

POWER^{for} LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

April - June 2011

Dear Friend,

As God blesses you and me, He calls us to bless others. He desires each of us to *make a positive difference* in this world—to live for the benefit of others and not just for ourselves. We believe that you will enjoy this quarter's article called **"Making a Difference"** and pray that you will watch and listen for how God is moving upon your heart to *make a difference* in this fallen world.

Father's Day and Mother's Day are coming up soon! So are graduations, weddings and anniversaries! If you're puzzled over how to bless those you love the most, why not **consider giving a gift** that can truly change their lives?

Encourage the **fathers** in your life with *Men of Power* or *The Making of a Man*. Uplift the **mothers** in your life with *The Making of a Woman* or *A Personal Walk*. Point your **graduate** in the right direction with *Escape to God* or *Come, Walk With Me*. For those **getting married** or **celebrating an anniversary**, *Irresistible* can help them keep or regain that spark of real love. Honestly, friends, the principles presented and illustrated in these messages have enormous power to make a difference in the life of anyone who enters into and makes practical application of them.

There will be **NO Open House** this year because we will be the main speakers at the Sweden annual camp meeting. Please **let us know** if you would like us to plan an Open House for 2012!

Thank you for your support in **helping us empower lives** and prepare people for Jesus second coming! We'd love to see you at one of the meetings listed in our speaking schedule.

We care about you!

Jim & Sally

"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail. If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us. For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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SPEAKING SCHEDULE

April 15 - 17

Joshua Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Joshua, Texas
Call (817) 645-0653 or (817) 645-3086

April 29 - May 1

Buford Family SDA Church
Buford, Georgia
Call (678) 362-8686

Please RSVP if you plan to attend!

June 9 - 12

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Camp Kuratli at Trestle Glen
Boring, Oregon
Call (541) 399-3020

July 4 - 9

Ekebyholmsskolan
Sweden
Call 46-(0)8-545-29-773

September 9 - 17

Edmond SDA Church
Edmond, Oklahoma
Call (405) 478-4401

October 13 - 16

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Windermere Camp
Roach, Missouri
Call (417) 661-6161

December 1 - 4

Empowered Living Camp Meeting
Camp Kulaqua
High Springs, Florida
Call (386) 490-4500

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It's About Walking With God!



Making a Difference!

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

When God created us in His image, He implanted within each of us a desire to make this world better for our stay in it. He gave each of us gifts – not to simply use for ourselves, but to minister to one another and make a difference in this world.

Accordingly, each of us has a calling to work and care for those about us. Some find their calling at home. Others minister in their churches. Still others are called to Africa, Asia, or other overseas lands. Wherever you are and whatever your calling is, God wants you to be a tool in His hands to make a difference in the lives of others.

As you enter into the story of our son, Andrew, and his wife, Sarah, *listen* to what God is calling you to do with your gifts to make a difference.

The story in Sarah's words...

Shortly after our marriage, Andrew and I talked about building our family. We were both excited to realize that we each had a similar desire: adopting a child. From that early conversation, we began educating ourselves about adoption by reading, asking questions of other adoptive parents, and sharing our thoughts and prayers with each other. We wanted to know the Lord's will for us as well as be able to give all of our children the very best.

Landon was born in 2004 followed by Jesse in 2006. By 2009, we were settled in our country home, had saved the money, educated ourselves and we believed the time was right to pursue the option of adoption. Andrew and I planned a weekend in October for just the two of us to celebrate our wedding anniversary and one of our first priorities was an appointment with our local Christian adoption agency. Our hearts are in adoption and we wondered what God had in store for us as we began the marathon of paperwork involved in adopting a child.

As we reached the stage of being “ready and waiting”, an opportunity presented itself to further simplify our lifestyle, reduce our expenses, and redeem more of our time for our family. It seemed providential on one hand, but would require us to sell our current home, move in with my parents for a few months, and build a new home. We didn't like the disruption of our anticipated plans this opportunity represented. We had just finished building a new home in October of 2008. Being in our home was one of the items that made us feel the time was right to adopt. Now what? Should we turn down the opportunity because it might interfere with the adoption process even though it seemed apparent that the Lord was leading or should we go forward and possibly throw away all of our effort toward adoption. We both really struggled but decided in the end to lay both items again on the altar and recommit every area of our family to God. He would lead and direct and He would work out the timing if we would only trust Him.

