



*Waldo Avenue*  
*Restoration Branch*

April, 2026 Vol 10 #04

**March Women's Meeting** was held at the retreat.

**Zion's Ridge**  
**27th Annual Reunion**  
**May 31- June 6, 2026**  
**Face to Face With God**

Fliers and registration forms are on the foyer desk. Speakers for the reunion are Dayne Cederstrom, Terry LeGrece, Ed Turner, Larry Smith, and Roland Mohler. This is a wonderful reunion, it is only about 30 minutes from Independence. Put this on your calendar as a must attend!

April 5th at 6:30 a.m. will be an Easter Sunrise service held at Zion's Ridge.

Zions Ridge is a centrally located campground which provides opportunities for any group to meet. To keep the grounds functioning to meet the many needs of campers and day trippers alike requires continual cleaning and grounds work. April 18th is our first work day. We will be clearing the grounds and getting cabins ready for use. Your help is greatly appreciated. We will meet at 9 a.m. and finish at noon. Come and enjoy the outdoors, the satisfaction of working with others, and help provide needed ministry to groups using these facilities.#

**Are You Witnessing of Him?**

Wonderful class on witnessing. Check out Living Hope Restoration Branch livestream, March 15th the 9 a.m. worship service. Seventy George Thomas shared techniques and testimonies of witnessing for Jesus. A must see for all of us wishing to be better witnesses.#

**Pantry/Storehouse Update**

We received a donation of hand sanitizer and have purchased 8 oz. Pump bottles to fill when a need arises.

If you have any donations for the Pantry or Storehouse please contact Donna Rodgers.

*Beloved Bags* are available for anyone to take, put in your car and have handy to give to any in need. These are filled with toiletries, a few snack items, and items for basic living. Because the Beloved are on-foot these bags are small and not very heavy. They don't take up much room in your car either.#

***Fight the good fight like you've already won.  
Run the race with your head held high, because  
all of heaven is cheering you on. Keep the faith  
that gave you the strength to make it this far.***

# If You Own Any of These Items, You are Richer Than 90% of the Planet

Most people measure wealth by observing their life and their surroundings. You compare yourself with friends, family and people you see online, that feels natural. But, once you step back and look at the entire world, wealth changes quickly. Things that feel average are rare in other places. What often gets missed are some of the simplest comforts we overlook which are actually signs that we are wealthy on a global level. It shows up in every day ways we often overlook. Owning certain basic items places someone far above global average, even if they do not feel rich.

- Reliable internet access at home
- Leisure spending without guilt every time
- A personal computer or laptop
- Extra clothing beyond immediate need
- Ability to plan beyond the next month
- Access to clean running water
- Personal transportation options
- Ability to afford medical care when needed
- A bank account with some cushion
- Time that is not fully controlled by survival
- Ability to travel for non-essential reasons
- Safe place to sleep every night
- A working refrigerator
- A Smart Phone

- Confidence that a small mistake will not ruin everything
- Access to education beyond basic schooling
- Household appliances that save time and labor
- Access to electricity that works most of the time
- A passport that actually gets used
- The option to say “no” sometimes.

## In Summary

Owning some or many of these items doesn't make someone better, smarter, or more deserving. It simply means they live within systems that provide access to stability. Understanding global inequality can inspire gratitude, empathy and awareness rather than comparison, and these markers exist to shift perspective, not to shame or evaluate.

If you recognize yourself in this list, it does not mean you should feel guilty. It means you have room to notice your position in the wider world. That awareness alone can change how people relate to money, opportunity and others. In the end the most meaningful signs that you are wealthy are not about excess. They are about security, choice, and the ability to look beyond survival.#

***If it looks impossible you have to decide how bad you want it.***



***An umbrella cannot stop the rain, but it allows us to stand in the rain. Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us strength to overcome them.***

## **Tamela's Testimony**

*The following is a continuation from March's newsletter, a talk my friend Tamela gave at a women's conference.*

Life at this point was more than I could handle.

People often say God won't give you more than you can handle. When actually God sometimes will allow you abundantly more than you can handle. So you learn to hand it off to the one who can...which is Him! As long as you think that you have this in your own power, in your own strength, in your own ability, you are alone or a lone ranger, that you can do it on your own. As long as that is your mentality - you will never learn to trust Him, lean upon Him, to depend upon Him more fully.

