

Terri McFarland



December 2017 Newsletter

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You Shall Call His Name Jesus

Mary's heart must have felt as though it was beating out of her chest when the angel Gabriel pronounced, *the Lord is with you, and you are about to conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus!* (Luke 1:31) Joseph may have experienced something similar when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying the same thing.

This would have unraveled me. The enormity of what was about to happen a teenage girl could not begin to understand, let alone the man who was to become Jesus' earthly father. Even in hindsight, I'm not sure I grasp it very well.

You shall call his name Jesus.

In the ancient world, fathers had ultimate naming rights. And in this moment God the Father, through the angel says, *call Him Jesus* - the Son of God, the Savior of mankind, God incarnate is coming to earth. Jesus, a name that means Jehovah is salvation.

When Rachel, the patriarch Jacob's wife, was giving birth, with her dying breath she named her second son Ben-oni, *son of my sorrow*. Jacob, however, said no. He would not re-live his grief and sadness every time he saw the boy. So he said, *we will call him Benjamin, son of my right hand*.

Maybe there are moments in your life, as there are in mine, where sorrow, suffering, trials, regret, distress, trouble, or disappointment seem overwhelming, and we have a choice. *What will we call our experience?* Not what do I see, but what am I going to say about what I see? Jacob, who loved Rachel so much he worked without pay for fourteen years, deeply mourned the loss of his favorite wife. Yet he chose to define this moment differently. *I am going to call my son, Benjamin, the son of my right hand*. The hand used to impart blessing; the hand of authority, power, and strength; the hand Isaac



Call His name Jesus!

THE NAME CHANGER



**Pat Wright and
her 4th grade class**

used to bless him years earlier. It did not change the reality of what happened or bring his wife back, but Jacob saw his situation differently and chose to speak forth a blessing in the middle of his pain.

What do we say when our heart is shattered, the prognosis isn't good, and all human reason for hope is gone? Will we choose to name what we see in faith and trust the greatest Name changer of all?

Our Father has the ultimate naming rights in our life, and His Word tells us we are a child of God (Romans 8:16), redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2), forgiven (Colossians 1:13,14), justified (Romans 5:11), a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14), a son of God (Romans 8:14), more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37), being transformed by the renewing of my mind (Romans 12:1,2), an imitator of Jesus (Ephesians 5:1), an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11), and the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is how Our Father names us, and I chose to agree with Him. There is something about that Name.

You shall call his name Jesus.

Thank You!



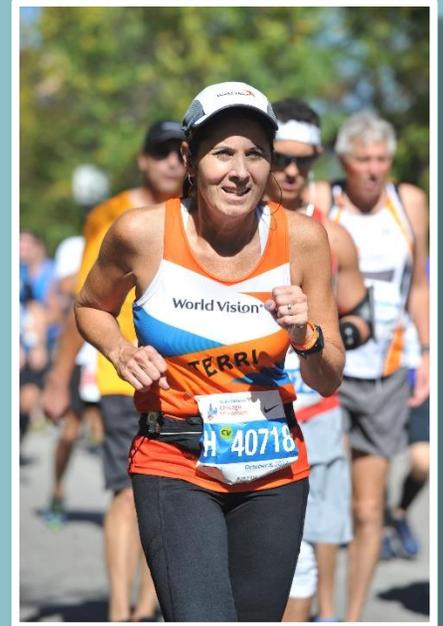
Running the Chicago Marathon with **Team World Vision** on October 8th, was incredible! As I stood in the middle of the mass of humanity participating in the race and experienced the hundreds of thousands that lined the streets, I was humbled. The voices of friends and strangers encouraged me to persevere...and believe me, near the end those cheers kept me going!

Preparing to run my first (*and quite possibly my last*) marathon was a daunting task for a basketball player that never really enjoyed that part of the game. But teaming up with **World Vision** drew me in. And the new friends I made provided an even richer experience.

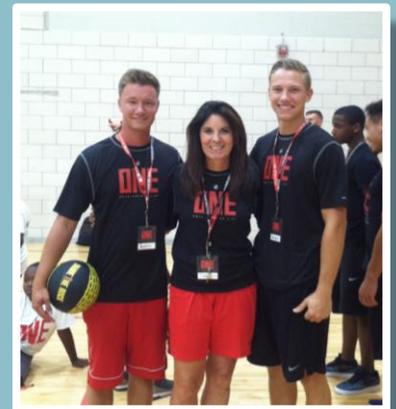
Many gave generously towards our efforts, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention one gift that really touched my heart. Pat Wright, a basketball teammate on an Athletes In Action tour to South America years ago, created an opportunity for her 4th grade class to feel on a small scale, what it might be like to have to walk for water. In partners,

Praise Report:

- A successful **Marathon!**
- Open doors at Valpo
- Increased **FCA** presence



A race like none other!



**Working FCA Basketball Camp
with Austin & Graham**

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her students walked a mile with a bucket on their head as they raised money to help children across the world. They followed that up with a school wide presentation to allow other classes to join the cause. When all was said and done, they had raised nearly \$800! A huge shout out goes to **Woodbury Central Elementary School in Merville, IA!**

Through monies raised at the Chicago Marathon, Team World Vision was able to bring clean water to over 48,000 people in Africa! For those of you who supported me in our efforts...THANK YOU!!

Ministry Update

In 2017, opportunities to serve through music and by teaching the Bible continued to multiply. It has been exciting to also work with the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** to bring Jesus to coaches and athletes throughout Northwest Indiana.

Connections with FCA opened a door for me to facilitate a coaches Bible study at **Valparaiso University**. I am thoroughly enjoying this experience! As coaches become clearer reflections of Jesus, their impact in the lives of young people is powerful. Thank you for standing with us in faith, as we work to make a difference.

Gifts to **TLM Ministries** have enabled us to share Jesus with people throughout the Midwest for minimal or no cost. Your support makes this possible. To make an end of year donation go to our web site or simply mail a check to the address below. We bless God for your partnership and prayers. And should you ever come to Northwest Indiana be sure to look us up 😊

Merry Christmas with Love,



Terri McFarland Umlauf



Please Pray for:

- A ♥ obedient to the Spirit
- **Wisdom** in scheduling 2018
- God's **restoration** of all things
- Lives impacted for eternity



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

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