

June Devotion

Psalms 34:18 tells us “*The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.*” What a sweet reminder that God is close to us when we feel like all hope is gone.

- ... When our marriage feels hopeless... *God is with us.*
- ... When the treatment isn't working... *God is near.*
- ... When our child turns his back on faith... *God is there.*
- ... When the burden feels too big... *God is next to us.*
- ... When addiction's voice is too loud... *God is beside us.*
- ... When we feel overwhelmed with what needs to be accomplished... *God is holding our hand.*

No matter what discourages us, making the future feel hopeless.... *the Lord is near.* In our discouragement and despair, God intercedes when we cry out. And even more, He promises to save us.

Are you waiting for a breakthrough, healing, or provision? Do you need doors to be opened or closed? Are you about to give up on a spouse or becoming pregnant? Truth is, we are all hoping for something. So what do we do when having hope seems too hard to do?

1. Reach into the Word

Be careful not to glaze over this suggestion. It's is the kind of advice that can sometimes cause us to roll our eyes because we hear it all the time. *But...* the Bible is alive and active, and somehow always relevant to our situation. There's never been an instance where I've closed the Word of God and thought it was a waste of my time. It's

where He speaks encouragement to us. It's where He reveals His heart for us. It's where we find hope.

2. Reach out to community

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is community. What would we do without our friends? For many, we tend to hide away when life gets tough. Maybe it's just me. Rather than call up a friend, we burrow into our homes and distance ourselves from others. While this may be normal, it's not healthy. Friendship can be just what you need to help you navigate hard times. They hug your neck. Listen to your heart. Pray with you. Encourage you by sharing their experiences. And all these things help keep hope alive.

3. Reach up to God

Our God is a good Father who is willing and able to soothe His children. He is willing and able to bring peace to the chaos. He will meet our every need and restore hope in our heart from those unrelenting disappointments. And all we need to do is ask.

Because He loves us so much, God offers us the gift of His Word... His children... and Himself as powerful weapons to battle the hopelessness that threatens to pull us under.

And when we embrace these tools, our sorrow turns into joy, our sadness into expectation, and our faith encourages another weary soul who is struggling to keep hope alive... to hold on.

Carey Scott

Propel Women

Carey Scott is an author, speaker, and life coach, honest about her walk with the Lord... stumbles, fumbles and all.

Sherry's Book Corner

Hello ladies! A book to warm your heart just in time for Father's Day. And... since Max Lucado is one of my favorite authors I'm pleased to share this book with you. My dad. He was one of my best friends. For those of you who don't know, my dad passed away in 1985 due to lung cancer. Even though he is not here, he still plays a major role in my life today. My love for the outdoors and living a good clean life I inherited from him. Not saying my mom didn't do the same.

My dad and I water skied, ice skated, and washed and waxed our cars together. When I was young, he was the one who took me door to door for Halloween. He attended all my school open houses. And... he spent endless hours at our kitchen table helping me with my math problems. He taught me to do things right. Be honest. And, wherever you are going, be on time!

Also, my dad was a loving grandpa to our sons Kyle and Zach. I am glad he was not alive when Kyle passed away. My dad would have been heart broken. But on a joyful note, they are together in their Heavenly home. And I know they are waiting for me. So ladies, if your dad is still here with you, love him for who he is. Your dad.

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: Dad Time

Savoring the God-Given Moments of Fatherhood

Author: Max Lucado

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

Price: \$12.99

Max Lucado is a pastor, author, and a teacher. These stories are from Max's life with his daughters Jenna, Andrea, and Sara. He also shares scripture and poignant quotes. As Max stated. Moments of comfort come from a parent. As a father, I can tell you they are the sweetest moments in my day.

Photos are woven throughout each chapter. Many quotes are also from other books Max has written. A great gift book idea for a new dad. Being a parent is a wonderful gift. "Don't you see that children are God's best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?" (Psalm 127:3) Before they were ours, they were his. Even as they are ours, they are still his.

-Max on Life

Kids Corner

Hi kids! I thought this would be a fun read this month due to Father's Day! When you think about it, you could treat your dad like Father's Day everyday. When I read through this book I found it to be fun. A reminder of all the things our dads do for us, just for us! My dad and I shared the love of the outdoors together. The many things I enjoy now are due to him and his teachings. Whenever you get the chance, tell your dad how neat he is and he will be pleased.

