

# Call to Faith Ministries

Achieving victory in life through an intimate and empowering relationship with Jesus Christ....

August 2009



## Life Lessons From A Cat?

Dear Deborah,

### A CAT'S TALE

Tears stung my eyes as soon as I opened the email from Michael. The note was brief: *Monkey died last night*. Knowing we shared the same sorrow, I immediately pressed the speed dial button on my BlackBerry to call my youngest son.

My older son, Stephen, had purchased the Himalayan kitten six years ago only a few months before his suicide. Since that dreadful night, the cat had been living comfortably with Stephen's dad and stepmother. She was a tangible symbol of the undying love we share with him and losing her felt like one more broken connection to our beloved Stephen.

Michael and I talked for awhile, comforting each other with memories of Stephen and the love he had for his cat. I still remember the expression on Stephen's face when I challenged him about the wisdom of such an expensive purchase. Long silence stretched between us. I felt as though his blue eyes were pulling me into bottomless pools of sorrow before he finally replied "She makes me happy, Mom. I need her." I never questioned her presence in his life again.

Just before we ended the conversation Michael said, "Monkey was a good cat. But, you know what? She whined all the time."

"I know. You've told me that before."

"No, Mom. I mean *all* the time!"

I thought about that for a moment. Monkey had been in the apartment with Stephen the night he died. Can a cat be traumatized by loss?

"Maybe she whined because she missed Stephen," I suggested.

Join Our Mailing List!

### Featured Ministry Events:



August 17, 2009, 7-9 pm

Join the Atlanta Live hosts, Debbie Turner, Larry Webb, and musical guests *Builders None*.

View streaming live at <http://www.watc.tv/index.htm> or on Direct TV on August 18 at 8 am.

Mark Your Calendars for:

### Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference

Dates and Locations:

January 28, 2010  
First Baptist Church, Taylors, SC

January 29, 2010  
Community Church, Myrtle Beach, SC

January 30, 2010  
First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC

Enjoy transformational teaching, inspiration, fellowship, and worship with Debbie and an exciting array of Speakers and Musical Guests at any of

Long after our conversation ended, these words continued to echo through my mind. I don't know why Monkey whined. Is that trait characteristic of this breed? Or, despite the love and care she received in her new home, was she locked in a perpetual cycle of grief - unable to appreciate the blessings in her life because she was preoccupied with the losses?

If so, I believe I have much in common with the beautiful cat we called Monkey. In fact, I can almost visualize Jesus and Stephen peering down from heaven and saying the same thing about me. I imagine the conversation going something like this:

Jesus turns to my son and says thoughtfully, "You know, Stephen. Your mom is a good believer. (Since this is *my* fantasy, I decided to be generous with His praise. There is actually nothing good within me except His presence!)

Stephen smiles and nods in agreement.

"But," Jesus pauses and shakes his head. "She whines all the time. And I mean *all* the time!" At that, they both burst into laughter!

I can't deny it. He's right.

My Savior provides for all of my physical needs, and I whine because business is slow and finances are shrinking.

He provides for all of my emotional needs with family and friends who offer unconditional love and support, and I whine because of those who don't.

He provides for all of my spiritual needs by saturating my life with His presence and supernaturally opening doors for me to share His love with others, and I whine because of those that remain closed.

He provided His blood to pay the penalty for my sin so I can enjoy eternity right by His side, and I whine about the challenges of this temporary life.

Despite my whining, my confusion, my stubbornness, and all of the times I totally mess up, His plan for my life continues to unfold, drawing me ever closer to His side and equipping me with skills that allow me to serve Him more effectively.

Meanwhile, I am learning and growing. And hopefully, whining a bit less. I'm praying that you are too.

In the end, isn't this the true measure of success - surrendering our will and embracing His? We won't find anything to whine about there. John the Baptist once said, "He (Jesus) must become more. I must become less."

Only then can we see past our challenges to love others with *His* heart.

Have you been *Jesus* to someone today? If not, there's still time. Let's shift the focus away from ourselves and make surrender to Christ our daily goal.

One final thought:  
*Thank you, Monkey, for the comfort you gave us. And for helping me to*

these three locations!



Come out to hear my friend, Evangelist [Scott Fadie](#) at the Laurens SC County Fairgrounds, August 30 - Sept 3 beginning at 7 pm each night. Scott is an anointed and dynamic communicator of the Gospel.

#### Quote to Ponder:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
*God (Jeremiah 29:11)*

#### Check Out These Links:

My Website:

[Call to Faith Ministries](#)

Debbie's Blog

[Walking on the Water](#)

Valuable Resources available at:

[Community](#)


Have a Passion for Music? Take a look at my son's site:

[Michael Dropps](#)

Aspiring Writers don't miss:

[Writer's Corner](#)

Great photos of the Holy Land; yours to use FREE of charge! [Israel](#)

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

[Connect with me on FACEBOOK](#)

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[Debturmerwrites](#)

see all of the reasons I have to stop whining and to feel thankful for the abundant blessings God has poured into my life.



### Words of Encouragement from Ron Hutchcraft

Ready to follow God's leading and fly, but fear has your feet rooted to the ground? Perhaps these words from Ron Hutchcraft will help!

*Where's the money going to come from? His problem. If it's God's will, it's God's bill.*

*Where are the people you need going to come from? He's already getting them ready for you and you ready for them.*

*How are you going to get over the huge obstacles that are in the way? The God who parts Red Seas is going to make the way for you.*

*How can you possibly do this thing when you are so flawed, so inadequate, so ordinary? Since when is this about what you can do? With God's assignment always comes God's enabling!*

Click [here](#) to read the complete article by Ron Hutchcraft, *Turning Lights Green*.

### Publishing Update:

Thank you for all of your prayers and emails regarding the possible acceptance of my nonfiction book proposal. I am overwhelmed and inspired by your kind support! I received an email today from the last editor of the 5 that were considering my manuscript. I am sad to report that like the others, she expressed appreciation for my writing but has declined to publish, citing the financial risks involved in publishing memoir.

I am disappointed, but no one said this would be easy! In fact, I was forewarned by practically everyone that landing a publishing contract, especially for memoir, is extremely difficult. Regardless, I am in this for the long haul so I continue to forge ahead!

While waiting to hear from these editors, I have been extremely busy. I have studied a small mountain of books on the craft of writing in order to consistently improve my skills, I have prepared and submitted several articles to Christian magazines (waiting again!), and have begun work on a contemporary novel geared toward the spiritually-curious. This genre will allow me to exercise my love for storytelling while continuing to communicate the life-transforming truth of intimacy with Christ.

For someone with a significant patience deficit, all of the waiting involved with getting published is torturous! But, in the midst of all of the work and waiting, God is constantly creating divine appointments for me that enrich my soul and deliver encouragement and comfort to others. What could be better than this?

**Important Note:** By the end of the year, I will gradually shift from publishing this email newsletter to sharing these types of articles from my blog. I encourage you to take a moment to [click on this link](#) to shift your registration now so you will not miss any updates. [Just added this feature today](#) - Under **Followers**, click on the follow button to set up your subscription. Or if you prefer, click on the posts button beneath **Subscribe** and select a different source to receive updates. They all work equally as well. Then you will receive an email each time my blog is updated with a new article. Don't worry - this will not set you

up to receive a gazillion emails from me!

I pray God's protection and blessings over you and your families. Your continued prayers for this ministry are also greatly appreciated!

Abiding in *HIS* Always Amazing Grace,

Debbie Turner  
Call to Faith Ministries

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