



# The Grapevine

*"I am the vine, you are the branches..."*

*John 15:5a*

Volume 4 Issue 3

Third Quarter 2011

## *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* ~ Grace Eller

*Grace is the daughter of Mark & Kim Eller and the niece of Steffanie Marion. She is in Roca Blanca, Mexico. While there she is staying with a Mexican family and attending classes that are part of the eight-month program that is helping her learn the language and the culture.*

*Grace hopes to serve God in Honduras, but trusts in Him and His leading.*

*The following is a message she posted on Facebook and is reprinted with her permission.*

"I have decided to follow Jesus" This was the song that my mother sang to me the night before I left for

Mexico. This was also the song 19 others of us sang as we prepared ourselves for a mission's trip. All day Friday a group of us worked on preparations for a health and children's program. Later that day we



packed our backpacks and headed to Tetepalcingo which is about 2 ½ hours away.

We were told that the people were taught "blessed are the poor..." This mindset has left people living in poverty and with a sense of hopelessness.

Friday night we did a small health clinic that lasted about 3 hours and then headed to the pastor's home for the night.

Because of some circumstances the women stayed in a sheltered but open area for the night

(like sleeping at a picnic shelter at the park). Some men from the church slept by the gate to help protect us because our men were given a house to stay in. We all survived the night but there was definitely prayer against scorpions and tarantulas!!!

Saturday morning we got straight to work. Because there were plenty of helpers, I was able to spend a lot of time sitting in on the consultation and listening to the language. In Tetepalcingo they speak Mixteco which made everything a little more complicated. We had English translated into Spanish and from Spanish to Mixteco.

The time I wasn't in the clinic I spent it with the children. Being with the children was like being attacked by leaches!! I had several children holding onto to me at once begging

for my attention. One little girl around 4-5 years old started calling me “mommy.” I had to excuse myself from the kids to pull myself back together.

It was while I was alone I realized we all have a choice to make. We can try to help people like the Mixtecos or we can continue to live for ourselves – forgetting about the rest of the world. I’ve made my choice; “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.”

I will continue to serve Him wherever it is He has me.



### *Ministry events you won't want to miss!*

Ladies, the Sisters of the Vine Team invites you to reserve these dates on your calendars now!

☞ **Saturday, October 22,** from 8:30-11:00 a.m. for the annual Ladies Brunch. This year's theme is “Cornucopia of Blessings.” You are encouraged to bring a guest. (There will be a special gift for those who do bring a guest.) Please RSVP



to Sharon Fellers (678-9125) by **October 10.**

We need to know how many to prepare for and if you will need child care.

☞ **Saturday, November 12,** beginning at 9:00 a.m. is a *Mug & Muffin Morning*. This is an informal time for women to get together. You can choose one of the following homes to attend: Nina



French, Stephanie McConachie, Shaun Hyre or Ruth Ann Jamison. Just call one of these ladies to let her know you will be attending. All you need to bring is your favorite mug!

☞ **Saturday, March 10, 2012,** for the annual Women's Retreat. (Yes, you did read it right; this is a one day retreat.) The theme this year is *SeaSide Escape*.

### *2012 Women of Faith Conference scheduled*

Join thousands of other women on either **August 3-4** in Columbus, Ohio, or **August 24-25** in Indianapolis, Indiana, for ***Celebrate!***

No matter what your situation may be,



you'll have plenty to ***Celebrate*** as the Women of Faith Team comes together with new friends, new messages, music, drama, laughter, and tears (the good kind).

The cost is \$89 per person for a group of 10 or more and \$99 per person for 9 or less. Visit their website at: [www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com).

### *God does nothing in vain*

God has created me to do some definite service; He has committed some work for me which he has not committed to another. I have a mission... Therefore I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him. In perplexity, my perplexity may serve him; If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him. My sickness, perplexity or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain.

~ John Henry Newman

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## *Almost Home*

In *Lessons I Learned in the Dark* (Multnomah Books), Jennifer Rothschild describes the physical and spiritual impact of losing her sight as a teenager. During her first lesson with a mobility instructor, he pointed out some blooming hibiscus on the corner near her home. "When you smell the flowers, you know you're almost home," the instructor said.

Rothschild notes that the closer we get to our heavenly home, "any kind of darkness here on earth ... will pale in comparison to the sweet aroma that will usher us into the presence of the One whose face we will clearly see. And when our eyes look into his face, we'll realize that, compared to the surpassing excellence of seeing him, nothing else really mattered."

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## *Book Corner*

### *God's Guest List*

Who has God invited into your life? Do you wonder why? The answer may surprise you!



Sharing true stories and touching insights, Debbie Macomber opens your eyes to those who have shaped you. Some did it from a distance, through word and deed; others by example. The inspirational thoughts found in *God's Guest List: Welcoming Those Who Influence Our Lives* will help you be a faithful influence on others.

### *Living Beyond Your Feelings*

This could be one of the most important books you'll ever read. Joyce Meyer, author of many bestsellers, including *Battlefield of the Mind*, helps us understand the many feelings we all experience. She examines how our brain processes and stores thoughts and memories—and then, emotion by emotion, explains how we can manage our responses to those emotions. By doing that, Joyce gives us practical ways for effectively managing the feelings that can destroy our relationships and wreak havoc on our lives.

### *Tossed Salad*

One day as a mother was scraping and peeling vegetables for a salad, her daughter came to ask her permission to go to an

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amusement center that had a bad reputation. On the defensive, the daughter admitted it was a questionable place, but "all the other girls were going."

As the teenage daughter pleaded to go, she suddenly saw her mother pick up a handful of discarded vegetable peelings and toss them into the salad.

Startled she cried,

"Mother, you are putting garbage into the salad." "Yes,"

her mother replied, "I know, but I thought that if you did not mind garbage in your mind and heart, you certainly would not mind a little garbage in your stomach."

Thoughtfully, the girl removed the offending material from the salad and with a brief, "Thank you" to her mother; she went to tell her friends that she would not be going with them.

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If you would like to submit an item for the next quarterly issue, please give it to Sharon Fellers by **November 30**. You can email it to her at [boshky@embarqmail.com](mailto:boshky@embarqmail.com)

*Mission Statement*

The mission statement of Sisters of the Vine is: *Engaging, encouraging and equipping women to glorify God and enlarge His kingdom.*



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*Big Dreams*

During lunch, a group of Christians noticed that their young waiter was particularly helpful and kind. His service was so adept that one diner asked if he was working to achieve some future goal elsewhere. The waiter responded that he was preparing to be a missionary.

“Where?” someone asked.

“In Africa, I hope,” he answered.

“And if that doesn't work out, what then?” another diner asked.

“I just want to live for God,” he said. “I want to live so as to put a smile on God's face.”