I even thought this book was fun for you new moms out there to share with your little ones. It is a lift-the-flap book for easy teaching. When our boys were young they loved these kind of books. It made them feel like they were part of the story. The more we learn about each other and how we work together as a family makes us who we are today! As they say... children are a gift, but I say, so are the parents!

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: Daddies Are for Catching Fireflies

By: Harriet Ziefert

Illustrated By: Cynthia Jabar

Publisher: Puffin Books

Price: \$6.99

Ages: 2-6

A bold colorful book all about daddies. Lift the flaps and see all the neat things daddies can do. After you turn the first page you will learn that daddies are terrific!

Songs We Love

- Ruth Warren

Eugene Bartlet was born in Missouri but grew up in Arkansas during the early part of the 20th century. He was saved as a youngster who dearly loved music and singing. He spent his school years in Tennessee and Missouri, then became an itinerant Singing School master, teaching the people how to read music and sing music. While on the road he began writing songs for them to sing at the Singing Conventions of the South. One of the songs "Everybody Will Be Happy Over there" became popular. Another song became a country music hit for Little Jimmy Dickens "Take A Old, Cold Tater And Wait."

Being a businessman, along with his musical ability, he helped established the Hartford Music Company in Hartford, Arkansas. This company became influential in helping the development of Southern Gospel music. He also established the Hartford Music Institute which trained hundreds of teachers and musicians each year. One day a penniless man approached his office and asked him to teach him to write and sing. His name was Albert E. Brumley, who later became the Dean of Southern Gospel Publishing Co. We sing his song "I'll Fly Away" all the time today.

Mr. Bartlet suffered a stroke in 1939 and his traveling days were over, but during his illness he studied the Bible even more and wrote the last of his 800 songs. He had a very difficult time of it because of his condition but it was the culmination of his life's work--"Victory In Jesus".

Victory in Jesus

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory;
How He gave His life on Calvary, to save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sin and won the victory.

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing,
How He made the lame to walk again, and caused the blind to see.
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea,
About the angels singing and the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever,
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood,
He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

A Godly Woman

© By M.S.Lowndes

A woman of beauty
A woman of grace
A woman of excellence
Beholding God's face
She walks with the Lord
With integrity,
Knowing her purpose
And destiny
No matter what happens
She walks in God's love,
Reflecting the beauty,
Of her Father above.

Chocolate is a Vegetable

Other little known Chocolate facts:

- Chocolate is derived from cacao beans. Bean = vegetable. Sugar is derived from either sugar CANE or sugar BEETS. Both are plants, which places them in the vegetable category. Thus, chocolate is a vegetable.
- To go one step further, chocolate candy bars also contain milk, which is dairy product. So candy bars are a health food.
- Chocolate-covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit; so eat as many as you want.
- If you've got melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.
- Problem: How to get 2 pounds of chocolate home from the store in a hot car. The solution: Eat it in the parking lot.
- Diet tip: Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It'll take the edge off your appetite, and you'll eat less.
- If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves. (We're testing this with other snack foods as well.)
- If I eat equal amounts of dark chocolate and white chocolate, is that a balanced diet? Don't they actually counteract each other?
- Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger. Therefore, you need to eat more chocolate.
- Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today. That way, at least you'll get one thing done.

- A nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily intake of calories in one place. Now, isn't that handy?
- If you can't eat all your chocolate, it will keep in the freezer. But if you can't eat all your chocolate, what's wrong with you?
- If not for chocolate, there would be no need for control top pantyhose. An entire garment industry would be devastated. You can't let that happen, can you?

NEWS FLASH: "Stressed" spelled backward is "desserts." So, to reverse being "stressed". . .CHOCOLATE!!!

Author Unknown

Calico Baked Beans

Brown 1 pound ground beef with ½ cup chopped onions

Drain off fat and set aside.

Mix the following ingredients together in an oven safe casserole dish.

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup catsup

1 can butter beans

2 large (28 oz.) cans and 1 small can Bush baked beans

1 tablespoon vinegar

1 tablespoon dry mustard

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon pepper

Mix all ingredients well. Add hamburger and mix all together very well.

Bake in a 300 degree oven for 1 ½ hours.

Submitted by Brenda Angelo

Senior Citizen Discount

"\$5.37." That's what the kid behind the counter at Taco Bell said to me.

