

NEWSLETTER TO THE

*Women of the Restoration*

FROM THE RESTORATION WOMEN'S COUNCIL, CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS

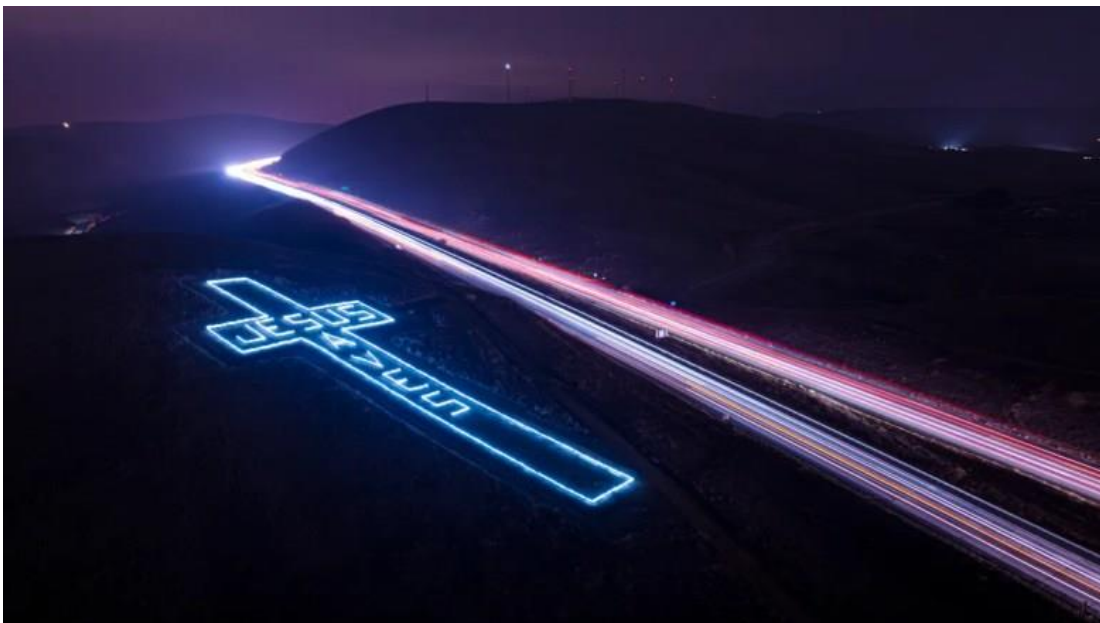
**Blind to His Light**

by Amy Burk

I wish I could say I take all my concerns, no matter how big or small, to God, but I don't. I tend to think why bother him, but at the same time allow whatever it is that's bothering me to continue on. Corrie Ten Boom is quoted as saying "any concern too small to be turned into a prayer, is too small to be turned into a burden." This testimony began before I had ever heard that quote or even before I fully understood how powerful prayer can be. For as long as I can remember I had trouble seeing in the dark – I was night blind. Honestly, it really just became a part of who I was and how I functioned. I never really thought much more about it. When I started driving at 16 years old, I quickly realized I should not be driving after dark. It became so apparent that friends and family knew if we were going to be out late they would have to drive or I'd have to make plans to leave early. I felt like I managed it quite well and didn't think it hindered me in anyway until I literally found myself stuck in the dark one night.

My husband Brian had been working in Maine so the girls and I took a road trip to visit him. Since it would take several days to get there, and I couldn't drive after dark, I carefully mapped out how far we could drive during the day, making sure we had a place to stop every evening. That worked perfectly on the way out. We got to see some great sights during our stops and made it to Maine without any issues. The two weeks we were there went by very quickly and we had a wonderful experience as we spent time with Brian. I had not planned our return trip as diligently because I figured we would wait and then make a plan before we left. Since we had already done a lot of sight-seeing I didn't have specific stops for the way back. So instead of booking hotels ahead of time I thought we'd leave as soon as we got up and drive as far as we could before night fall each day. That worked well at first as we managed to get a lot farther on day one than we had on the way out. On the second day of our drive home we actually made it to Iowa. Since it wasn't quite evening yet I figured "why not keep going?". I looked at the map and thought we could make it to at least Iowa City, eat a late dinner and stay there for the night. By this time the girls had started asking when we were going to stop again and reminded me it was going to be dark soon. We arrived in Iowa City right at dusk. Now, if you're from the Midwest you know if you're in the middle of Iowa your almost to Nebraska. As we ate I just kept thinking of how nice it would be to just be home again. I even mentioned it to the girls and they repeated what they had heard me say so often "but you can't see at night". I knew I shouldn't be driving, but I was reasoning in my head that I wouldn't have to pay for another hotel room and we could sleep in our own beds. I remember the concern the girls had when I told them we were just going to try and drive home. I wasn't totally

