

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA



Mother's Day Prayer

Lord, please bless her,
and comfort her. Help
her loving heart to
continue to love and give
herself to others.
Strengthen her when she
is down and give her
hope when she is sad or
discouraged.

Most of all, Lord, on this
Mother's Day, give all
Mothers, Grand Mothers,
and Great Grand
Mothers the graces she
needs and desires most
on this special day and
every day throughout the
year.



A note from Julia...

Have you been doing anything special during this trying time when we have been asked to stay home? One of the things I have been doing is journaling about Bible verses. When I come across a verse in my reading that has a special meaning or memory in my life I have been writing about it. The most recent verse is Ezekial 34:27. "I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessings.

This verse reminds me of my mother who died when I was seven years old. In our basement was a wringer washer and rinse tubs. Most days the washed clothes were hung outside to dry. But on rainy or very cold winter days they



**Jule Deemer, President
invites Unit 6 Board
Members for a Planning
call on
Thursday, July 23rd at 2:00pm
Dial In: (425) 436-6370
Access Code: 426433**



Church Women United

CWU is a national ecumenical Christian Women's Movement representing over twenty-six denominations and faith-based organizations in the US and Puerto Rico, with national offices in Atlanta, GA and Washington DC. CWU is racially, culturally and theologically inclusive and works for peace and justice issues for women and children in the US and around the world.

Church Women United is a 501(c)3 chartered in 1941 by the United Nations with membership open to all.

www.churchwomenunited.net

A Note from Julia (continued)

were hung on lines in the basement. As my mother pinned the clothes to the line she would sing the hymn "There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of love; There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above. There shall be showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need. Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead. There shall be showers of blessing, if we but trust and obey; there shall be seasons refreshing, if we let God have His way."

What blessings have you received these past weeks? Mine have been walking around my yard and enjoying the spring flowers in bloom, watching the birds (and squirrel) at my feeder, talking to my daughter and granddaughter (who live in Newfoundland) using google hangouts, having a hot dog roast with my son and daughter-in-law and grandson on a warm evening.

I challenge you each day to count your blessings, and keep in touch with family and friends.

Peace, Julia



Message of Hope and
Encouragement
Patti Polk
CWU National President



CWU Area 6 Leadership

Julia Deemer, President
231-275-7954

Marcy Block, Treasurer
231-275-7954

Janet Connolly, Secretary
231-943-9820

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231-392-2920

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Dear Church Women United Sisters,

As I write this letter to you, I'm mindful of the isolation, loss, sorrow, and even fear you might feel during this COVID-19 pandemic. I ask that you stay inside to help slow the spread of this virus. Let's all ask our merciful God to bring peace and healing to all affected.

Although we may have to maintain a physical distance from each other, please hold your loved ones close to your hearts and in your prayers. I know that we are all facing many challenges. I pray that this letter may bring you some peace.

This time of isolation reminds me of Jesus' time in the wilderness. Isolated from his family and friends during this time, he relied on God for strength and courage. As we journey through the current desert created by this virus, let us support each other in prayer and help each other as best we can by following all of the established precautions to support the common good of all.

Talk to our loving God about your worries. Ask for strength. Together let us look forward to a vaccine for this virus.

In the book of Isaiah, we hear God's voice saying, *"Do not be afraid. For though the mountains may depart and the hills be shaken, my love for you will never leave you, and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken"*

Today and every day, take this promise to heart, knowing that God is always with us. Take courage in God's love.

Be safe, be calm and be at peace.

Patti



Tina McCalley Keys to Freedom Ministries

When I was a child...I loved talking with older people! The bible calls old age and gray hair "crowns of wisdom". I loved hearing Their stories of what they had witnessed and experienced over the years, the war veterans especially. " What was it like...and what did you do? So many fascinating testimonies! Even now I enjoy old war movies and documentaries that bring moments of history back to life. I would often wonder what it would be like to live through and experience an event of such magnitude that it earns a special spot in the Chronicles of history! Now, I find myself and all of us in this pandemic living a reality of confusion and sadness that will likely be talked about for generations and will also have earned it's own Badge in the very history we are living in. This perspective has caused me to reflect on how I navigate through it. I want to be happy with my answer if I get asked that question, "what was it like when...and what did you do?" This is truly a pivotal point in our world...even in our own lives. I remember just a short time ago, I was calling out to God in my prayers, " God, I am so busy...Lord why can't I find time to do all the things I need to do. Why do I always feel so rushed and stressed? Just before the Pandemic came into the public radar, we were on our way to Arizona to see our Daughter and grand kids for two weeks. I personally, was looking forward to this as a time of rest and to contemplate the busyness in my life and where I could narrow my expectations of what I believed I should be doing and instead ask God what HE wants me to be doing! I felt that somewhere along the way I picked up a couple-to many "timehikers"

Wow!! Did that prayer get through or what? Before I even came home, events were canceled, the jail was closed, and all of a sudden life STOPS!!! What the heck?? All of a sudden, I have nothing to do?? No jail....no phone calls from inmates needing assistance? No, book cart? No traveling to meetings.... oh wait, no meetings? All of a sudden instead of texting.... I'm Zooming? Instead of eating out.... I'm cooking? Instead of coloring the gray in my hair and putting mascara on my lashes, I officially look my age!! Who would have thought, God would use a Pandemic to turn our lives maybe "right side up"? In our

Right Side Up? *(continued)*

current state where we have little control over what is happening in our lives, in a time when we are collectively experiencing the storm, where do we find our peace? Where is God meeting us personally?

