



Waller Funeral Home
"An Oxford Tradition"

SEASONS

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PRAYER AND PEACE IN MY HEART

During the past few months while I have been confined with multiple health issues, I have turned to the many books I have collected through the years. Of all these, the one I keep going back to time and again is *Adventures in Prayer*, by Catherine Marshall, published in 1975. This book has been a companion through many years and many trying experiences.

The story of Peter Marshall and his wife Catherine is familiar. Peter Marshall came to the United States from Scotland as a young man and became a Presbyterian minister. While he pastored New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D.C., long lines formed of those waiting to hear him preach. His influence was felt by many.

Peter Marshall was asked to serve as Chaplain of the U. S. Senate. At first he quietly said that he could not accept this position, but he agreed to pray about it, saying, "No, I couldn't. I wouldn't think of allowing my name even to be considered unless God definitely gives me a green light." He did go on to serve in that position until he died of a heart attack at the age of 46 on January 25, 1949.

Catherine Marshall wrote a number of books. One of the first I read was *A Man Called Peter*, an inspiring biography of Peter Marshall which was later made into an outstanding movie. In the book Catherine shares their courtship through their letters. They were married while Peter was considering the call to the prestigious New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

In 1949 and again in 1951 and 1954, *The Prayers of Peter Marshall*, edited and prefaced by Catherine Marshall, was published. It contains prayers for special occasions and also the Senate prayers. Peter Marshall was known for his prayers. The book is written in the beautiful flowing prose in which he wrote his sermons and prayers. All the editions include "Under Sealed Orders," "Heaven Can't Wait," "The Chains of Freedom," "John Doe Disciple," "Walls of Straw," and other sermons which have come to be favorites. All of these have been inspiring and uplifting during these months of my confinement.

One of Catherine Marshall's earliest and most popular books is *Christy*, a novel. It is a delightful account of the life of a nineteen-year-old young woman who in 1912 went as a school teacher to Cutter's Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. The author's close relationship with God comes through in the ministrations of Christy, not only in the school room but also as she moves about Cutter's Gap. (My friend Randy Crowe secured copies of these long-out-of-print books for me.)

Just recently I have once again brought out *Adventures in Prayer*. I had been thinking of "The Prayer of Relinquishment" (at right) since I was first diagnosed with cancer. I feel that this becoming my prayer was responsible for my being able to accept that I had cancer and for the assurance that came to me that after the mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation I would be free of cancer.

I have not had the anxiety about

I RELINQUISH THIS TO YOU

Father, for such a long time I have pleaded before You this, the deep desire of my heart: _____.
Yet the more I've clamored for Your help with this, the more remote You have seemed.

I confess my demanding spirit in this matter. I've tried suggesting to You ways my prayer could be answered. To my shame, I've even bargained with You. Yet I know that trying to manipulate the Lord of the Universe is utter foolishness. No wonder my spirit is so sore and weary!

I want to trust You, Father. My spirit knows that these verities are forever trustworthy even when I *feel* nothing....

That You are there.

(You said, "Lo, I am with you always.")

That You love me.

(You said, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love.")

That You alone know what is best for me.

(For in You, Lord, "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.")

Perhaps all along, You have been waiting for me to give up self-effort. At last I want You in my life even more than I want _____.

So now, by an act of my will I relinquish this to You. I will accept Your will, whatever that may be. Thank You for counting this act of my will as the decision of the real person even when my emotions protest. I ask You to hold me true to this decision. To You, Lord God, who alone are worthy of worship, I bend the knee with thanksgiving that this too will work together for good." Amen.

-Catherine Marshall

(continued on page 2)

PRAYER AND PEACE

(continued from page 1)

cancer that I in the past expected would come with such a diagnosis. My mother died of cancer at age 50, long before chemotherapy and radiation were available. I believe my peaceful acceptance is a very direct result of God's being in and with me. The calmness I feel is indescribable.

It is not in keeping with my nature to be idle and shut off from other people. The mastectomy, chemotherapy, and two hip surgeries have brought months of inactivity. Again I marvel at the peace and contentment I feel. I read constantly. Friends have thoughtfully shared many good books.