convinced myself, but felt I would be confident and try to step out in faith not just for myself but as a testimony for the girls. We said a prayer and started out. I hadn't even gotten to the next exit when I knew it was not a good idea. Not only did I have trouble seeing in the dark, but I also had trouble with the glare from oncoming traffic bothering my vision. I asked the girls to pray again that God would help us get home. As soon as the prayer was over a big semi came off the on ramp directly in front of me. It had a few low lights in the back that shined on the pavement allowing me to see the road itself more clearly. I also noticed that the truck seemed wider than most and that it actually was shielding the oncoming lights. Immediately I thought how fast God works to provide, but then just as quickly realized I still had another three hours to drive. What were the probabilities that this semi would be taking the same route as me? Well, with God we know that all things are possible. We also know nothing is left to chance because he will provide and he did just that. God didn't allow that semi to stay on the same course as me, but when that one exited, God guided a new semi to enter and pull in front of me again and again so that I had a light and a shield the whole way home. As this was happening I was just overjoyed that I could feel so confident driving. I found myself amazed at God's goodness and as I was thanking and praising him I recognized I had never really asked him to take that from me. I knew God had sent each one of those semi-trucks to be there at those exact moments, so I kind of threw a question out to God and asked him... "Could you just keep putting semi-trucks in my path every night?". As I said that the thought came to me that he could actually do better. Romans 8:26 tells us *"the spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us..."* It was the first time I pondered could he and would he take away my night blindness completely? I was so excited just to have the testimony of getting home that night I focused on just giving him thanks and praise as we unpacked and settled in. However, as I laid in bed that night, the more I thought about it, the more I felt the spirit leading to me to ask for a complete healing of my night blindness. It was a simple prayer but I asked forgiveness for my lack of faith to begin with and then that this hinderance would be removed from me if it be his will. Honestly, I didn't think much more about it. I was still overjoyed with the experience itself and it was testimony enough for me just to have driven those three hours in the dark. It wasn't until about a week later that I found myself driving in the dark. Interestingly enough I didn't even realize what was happening until I was almost home and it hit me that it was dark. I had no worry or fear and I was able to see clearly. Not only did this make a difference in my life physically but spiritually my eyes were opened to the blessings that God has for us when we come to Him and trust in Him. God never ceases to surprise me. It's never that I doubt he can do all things, but usually because I fail to ask. Philippians 4:6 says *"Be afflicted for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*



## OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

by Judi Smith

When Amy Burk and April Smith were here to serve at the women's retreat in Kenya, we were trying to get some material translated to the Dholuo (Luo) language that many speak in this area. We made plans to drive to Elizabeth Omedo's home near Kisumu city so she could assist with this effort. After driving up and down a road about 3 times and still not finding where we should turn, she finally sent a motorbike rider to show us the way. This search, of course, delayed our arrival, but once there, we found a welcoming place to rest, enjoyed some food, and started on the task for which we had come!

After the translation was finished, Elizabeth(Liz) shared about her life. It was good to have this time to listen to her experiences and I felt it gave Amy and April a window into knowing Liz much better. As she finished her sharing, I checked my wristwatch for the time, and was surprised to see it was 8pm! I knew it would take at least a good hour to drive back to Awasi, and I had intended to stop by the Odidas on our way to drop off some papers. Liz kindly released us, and when we arrived at the Odidas, they were very concerned we were out so late. We prayed together that God would provide a safe and joyful journey back to Awasi.

