



*Abraham was too old.
Joseph was abused.
Moses had a stuttering problem.
Gideon was afraid.
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young.
Jonah first ran from God.
Naomi was a widow.
Job went bankrupt.
Peter denied Christ.
The disciples fell asleep while praying.*

*Martha worried about everything.
Paul was too religious.
Timothy had an ulcer and
Lazarus was dead!*

*No more excuses!
God can use you to your full potential.*

*Besides you aren't the message
You are just the messenger.
author unknown*

God says in 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

*'My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is perfected in weakness.'*

May we respond with the Apostle Paul:

*Most gladly, therefore,
I will rather boast about my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

*Therefore I am well content
with weaknesses,
with insults,
with distresses,
with persecutions,
with difficulties for Christ's sake;*

for when I am weak, then I am strong.



Since January 2001 Rockville Mennonite Church has been actively helping others discover hope and comfort through the avenue of GriefShare.

This letter was sent to the mailing list of Alumni and friends announcing the upcoming session. Listen in and be blessed.

July 2011

Dear GriefShare Alumni and friends,
This summer my spirit has been rejoicing in the intricacies of the body of Christ. I marvel at how God uses another's open brokenness to expose the places He wants to heal in me.

Recently Romans 8:37 has been polished for me by a friend's life witness and has become my refrain...

**But in all these things
we overwhelmingly conquer
through Him who loved us.**

As I read this promise in context (vv 31-39 NASB) I see that there is a direct connection to His Love for me and my victory in disappointing circumstances.

Read along with me.

His love for you and me leaves us speechless. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Our broken pieces are safe in His love. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."



You and I are victors through Him who loves. But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

He tenderly applies His Love to every circumstance. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell me what I already knew. All my life really consists of are the bits of broken glass that are left in the ruins of my shattered hopes and dreams. Yet as I observe those that the Lord has placed in my path, I am counseled to lean into my situations, to embrace my broken circumstances, not grasping in fear and anger, but allowing the force of wrestling with the realities of His Love to soften the edges of the fragments, like the waves of the ocean and the harshness of the sand smooth the shards of glass that are washed up on the beach.

So I find myself in the company of others, walking the shores of life, stooping down to gather up the broken pieces, wondering is this all that life consists of?, and realizing that there is no way to put it all back together. Then in reluctant obedience, encouraged by the life witness of those around me, I reach up and place each fragmented piece in the secure jar of His Sovereignty and position my shattered collection in the sunshine of His Love on the window sill of expectant faith. It is when I am in this place of worship that unexplainable wonder overwhelms my being as I observe the beauty He displays through my brokenness.



As we embark on yet another session of GriefShare we are anticipating the group God is bringing together.

We are honored to be called to walk alongside, as fellow sojourners, together gathering up the pieces that are left and waiting in expectancy for the display of His glory through it all. You are welcome at any time.

By God's design we are a link of hope and promise for each other in our journey to be more like Him. Savor the blessing of others in your life. Reach out and find God's Love real in your place today. Prepare yourself for the display of beauty as the Light of the Love of the Son of God shines through the fragments of your life.

Rejoicing in His Love for me and you, Twila
with the GriefShare Team

Rockville Reflections is a publication of
Rockville Mennonite Church
210 Cupola Road, Honey Brook, PA 19344
610.273.9577 rmchurch@ptd.net
Editor: Twila Ranck
submissions received at
twila@familiescatalog.com

GRIEF SHARE Sessions

to be held at Paul and Twila Ranck's
5001 W. Lincoln Hwy., Parkesburg, PA 19365
Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 pm

8/10 Living With Grief Grief is disruptive and disorienting. This session will answer questions about the progression of healing.

8/17 The Journey of Grief This session prepares you for what to expect along the journey of grief. At the same time, it emphasizes that everyone's journey is unique and warns against comparing grief experiences.

8/24 The Effects of Grief You're probably surprised at how debilitating grief is. This session explains that this is normal and suggests practical ways to find comfort.

8/31 When Your Spouse Dies If you've lost your spouse, this session helps you think through the critical issues involved in your healing. It also begins preparing you to face the difficult transition into a new reality without your spouse.