Today I again turned to *Adventures in Prayer*. "The Claiming Prayer" (at right) beckoned me. The apostle James tells us "...ye have not, because ye ask not." God has given us many promises. If there are conditions attached to these promises, we do our best to meet them. We move then to "The Claiming Promises" by praying a "Claiming Prayer" and waiting for God to answer it in His own time in His own way.

Perhaps it is in the last part that many of us fail. We have not the patience to wait on God's time and God's way. We are a world full of instant gratification people. This thought brings to mind II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." We bemoan the conditions of our Christian America. God has laid out *His* way for us but in *our own* way we often go in the opposite direction.

While I have been confined, I have had ample time to think back over my life and how God has blessed me. I was born to and grew up with loving Christian parents. I could not have had a better home life than I did. It was not fine in material things, but, in those things that matter, it was the best.

In my late teens I came to love Don. We grew together into the love that must flow between a man and a woman for them to come together, rear a family, and live on into the

golden years in that deep, abiding love that makes life a joy.

I know in my heart God has had his hand on my life, guiding and blessing me. Before I had ever had this thought, the last words my daddy said to me were, "Sweetheart, your old daddy is thinking about you and loving you when you don't even know it." That is just how it is with our God—He is thinking of us and loving us when we don't even know it.

I could not have been happier than I was all those years I was working in the Chancery Clerk's office. Then, when to my dismay that ended, God led us to establish the funeral home. My years there were rewarding and fulfilling. I have never doubted that God had laid His hand on us and directed us onto that path. When due to my hearing loss I could no longer be an active participant in the daily working of the funeral home, I at home continued to write letters of sympathy and encouragement to the families we served. Now, though I am unable to continue writing letters, I still am concerned for those grieving the loss of ones they loved.

Through God's providence He brought our daughter Beth and her husband Bob Rosson to be a part of the funeral home in 1983. Now their daughter Sally Kate and son Brett are an important part of this family operation.

It seems to me we would all do well to slow down to an almost grinding halt and take stock of where we have come from, where we are, and where we need to go from here. We would do well to pray Catherine Marshall's "Prayer of Relinquishment" in our lives. Just give over to God and allow Him to work in and through us. We can trust Him and depend on Him to guide us.

Of all those who care about us and love us, no one comes close to the love God has for us. I am reminded of one of my favorite scriptures. I shared this with a friend this morning and now I leave it with you. The prophet Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 43:2-4: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you, for I am the Lord your God and you are precious in my sight"

May God bless you and your loved ones all through your lives.

*Sincerely,
Patsy*

Addendum: I do truly appreciate every telephone call, letter, card, and the food I have received. I have a box of the cards and letters kept for the pleasure of going through them time and again, being reminded fondly of you, my dear and treasured friends. Knowing I was on the prayer list of many people and of many churches has been a tremendous blessing. My family continues very often to give me messages from those who are praying for me. All of these caring concerns have surely contributed to my well being.

*Sincerely,
Patsy*

I CLAIM YOUR PROMISE

Father, with my mind I have tried to understand You and Your ways. But the confusion and uncertainty in my life dramatize how limited my capacity for understanding is. I see now why You have provided us, Your creatures, with an added dimension beyond intelligence: an inner spirit to be a receiving set for Your Spirit. Father, if ever anyone needed the revelation of Spirit, I do. I ask now for the illumination that is the Spirit's gift of revelation about. . . .

the Bible and how I should read it.
(Is it really Your Word in a special sense?)

the particular promise from
Scripture You want to give me
today.

Father, I see how this promise
relates to this situation:

In faith, I copy these "words of a Gentleman" [*i.e.* the promise I received] on a slip of paper.

And now, Father, I claim them for myself and my situation by endorsing it on the back. How grateful I am that this check is signed by Him whose integrity is impeccable. I rest on the sure knowledge that behind this check stands final security—all the resources and reserves of heaven. Thank You, Father. Amen.

-Catherine Marshall

A BOOK SUGGESTION

In *Renewal: Finding Your Path to Self-Healing in Cancer*, Dr. Claude DeShazo, a board-certified general surgeon, shares his ideas about ways people with cancer can help themselves as they deal with treatments, recovery, and life in general. His emphasis is on group therapy. Dr. DeShazo was inspired in 1982 to establish a group in Kirkland, Washington, to give extra encouragement and assistance to those patients who indicated at postoperative visits that they wanted to know what more they could do to improve recovery. At that time, therapy groups were rare, but the success of a respected colleague with a group and a strong desire to do all he could to help his patients inspired Dr. DeShazo, with the help of a clinical psychologist friend, to form a group.