I dug into my pocket and pulled out some lint and two dimes and something that used to be a Jolly Rancher. Having already handed the kid a five-spot, I started to head back out to the truck to grab some change when the kid with the Elmo hairdo said the hardest thing anyone has ever said to me. He said, "It's OK. I'll just give you the senior citizen discount."

I turned to see who he was talking to and then heard the sound of change hitting the counter in front of me. "Only \$4.68," he said cheerfully.

I stood there stupefied. I am 56, not even 60 yet. A mere child! Senior citizen?

I took my burrito and walked out to the truck, wondering what was wrong with Elmo. Was he blind? As I sat in the truck, my blood began to boil. Old? Me?

I'll show him, I thought. I opened the door and headed back inside. I strode to the counter, and there he was waiting with a smile.

Before I could say a word, he held up something and jingled it in front of me, like I could be that easily distracted! What am I now? A toddler?

"Dude! Can't get too far without your car keys, eh?"

I stared with utter disdain at the keys. I began to rationalize in my mind.

"Leaving keys behind hardly makes a man elderly! It could happen to anyone!"

I turned and headed back to the truck. I slipped the key into the ignition, but it wouldn't turn. What now? I checked my keys and tried another. Still nothing.

That's when I noticed the purple beads hanging from my rear view mirror. I had no purple beads hanging from my rear view mirror.

Then, a few other objects came into focus. The car seat in the back seat. Happy

Meal toys spread all over the floorboard. A partially eaten doughnut on the dashboard. Faster than you can say ginkgo biloba, I flew out of the alien vehicle.

Moments later I was speeding out of the parking lot, relieved to finally be leaving this nightmarish stop in my life. That is when I felt it, deep in the bowels of my stomach: hunger! My stomach growled and churned, and I reached to grab my burrito, only it was nowhere to be found.

I swung the truck around, gathered my courage, and strode back into the restaurant one final time. There Elmo stood, draped in youth and black nail polish. All I could think was, "What is the world coming to?"

All I could say was, "Did I leave my food and drink in here"? At this point I was ready to ask a Boy Scout to help me back to my vehicle and then go straight home and apply for Social Security benefits.

Elmo had no clue. I walked back out to the truck, and suddenly a young lad came up and tugged on my jeans to get my attention. He was holding up a drink and a bag. His mother explained, "I think you left this in my truck by mistake."

I took the food and drink from the little boy and sheepishly apologized.

She offered these kind words: "It's OK. My grandfather does stuff like this all the time."

All of this is to explain how I got a ticket doing 85 in a 40. Yes, I was racing some punk kid in a Toyota Prius. And no, I told the officer, I'm not too old to be driving this fast.

As I walked in the front door, my wife met me halfway down the hall. I handed her a bag of cold food and a \$300 speeding ticket. I promptly sat in my rocking chair and covered up my legs with a blanket.

The good news was I had successfully found my way home.

Church Humor

Most people don't realize how much editing goes into a church bulletin or newsletter. Some announcements have to be completely rewritten because if they appeared the way they were submitted, it would lead to total confusion. Below are some examples:

1. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
2. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
3. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Martin to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
4. Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet may come forward and do so.
5. A 'Bean Supper' will be held next Sunday evening. Special music will follow.
6. At the evening service tonight, the topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to the choir practice.
7. The United Methodist Women have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church basement this Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.
8. The flower on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Hunter, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Hunter.

Author unknown

Broccoli Chicken Divan

·Prep 20 min

·Cook 20 min

·Ready In 40 min

Recipe By: TERRY C

"A quick and easy chicken and broccoli dish that all will love!"

Ingredients

- 1 pound chopped fresh broccoli
- 1 1/2 cups cubed, cooked chicken meat
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of broccoli soup
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons dried bread crumbs

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C).
2. Place the broccoli in a saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, and cook 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain.
3. Place the cooked broccoli in a 9 inch pie plate. Top with the chicken. In a bowl, mix the soup and milk, and pour over the chicken. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Mix the melted butter with the bread crumbs, and sprinkle over the cheese.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, or until bubbly and lightly brown.

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Kids Understand Love

Since a very long time ago, people have searched for the meaning of love. But even the great philosophers, with their profound definitions, could not fully touch its true essence. In a survey of 4-8 year olds, kids share their views on love. But what do little kids know about love?

Read on and be surprised that despite their young and innocent minds, kids already have a simple but deep grasp of that four-letter word.

