

RADICAL REPORT

JUNE-JULY 2020



Two are Better Than One

Sometimes our faith takes a hit, especially when circumstances are overwhelming, a disaster happens, life takes an unexpected turn or we're just plain tired. The fact that we, as a church community, have not been able to worship together can be very isolating. We can feel anxious about the current events and allow fear and discouragement to grip us. These are the times when we need to connect personally with someone else and draw strength from each other.

I remember back in 1990-something Donnie and I were believing for another child. I had recently had a miscarriage, was tired and discouraged. Donnie, Brooke and Anna wanted to keep praying for a little brother. I was too emotionally spent and remember telling Donnie, "I don't have the faith, but you guys go ahead and pray. I'll just piggyback on your faith." They prayed. I rested on their prayers and a three years later our son DJ was born.

Recently, I've been feeling like I have so much I want and need to pray for, on both a personal level and for our country, but I've had trouble focusing, my mind wanders or I get distracted easily – the phone rings, I remember something I have to do, or whatever. It's like when Jesus said to his disciples, "Watch and pray...the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

PRAYER

Many have asked how they can be praying for us. Normally, we'd be having Summer Camp, and our days would be swirling with camp planning and activity. This summer is different and with the extra time we are revamping our website as we continue to transition the ministry and working to make Donnie's resources available.



We want to pray, but our battery gets low on juice and we've hit a wall. The enemy whispers to us, "This is hopeless; it won't work, you'll have to wait forever for the answer." This is when a jumpstart is necessary. Like I wrote about in the last newsletter, there is nothing shameful about asking for help.

I decided to call a good friend of mine and ask her if she wants to pray together once a week. I was happy she said, "yes!" We've prayed together twice already and I must say, it was encouraging and energizing for me spiritually. Paul said in Romans 1:12:

"...when we come together and are side by side something wonderful will be released. We can expect to be co-encouraged and co-comforted by each other's faith." (Passion Translation)

With new Covid restrictions a person to person prayer time may not work, but there are other options: over the phone, FaceTime and Zoom are all very good ways to connect with others. Even tuning in to a prayer service that many churches are still having online is a great option, especially for those who may feel uncomfortable praying in front of others.

Prayer is so important and God wants to meet our needs. Let's not give up meeting together for encouragement. Our faith will be strengthened; the fellowship will create a connection; we will feel supported and not alone; and we can learn from one another.

COURAGE

I was overwhelmed by the response to Donnie's story of courage last month. I received many private emails, text messages and letters from some of you who are living with your own mental health issues or have a loved one who is. I want you to know I've been praying for you and we hope to continue to encourage you and speak to this important issue, if even a part of our story can help others and erase the stigma surrounding mental health. You are not alone, we can be in this together!

