

LAVONNE'S NEWSLETTER

TFC Connection

February 2009

God's Timing is Impeccable!

IMPECCABLE— THE DEFINITION

Faultless, Flawless, Irreproachable — that's the dictionary definition of the word impeccable. I would add to that definition, when it's applied to God, as also trustworthy! In the last couple of weeks — there have been many things that I haven't understood but again and again God has proven to me that his timing is impeccable!

In my Oswald Chambers devos last night I read this:

"Lift up your eyes on high, and see who created these things..." Isaiah 40:25
The people of God in Isaiah's time had blinded their mind's ability to see God by looking on the face of idols. But Isaiah made them look up at the heavens; that is, he made them begin to use their power to think and to visualize correctly... If we look, we will see God reaching out to us in every wind that blows, every sunrise and sunset, every cloud in the sky, every flower that blooms, and every leaf that fades, if we will only begin to use our blinded thinking to visualize it... If your power to see has been blinded, don't look back on your own experiences, but look to God. It is God you need... One of the reasons for our sense of futility in prayer is that we have lost our power to visualize it... The power of visualization is what God gives a saint so that he can go beyond himself and be firmly placed into relationships he never before experienced."

I want to share with you just a few ways I have seen God in the past few weeks— how I have seen God's impeccable timing:

My dad went to the hospital on Friday, Feb. 2nd after a very difficult week at home — his confusion, restlessness and agitation had reached a point where we needed help. It gave us a much needed break — and allowed my sister Hildreth to go back home to Colo. Springs on Saturday. On Sunday, her daughter Stacy, had a miscarriage. God's timing was impeccable because He got Hildreth home when she was desperately needed there.

On Sunday morning when I called my mom she was in tears because the hospital staff was having a very difficult time with dad — I quickly made arrangements for someone to take my Sunday School class — and scrambled to get out the door so I could go help my mom — except I couldn't find my car keys. Now I'm very consistent with my car keys — they are always in my right hand pocket. Janice and I looked and looked — I was getting more and more flustered, frustrated, and distressed — by the time I got to the car I was way out of sorts! As I took off, I breathed deep and said, "God help me get my eyes back on you" — and I reached over to turn up the volume on the radio so I could listen to some Christian music. Exactly at that moment the first line I heard was — "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...I will fear no evil." (If you want to read the words to the rest of the song — I typed up the words for you on the next page) When that song was done playing I had a good laugh with God. My exact words, "Oh Lord, if you hid my car keys so I would be delayed so I would get in the car and hear this song at this exact time — I will praise you—I will praise you!"

Connecting teens to Jesus Christ...teaching and equipping them to live out the Great Commission.

IN THIS PAST MONTH I RECEIVED NOTES FROM THESE "TEENS FROM MY PAST" WHO HAVE BEEN WALKING THIS ROAD WITH ME. A REMINDER—MINISTRY IS A CIRCLE! HERE ARE A FEW OF THEM!



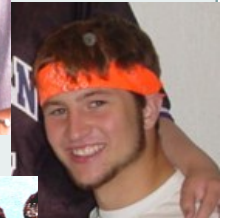
Jessica



April



Sammye



Tim



Brian



Heather



Sasha from Belarus

Contact Information:

Lavonne Ponstein

110 G St.

Phillipsburg, KS 67661

Office: 785-543-5294

Home: 785-543-6630

Email: lavonne@tfcconnection.org

The past 2 1/2 weeks that I have been helping daily with my dad — is the exact time that I'm normally in Belarus. God's flawless timing! I wasn't scheduled to teach this year at the college and it gave me great peace to know that if for the past 7 years I could take time away from TFC to do ministry in Belarus—this year I could take time away from TFC to minister to my parents.

God's perfect timing — it is at this time of year that the school schedule interrupts many of our weekly meetings — and every time I wasn't able to be at a weekly meeting with teens — my volunteers were more than ready to step in and fill in.

During this time I've found the best way for me to process what I'm feeling is to write — and I've been posting this "walk with my dad" on my Facebook page. I've been overwhelmed with how God has used what I'm learning and feeling as ministry in other people's lives. One comment that totally blessed me said: *"thanks for sharing your heart; for letting me see one of my misconceptions of Christianity being broken. i've always thought if i just had it together like "they" do, then my life would be perfect. u were always a "them" to me. now, i've realized we're all on a path; though it may be different, we will all have trials and tribulations, yet I love what you said about God being the same today as he was yesterday, last week, or years ago. so many times i think i've "fallen away" from God, yet i've learned that He has been right beside me from Day 1..it's just whether or not I choose to see Him"* And I say — "thank you Lord — that in your timing you could use this for your glory!"

Yesterday I was with my parents at the hospital and at 4:00pm I received a phone call telling me that the church we meet in for NVTFC was going to be busy for the night — there was some missed communication. When you are an hour and half from having 15-20 kids show up for supper and a meeting — that is a problem. I was talking to Rachele and we are trying to quickly come up with plan B! At that very moment — the two ladies who take care of the Methodist Church in Almena walked in the door to visit my parents. I looked at them and just smiled — and told Rachele — "God just answered our prayer!" When I got off the phone and explained to them the situation they quickly said, "You just use our church!" Since the church we meet in and the Methodist church are only a block apart — supper and the meeting went on without a hitch! It was fun to share that timing story with the teens!

When dad's agitation didn't get any better at the hospital, I begin to have several people tell me to look into the side effects of some of the medicine he was receiving — so I did. My research led me to think that maybe one of the medicines was causing some of the problems — but I was hesitant to push my non-medical opinion on the medical staff until I received a phone call from my sister who had talked to a friend very familiar with that drug and she had said, "tell them to get him off that drug — I've seen it do that to many elderly patients." God's timing once again was impeccable!

I just got a phone call from my mom — and the hospital wants to release Dad tomorrow. And even though the forecast says we could have a major snowstorm tomorrow — that may delay Dad coming home—I'll trust God's timing with all of it—because through the calm and through the storm — He will never let go!

At this point, our choice as family is to bring Dad back home. We looked into putting him into a nursing home but our options were far from good — and my mom is not ready to make that move—so for now we are making the arrangements we need to bring him home and continue his care there. And we continue to pray that God in His impeccable timing will carry dad home when the work He needs to do in our lives is complete. As the song says, "And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on. A glorious light beyond all compare and there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes — we'll live to know You here on the earth but until that day comes — Still I will praise you, still I will praise you."

You Never Let Go!

Matt Redman

Even though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of
death
Your perfect love is casting
out fear
And even when I'm caught in
the middle of the storms of
this life
I won't turn back
I know You are near

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear?
Whom then shall I fear?

Chorus:

Oh no, You never let go
Through the calm and
through the storm
Oh no, You never let go
In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go
Lord, You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is
coming for the heart that
holds on
A glorious light beyond all
compare
And there will be an end to
these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here
on the earth

Chorus:

Yes, I can see a light that is
coming for the heart that
holds on
And there will be an end to
these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You,
still I will praise You

Thank you for walking with me — for
your supportive prayers! I'd
appreciate your prayers as I balance
this time between ministry at TFC
and ministry to my parents!
Much Love,
Lavonne