And maybe the weight of the burden that you feel burdened by right now is indicative that you are carrying around a weight that you were never designed to carry. God is saying right now - *Give it to Me, relinquish control, let Me fight your battles for you.* Instead of your trying to fight them all on your own. No one is stronger than the weakest person who is entirely dependent on God.

I needed God more now than I ever did, I had to be entirely dependent on God or I was not going to make it.

On October 14, 2019 Steve was scheduled to preach at a church in Northern Missouri. The night of Oct. 13th I asked Steve how his sermon was coming along and if he was ready for tomorrow? His response was - *What sermon?* He had forgotten he was preaching so together we worked on his sermon. I got him started and he finished it himself. This was the most progress I had seen in a long time. I was hopeful. By morning it was done and

we headed out. Not gonna lie, I was super nervous for Steve to get up there and preach because the week before we spoke together at a church about our Epic Faith Journey as Missionaries to Haiti. I had written all Steve's notes for him and said just read your notes and you'll do fine.

Halfway through his part of the presentation, he lost his place in the notes and started telling stories about his childhood. I quickly and gently grabbed his hand to quiet him and then finished our presentation. So today, I needed God to show up in a big way because Steve was going to be on his own preaching. I stormed the gates of heaven praying for him and we prayed together for divine intervention from God.

We needed a big miracle and a big miracle is what God did. Steve preached an incredible sermon, it was only possible by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. I had a glimpse of the man I loved and cherish that day and that was a gift from God. It was short lived...the next day he was back to the person I hated. I invited Steve to go on a walk with me, thinking it would help him to exercise a little. He usually said no, but today he said yes. Walking was so hard for him, he could hardly put one foot in front of the other and walked like an 80 year old man. We got to the end of our driveway and there was a pile of heavy rocks that had been there for several months. They were too heavy for me, so I asked Steve if he would help me move them. He kept walking back to the house, so I asked again and he kept walking, I asked again - this time he turned around with angry eyes and said - *I don't have to work, and I don't want to, leave me alone.* He kept walking back to the house.

This may seem like a little thing. Not for me, I could feel my emotions unraveling. I wish I could say I handled that graciously but I did not, my anger took over. My anger was not directed at God, I needed Him, it really wasn't directed at Steve either. It was directed at what I thought were unfair circumstances, I was tired, and struggling to navigate life.

## Tamela's Testimony

Then it happened, my anger exploded. Steve was already back in the house, but I picked up one of those big rocks, the ones I couldn't even move, and I threw it as hard as I could in the direction of Steve and yelled - *I wish the person you have become was dead*, and I fell to my knees and broke down. I cried out to God right there in the driveway, pleading for Him to give me back my husband, to give me and the doctors wisdom to figure out what was wrong with him. I didn't want Steve to die, I wanted whatever was causing him to not be himself to be revealed, I wanted the darkness to flee.

As I sat there I heard that still-small-voice say: *Not yet, not time*. My thought was that its not the answer I wanted, Father. I heard: *Be still and keep listening for My voice*. As I stood up, I looked down at the driveway and saw a little heart shaped rock. I picked it up and kept it to remind me God loved me and in His time He would reveal to me what was wrong with Steve. I just needed to keep listening to His voice. Without His voice I knew I had nothing. Isaiah 40:31 says that those who trust in the Lord shall renew their strength. See, God wants us to know that if we are tired, depleted or exhausted and we cannot find the strength to move forward that as we trust in Him, He will give us strength to take another step. That as we put our confidence in Him He will give you the capacity, the endurance to keep moving forward to keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Because in trusting God we believe for the

best, hope for the best and we have confidence and faith that God will make a way when there appears to be no way. See, when God doesn't take you out of the trial, **you have to have** faith He will see you through the trial. Even when I couldn't see a way out that day in the driveway God reminded me He sees me through - JUST BE STILL!

That next week Steve slipped away even more, the suicidal thoughts, the hallucinations, the voices in his head, the panic attacks were hitting him hard. I would sit in bed next to him for hours praying over him or singing to him to keep him calm. Sometimes he didn't even know who I was. By Friday night he had collapsed while walking and he kept complaining his head hurt so bad he thought he was dying. Well, he always thought he was dying so I didn't take it that seriously. He fell back to sleep. Within minutes woke up screaming and holding his head telling me to make it stop, its going to explode. He finally calmed down, I laid down beside him and told him I wouldn't leave his side and would be here if he needed me. Five minutes later it happened again and this time I heard God's voice say *NOW*, a week ago He said not yet.