As we were leaving Kisumu, a large bus passed us and got in front of us. The bus was large and well lighted. I thought to myself, "This bus is a really good thing. I wouldn't have to be on the watch for vehicles with no lighting, people or animals crossing the road, and we would make good time since buses are speedy in their travel". I shared my thoughts with Amy and April, and then noted that the name of the bus line was Guardian! Its business name is actually the Guardian Angel bus line! God had literally sent a "guardian angel" to guide us most of the way back to Awasi! Did we have safety? Yes! Did the thought of the bus bring us joy? Absolutely yes, in fact I still smile to think of it.

I would never have thought to ask God for help in this specific way, but it was the most reassuring way to give me peace as I drove because it is concerning to drive when you don't know what you may find in your pathway! Once again, we were reminded that God is always with us, even in the dark of a late Kenyan night!



# Book Review

## Angel in the Rubble

By Genelle Guzman McMillan and William Croyle

*Reviewed by Jackie Frinthal*

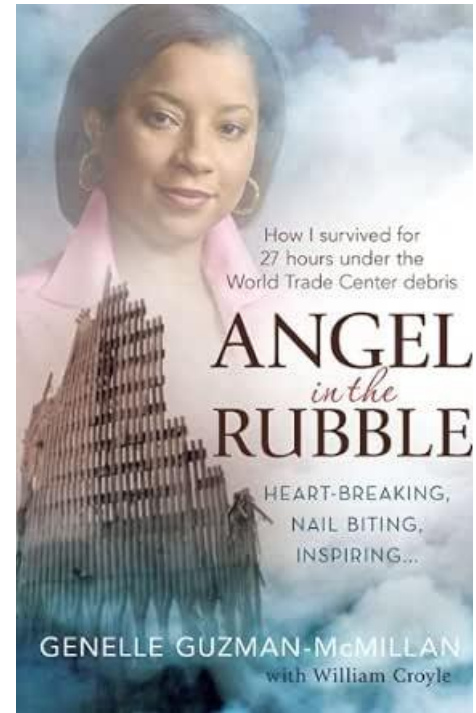
I'm sure none of us can forget where we were or what we were doing on the morning of September 11, 2001. It's one of those dates, as President Roosevelt said about Pearl Harbor, that will live in infamy.

This book is a first-hand account of Genelle Guzman, the last survivor of the 9/11 attacks, who was finally rescued after being buried under steel beams and rubble for 27 hours!

What started out as her normal work day for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at her office on the 64<sup>th</sup> floor of the North Tower quickly turned into a time of confusion, uncertainty, fear, and reflection. When her co-workers finally decided that they had to leave the building and started their perilous climb down the stairwell, they made it as far as the thirteenth floor before the building collapsed on top of them. Can you imagine being "buried alive" for over a day! Still we know that God never leaves us; and when we call upon Him, His love and mercy can sustain us through whatever comes our way.

As Genelle reflected on her life and how she had strayed from the faith she knew as a child, she prayed continuously asking the Lord to forgive her and to help her stay alive so that she could be a better person and better mother to her daughter back in Trinidad. Finally at hour 23, after numerous attempts to free just a small portion of her body from the steel tomb she was encased in, she was able to free her left hand and subsequently felt a strong hand grab onto hers. She then heard a calm voice telling her that his name was Paul and reassuring her that she would be okay and that a team of rescue workers would be there soon. For the next four hours Paul strengthened and sustained her until the rescue workers finally arrived. However, when she was pulled to safety, Paul was nowhere to be found and no one had seen or heard of him.

What a life-changing story! I hope reading this book will bless you as much as it did me. This book must have been compelling to many as it was recently made into a movie with the same title and will premier on Lifetime September 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of the 25th anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.



# Testimonies

## THE RED COIN *by Tammy VanBiber*



My first personal experience with the Lord was my freshman year at Graceland. I had to keep track of every penny because there was always laundry to do as well as other expenses that came up, there wasn't money to spare. One day in my coins I spotted a quarter that someone had painted red. I must've gotten that in change and never noticed it. It was neat and I showed it to the friend that was with me. We admired it and it

went back in my purse and I never used it because it was kind of unique.

Over the course of a few weeks I'd noticed that my money seemed to be less than my spending had been but I shrugged off to my poor accounting skills! One day, though, the red quarter was gone. I hadn't spent it and I had a horrible suspicion as to where it was. My heart about jumped out of my chest as I knew I had to confront my roommate. All that day was spent in prayers for guidance and direction. Later that afternoon I locked the door to the room and looked in my roommate's desk drawer. There amongst other coins was my red quarter. Now I really panicked! Later when my roommate came in I told her what I'd discovered. She immediately became defensive about getting into her desk. Then the Lord gave me the words, "The Lord can forgive you and so can I." He softened her heart at that moment and we stood there in a tearful embrace for several minutes.