9/7 Your Family and Grief This session shares how to keep your family afloat when its members are drowning in grief. It also presents some of the unique issues involved if you're grieving the death of a child.

New for this session.....

9/14 Children in Grief This session gives insights into the different ways children grieve. You will gain invaluable insights into the life of the grieving child and be equipped to minister to them in the specific ways they need.

9/21 Why? Just because God doesn't answer all of your questions doesn't mean He won't answer any of them. This session answers the "Why" questions and encourages you to begin asking other questions as well.

9/28 The Uniqueness of Grief Part 1 This session explores how the causes of, and your responses to, your loved one's death affect your grief. Topics addressed include suicide, long-term illness, murder and false guilt.

10/5 The Uniqueness of Grief Part 2 Relationships, past and present, affect your grief. This session helps you address insensitive comforters and unresolved conflict with a deceased loved one.

10/12 God's Prescription for Grief The bereaved are often overwhelmed by the advice they receive from others. And often, what goes unnoticed is what God says about healing. This session tells you how to position yourself to experience God's healing.

10/19 Stuck in Grief It's easy to get stuck along the journey of grief. This session explains how to keep moving on the path to healing.

10/26 Top 20 Lessons of Grief Part 1 In this session, those who've walked the journey of grief will share what they've learned and how they've grown from their grief experience.

11/2 Top 20 Lessons of Grief Part 2 In this session you'll hear the most significant lessons that can be learned during grief.

11/9 Heaven This session gives practical advice on how to tap into, and hold onto, the source of hope in this disappointing world.

11/11 Surviving the Holidays This bonus session will give you the tools you need to make a plan to get through the hustle and bustle of the holidays that are fraught with family traditions and bittersweet memories of your loved one. (Location to be announced.)

Congratulations!



Caleb and I feel blessed to have found each other.

I grew up 7 minutes away from Caleb in Morgantown. I attended Conestoga Menonite Church with my parents Bob and Karen Horning and went to Conestoga Christian School.

Caleb and I met by being "set up" by a group of our friends in Prince Street Café one evening in October 2008. Our common interest in volleyball, hiking, kayaking, motorcycling, traveling, and other outdoor activities led us to becoming best friends. And now we will be walking down the aisle on August 13, 2011!

We will be living in Ephrata at 177 E. Mohler Church Rd. Caleb will continue working at IJK Construction. I will continue working part time as a nurse's aide at Tel Hai Retirement Community while wrapping up my final year in the Occupational Therapy program at Alvernia University.

We are grateful to have such a supportive church family and would like to thank you all for your prayers!

Caleb & Melissa

SR Youth Missions Trip to West Virginia

July 10-15, 2011

This was my first year going to West Virginia, as well as my first mission's trip. I was very excited to go and my expectations were not disappointed. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it tremendously. It was filled with lots of fun, friendship, good food, and plenty of work. There were several things that stuck out to me while we were down there.

One of the neat things that I saw on this trip is how we all worked well together without complaining. I think that everyone lived up to Philippians 2:14. 'Do everything without grumbling or arguing.' A lot of times it's easy to get irritated when you're doing a job and not everything goes right, but I didn't hear anyone complain while we were down there.

Another aspect of the trip was how much more fun the work was even though we weren't getting paid for it (beside the nightly ice cream cone and great food all week long). It wasn't that we weren't working as hard. It's just that everything flowed smoother. Even though it was hot I enjoyed myself while talking with friends and helping others.

Another part that I enjoyed was the other things we did besides working on the trailer. We got to play football two nights and go swimming in the river another night. We had plenty of ice cream to cool down with after the hot day. There were also lots of card games played and conversations that keep us busy where we were at the church where we stayed.

The one regret I had and others shared was that we didn't get to talk to the Knott family very much. The last day was the only day that we got to talk to the two little boys and play with



them for a little while.

Although we didn't get to witness to the Knott family through words I'm sure they saw Christ's love exemplified in our actions, and that was the true purpose of our trip, to glorify God.

article submitted by Jonathan Shoup
pictures by Jenni Stottzufs