I got Steve dressed, grabbed my purse and then had a feeling that we weren't coming home for awhile. So I went and packed bags for both of us and headed to the E.R.

They finally took Steve for a CAT Scan and two hours later three doctors came

***I'm not lucky, I pray over everything.  
Nothing is luck, everything is God.***

## **Tamela's Testimony**

in and said *Mr. Wyatt you have a tumor in your head located in your frontal lobe. Is the size of a large orange.*

You see, sometimes the things that bring us to our knees, cause us to trust God more.

The doctors left the room and Steve looked at me, with blank eyes. I knew he was having trouble processing what they just said so I grabbed his hand, sat down on the bed right next to him and I said: *Babe, God just reached down and hugged us.*

I finally had the answer to where Steve had been all this time. I finally felt like I could breathe again. The madness and darkness Steve had been living in had finally been brought into the light and for that I was forever grateful.

The diagnosis of a brain tumor is not just a medical diagnosis that has to be treated. It actually affects the psyche, the soul of the entire personhood of a human being. The damage the tumor did to Steve's frontal lobe would not end after surgery. The tumor had been there five to 10 years and the damage to the frontal lobe was significant. Sometimes the damage is permanent even after surgery. Steve had a long road ahead.

The E.R. nurse told us we should name the tumor, so we called him Norman. A few days later Norman was extracted after a ten hour surgery. God answered my prayer that day. Norman was dead and Steve was alive. The storms in our life still raged on after Steve's surgery. Its been four years and even though our lives have

been significantly altered His purpose for us remains. He continues to transform renew and restore the broken pieces of our lives. I love these promises from Father God-- (not Inspired Version Ref.)

*And the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. (1 Peter 5:10)*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord. Give ear to my supplications. In your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness...for the enemy has persecuted my soul. He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness...therefor my spirit is overwhelmed within me. My heart within me is distressed. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me...cause me to hear your loving kindness in the morning. For in you do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk for I lift up my soul to You. (Psalms 143:1-8)*

*We are afflicted in every way but not crushed. Perplexed but not driven to despair. Persecuted but not forsaken. Struck down but not destroyed. (2 Cor. 4:9)*

*So we do not lose heart though our outer self is wasting away and our inner self is being renewed day by day. For His light affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory, beyond all comparison as we look not to things that are seen but to things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Cor.4:16-18)*

This is the last of Tamela's talk, not the end of their journey, but their trust in the Lord has led them to new paths. As I hear from her I'll update you.#

***When the time is right, God will make a way.***

The following is one of many poems Marilyn Middleton has written and shared at various times, some at the combined prayer services which has enhanced those meetings. I asked her permission to print some and she's sent me enough for each newsletter this year. I hope you find them as edifying as I have. BDH

## Jesus Died

Marilyn Middleton, May 25, 2024

*Jesus died to save the world  
And so much more, you see.  
His sacrifice paid a ransom for  
you and me.*

*Jesus died  
To set me free.*

*Jesus died  
So I can be.*

*Jesus died  
That I might live.*

*Jesus died  
So I can forgive.*

*Jesus died  
To show me the way*

*Jesus died  
So I don't pay.*

*Jesus died  
To make me whole.*

*Jesus died  
To save my soul.*

*Jesus died  
So I can choose.*

*Jesus died  
So I cannot lose.*

*Jesus died  
That I might know.*

*Jesus died  
God's love to show.*

*Jesus died  
To offer me  
Life with Him, eternally.*

*Jesus died  
That I am redeemed.*

*Jesus died  
And all was made new.*

*Jesus died  
For me and you.*

*Jesus died  
May it not be in vain.*

*Jesus died  
I've so much to gain.*

*Jesus died  
And rose again.*

*Let me understand  
All the magnitude and  
Glory that I cannot see.*

*Jesus died, So let Him live  
in me. All praise, honor,  
and gratitude forever to  
Him be.*

*Each of these poems came as a result of a phrase, sentence or idea given to me by either the Holy Ghost or by hearing what some other person said. Through the process of writing a poem from either source, I believe the Holy Ghost brought things to my memory and helped me convey what God wanted me to share. My desire is that these poems will edify, uplift and encourage all who read them. They are meant to be shared with as many who will receive. It gives me great joy to write these and share them. I praise and thank God for allowing me to express my love for Him in this way. Marilyn Middleton.*