

Terri McFarland Ministries

August 2016 Newsletter

www.terrimcfarland.org

Lean In

**I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me
and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1**

This summer I read through Psalms - and I really had to go slow for it to sink in. The richness and depth of the words felt like healing waves drenching my soul. **He inclined to me...He leans in to me.** It is as though I find myself running the other direction trying to get my needs met or to solve my own problems when I should just stop and respond to His lean.

Larnelle Harris penned a song, *I Miss My Time With You*, as if Jesus were whispering to our spirit:

I miss my time with you, those moments together. I need to be with you each day and it hurts me when you say you're too busy. Busy trying to serve me, but how can you serve me when your spirit's empty? There's a longing in my heart wanting more than just a part of you. It's true, I miss my time with you.

When I hear these words my heart beats faster. The rest of the song lyrics are online...and they are powerful. Jesus truly longs to be in relationship with us. There are days I don't want to be around me and wonder why God desires to be. Then I remember the Tabernacle...the Presence of God smack dab in the middle of the Israelite camp. **He has wanted to be with us from the beginning, actually from the Garden. Even in our sin.** We are the ones who keep rejecting Him...again and again.

We all know rejection, you try out for a team and are cut. The person you texted doesn't respond for a month and you call only to get their voicemail...again. You ask for a second date and the response isn't positive. The sales pitch doesn't fly, work isn't turning out how you imagined, and your job is on the line. A friend says they will stop by next week, and you never hear from them. And your heart feels, as mine does, that you are reaching out into an abyss of loneliness.



Treasured time with friends

But God (yeah, one of my favorite phrases) longs to be with us, and misses those quiet moments spent together with Him. I miss them too.

Let Him lean in to your heart...and be willing to stay there.



Every few years we experience the Olympics. Having supported team USA in Barcelona, Atlanta, Salt Lake City along with a week in Rio with Athletes In Action, makes following the results even more thrilling. There is something about watching world-class athletes compete that is incredibly inspiring.

Catching every Olympic broadcast would turn one into a TV junkie, yet admittedly my DVR records non-stop to be sure I didn't miss a stunning upset. What I saw was captivating.

Two long distance cycling events were shown on consecutive days and in both situations, with 4 miles to go the person in front had a sizeable lead. Broadcasters were commenting the real race was between three riders going for silver and bronze. What they didn't take into account was the ability of the three riders to work together, drafting and encouraging each other as they slowly gained on the leader.

With only hundreds of yards to the finish, both the men's leader (Poland) and the women's leader (USA), were caught and passed by the pack of three making the race not for just the silver and bronze...but now for the gold!

We discount the power of community - of working together to achieve more than we ever believed possible. The temptation is to make it on our own, yet that was never the plan. **God created us for relationship, both with Him and with others.** Not only does it bring much joy, community also enables us to experience the power of the Spirit in crazy, unexpected, stunning upset kind of ways.

Family, Friends & Fun :-)

To say the last year has been eventful, and the spring months exciting is certainly an understatement. Final sports seasons culminated with both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. With three seniors beginning to prep for college the family was in a constant state of flux. ☺

Throughout the year we celebrated numerous joys with friends and family; and as parents, our hearts smile at the young adults in our house. In the next few weeks Austin, Olivia and Graham will crack the cover (literally) of the next chapter in their lives as they experience the heart pangs that come with finding out where one's faith truly rests.



True LIBERTY is in Jesus!



Austin, Olivia & Graham

My spirit is always encouraged to be able to catch up with friends not seen for quite some time. Life changes inevitably alter relationships for better and for worse, and God is faithful through it all. May we continue to be so too.

Ministry Update!

Through 2016, we have participated in more speaking/singing events than I can remember in recent years. It is humbling to be able to serve. We are also excited to let you know **Ken Wadley and I will back together for a benefit concert in Holland mid-November.** Check out our events calendar at:

terrimcfarland.org

During a weekend series, I was able to reconnect with former CMU teammate and head softball coach at Michigan State University, **Jacque Joseph**. She invited a young girl who loved softball, had a radiant smile, and was born with one hand to their game. A consummate teacher of softball, Jacquie gave her great pointers. Some flippin' demos, a National Anthem, and a great victory culminated a beautiful afternoon. With God nothing is impossible!



We are pleased to announce Northwest Indiana has hired our first **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) regional director!** Our year-long search resulted in wonderful fruit as former Valparaiso University athlete, Scott Staal, joined the FCA Team. New to the area, FCA is beginning to find opportunities to present the gospel and we are really excited. After all - it's about Jesus!

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and encouragement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terri McFarland" in a cursive style.



Impossible is Nothing!



Michigan Concert @ Tri Ponds

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