

AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY

**894 Sheldon Avenue
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March/April 2025**

To: All Friends of Amazing Grace & News From The Heart Readers

FOCUS ON THE LOVING



Waking in the morning I'm starting a new day
If worries come to visit, I let love send them away
As the day progresses, if it puts me to the test
I focus on the loving and let go of all the rest.
There is a greater truth that's not defined by me
I choose to see the loving for love created me. K. Walker

SMILE

When I smile at life, life smiles back at me. Throughout the day, I remind myself how easy it is to smile. Smiling, regardless of my mood, makes me happier. No matter where I am or what I'm doing, I can always find time to smile. Smiling helps me feel optimistic, light and joyful. Smiling is contagious. It helps people feel seen, valued and will prompt them to smile so more and more people feel the same way. A smile is a balm for the soul and a blessing for all in its path. Keep that smile on your face.

FAIL GLORIOUSLY

Everyone fails. Everyone. Watch a toddler as they first attempt walking. They take a few steps, fall, get up, try again, fall, get up, try again. Eventually, they figure it out and, for most toddlers, walking becomes second nature. The greatest baseball players fail regularly. Even the best hitters strike out. Failing is a part of learning. We try something, it doesn't quite work, so we try it again. If you play an instrument, you'll inevitably hit a wrong note, maybe a lot of wrong notes over and over. Every failure is a chance to grow and learn. Real failure happens when you let your failings define you and give up on your goals, dreams and aspirations. This usually comes with self-recrimination and judgment. There is no human alive who has not failed many times. Stories of scientists, inventors, artists, musicians, athletes and writers who failed over and over while honing their skills. Failing at a task doesn't mean you are a failure. Every day, you are a toddler at something, walking, falling, getting up, walking, falling, getting up. To learn is to fail; to fail is to learn. Don't deny yourself this opportunity.

SMILE, GOD LOVES YOU

I was shopping for clothes when I spotted someone I recognized.
We made eye contact and smiled at each other.
It was just then I realized I was walking toward a full-length mirror!!!



PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION

The spiritual path is a journey of progress, not perfection. Others come into my life as reminders that they, too are on their path. My job is to accept them as they are, especially when I find myself wishing they would change. Relationships are a constant reminder that the only person I can change is me, and I'm a work in progress. Relationships give me a constant opportunity to practice, practice, practice. When someone is pushing my buttons, I'm reminded not to react. This isn't easy when my ego is screaming, "Say something!" My non-reaction is a boundary I set for myself. It doesn't mean that I don't care what they're saying, it means that I care more about my own peace of mind. By letting the moment pass, I'm saying "yes" to my own self-worth. Knowing when to set a boundary can be a bit hazy. I can make excuses: "They're acting that way because there in pain." I pray for their highest good. I take care of myself. God's peace is always available to me. Fellow travelers and I learn from each other, each growing in our own way.

BITO' IRISH HUMOR FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

An innocent old lady had a huge bottle with her as she passed through Irish Customs. "What have you there?" asked the Customs man with suspicion. "Tis Lourdes water, I'm bringing home with me." He took the bottle, tried some and spluttered. "Let me tell you," he said, "That's not Lourdes water. That's first-class French brandy." "Lord bless us," she said, "It's a miracle!"



BLESSINGS

As I pushed my grocery cart to the check-out line and set my bananas on the conveyer the gentleman ahead of me in line smiled and said "Can I help?" I nodded and he reached for the one-gallon water bottles in my cart, and put them on the belt, along with the rest of my groceries. I thanked him, especially for lifting those heavy bottles so I didn't have to. When I got to my car the man hurried over and volunteered to load my heavy purchases into the trunk. I told him how much I appreciated his lending a hand. The man said, "Every time I leave my house, I ask God to show me someone I can help while I'm out." He shared that he sometimes loads people's groceries, the way he did mine. Other times, he'll reach for something another shopper needs from a high shelf, or lets a customer go ahead of him in line or pay for someone's coffee. I love how the gentleman prayed for opportunities to help others, and I've decided to adopt the habit myself. I've found that when God shows me small ways to bless others, I feel very blessed myself. *Wendy Neely*

TAKE TIME

I have a wonderful border collie named Grail. We take two long walks each day off leash romp and leashed When off leash she alternates between running fully engaged, not worrying about what she needs to do, what she didn't get done. She is fully herself. How often are you fully present in the moment? You do just one thing or really listen to someone. How often do you stop to smell the air, look at the sky or trees. Today, go outside feel the air against your skin, listen to the birds. Be fully present to your life right now. Take time to appreciate the life you have been given today. *Louis T.*



THANK YOU!

