

# Terri McFarland



August 2017 Newsletter

[www.terrimcfarland.org](http://www.terrimcfarland.org)

## Shock Value

We are thrilled to put a hard copy of our ministry Newsletter in the mail, and to reconnect with those we have lost touch with over the years. Social media does it's best to keep people "friends", however, many of you – like me – may not hang out there. So, take a moment to be encouraged and grateful no font exists that matches my handwriting 😊.

This year I had the opportunity to travel to Turkey and Israel with Bible teacher, Brad Gray. New insights gave me fresh eyes to read the Text and I am beginning to grasp how *shocked* the readers of the Torah were by both the Gospel writers and Paul. [**Shocked** – a sudden feeling of surprise, dismay or indignation] It was not just the Text that added *shock value*, how early believers chose to live...and die...changed everything. And it was most brilliantly exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus.

Matthew tells us Jesus taught in the Galilee synagogues. So when we sat in the **Gamla** synagogue (the only one in Galilee where remains are still first century), you could almost hear His voice in the silence. It was here Brad shared Jesus' first sermon...

We read in Luke 4, that in the Nazareth synagogue Jesus stood to read from Isaiah 61. He said: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim **the year of the Lord's favor**."* Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat back down to teach, then simply added, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The passage says the eyes of everyone were **FIXED** on Him. No one said a word. They were *shocked!* What was so surprising about what Jesus did?

The *shocking* part wasn't that it was the shortest sermon ever, it is where Jesus stopped reading. He left out the end of verse 2 which says, **to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God**. He left it out because it wasn't why He came. In this moment Jesus was giving a clue as to what His ministry was to be about. Jesus had come to bring restoration through the **favor of the Lord**. In literal Hebrew...*Ratzon La Adonai*. **SHOCKING!**



**Sea of Galilee**



**Hezekiah's Tunnel**



**Gamla Synagogue**

Jesus was and continues to be about mercy, compassion, blessing, love and grace. *Favor to all people* – not condemnation. The people were furious because they were expecting a Messiah that would execute judgement...not offer grace. They were so angry they wanted to throw Him off a cliff. People not only had difficulty with Jesus' identity – they struggled with His agenda.

I am awed by Jesus' gift of undeserved favor. He did not come to condemn the world but to love us into His kingdom. And I am convicted. Do I follow God with the same agenda? Am I compassionate, inviting, full of mercy, love, and grace, or do I cut people off, ignore their efforts, and choose not to involve myself when the situation appears difficult?

*Ratzon La Adonai...Favor to all people...Shocking!*

***Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4***

## Team World Vision

I am SHOCKED and a bit hesitant to be typing the following sentence – I **have signed up to run the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chicago Marathon on October 8<sup>th</sup>. 2017!** Yep, pick yourself up off the floor and slowly breathe again. 😊 A few of my friends ran last year and talked me into it. So, with the hesitant blessing of my chiropractor I have joined **Team World Vision** and will run to raise money for clean water around the world.

It is exciting to share, that over the past 5 years the need for clean water has decreased by 25% world-wide! Through World Vision's water projects, \$50 brings life-changing clean water to one person. I am aiming to raise \$4,000, clean water for 80 people. You can join our team by donating to **Team World Vision** in my name at:

**[www.teamworldvision.org/participant/terriumlauf](http://www.teamworldvision.org/participant/terriumlauf)**

For convenience, a card is enclosed with the same information along with an envelope, if you prefer to send a check. Just make it out to **World Vision**. If you are not on our email list, you can sign up on our website ([terimcfarland.org](http://terimcfarland.org)). When you do, you will receive one of our free CD downloads.

Should the LORD bring me to mind on October 8<sup>th</sup>, say a prayer! I specifically remember detesting our college runs and find it nearly incomprehensible I have been talked into a Marathon. *Shocking!!*

My heart-felt thanks to those of you who have inspired, coached, encouraged, and supported this loooooong journey so far. It has made all the difference in the world. You are my beloved teammates!

***Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1***



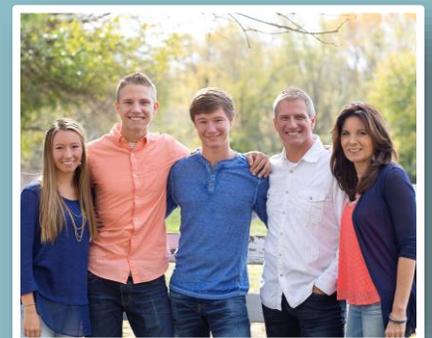
**Support my *Chicago Marathon!***

## ***Praise Report:***

- **Safe** travels in Israel
- **Lives changed** at VBS
- New eyes for the **Text**
- Positive impact of **FCA**

**Sign up for our e-newsletter & receive a free CD download!**

***[terrimcfarland.org](http://terrimcfarland.org)***



**Olivia, Graham, Austin, Keith & Me 😊**



## Ministry Update

Years ago, I remember asking Mom, "Should I marry and have kids would you raise them until they could catch a ball?" Sad, but true. Probably why I thrive in a room full of teenagers and college students and get a bit weak in the knees around those who barely reach mine.

This year I am being stretched. I just finished teaching 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders, as they grew to understand our King Jesus at our **Royal VBS** this summer. Bless God for His grace and wisdom...and the nudging of my heart by the Holy Spirit to keep changing things up! We also hosted our first **FCA Basketball Camp** in Gary, Indiana. It was a great three days as inner-city kids flocked to the camp, learned the game, and heard about Jesus. Our theme of **ONE** was tied to our camp verse:

***I will know that you are standing together with ONE spirit and ONE purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.***

Philippians 1:27 NLT

As we studied the Gospel of John in our **Women of the Word** Bible study, over and over Jesus did the *shockingly* unexpected – from changing water to wine in ceremonial pots, conversing with a Samaritan woman, and even healing on the Sabbath. And I wonder - is my life *shocking* to anyone I encounter? It needs to be...

**Tri-Ponds Campground** was again a gorgeous setting for our annual Sunday morning summer concert. Keith recently joined our Tech team at church and was a great addition to our sound crew.

As fall approaches, our house will truly become an empty nest. The hustle and bustle of the summer months with kids and friends in and out at all hours, will slowly dissipate as **Austin, Olivia and Graham head to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI for their sophomore year**. We enjoy the young adults they are growing into...it is so much fun!

I would *love* the opportunity to re-connect with you again. Please make contact if you are ever in Northwest Indiana...or check out our website and join us at one of our events.

May we continue to stir up one another to love and good deeds, knowing it is the love part that is the greater of these.

Terri McFarland Umlauf



***Yehuda & Ruth in Tel-Aviv***

### ***Please Pray for:***

- A hearing heart ♥
- **Endurance** in the Marathon!
- Upcoming ministry events



***Tri-Ponds Campground***

# Terri McFarland Ministries

P.O. Box 1573  
Holland, MI 49422-1573

Return Service Requested

## Friends

*Seeing your name on this address label, brought back wonderful memories of our time together. This passage expresses my heart...*

***Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.*** Philippians 1:3-6 (MSG)



For contact info, event details & audio teaching files, visit:

[terrimcfarland.org](http://terrimcfarland.org)



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[terrimcfarland@tlministries.com](mailto:terrimcfarland@tlministries.com)