Over the next few months nothing developed with our adoption, but things really took shape with our potential move. The opening seemed to be such a direct gift from God – a gift we had not even asked for. We decided that if it was the Lord's will for us to move He would sell our home. So at the beginning of July we put our house on the market. Our local real estate economy is very depressed,



so we felt it would be a long wait. Twenty-eight days later, our home sold and we started packing.

Neither of us liked the chaos that began: living with my parents, building our home, working, continuing the adoption process, parenting our two boys...what else could we add? Both Andrew and I like to be organized and in control – but there was a lot about the situation that was beyond our ability to control. Andrew laughingly encouraged me, “This is good for us, Sarah!” And it was! Although things were at times uncomfortable, it was very evident that God was leading and with Him in control we could rest in knowing things would work out the way He wanted them to. God is good. His mercy never fails. We continued to put our affairs before the Lord daily and to work hard. He blessed our efforts and our challenging situation became a tremendous time of personal growth.

Our dream unfolds

Then one day in early September, we received an email from a good friend of mine who had just gotten word of a young pregnant woman who was looking for a loving Christian home for her baby. My heart leaped. Could this be it? Could this be one of those situations you read about where the Lord just opens the doors, shows His hand, and you know it is right?

We gave her permission to pass on our name and then real life suspense ensued! Five days later, we received an email from the birthmother stating she would like to meet us. We were so excited! Ten days later she came and after a very enjoyable visit, she told us she felt we were the family for her child. We then began to correspond with her weekly. And, as all miracles happen, the details were taken care of by God Himself. It was truly amazing!

Right after Christmas, our birthmother came to

Montana. In the meantime, we finished building our home, enjoyed spending time with our birth mother, got ready for our baby, and did what we could to stabilize our family in preparation for our new arrival. It was an exciting time!

Then on January 24, our birthmother went into labor. We spent the evening together and then she said goodnight deciding she would try to rest before making the decision to go to the hospital. At 12:38 am the phone rang, “I am ready to go,” she said. I picked her up and we headed for the hospital where she was promptly admitted. It was then that she gave me a gift that I will treasure and cherish forever. She asked me to stay with her and support her in labor. I cannot tell you how amazing it was to be next to the woman who gave our daughter life while she labored to bring forth our precious little bundle. The love I felt for her, the pain I had in my heart for her, and yet the hope I had for her and her future was huge.



The moment sweet Grace was born, I felt an indescribable ocean of love fill my heart for our tiny little girl. At the birthmother's invitation, Andrew arrived shortly after the birth. We will never forget those moments we shared with our newborn daughter! We love her deeply and devotedly. We want nothing more than for her to know and love Jesus with all of her heart. We are so thankful to now be a family of five!

Make a difference for eternity

Our adoption story has changed our lives. It has given us an even clearer more faith-filled view of our heavenly Father. He has done all so that you and I might be His child. He has sacrificed Himself for us that we might be adopted into His family. What a wonderful gift! What a wonderful God!

This experience has further inspired our family to live for Him unreservedly, to dedicate ourselves to each other that His love might reign supreme in our home and we might all live for the benefit of others. Whatever your circumstances are today, may you find in Jesus a loving father who desires the very best for you. Reach out and take His hand as you too experience the miracle of adoption – His adoption of you! Then watch and listen for how He may call you to share the grace you have received with someone else and make a difference for eternity! ❄️





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It's About Walking With God!

Presenting . . .

Grace Eden Hohnberger



Before you were conceived we wanted you.

Before you were born we loved you.

Before you were here an hour we would die for you.

This is the miracle of love.

We're grandparents again!

*Our son, Andrew, and his wife, Sarah,
along with their two sons, Landon
and Jesse, have welcomed into their
hearts and lives our sixth grandchild
and second granddaughter.*

*She is a delightful baby and comes to us
through the miracle of adoption.*

*We covet your prayers as Andrew
and Sarah seek to raise her for heaven.*



Born January 25, 2011

6 pounds 8.8 ounces 19 1/4 inches long