The group was self-named *Renewal: a way toward healing*, signifying the goal of choosing a new path and doing everything possible to make a new, satisfying life. The group, including Dr. DeShazo, met every Monday afternoon to discuss topics concerning recovery, traditional and nontraditional healing, and to share how things were going in their lives. Learning that they had some of the same problems and talking about their concerns made them feel better. With the help of guest speakers, a lending library, forums on special subjects, drawing, and other activities, they considered nutrition, exercise, spirituality, biofeedback, music and art therapy, effect of attitude on healing and quality of life, interacting effectively with doctors, and much more. The group developed their own rituals and celebrations, and, although the membership of the group was ever-changing and diverse, they grew close, brought together by common interest in their health and happiness. Some members were inspired to make drastic changes in their lives—to relocate, to change jobs, to begin a new hobby.

Dr. DeShazo shares stories about the lives, activities, and participation in *Renewal* of members, some told by the group members themselves and others retold by Dr. DeShazo. Purposely, both successful outcomes and what he says "you probably call failures" are included. The stories are

moving and inspiring. One chapter tells the stories of doctors who have themselves become cancer patients.

Dr. DeShazo recalls his own development as a physician and founder of *Renewal*. He recounts experiences at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. He tells about men who have influenced his approach to his profession and tells about his serious illness with hepatitis B, caused by a minor needle stick while he helped perform an operation, and about his reluctant retirement from his surgery practice because of dizzy spells caused by an inner ear problem.

Dr. DeShazo describes the large and diverse collection of people who contributed to the *Renewal* experience—physicians, nurses, psychotherapists, music and dream therapists, ministers, Native American medicine men, and healers of other sorts.

Dr. DeShazo tells about physicians who have done important work in explaining the principles of self-healing to the public. Some of the physicians were involved with *Renewal* over the years. An important part of their contribution was to help *Renewal* members to understand how doctors think and act and to help promote meaningful, nonritualized communication between doctors and patients. Dr. DeShazo recalls a quip he had heard, "People don't care what you know... they just want to know you care." Listening is all important. Dr. DeShazo for a while posted a placard over the exit door to his office which said: "DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED."

The responsibility of patients in the doctor-patient relationship is discussed. Scattered references reveal Dr. DeShazo encouraged *Renewal* members to be: truthful, authentic, courageous, persistent, unselfish, creative, spiritual, forgiving, fun-loving, positive, changeable, eclectic, intuitive, hopeful, ingenuous, self-aware, accountable, and tough. Dr. DeShazo passes along this quote, "...the only thing that matters in effective doctor-patient relationships is the physician having compassion and desire to help the patient, plus the patient having trust and confidence in

the physician."

The book is especially recommended to patients, friends and family, and health-care professionals dealing with cancer. People affected by other serious diseases and people interested in group therapy will find the book helpful. Anyone interested in being a better patient or a better doctor/caregiver will find helpful suggestions. Still others may find the human-interest stories and the details of the work of a compassionate, dedicated physician interesting and inspiring, especially when the physician grew up in Oxford.

More about the book including instructions for ordering online can be found on website www.renewal-healing.com. The book is also available at Square Books or you can send a check for \$24.95 for each copy to: *Renewal*; P.O. Box 23133, Encinitas, CA 92023-1333. If you would like to see the book before you order, just stop by the Funeral Home and look at our copy.

More about the author: *Dr. Claude V. DeShazo, the son of Claude DeShazo and Mary Neill DeShazo Duvall, grew up in Oxford. He got his B.S. degree at the University of Mississippi and his M.D. at the University of Mississippi Medical School. He then did specialized training in surgery, organ transplantation, and immunology.*

Dr. DeShazo has devoted much of his career to cancer surgery and care of cancer patients. In addition, he has been: Medical Director of an inpatient hospice; Chief Executive of a large community-based physician organization; Senior Partner in private practice with a surgical group for more than 20 years; Chief Executive of several startup companies dealing with Information Technology and the improvement of patient-physician communication; Chief of Transplantation at two medical schools prior to starting his private clinic; a Battalion Surgeon with the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam; speaker on issues of group support, self-help, death and dying, and aging for more than 35 years.

