



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

May 2022

Hello to all of our friends,

As I was beginning to enjoy my breakfast, I glanced outdoors. Although it is a little chilly this morning, the sun was shining bright and the birds were singing loudly. Bird songs... now, that's something I really like! Starting around 5:00 or so, I thoroughly enjoy lying in bed and hearing all the happy birds serenade me. (At least, I can *imagine* they are singing for ME.)

But, anyway, back to breakfast this morning. Although I usually don't get terribly excited about flowers and plants and such, the outdoors captured my attention. I was impressed with the warmth and brightness of the sunrays coming in the east windows of the kitchen area. (You can probably guess that Spring is my favorite season of the year.) All the new growth... everything coming alive... it reminds me of the new life that we have in Jesus!

Who will the Lord bring through our doors today? In whose life will we see signs of new growth in Christ? Will we be talking with somebody who hasn't noticed the happy bird songs for many months, as they've struggled through distressing and persistent family issues?

One person on today's schedule is a young married man, whose wife recently announced that she wants a divorce and has no inclination to talk with any counselor who would try to steer her toward staying in her marriage. The husband, from a fine Christian family, made an interesting comment... something like, "Although I have great Christian parents, and grew up in the church, and attended Christian school, and asked Christ to be my Savior... only now have I truly turned to God. Only now am I actually discovering a vibrant walk with Jesus. Only now am I learning that HE is my help, my strength, and my sustaining comfort." He continued on, "I'm at peace with this situation. Yes, I pray and hope for healing in our marriage. BUT, if she in fact leaves me, I am still at peace. I am discovering that Jesus is enough!"

That thought is powerful... the question it raises is of utmost importance. ***When facing the most difficult situation, in the darkest day... IS JESUS ENOUGH?*** Yes, we should and do pray for healing and restoration. BUT, when our prayer isn't being answered in the way we hoped... ***is JESUS enough?***

Let's all, just for a moment, imagine a great loss... perhaps death of a spouse or child, loss of a job, financial ruin, numerous health issues. And then, let's ask ourselves, **Would JESUS BE ENOUGH?**

Mom (Betty Charles, whom many of you remember) used to say, "If we would focus more on Jesus and on heaven and our eternity with HIM... the trials and problems here on earth wouldn't seem near so important!" (I think she was saying, **JESUS IS ENOUGH!**)

Remembering the song, **He is all I need**

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

P.S. We sure enjoy hearing from all of you. However, some are still using the old address and the post office is now "returning to sender" rather than forwarding to our office. Please discard old envelopes and use the new mailing address: 400 E 4th Ave, Lititz, PA 17543. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Our counseling offices remain at the same location. It is only ALM's *mailing address* that has changed.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

God taught His people to practice responsibility (read Exodus 21-23). In fact, being responsible is a clear way to "delight in honoring others" (Romans 12:10). Since this trait doesn't come naturally, we Christian parents need to intentionally teach it to our children.

You may enjoy the following game:

- ◆ Provide the *first half* of the following statements.
- ◆ See if your children (or spouse) can complete them.
- ◆ Then, create some of your own additional responsibility statements.
- ◆ Repeat these often. You will discover that building these habits will make life more pleasant and peaceful for everyone.

- ◆ If you open it... *close it.*
- ◆ If you mess it up... *clean it up.*
- ◆ If you borrow it... *return it.*
- ◆ If you break it... *fix it or pay for it.*
- ◆ If you know what time it starts... *be on time.*
- ◆ If you turn it on... *turn it off.*
- ◆ If you get an invitation... *respond quickly.*
- ◆ If you say you'll do it... *do it.*
- ◆ If you find something that's not yours... *return it to the owner.*
- ◆ If you see a need... *try to help.*
- ◆ If you get it out... *put it back.*
- ◆ If you drop it... *pick it up.*
- ◆ If you take it off... *hang it up.*
- ◆ If you make it dirty... *clean it.*



*Written by
Sharon Charles*

Upcoming Events at ALM



Open Arms Childbirth Class

**5 Monday evenings:
October 3 - 31, 2022
7:00-9:00 PM**

**\$120 per person or \$150 per couple
(cost includes textbooks)**

*Call or email the ALM office for more information
or to register for the class.*

Four Consecutive Thursdays
July 7- 28, 2022
7:00 pm
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.

Lay Christian Counselor Training

*For those who wish
to be more effective
people-helpers.*



Contact Information

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