



## **AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY**

**894 Sheldon Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10309  
718 356-6441  
May/June 2026**

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

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

My friends Sarah and Amelia visited for our annual get-together weekend. We shopped at a clothing boutique, and I noticed a man when we walked toward the fitting area. He sat on a chair outside the dressing room and wore a Vietnam War Veteran's ball cap, the kind my father, a Korean conflict veteran, had worn when he was alive. "Thank you for your service," I said, extending my hand. He shook my hand, nodded, and introduced himself. As we chatted, I learned where Don had served in Vietnam. His eyes lit up, eager to talk about his military time. As a former United States history teacher, I enjoy hearing stories from veterans. I used to share such stories in the classroom to help my students understand the personal sacrifice behind the experiences they read about. I try to honor the stories of servicemen and servicewomen often by asking about and listening to their stories now. I got so caught up that I didn't notice Sarah and Amelia had finished shopping and were waiting by the door. "We can't take you anywhere with you striking up a conversation," said Sarah, as she and Amelia laughed. "I'll never apologize for talking to a hero," I said with a smile. My friends nodded in agreement. A few minutes of my time is the least I can do for those who risked their lives for my freedom. – *Brenda Y*

**FAITH STEP:** *Take a moment today to thank a veteran or active-duty military serviceman or servicewoman for their commitment and acts of service. Listen to their stories.*

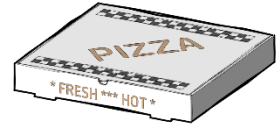
### **FATHER'S DAY**

My dad was the worst! The once-close relationship we'd enjoyed disintegrated when I turned thirteen. I made good grades and behaved myself, but Dad found reasons to ground me. I couldn't go to the creek with my friends, and I couldn't have sleepovers. I repaid dad's strictness with sulking and surliness. Considering our rift, I was shocked when he asked if I'd like to go fishing, a pleasure we'd mutually enjoyed in the past years. I couldn't imagine anything worse than spending hours in the boiling sun, alone in a boat with this man. Rising before dawn for the hour drive to Black Lake, I questioned my sanity for agreeing to what was sure to be torture. As the sun rose over the water, I studied Dad's face. He looked tired. And where had all those wrinkles come from? He worked long hours selling insurance to support our family for five and was a church and civic leader. A trickle of compassion seeped into my stone-cold heart. Out of the blue, Dad said, "Growing up is hard. I'm proud of you, Hon." "Thanks, Daddy," I replied, my rod bent, Dad shouted, "You've got one!" He helped me land the big bass and told me I'd always been a better fisherman than he was. We stayed on the water till we were baked. Fences and hearts were mended that day, and I have no doubt that God had cast this reconciliation. – *Pat B.*

**FAITH STEP:** *Ask God to soften your heart toward a loved one from whom you are estranged*



## PIZZA BOX



A leftover pizza box sitting at eye level on top of the coffee maker convicted me. Not because of anything to do with pizza. But because of the words printed on the side of the box, which I'd never noticed before. Four words or reproach; "Be Buddies, Not Bullies." A silent reprimand. For several days, I'd been in a bad mood. Irritable. Easily annoyed. For no reason at all. My dear husband, John, bore the brunt of my impatient, brusque attitude. Besides feeling out of sorts, I also secretly felt guilty about having been unnecessarily short with John for no fault of his own. So, when I entered the kitchen, after yet again waking up on the wrong side of the bed, and saw "Be Buddies, Not Bullies." God was showing me something. He got my attention and I got the message. Those four words of kindness reminded me of His Word: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32) I'm still replaying the gentle reminder over in my mind: *Be buddies, not bullies*. Thank You, God for your encouragement reminding me of the way You want me to live. Now to find John and ask him to forgive me. – *Cassandra T.*

## GOD'S DAY, A MEDITATION

God, what would You have me do today? I open my mind to Your light; I open my ears to Your voice. I am ready and willing to follow You, to do those things that You need me to do.

God, where would You have me go today? My feet are willing servants. Show me the path, and I will follow it. Make known Your ways, and I will follow You.

God, what would You have me say today? I will make Your words my words. I will speak the Truth that You reveal to me. I will say the words, express the ideas that are from You. Inspire my mind, pour forth Your living ideas. I will speak with Your voice; I will use Your words.

God, how would You have me act today? I am a channel for You, dear God. Act through me. Make me a channel of Your love, Let Your power flow through me. Fill me with Your life, strength, and health. Renew me with your Spirit today.