Dr. DeShazo and his wife of 36 years, Maureen, have six children and ten grandchildren and divide their time in retirement between Southern California and Washington State.

In Memoriam

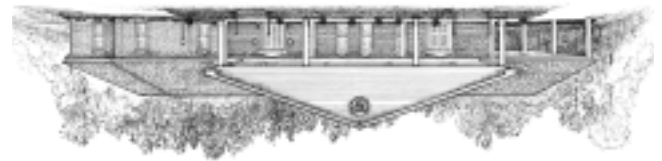
We dedicate this issue of *Seasons* to those who died and whose families we served from February 13, 2009, to June 22, 2009. Because of Patsy Waller's health problems, we have this Spring/Summer issue instead of our usual two mailings for these seasons.

Mrs. Janis Thersa Henry Holley February 13, 2009
 Mr. Kenneth Allen Bottiger February 14, 2009
 Mrs. Corinne Lovelady Hudgins February 15, 2009
 Mrs. Murble Lorraine Henry February 16, 2009
 Mr. Peter Joseph Bagley February 16, 2009
 Mrs. Carolyn Marie Hofer Stone February 19, 2009
 Mrs. Naomi Savage Fleming February 20, 2009
 Mrs. Sharon Crandall Sanders February 22, 2009
 Mrs. Emma Lou Huckaby Clark February 22, 2009
 Mr. Lester Whitten Young February 22, 2009
 Mr. Johnnie Lee Pritchard February 28, 2009
 Mrs. Velma Viola Hollowell Cook March 1, 2009
 Mr. Steven Lee Maples March 3, 2009
 Mrs. Wynema Ball Moffett March 3, 2009
 Ava Lucia Hodgins March 3, 2009
 Mrs. Ruth Chilton Hopper March 6, 2009
 Mrs. Patricia Ann Stanford March 7, 2009
 Mrs. Mary Hartsfield McClain Hall March 15, 2009
 Mr. John Edwin Horgan March 22, 2009
 Mr. Robert Roland Walls March 28, 2009
 Mr. Thadis Milton Tarver, Jr. April 4, 2009
 Mr. Al Van Besien April 8, 2009
 Mrs. Angie Pollard LaBarge April 11, 2009
 Mr. George Arthur Miller April 20, 2009

Mrs. Q'Milla Leake Lovelady April 21, 2009
 Mrs. Carolyn Murphree Backstrom April 22, 2009
 Mr. David Michael Holly April 23, 2009
 Mr. Garvin Lee Vinson April 24, 2009
 Mr. Marty James Evans April 25, 2009
 Mrs. Margaret Marceline Hunter April 25, 2009
 Mr. Thomas Larry Woolfolk April 25, 2009
 Mrs. Katherine Babb Fooshee April 27, 2009
 Mr. George Elton Russell May 1, 2009
 Mr. Lloyd George Wells May 4, 2009
 Mr. James Wesley Sanders May 6, 2009
 Mrs. Mildred Edlin Leeton May 17, 2009
 Mrs. Elaine Calmenson Cremaldi May 19, 2009
 Mrs. Juliet Couch Bynum May 21, 2009
 Mrs. Odelle Mathis Simms May 21, 2009
 Mrs. Mildred Gray Redding May 25, 2009
 Mr. James Tolliver Higgins May 24, 2009
 Mr. J. C. "Dick" Johnson May 30, 2009
 Mr. Colin Anthony Blanchflower June 4, 2009
 Mrs. Martha Overstreet Taylor June 6, 2009
 Mrs. Elnor Sanders Sockwell June 7, 2009
 Mrs. Virginia Oswalt Parker June 12, 2009
 Mr. Victor Dean Winslow June 14, 2009
 Mrs. Myrtle Barrett Montgomery June 22, 2009

Congratulations to Sally Kate Rosson Walker for passing the National Board Examination in Funeral Directing! Waller Funeral Home now has six licensed staff members, two licensed in Funeral Directing and four licensed in Funeral Service.

NFPA Pursuit of Excellence Awards
 2002 - 2009



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