. You think: I backed up all my files...didn't I?
- D. You rip the thing out of the wall and toss it out the window, barely missing an innocent pedestrian.

**3. You've been assigned to a huge project for an important client, you:**

- A. Are all over it. This is your ticket to the top!
- B. Invite the two brilliant entry-level hires to help you. You want to give the project, and the client, your best effort.
- C. Ask to be put on a different project.

You've heard through the grapevine this client's ultra-demanding.

- D. Draft your letter of resignation. You're not prepared for this kind of responsibility. You're sure you'll bankrupt the company.

**4. You've finally decided to stop staring at the plasma TV in the store and start staring at it from your couch. When the sales-person asks if you want an extended warranty, you say:**

- A. Definitely! If an extra \$300 can give me peace of mind for the next three years, I'm all for it!
- B. Yeah, sure, I'm not thrilled about the expense, but I know stuff happens.
- C. Three years? Do you have a ten-year plan?
- D. What? You're gonna sell me land on the moon next? Just load the TV in the Car!

**5. Your daughter brings home a *D* in English, you:**

- A. Are certain it's a huge mistake, and call her teacher to get the grade changed.
- B. Work out a plan to go over her homework together every night after dinner.
- C. Restrict her TV time and hire a tutor.
- D. Put your savings toward a beach house. Looks like starting that college fund was pointless.

**6. You wake up with a bad headache and a stiff neck, you think:**

- A. I must've slept wrong. No big deal. This will go away on it's own.
- B. A little aspirin and a hot shower should fix me up. Continued.

***If you are not using your smile, you are like a man with a million dollars in the bank and no checkbook.*** Les Giblin

## Positive Person continued

C. Aren't those symptoms of meningitis? I'm going straight to the ER.

D. Where's my will? Time to update it!

### **7. A friend has talked you into seeing a movie that's getting bad reviews but has done well at the box office, you:**

A. Can't wait. Popular opinion is always a lot more valuable than what the press has to say.

B. Buy a jumbo-sized popcorn and try to keep an open mind. You can always see the movie of your choice next week.

C. Don't care. All movies are bound to be mediocre unless they are in another language.

D. Are prepared to hate it, if the critics don't like it, it's not worth my time.

### **8. Your dog went no-no on the new rug. In the time it took you to read this, he did it again.**

A. That's okay. You're sure Oxi-Clean can get it out of a hand-woven silk rug.

B. With a little bit of training he will be alright. You ante up the \$50.00 session.

C. From now on, he lives in the yard. You love your dog, but you know better than to let him in again.

D. He will never improve, off to the pound!

### **9. Your company is being sold. There are rumors of possible layoffs. You:**

A. Put in extra hours and take on more projects. Your bosses will see how valuable you are and keep you on.

B. Keep working hard, but start poking around for another job. It cannot hurt to be prepared.

C. Start taking long lunches. What's the

point in putting your nose to the grindstone if you're just going to get canned?

D. Pack up your office. There's no way they'd keep you and your big salary, not with all the new college grads they hired last year.

## Score Card

**Mostly As:** what, me worry? You put such a blithe spin on every situation, but are those rose-colored glasses clouding your vision? Glossing over issues instead of facing them means trouble in the long run. Real problems do not just go away on their own. Put your upbeat attitude to good use and find solutions.

**Mostly B's:** Healthy optimism. No surprise things usually work out for you. Even if they don't, you definitely know how to make lemonade out of lemons. You deal with problems in an affirmative way. The people in your life probably look upon you as strong, reliable, positive - a blessing to be with.

**Mostly Cs:** Sure, it's smart to be proactive and plan for the bumps down the road, but don't let your slightly pessimistic bent spoil the promise of tomorrow. Things can seem over-whelming at times, but wallowing in stress isn't going to get you anywhere. You can see the bright light at the end of the tunnel, right? Walk toward it! That's the future.

**Mostly Ds:** yeah, as the saying goes: Expect the worst and you won't be disappointed. Did you forget the rest, though: expect the best and you might be surprised. Constantly seeing the dark side of situations takes a toll, not just on you, but also on the people around you. Next time you catch yourself thinking about how things can go wrong, take a deep breath and think about how they can go right. You will be surprised!#