1. "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."
2. "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."
3. "Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell at him because you know it would hurt his feelings."
4. "Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK."
5. "Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day."
6. "Love is if you hold hands and sit beside each other in the cafeteria. That means you're in love. Otherwise, you can sit across from each other and be okay."
7. "Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redbird."
8. "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."
9. "When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you."
10. "You can break love, but it won't die."

Sunday Funnies

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"



Gods Left Hand

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

Rules to Live By

My son is a grown man now but a long time ago when he was still in school, there was a period where it was very hard for me to get him to school on time. Shaun had attended Chapel Hill Christian school for preschool through sixth grade. After graduating from sixth grade he started attending the Green Local Middle School, and later Green High School. He found out the high school participated in the OWE (Ohio Work Education) program, so as a freshman he signed up. It was great! The program allowed each student to go to school in the morning but leave at lunch time to work at a qualified job for a half day (about 4 hours). To qualify he had to maintain a good grade point average and be there every day and on time. If he was absent, he was not allowed to go to his job that day and if his grade point average dropped, he would have to stop working outside of school. Shaun thrived in this program. He loved that he only had to attend school a half day and could have a job where he could earn money.

Unfortunately for Shaun, the school rule was that the students could only participate in this program every other year. They wanted the students to get the full benefit of the high school experience while they could. So, starting his second year of high school, he had to go to school all day and not have a job. He was not a happy camper. He didn't care if he went to school at all that year. He missed the bus all the time so had a lot of tardy days and even absences, and he didn't keep his grades up. I had to be at work early and Shaun was old enough to get himself on the bus. I should not have had to worry about him getting to school on time, but it was common for me to get a call from Shaun after I got to work, telling me that he had missed the bus again. He asked the elderly lady next door for a ride to school when I insisted that he go, but he was embarrassed to ask this eighty plus year old lady to take him to school more than a couple of times. His only alternative was to walk. We lived between one and a half and two miles from the school, and with sometimes a false start or two he would eventually make it there. His excuses for not catching the bus or not getting to school on time were legendary around my office. My all-time favorite one was when he called me for the third time that morning to tell me he was back home again, but would be leaving again soon after he cleaned his shoes. Apparently, he had not been paying attention to where he was stepping and accidentally stepped on a dead squirrel in the street and got blood on his shoes. And of course, he could not go to school and sit in class with blood on his shoes all day. Before the end of the school year I had to appear with Shaun before the school board because of his excessive tardiness and absences.

I explained the situation of how Shaun behaved when he could participate in the OWE program and when he could not with the school board. He needed the structure of the program to set the rules and guidelines he needed to perform well. They could see his school history and knew I was telling them truthfully. They chastised Shaun and even me since it was my job as his parent to see that he attended school every day and on time. That awful current school year was no exception to this policy, but they made an exception for Shaun after that. So, for his third and fourth year of high school he could

participate in the OWE program with their blessing. The difference in his attitude toward school attendance changed like night to day and his grades improved, too. And I didn't miss the morning excuse calls from Shaun in the least.

As seen from this experience with my son, I learned that people live better and happier lives when they have rules, boundaries and guidelines to live by. Without these anything goes and then everything does as we can see in the way the world is going today. Some people might say it's not true, that they can function just fine and thrive as a self-made person, but is it really? They might get some personal satisfaction out of their life but not true happiness since it's based on their own selfishness. From the beginning God created man a companion because we were never meant to go it alone, and gave us commandments to live by. Just look at what happened with Adam and Eve when they failed at the one thing he told them not to do. For everyone to live harmoniously and thrive we need the rules, boundaries and guidelines set forth in the bible.

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12, 13) If this simple commandment alone was followed by everyone, think of what the world would be like – no war, no murder, everyone living in peace. If we showed love even to those who are not very lovable, the world would be a much better place. The respect aspect of love alone could make such a wondrous difference. The bible in Exodus chapter 20, gave us the ten commandments – another set of guidelines to help us live better lives. Matthew 5:44 tells us to “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you”. If we followed these guidelines and practiced them faithfully, other people would notice. We could start a trend toward a more peaceful and loving world. The bible is filled with such a treasure of words given us by Jesus and handed down to us through the written word of the bible. Let these be your rules, boundaries set, and guidelines. Use the bible as your own personal guide book!

LeuAnna Taylor

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:9-18