## LORD FORGIVE ME, WHEN I WHINE!

Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair, I envied her... she seemed so gay... and I wished I were as fair. When suddenly she rose to leave. I saw her hobble down the aisle; She had one leg and wore a crutch; But as she passed... a smile! Oh, God forgive me when I whine, I have two legs. The world is mine!

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm. I talked with him. He seemed so glad. If I were late 'twould do no harm. And as I left he said to me . "I thank you.

You have been so kind. It's nice to talk to folk like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind." Oh, God forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes. The world is mine.

Later, while walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play. He did not know what to do, I stopped a moment, then said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?" He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear. Oh, God forgive me when I while. I have two ears that world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow, with ear to hear what I would know... Oh, God forgive me when I whine, I'm blessed indeed. The world is mine.  
– Og Mandino

### SMILE GOD LOVES YOU

My nephew's teacher was discussing the Civil War with her very young class. As his father had fought in Vietnam, my nephew was excited about the topic, even though he was a little confused, shouting, "My dad fought in that war!" The teacher corrected him: "I doubt your dad is that old." My still- excited nephew shot back, "Have you seen hi lately?" – Joseph C.



### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

There world is in a critical phase because we are. The world is in massive shift because we are. The world still has a chance for survival, both in spite of us and because of us. Our prayers for the world are out greatest contribution to its healing and rebirth.

Dear God,

There is so much danger I the world today. There is so much insanity, so much darkness and fear. Our human resources are not enough to counter the evil on our streets and in our minds. Dear God, Please send a miracle. Into every country and every home, into every mind and every heart, may the power of Your spirit now trigger the light, activate our holiness, remind us of the truth within. May a great love now encompass us a deep peace give us solace. For Lord, we live in fearful times and we long for a new world. We surrender what is, to the bonfire of Your genius. Remind us of the eternal truths. For You are mighty, Lord and can do what we cannot. May the world be reborn. Help us forgive and leave the past behind us, the future to ne directed by You. For You have the power. Praise and thanksgiving, as You use it to save us, to heal us, to lift us from the past. And we accept.  
Thank You very much,  
Amen.

*"Once you choose hope, anything's possible." — Christopher Reeve*



**THANK  
YOU!**

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Many blessings to all Volunteers from Olivet Presbyterian Church and Amazing Grace for setting up and distributing the first Friday and Saturday of the month for the Amazing Kids Connection. Thanks to Calvary Presbyterian for years using their church hall for this event and to the Boy Scouts who set up the tables. Also blessing to Catholic Daughters of St Clares for years donating Easter Baskets. Thank you to Dr Ellie Olsen for donating new toothbrushes/toothpaste etc. We could not give to needy children without all of you helping. God Bless all of you.

We are ordering Father's Day items and arts and crafts for the children to give to their dads in June. Also, Summer hats for the boys and girls. We are so grateful for all donations received. We will be sending out a letter requesting a donation for our Newsletter. The cost of stamps, paper, envelopes has risen. All donations are to be made to Amazing Grace Interfaith.

As original members of Community Days we were honored to present Patti Gandleman, Principal of Our Lady Star Of The Sea an award at Wagner College on April 30<sup>th</sup> for her years of donations to the Amazing Kids Connection and other sources in the Staten Island Community. Attending members of Community Days were Dr. Ram Nair, Omana, Hindu Temple members, Iman Tahir, Mona Zaloom, Building Bridges, Police and Fire Department. Congratulations to our Grandson, Ian Yanda, who was recognized one of the 20 up and coming young leaders through the "20 Under 40" Leadership Award at the Hilton on April 29<sup>th</sup>.



Prayers for Rafael, Alice Sabatino, Sue, Francine, Dick, Rachel, Rob little Robbie. Anna Jantz granddaughter, Rosalie, Pam, daughter Lauren, Linda, Gene, Roxanne, Billy, Drew Derin, Mary Margaret, Willy, Briana, Ian, Renee, Mike, Magen Ethan, Morgan, Adam Anwen, Lois Ricard, Bob and I. Thank you and God bless all of you.

**THE BROKEN DOLL**

This is a story a friend of mine once told me, in her own words:

One day my young daughter was late coming home from school. I was both annoyed and worried. When she came through the door, I demanded in my upset time that she explain why she was late.

She said, "Mommy, I was walking home with Julie, and halfway home, Julie dropped her doll and it broke into lots of little pieces."

"Oh, Honey," I replied, "You were late because you helped Julie pick up the pieces of her doll to put them back together."

In her young and innocent voice, my daughter said, "No, Mommy. I didn't know how to fix the doll. I just stayed to help Julie cry." Dan C.



*Wishing you all a beautiful Spring and Summer 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 86165970857 Password 918817**