

Terri McFarland



April 2018 Newsletter

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No Other Gods Before Me

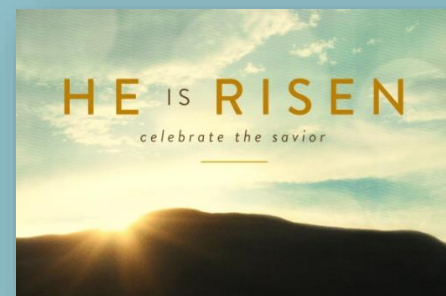
I flicked the needle and the spinner began to whirl. Secretly I was hoping for a high number. Three. I picked up my plastic cone and moved forward on the board. My small yellow piece landed on Number One. In order to continue to move along the game board, I had to say the first of the Ten Commandments by memory. **You shall have no other gods before Me.**

Growing up, the Ten Commandments board game was like many others played at our family dinner table. Except, over the years I came away with the Word resonating deep in my soul and the Commandments etched on my heart. It was the only way to win.

So, why is this commandment mentioned first? The Israelites had been delivered from the bondage of slavery and were camped at the base of Sinai when the LORD carved these words in stone. Thousands of gods had become familiar to the Israelites while in Egypt, and now, the God of their fathers, who miraculously parted the Red Sea, says, ***I'm the only One.***

Surely, being enslaved 400 years tainted what limited view they had of the God of their fathers. Even a never-before-seen miracle didn't keep them from grumbling in the wilderness on the way to Sinai. Then the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, commands them to consider insignificant all other gods attempting to distract them from Him, the Great I AM. I feel the tension.

I want no other God before Yahweh, until money, success, food, relationships, exercise, social media, children, marriage, or work steals away my focus and I end up doing that which I really don't want to do. A small crack in the door is all Satan needs to barge in and begin to steal, kill, and destroy. The evil one wants what we have...*the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us.* And if he can't get that power for himself, he will do everything possible to hinder us from accessing it.



Praise Report:

- Women's Bible study growth
- Safety in travel
- Faithful **prayer warriors!**

*Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

On a smoke-filled mountain top, God made a covenant that He would be faithful to fulfill. His desire for us is that we earnestly seek His face and love Him with all our heart, soul and might. No other god is to go before Him - for no other god can fill His place.

**No other god is alive.
No other god forgives.
No other god speaks.
No other god moves toward us.
No other god loves.
No other god desires relationship.
No other god died for you...and me.
And, no other religion celebrates the resurrection of their god.**

I am humbled the **One True God**, maker of heaven and earth, loves me and pursues me to His hurt. This Easter, may we worship and celebrate His wonder-working power in and through us!

My Heart

The past six months have exacerbated growing heartache as my husband, Keith and I have been living apart. Through much counsel and guidance we are pursuing the restoration of our marriage and I **continue to trust in God's faithfulness.**

Neither Keith nor I ever expected us to be where we are...*and we are where we are.* There has been much pain, woundedness, and damage experienced within the Umlauf family. And, I fully believe God is able to restore the years the locust has eaten for those choosing to follow Him.

As a result of no longer living in Lowell, Indiana, God has provided community and fellowship elsewhere and I am grateful. Jesus is tending to my wounded heart while graciously allowing doors to remain open to teach our women's Bible study, sing on a worship team, lead an area coaches study, and assist the growth of FCA in NW Indiana.

I am indebted to the faithful prayer warriors who have come along side our family during this painful time. As Jason Gray sings, *a wound is where the light gets in.* The light of Jesus continues to shine through precious, Godly relationships that have spanned decades, giving refreshment to my spirit.



Nathan, Alanna & Josh Graves



The vision of a family healed.



God mends broken bridges.



Michele, Kristen & Robin...faithful!

Please pray for Keith, Graham, Austin, Olivia and myself as the journey toward healing moves forward. It is most definitely uphill as was Jesus' journey toward the cross. Through it all, may we become clearer reflections of Him and may His light shine through our wounds.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

Ministry Update

Our Women's Bible study stepped into the book of Joshua like the priests walked into the Jordan, and it is incredible! My faith is encouraged to follow the Ark into the chaos, then **stand still and watch God work...for I have not passed this way before (Joshua 3)** So true. My comfort comes from knowing the LORD is going on ahead. I need *only* to obediently follow. 😊

This May, I am thrilled to again travel with George DeJong and **Under The Fig Tree Ministries (UTFT)** facilitating a group through Egypt, Jordan and Israel as they encounter the Text in context. The LORD alters my heart with every trip to the lands of the Bible. And I am excited to help others experience the Bible change from black and white to color before their eyes.

Our NW Indiana **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** will again host a basketball camp in Gary, IN this June. Pray for the right staff and for the hearts of the young athletes to be open to Jesus.

Upcoming events are posted on the web site. If you are in our area or we are in yours, I would love the opportunity to reconnect.

Resting in His love,



Terri McFarland Umlauf

Please Pray for:

- The healing of my marriage
- A listening and obedient heart
- God's **restoration** of all things



Our weekly study of Joshua.



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

terrimcfarland.org



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