

# The Calling

April, May, June, 2009

## A Passion For The Lost

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Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. All of heaven rejoices when one sinner is saved. Why is it that we as believers have lost the passion that Jesus had, the passion to see the lost in this world saved?

When is the last time you were on your knees praying for a lost family member, a lost friend, a lost co-worker, or the lost person around the world?

If Jesus lives in our hearts, then I believe that we too must have this passion within our hearts. The Shepherd cares about the lost sheep and so must we.

When I was in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, one day we were riding down the road and in front of our car was a bus. Of course the bus was packed inside with people and on the top with baggage and goods of the passengers, on the very back was tied a little sheep. When this little sheep would stand, his little feet would slip and slide on the metal roof of the bus and you could actually see the fear in the face of the little sheep. Then, when he would sit down, you could see him rest and there was a look of peace upon the face of the little sheep. This is a picture that is permanently imprinted in my mind even to this day. The next day, we were driving again down the road and we were in heavy traffic. There was beautiful music on the radio in the Ghanaian language. I could not understand the words, but I so enjoyed the

sung, that I closed my eyes, as I sat there in the car, and immediately the Holy Spirit brought to my mind the sheep on the top of the bus. Again I could see the fear when he stood and the peace when he sat. Then I thought of Jesus. I thought of the fear of being lost, and the peace of being found and saved by the blood of Jesus. As the song came to an end I immediately asked my driver, “What was that song about, it was so beautiful?” He told me, “The song was about the little lost sheep and how much Jesus cares about the lost sheep.” Isn’t it amazing I could not understand the words as they were not in my language, but the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and interpreted the words into my mind without me even knowing the language?

Indeed Jesus does care about the lost sheep and so must we. In our prayer team at my home church we pray for the lost, and I would like to share with you how we pray for the them.

### PRAYING FOR THE LOST

#### PRAY THAT THEY:

1. Will respond to God’s draw upon their life.
2. Will seek to know God.
3. Will believe in the Bible as God’s Holy Word.
4. Pray that Satan will be bound from blinding them from the truth.

5. Will respond to the Holy Spirit’s convicting of sin.
6. Pray that someone will share Jesus Christ with them.
7. Will believe in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
8. Recognize sin as sin and turn from it.
9. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord.
10. Yield all to follow Christ Jesus and become fishers of men.
11. The Word would take root in their hearts and they will grow in Christ Jesus.

Will you join me as the Holy Spirit ignites the fire within my heart with a renewed passion for the lost, to tell the story of Jesus Christ and His love to a lost and dying world? Will you join me in prayer for the lost in our families, in our communities and in our world? Indeed, Jesus does care about he little lost sheep and so must we. “God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life. John 3:16

*Blessings, love and prayers,*

*Marilyn R. Beverley*

*MRB -*

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**"Spot Of Grace"****Barbara Sawher, Guest Writer for MRB - Motivate...Resolve...Believe!****Pediatric Nurse at Port Huron Hospital****Barbara and Kyle**

My name is Barbara Sawher. I am a wife and mother of four children and a Pediatric Nurse at Port Huron Hospital. On September 9, 2007, on his 17th birthday, our son, Kyle, collapsed while jogging in our neighborhood. Five days later he died and our lives were changed forever. I felt as though I could not take another breath let alone live another day. Several months later, my Pastor asked me to conduct the church service as he was going on vacation. He handed me a preprinted sermon and after reading it, I decided to write my own entitled, "Spot of Grace".

September 28, 2008

When Pastor Gordy asked me to do the service today, I was quite surprised. My first question was, 'Why Me?'. Well, wouldn't you know it, John Lusk, Garth Kriewell, and Rich Cochrill are all out of town! And Bill Gottschalk attends the second service. But why me? I can barely read the lessons without the words jumping off the page. Pastor said, "it's easy, the sermon is preprinted and all you have to do is read it." Yeah, right. I then decided to write my own sermon and I hope Pastor Gordy didn't mind.

**"Spot Of Grace"**

I would like to begin with something that I found hanging on the wall in the office of Max Amstutz who is the chaplain at Port Huron Hospital, Entitled - "Today". Today, I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free. Today, I can grumble about my health, or I can celebrate that I am still alive. Today, I can be angry over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up, or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born. Today, I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses. Today, I can whine what my job is harder than I ever thought it would be, or I can be thankful for every opportunity to touch a life. Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping. What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Think about it. We do get to choose what kind of day we will have. Sometimes being positive isn't easy and doesn't necessarily come naturally. We need to cultivate the habit of happiness to turn the negativity into something positive. How can we make a difference in people's lives? We can start by being positive.

"Spot of Grace" is the sharing of something positive with others. Since my son, Kyle, died, I have been doing a lot of reading. I stumbled across a book written by Dawana Markova entitled, "Spot of Grace, Remarkable Stories of How You Do make A Difference". In her book Dawana begins by telling a story that her grandmother told her. It goes like this. "Imagine that back in the very beginning of everything, there was an immense crystal bowl floating in the dark velvet sky. It was glowing because it was made of light. We don't know how the bowl got there or how long it stayed. But we do know that one day there was a cracking, crashing, sound that was almost as big as the sky. The bowl shattered into a million, billion, trillion different seeds of light. They flew everywhere, piercing everything alive in the world. From that moment on, each living being has had, hidden in its heart, one of those tiny seeds of light. One such seed is inside of you and one seed is inside of me. I call that the spot of grace. Every one of us, whether we know it or not, is supposed to find that special light. Then we are meant to grow it and shine it into the darkness of the world, helping others find their light. When everyone does, you see, the bowl will be made whole again". Mark Nepo wrote, "Each person is born with an unencumbered spot, free of expectation and regret, free of ambition and embarrassment, free of fear and worry; an umbilical spot of grace where we were each first touched by God. It is this spot of grace that issues peace."