It seems whenever I am asked to give a devotional, it comes just after I have read a book that has impacted me on a huge level. Just recently, I have read the autobiography of George Muller. What a man of true faith. I picked this book up and in very short order something in my life changed drastically. You see, George Muller experienced something most believers wish for. A life totally dependent on the provision of God! During his lifetime, George Muller raised up three orphanages to feed, clothe and house over 10,000 orphans. He distributed millions of tracts, books and bibles, educated and brought many a soul to faith in Christ, he preached to over three million people and he did not collect even a salary and he did all of this without once asking any person for money or reporting any needs. He took all of his needs to God in prayer believing the Holy Scriptures...God's promises, to supply all his needs. The impact this had on my heart drove me to want this for my own life. As one who works in ministry that is very often dependent solely on contributions, I want to be at peace with what that looks like during any time as God so chooses, even during a national pandemic! I began to journal, and I took this before the Lord in prayer and asked Him to show me what this looks like. I began writing down prayer requests and asking for God to give me the faith to believe that "if it is of God it will stand". This led me to pray in His will not so much as for me to receive what I wanted but for His name to be made known, especially to unbelievers, that they may see that God is real! This was George Muller's prayer, and I laid hold of it as my own."

"This circumstance now led me to lie low before my God in prayer, and to examine my heart once more as to all the motives concerning it: and being able, as formerly, to say, that his glory was my chief aim, that it might be seen that it is not a vain thing to trust in the living God, and still continuing in prayer, I was at last brought to this state, that I could say from my heart that I should rejoice in God being glorified in this matter..."

I sought intentional prayer in a prayer closet, I always seem to pray continuously, but intentional prayer is taking time out to come before God's

throne of mercy and in a holy posture, seek Him! I started with Jamie's Cottage. We had already asked for an initial donation and then... we let go! We brought it completely before the Lord to provide all that was needed! The furniture, the essentials, the rent...everything down to the sheets and towels. And then we asked for God to bring the women. We took it all to God! In our last donor letter, as you might have received, we did not ask for money, we simply praised what God is doing and asked for prayers that God would continue to provide! How else can we truly know the will of God if we do not test him on his promise to provide? In Gods own words: **"Malachi 3:10**
"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it" I do not believe this is just about tithing....it's about bringing our trust to God, completely...that He will provide. **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"**. My journal's storehouse is overflowing with praises and answers to prayer. Healings are happening, hearts are being changed, people are being met with provisions, Jamie's Cottage has women who are safe and the rent is being paid according to God's will, His purpose and by His provision all to His Glory!! . How often do we go about our days, our lives, doing what we think we are supposed to be doing and neglect to ask God what He wants? We are missing out on so much of His greatness!! We miss out on seeing the greatness of His love for us and how He longs to give good things to us! More importantly, are those that need to see God at work in our lives, those that are still looking for Him to be real.

In a time when we, as a nation, are severely limited in where we can go, who we see, what we do, loss of money, things, the simple luxuries of life that we took not notice of. I find these words from the journal of George Muller very fitting:

"That leads to another thought-the full surrender of the heart to God. I was converted in November 1825, but I only came, into the full surrender of the heart four years later, in July 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God, God, God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God. I ask, affectionately, my beloved brethren, have you fully surrendered the heart to God, or is there this thing or that thing with which you are taken up

irrespective of God? I read a little of the Scriptures before, but preferred other books, but since that time the revelation He has made of Himself has become unspeakably blessed to me, and I can say from my heart, God is an infinitely lovely Being. Oh! be not satisfied until in your inmost soul you can say, God is an infinitely lovely Being!"

I am finding that my lifelong passion for helping is very challenged and limited right now and I am faced with how that makes me feel? I'm not doing any "works" Am I as valuable to God right now as when I was ministering? Have I put so much value into my "works" that without it I risk losing my assurance of my worth in the Lords eyes? Praise God for this time to reflect! We may be limited in what we can do...where we can go...even the information we receive, but we are never limited in our access to our heavenly Father. The most potent weapon in our arsenal to fight any battle is prayer! I have so much time to pray and I am learning that my prayers are not heard or answered based on what I do, but on the promises of God that I believe and then seek to claim those promises by FAITH! Jesus prayed often. And taught us to do the same! The more we pray to the father on an intentional basis, with an attitude of faith and humility, the closer we are drawn to him! Oh how much He loves us!! Do we realize how truly loved we are and how much God wants our prayers to be answered so that others may know that God is truly who He says He is? Praise God, that our faith in Jesus Christ alone and what He did for us allows us access to the Father's throne of mercy where our prayers are indeed heard. I have never seen so much answer to prayer as I am seeing now! How is God meeting you in this time of "Right side up"?. Nothing in the life of a believer happens by accident. I encourage you to seek God intentionally during this time with Faith that He will answer! I leave you with these encouraging words, again from our late brother in Christ, George Muller,

Think not, dear reader, that I have the gift of faith, that is, that gift of which we read in 1 Corinthians 12:9, and which is mentioned along with "the gifts of healing," "the working of miracles," "prophecy," and that on that account I am able to trust in the Lord. It is true that the faith, which I am enabled to exercise, is altogether God's own gift; it is true that He alone supports it, and that He alone can increase it; it is true that, moment by moment, I depend upon Him for it, and that, if I were only one moment left to myself, my faith would utterly fail; but it is not true that my faith is that gift of faith which is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12:9.36.

...and the righteous shall live by Faith!

Tina McCalley

Keys to Freedom Ministries