We stayed friends the remainder of the year and she'd put envelopes with money in them on my bed before I would leave for the weekend. God handled that situation in a way that I never could've. From a red-painted quarter to a softened heart, HE WAS THERE!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

*Please consider sharing your personal testimonies with other women by submitting it for printing in the RWC newsletter.*

*We'd also like to hear and share about what activities your women's groups are doing to encourage others on various ways to get involved.*

*Submissions can be sent to any of the council members.*



# Gatherings

## 2026 Spring Gathering

### “Arise from the Dead”

by Cheri Battrick

It was a beautiful cool, clear day on April 18<sup>th</sup> when we met at the Downey Carriage House in Adrian, Missouri for the Spring Gathering. Women came from near and far to bask in the Spirit, learn, sing, craft, and enjoy a sumptuous lunch together.

The morning began with our traditional spread of muffins and teas. The committee had arrived quite early to set the tables with cheerful yellow tablecloths and centerpieces which called to mind the need for each of us to bring more light into our own lives so we can then arise and be able to shine light to others.

The theme for the day, “Arise from the dead,” was inspired by Ephesians 5:14: “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”

Jill Etter introduced the theme with hymns through a musical devotion she shared with us. Her message was powerful. She invited us to consider that if we really want to live, we need the Holy Spirit in our lives to enlighten and guide us. Through scriptures in the Book of Mormon, New Testament, and Doctrine and Covenants, we were encouraged to remember that the Comforter fills us with hope and perfect love. We were also admonished to walk as children of light and to search diligently in the Light of Christ.

Jill beautifully accompanied us on the piano while we sang “Breathe on Me, Breath of God,” “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me,” and “There Never was One Like Jesus”. We concluded the musical devotional portion with a rousing rendition of “In the Light.”

Sugar Baumgart then gave us a thought-provoking message about putting on Messiah. She indicated that the attributes we cultivate are *how* we put on Jesus—that they are the garments we wear—and these attributes become our identity. Sugar suggested that one way that we can arise from the dead (hearkening back to the theme) is to let Jesus’ character shape our conduct; to cast aside the old garments and then “Rise and dress yourself in the radiance of new creation.”

Following Sugar’s message, Stacy Pyatt favored us with an inspiring acapella version of “The Lord is My Shepherd.” Jennifer Schunk then introduced Nicole Capps who spoke to us on the topic of “Wake Up and Walk with Jesus!”

Nicole asked us introspective questions about physical exhaustion. “Are you physically exhausted,” she asked. We shared our thoughts with those at our individual tables. She then asked, “What do you do to overcome exhaustion?” Again we shared our answers with one another. Nicole then segued from physical exhaustion to asking about spiritual exhaustion. She then asked, “What pulls you out of *it*?”

Nicole referenced scriptures from the New Testament and Book of Mormon which supported the idea that we have to *proactively choose* to overcome spiritual exhaustion and arise. She noted that two of the common things we all experience which can push us into spiritual exhaustion are complacency and busyness. These can be a barrier between us and our relationship with God. She asked us, “What graves or tombs do we put ourselves in?” Nicole indicated that each of us who are feeling spiritually exhausted have likely been living in a grave or a tomb *of our own making*. She encouraged us to consider what false or negative beliefs we have accepted while we are spiritually dead, and then to look for what the scriptures tell us about life and light. For example, in Acts 26 we are told to turn from darkness to

light, and in Micah 7:7-8 we read, “Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: ***when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.***”

Following Nicole’s remarks, Michelle Turner continued the theme and set the tone for the activity by asking us to think about where we are with the Lord and to choose at least one thing to *do* to draw closer to God.

Michelle had prepared wooden squares for us to turn into personal drink coasters. She had brought colorful permanent markers for us to use to write on one side the thing we each had decided we needed to work on. She also had prepared stickers that had the theme on them which we could position on the back side of the wood. Michelle encouraged us to use the coasters as a reminder of the commitment we made to ourselves to arise and come out of the darkness and into the light.