What then, is that "Spot of Grace": It is different for each of us. Some of us may experience that "Spot of Grace" in the eyes of a child. Holding a new born baby can draw out our "Spot of Grace". We may feel it by volunteering, by donating our time, or our money. We may feel it by opening a door for someone or by offering a shoulder to cry on. It may be a handshake or something as simple as a smile. Sharing our "Spot of Grace" can make a profound impact on someone's life.

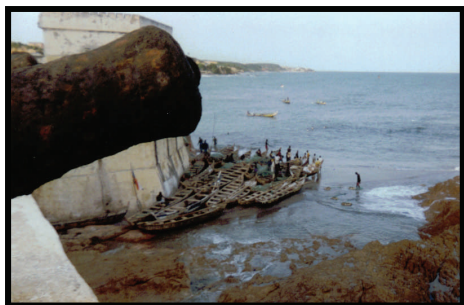
### "A Spot Of Grace" - Continued

There have been many people in my life that have shared their "Spot of Grace" with me. One life changing event for my family was when my son, Kyle, died. It was a year ago September, on a Sunday. We painfully made the decision to remove the ventilator as we knew it was time. I climbed up in the hospital bed with Kyle and held him in my arms and sang songs to him. As I was singing the hymn, "I Love To Tell The Story", the Nurse in the room placed her hand on my shoulder and began to sing along. She unselfishly shared her "Spot of Grace" with me and I will carry that with me for the rest of my life. A few months later, I had the opportunity to pass that "Spot of Grace" on to another mother. While working my shift on the Pediatric unit, a child was dying. I was able to pick up that boy in my arms and gently lay him in his mother's lap so she could wrap her arms around him and hold him during the final hours. I encouraged her to touch him and talk to him and sing to him. I shared with that mother my "Spot of Grace". Life is a journey. We never know what each day will bring. We try to plan our days, we try to plan our lives. But just when we think our life is on the right path, we run into a storm. Will tomorrow be filled with happiness when I am given a raise because the company I work for is doing well? Or will I cry with sorrow when I am handed a pink slip only to face the fact that I have lost my job? We never know what each day will bring. Life is a journey.

Jesus, too, had a journey, He was born in a stable. He healed the sick and helped the poor. He taught in the temples and in the streets. He performed miracles. He died on the cross. Jesus shared his "Spot of Grace" with everyone he met. God gives us His grace each and every day. Our lives are so busy that we may not recognize His grace or appreciate it. I experience God's grace by seeing the sunrise each morning and the sunset each night. I experience God's grace through each of you here. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to appreciate the beautiful world that He has created. It is our decision to share our "Spot of Grace" with others. We never know how we can touch someone's life by even the simplest of gestures. We need to plant the seed of "Grace" in our children and cultivate it so they too can share their "Spot of Grace". Do you have a person, a group of people, an animal, an experience, or a place that helped you realize that you are unique and have something to contribute to the rest of us? Think about someone whose "Spot of Grace" you recognized and encouraged. Use your "Spot of Grace" that God has given to you to make a difference in the lives of others. AMEN

~ If your organization is interested in having Barbara Sawher speak, please contact MRB - Motivate...Resolve...Believe! at [mrbeverley@comcast.net](mailto:mrbeverley@comcast.net) or 810-987-2168 to book her for your event.

Planning a women's retreat or luncheon in the spring? Contact Marilyn R. Beverley to bring the Word of God and share God's work in her life with your church. Planning a church board retreat? Contact Marilyn for board facilitating and planning. 810-987-2168 or [mrbeverley@comcast.net](mailto:mrbeverley@comcast.net)



Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa...

Jesus said, "Come follow me, and I will make you a fisher of men. They immediately left their nets and followed Him."

**Prayer List:** . The Lost. Healing from Cancer - Mary Alice, Kim, Christine, Sara, Nate, Marvin, Patti. Those who are unemployed. Those who have lost their homes. Revival in the Body of Christ Jesus. The family of Linda Moore, she lost the battle of cancer today 6/22/09 and went home to be with Jesus.

## HEART WORKS

BY BARBARA SAWHER



Almost two years ago, Kathy Strauss started "Heart Works", a Prayer Shawl ministry at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Port Huron, MI. Kathy began knitting Prayer Shawls and asked the women of the church to join her ministry. Many Prayer Shawls have been knitted and given to people in need of comfort. On April 18, 2009, "Heart Works" was celebrated as thirty women gathered at the home of Margaret Hanselman for a ladies retreat, "Blooming in Our Faith". Our guest speaker was Marilyn R. Beverley, MRB - Motivate...Resolve...Believe. Marilyn spoke on "Jesus In My Life 24/7" her message was one of evangelism, faith and the power of prayer. We shared stories of how prayer can affect our lives and our relationship with God. Tears were shed and laughter was heard. We shared a potluck lunch. After lunch, a workshop was held that included quilting, knitting, crocheting, and card making. All of the projects were made to touch the lives of others. It was a day filled with singing, prayer, food, and fellowship and we thank God that He was there to bless our group.

**"God does not fill with His Holy Spirit those who believe in the fullness of the Spirit, or those who desire Him, but those who obey Him."**

**F. B. Meyer**



Kathy Strauss



**Marilyn Beverley sharing with the women of Heart Works in the background prayer shawls to be blessed.**



Marilyn R. Beverley

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