



ABUNDANT JOY FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER April 2020

MY ANCHOR HOLDS

Beloved,

In times like these we need a Savior,
In times like these we need an anchor
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds & grips the solid rock.
This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One.
This Rock is Jesus, the only One,
Be very sure, be very sure
your anchor holds & grips the solid Rock.

I grew up listening to my Mom, Grandma, and two Great Aunts singing this song. However, it was today that I learned the history, the back story. See, we all have a back story to the "songs" we sing and the words we say.

This timeless song was written in 1943, during the height of WWII, amidst the fear, anxiety, and unknown outcomes of war, a time of much uncertainty. Ruth Caye Jones, a pastor's wife from Pennsylvania, the mother of five, one being a son who was a soldier, was distressed by the headlines in a Pittsburgh newspaper. She saw the WWII casualty list and she knew the allies were making slow progress through the boot of Italy. Supplies were rationed at home, and everyone was living under incredible strain.

Does this sound familiar? Although we are not in the same kind of war, we are, nevertheless, in a war - a war for peace and hope.

It was in this time of uncertainty, world turmoil, chaos and fear, that Ruth stopped, paused, and opened her Bible to 2 Timothy 3. She studied the page and pondered the opening words, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come." A song began composing itself in her mind. She jotted some lyrics on a small pad she kept in her apron pocket.

Ruth's song may have been inspired by 2 Timothy 3:1, but it's based on her knowledge (experiential) of another verse - Hebrews 6:10, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

Family, in times like these, the only way to walk in the truth is to walk by the Word of God. It is a great time to let your roots go deeper in the Lord. I firmly believe God will turn all of this to His purposes, creating a greater desperation in the hearts of people. He is removing lies, self-sufficiency, false hope, and whatever else to help people see their need for Jesus.

Arise, shine, for your light (Jesus) has come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For, behold, the darkness will cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you." Isaiah 60:1-2

Jesus has come, Jesus is alive and dwells in you. His glory shines through. During this time don't take for granted some of the smallest things you can do for others. They might be, and probably are, bigger than you think.

I'm pretty sure that when Ruth Jones, a busy, frazzled, afraid pastor's wife jotted those simple words, she never imagined it would bring hope to generations to come.

Our lives are like the open seas - calm and pleasant one day, stormy and tempest-tossed the next. So, today, I leave you with - Stay on course, let your anchor go deep in Him - it will keep you from drifting. So in times like these, we can be very sure our anchor holds & grips the solid Rock - Jesus!

Anchored in His love & hope, Pastor Cathy

Coronavirus Prayer

Father, thank you for your redemption. Thank you that you are a strong tower that the righteous can run into and be safe. Thank you that you are a very present help in times of trouble. That you hide us in the shelter of your wings, and that you love to give good gifts to your children. So as your children, Father, we ask you to destroy the COVID-19 virus, and even the entire Coronavirus family. We speak disintegration over every COVID virus molecule, in Jesus' name. Holy Spirit, we ask you to come and fill us afresh today; come fill all your people around the world. Come replace this virus with revival, Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:15 says, "He said, "Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for **the battle is not yours, but God's**." Psalm 68:1 says, "God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him!" *Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask you to make this virus your enemy, and to fight this battle for us!*

Prayer List

Andrea & Carol - Cancer - pray for healing
Clinton Blazeovich - Needs a heart transplant
Judy Brewer - Pray for good care & caregivers
Barb Brison - Cancer
Ella Conroy - 6 yr. old receiving cancer treatment
Amy Donachy - please pray for health & healing
Tina Drane - please pray for health & healing
Lisa Hill - pray for healing of her knees & ankles
Carol Huth - please pray for her general health
J.J. Jarvis - VA Hospital, also pray for Sarah
Bryson Kelly - 10 mos pray for weight/development
Matt McCarthy - Cancer, pray for family also
Dan Patterson - recuperating after hip surgery
Dan Prior - pray for good health
Iggley Roschi - young boy cancer treatments
Mary Sieber - please pray for her health
Sue Signore - please pray for her health
Betty Vedro - please pray for her health & family
Karen Veltman - right knee injury

**For our Daily Prayer Chain, please Call Donna Tantlinger (Head of the Prayer Chain)
724-224-8989**

To Lighten Your Spirit:

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was. The little girl told her, "I'm drawing God!" "But sweetie," the teacher replied, "No one actually knows what God looks like."
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Birthday List

April 3rd	Mary Sieber
April 7th	Kalina Kmetz
April 12th	Rick Tissue
April 15th	Amanda McCarthy
April 21st	Judy Brewer
April 27th	Dick Barr
April 29th	Sebastian Howell

Anniversaries

April 12th	Jim & Lisa Hill
April 20th	Bob & Donna Tantlinger

Connecting

Sunday Morning Live Broadcast on Facebook or Periscope through our website: abundantjoyfellowship.com

Zoom Meetings - Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 p.m. A time of Interactive Prayer & Fellowship

Friendship Dinner Wednesdays 6:00
Take Out only at the present time.

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said, "Well, they certainly will in a minute!"