



# Abundant Living Ministries

*Encouraging Christian Living since 1978*

February 2021

Professionals had painted the main body of the ministry building (barn). It looked beautiful. Now, a couple volunteers were on the roof completing a few remaining tasks. They had made great progress that day but time was running out.

All finished, EXCEPT for one of the three cupolas... you know, those little dome-like pointy roofs that sit up on the peak of the old barns. They called down to me, apologizing but saying they had to call it quits.

I yelled back up to them, "No problem. I'll come up myself and finish it." My first job, as a teenager, was painting and I didn't mind ladder work, so I confidently scrambled up the 40-foot extension ladder.

BUT... when I got to the top and raised my head, looking UP the slope of that steep barn roof, I froze. "I didn't realize it was THIS steep. There's no way I'm going up there." And then, "Yes, I CAN do this. I MUST!" My thoughts raced as I argued with myself. "No, I can't... I'll kill myself falling off this roof!" The two guys, standing on the peak, saw my fear and started cackling like chickens and laughing. After all, they had been working up there all day, walking around like it was their playground.

"Rather a live chicken than a dead duck," I told myself as I backed down the ladder, to the fellows' continued heckling.

I lay in bed that night, thinking... "I DO have good-grip shoes, and I HAVE worked on lesser-sloped roofs, and I AM capable on a ladder, and I tend to be careful, and I certainly know how to paint. Lord help me, I CAN DO THIS!"

The next day, I put the ladder back in place. Breathing a prayer for courage and protection, I picked up the can of paint and brush. Trembling, I made my way, ever so carefully, up the steep shingled roof to the cupola that needed attention. I completed the task... not comfortably... not fearlessly... but I DID IT!

That was the first of many times I had to go up onto the barn roof. I never played around on it the way my volunteer friends had done... but I conquered the task!

***For God has not given us the spirit of fear. (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)***

**FEAR!** The emotion we feel when we sense a threat or danger. Sometimes the danger is real; other times, only imagined. My roof-walking days are over. In more-recent years, I've recognized fear, not of a barn roof, but fear of an unknown future... fear of sickness... fear of financial insufficiency... and, how about this one... fear of speaking truth or sharing the gospel, because somebody might not appreciate it. Precisely in all these situations, JESUS is with me, as I face the fear. I can *cast all my anxiety on HIM because HE cares for me!* (1 Peter 5:7 NIV) ***Be sure to read Sharon's comments, on the reverse side, about courage and fear.***

Some years ago, Sharon and I compiled a list of scriptures on fear and God's protection. It's available on our website, at [AbundantLivingMinistries.org](http://AbundantLivingMinistries.org).



***I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:13 NASB)***



Please notice our new MAILING address: 400 E. 4th Ave, Lititz, PA 17543  
Our PHYSICAL LOCATION for ministry remains the same.





# COURAGE

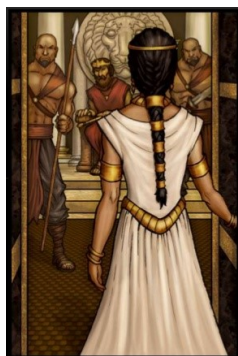
## *to Confess*

### Question:

Opposition to Christianity is increasing in many parts of the world...even here in North America. I admit that I become anxious about this and the temptation to keep quiet about my faith, rather than risk ridicule, is strong. But I want to hold firmly to the truth and to share with others who so desperately need to discover the freedom of life with Jesus. Any help for this scaredy-cat?

### Response:

A stirring Biblical example of someone who rose above personal fear in order to bring salvation to others, is the life of Esther. Billy Sunday, the great evangelist of the late 1800's and early 1900's wrote an interesting book titled *Love Stories of the Bible*. Here are some excerpts from his chapter on The Story of Esther:



*The "Chosen People" Israel had drifted away from God, just as a good many of those who call themselves His Chosen people are drifting away today.*

*They were more concerned with themselves and their own selfish, petty little problems than they were with God.*

*But He wanted to give them another chance. God is always willing to give the sinner another chance—until the sinner, himself, makes it impossible to do so longer.*

*He wanted them to see, however, just how close to extermination their sin and worldliness had brought them.*

*And He wanted them to see that it was only the supreme sacrifice of another, interceding for them, and not their own worthiness that was their salvation.*

*Hence the mission of Esther—confession before men, and intercession before God, with the fate of a nation in the balance.*

*Like the Jews in the days of Esther, a good many of the so-called Christians of today are ashamed, or afraid to own their God.*

*Esther was put to the supreme test for a very definite purpose.*

*And it is the same test that is being offered every day—every hour to the Esthers of the Twentieth (and now Twenty-first!) Century.*

*The Test of Confession before Men!*

*Esther couldn't palm off the job on someone else. NEITHER CAN YOU... God's tasks can't be given to an understudy.*

One thing is certain... fear is an emotion common to the human race. God recognizes this, as evidenced by the many verses in Scripture that address it. The most powerful antidote to fear is, in fact, found in God's Word. Make a list of verses on the subject and begin memorizing them. Quote one aloud, whenever anxious thoughts invade your mind.

Read biographies, not only of brave Biblical heroes and heroines, but also of those who, throughout more-modern centuries, have stood for God even when faced with the threat of persecution. *Stories of Great Christians* is a downloadable archive of audio biographies that can be a huge inspiration to believers today.

Pray regularly with your family and Christian brothers and sisters for courage to speak God's truth, regardless of the consequences. Make *the salvation of others* your primary prayer request. A heart burdened for the lost is a powerful motivator to share the good news of Jesus.

God is not surprised or rattled by today's world events. And He loves His children, even when we struggle with timidity. He will gladly give courage, if we simply ask. Thank Him that He placed you and your family in this moment in history. Since He planted you in the here and now, you can be assured that He can equip you to confess Him as Lord to a world that desperately needs to know Him!



Sharon Charles



## Open Arms

### Childbirth Class

**Four Consecutive Thursdays**  
**April 8-29, 2021, 7-9pm**

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

**Register by contacting the ALM office.**

## Contact Information

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