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AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY

Once again "Thank You" to all of you for your donations of children's clothes, diapers monthly special giveaways and money for the Amazing Kids Connection.

April is Community Days. We will **set up on Friday, April 4th** and distribute items on **Saturday, April 5th** at Calvary Church Hall. I have already contacted the **Fire and Police** Departments who will be with us giving out information on safety and coloring books etc. to kids. The **Catholic Daughters of St. Clare's** are making **40 Easter Baskets** that they will hand out to children. We have huge amounts of plastic Easter eggs stuffed with small toys. We will be giving diapers and some junior and baby food. We are in need of children's clothing. If you would like to donate, please call me or Francine. I am so grateful to **Olivet volunteers** who give their time to join us in this Ministry for children. It is a joint effort by some of God's Earth Angels helping His children. When I think maybe I can't do this much longer He sends something inspiring to give me strength. Couldn't do it without YOU!!

PRAYERS for Susan & Ralph, neighbor Kim's husband Mike home on Hospice, Pam Lauren Fireman, Sky released from hospital, Rosalie, Fran, Dick, Rachel, Robbie, Rob. Prayers of celebration for little Robbie first birthday! Thank you to Jerri, Charlotte, Hector Roxanne, Magen, Blanny, Rob, Joie, Raphael Jean & Jim. To Keith and Calvary for the use of the hall. To **Gladys and Ralph** who have brought us "**Liquid Prayer**" for years. Evelyn Gladys's sister. Prayers for my son in law Adam's Mom, Bety Green who passed suddenly after first chemo treatment. For Adam, Emily and husband Mike. And for Blanny's father who passed. Please keep Bob and I in your prayers Bob has some test to take in next couple of months. We are grateful to all of you for all your love It carries us through. God Will Provide.



IMPORTANT WORDS

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS...

I admit I made a mistake

You did a good job

What is your opinion?

If you please

Thank you

I love you

To love someone is to reveal to them their value.

Don't let anyone interrupt your faith. The people who say, "But what if...?" Don't listen. When people discourage your dream, it's only because they don't dream as big as you do.

A small child was drawing a picture and his teacher said.

"That's an interesting picture. Tell me about it."

"It's a picture of God."

"But nobody knows what God looks like."

"They will when I get done." the child said.



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TO OUR GUESTS

A number of years ago, Bob and I were on vacation and stayed at a hotel who had this saying posted in every room. I took it home with me and told them at the desk how beautiful this was...

May this room and hotel be your "second home"
May those you love be near you in thoughts and dreams.
Even though we may not get to know you
We hope you will be as comfortable and happy as if you were in your own house.
May what brought you our way bring you prosperity.
May every call you make and every message you receive add to your joy.
When you leave, may your journey be safe.
We are travelers from birth till death we travel between the eternities.
May these days be pleasant for you, helpful to those you meet
And a joy to those who know and love you best.

GRAMMA, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME PUT THEM BACK



When my granddaughter, Lacy, was three or four years old, he was my shopping buddy! Unlike a lot of children, she never asked for anything. One day we were in Walmart. We went up and down the aisles looking at everything. When we were in the children's section she would Touch a dress on the rack and say, "Oh Grandma, isn't this pretty?" This day we went to the shoe department. She picked up and admired several pairs of shoes. Then she saw a pair of hot pink (her favorite color) high top suede boots. She picked them, cradled them in her arms, looking up at me holding the boots, she said, "Gramma please don't make me put them back!" I was surprised. I asked, "Miss Lacy, what do you need boots for?" After all it was April, winter was over and it was almost time to start wearing sandals, not boots.

She replied sadly, 'Granna, they're huntin' boots!' trying to conceal my laughter, I asked her, "Exactly why do you need huntin' boots?" I know this dainty, feminine little girl had never gone hunting. She looked at me with an expression that implied God had given her the dumbest of grammas and she said, 'For huntin' Easter eggs!' *Karen Key*

A blessed Passover and Easter to everyone and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand. - Many blessings Love Mary

**Our Zoom Services are the first 2 Sundays of the Month at 11AM
Meeting ID 82340530576 Password 068808**