Michelle shared with us a precious experience she had while driving one day. All of a sudden she was in the midst of a vision where she was walking hand-in-hand with the Lord and feeling so much love and joy in being with him. But then, she was distracted by a shiny object, and as the object glimmered and beckoned to her, she let go of Jesus’ hand. Instantly she felt totally lost and alone. She was frightened. She called out for Jesus, and eventually He came behind her and took her hand. At that point, she didn’t feel lost, alone or afraid any longer. She then admonished us to watch and pray always, and to stay close and connected to the Lord.

Following the activity, Marilyn Middleton invited those of us who had been in her class on Sisterhood and the Relief Society at the Fall 2024 retreat, to reflect on what we have been doing in our various branches to strengthen the sisterhood, connections, and service through in-home visits or in other ways. She invited us to share our experiences with her during lunch and encouraged us to consider making in-home visits to the women in our branches if we have not yet done so.

If you have not yet attended these quarterly events, we invite you to join with us next time. The friendships we are developing and the things we are learning together are helping us to grow in love for one another and for the Lord.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

### ***Womens Leaders Luncheon***

***Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>***

***CRE OFFICE (in front of Living Hope Restoration)***



### ***Winter Gathering***

***Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>***

***Colbern Road Restoration***

# Hymn Review

## Hark, The Voice of Jesus Calling

By Mary Drummond

This hymn was written in 1868 by Rev. David March. Rev. March was a congregational pastor who had a great interest in the work of world missions. He was asked to speak at a Christian Association of Philadelphia and just before the service he realized the hymn chosen was not suitable to go along with his theme, *Isaiah 6:8* "Also, I heard the voice of the lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." He hastily penned the words to "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling" which was sung from the penned manuscript in that service. What a beautiful reminder that all are called, whether it is to work in the missionary field in foreign lands or here at home. The Saints use the arrangement penned by Hubert P. Main, assisted by Fanny Crosby and others.

We have been called since the early days of the restoration to serve others. In March 1829 we were *given* D & C 4, which provides the requirements required for us to serve our God. *D&C Sec 4:1a Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men, Sec 4:1b therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day; Sec 4:1c therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, Sec 4:1d and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perish not, but bringeth salvation to his soul; Sec 4:1e and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.*

God does not require us to have thousands or travel to foreign lands, only have a heart for service, and seek to serve him with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength. When I joined the church, I was not able to tithe very much, so this hymn really touched me where it states, "If you cannot give your thousands, You can serve with willing might." Through the years I have sought to serve God however I can. May we all seek to serve, however the Lord is calling you, as this is our duty and can bring us great pleasure when we serve Him.



### Hark, The Voice of Jesus Calling

Hark! The voice of Jesus calling,  
Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?  
Earnestly the Master calleth;  
Rich reward he offers free;  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
Here am I, O Lord, send me.

If you cannot cross the ocean,  
And far mission lands explore,  
You can find the needy nearer;  
You can help them at your door.  
If you cannot give your thousands,  
You can serve with willing might;  
And whatever you do for Jesus  
Will be precious in his sight.

Let none hear you idly saying,  
There is nothing I can do,  
While the souls of men are dying,  
And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly;  
Let his work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when he calleth,  
Here am I, O Lord, send me.

Composer David March  
Arrangement Hubert P. Main

## 2026-27 Women's Council Members

Amy Burk [amy.burk311@aol.com](mailto:amy.burk311@aol.com)

Barb Capps [cappsbarb@yahoo.com](mailto:cappsbarb@yahoo.com)

Mary Drummond [Drummond.mary580@gmail.com](mailto:Drummond.mary580@gmail.com)

Stacy Pyatt [srfrinsthal@yahoo.com](mailto:srfrinsthal@yahoo.com)

Monica Rush [amwjdr4jesus@gmail.com](mailto:amwjdr4jesus@gmail.com)

Jennifer Schrunk [jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com)

Michelle Turner [smtturner3346@outlook.com](mailto:smtturner3346@outlook.com)

**Find us on facebook**



**Restoration  
Women's Council**

*Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.*

### EPHESIANS 5:14

KING JAMES VERSION

Wherefore he saith,  
Awake thou that sleepest, and  
arise from the dead, and Christ  
shall give thee light.

