

# DWELL FOREVER

## *newsletter*

FALL 2024

### *at His pace*

I'm reminded in this season the importance of slowing down. Typically, I have a hard time taking it slow, as it's always been in my nature to keep my day filled with people, projects, and ministry. I enjoy the feeling of being productive, and if I am being honest, my "filled-up" days have been a welcomed source of distraction since Steven's passing. The grief of death along with the fears and aches of widowhood are daily unwelcomed sources of pain, so anything that offers reprieve is a great temptation. As Steven's widow, I understand the sting of his absence will never go away just as my love for him will never go away. Therefore, the tears still come, and although my grief is definitely more manageable than it once was (thanks to the Lord's strength and grace), I am still learning the importance of integrating it into my life instead of avoiding it. In my weakness, I have found myself allowing fast and full days to distract me from the symptoms of grief, not realizing it may also be distracting me from something more . . . my healing, and more importantly, from the Healer Himself.

You see, widowhood shifts and changes just as the seasons do. There will always be aches and pains (old and new), and yet, I've followed the Lord long enough to know that the relief my heart is searching for can only be found in Him. When I cave into the temptation of prioritizing my to-do list and filling up my calendar, I find that I also fall prey to the temptation of despair. It's only in the slowing down that I am able to choose a pace that aligns with Jesus . . . a pace that holds space for His presence, a pace of rest, and a pace able to find hope and purpose after loss.

### *special moments*

In July, I had the opportunity to travel back to Gallup, NM . . . my other home. I try to visit once or twice a year if possible to spend time with my in-laws, friends, and former students. This visit was all encompassing as I got to witness two former students of Steven and I tie the knot. It was such a sweet ceremony, and I was able to connect with several other students and familiar faces which greatly filled my heart. I treasure the fact that I can stay in touch with my Gallup friends and family.



## hard moments

Let's just say, August is not my favorite month. I appreciate every day the Lord gives, but as August approaches, I begin to feel dread knowing Steven and Michael's death anniversaries are just around the corner. My mind and body tends to remember each and every event leading up to those particular days as well as the devastation and sorrow that followed. It's hard not to relive the trauma, but these dates force me to fix my eyes on Jesus. And, when I do, I am able to grieve with hope by focusing on the life they lived here on the earth as well as the life they have with Him now. I try to remember that their death anniversaries are also the anniversary they were welcomed into glory, and how wonderful it is that I'll get to see them again.



Michael and Steven

## short but sweet

In August, Missionary Gospel Fellowship held their Annual Summer Conference. This was my second conference and I was looking forward to connecting/sharing meals with other missionaries as well as participating in the workshops/services, but like many other missionaries who experienced obstacles this year, I fell ill :( I was able to attend our Annual Business Meeting the first night, but had to forgo the rest of the conference. I was discouraged, but ultimately trusted God just had different plans. Let's just say, I am looking forward to a redo next year!

Forever trusting Him,

Jackie Godder



## CARING FOR *Widows* (since 2022)

Dwell Forever's primary focus is on the young widow (50 and under), but Dwell Boxes are for widows of all ages.

# 16

Dwell Boxes Sent

# 9

Widows Served



Dwell Boxes are gifts of encouragement that support widows during their first year of widowhood. In each box—a personal note of encouragement, a faith based book/devotional (to help her process her loss and suffering through a Biblical lens), items for reflection and prayer, a gift that encourages rest/relaxation, and a remembrance gift in honor of her late husband. We hope these boxes serve as reminders of God's presence and love during the early days of devastation as well as in the days of grief that follow.

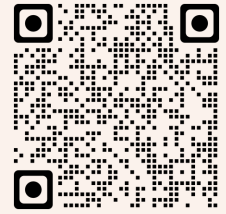


# PRAY PER DAY

## FOR THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS

### *Holiday Season*

As the holidays approach, emotions can be especially heavy for the widow and her children. While the rest of the world seems excitedly engaged in decking their homes, planning parties, and keeping fun family traditions, it can be hard for the widow/children to fathom a Christmas without her husband/their father. With that in mind, **will you join me in praying for the widow (and her children) this holiday season?** All you have to do is select and sign-up for a date (or multiple dates) and on that particular day, pray! It's that simple, but our prayers are a beautiful and impactful way we can show God's love and care for them. Sign-up by scanning the QR code or by visiting [dwellforever.com/prayerperday](http://dwellforever.com/prayerperday). Below is a sample prayer, but feel free to pray as the Lord leads your heart. If you'd like a reminder the day of, please provide your email address when signing-up. Thank you so much!



*Sign-up here!*

### *Sample Prayer*

*I pray a special blessing for the widow today. The pain of missing her husband is more than she feels she can bear. The widow with children carries an extra ache in her heart not only for her grief but also for theirs. Oh, this is excruciating for each one of them. Please give the widow hope and the ability to put her trust in you—the one who is able to turn mourning into dancing and bring joy in the morning. This process takes time.*

*During the long days and season of silence, whisper Your love to her.*

*If she is physically alone today, please prompt someone to call or visit. If she is surrounded by friends and family, loneliness can still find its way into her heart, protect her from the lies of the enemy. Inject truth into the deepest parts of her soul, reminding her that You are there—Emmanuel God with her. I pray for the satisfaction and contentment that comes only from You.*

*Turn her heart towards the promises in Your Word. Give her the strength to believe, trust, and rely on you.*

*Let this precious one know that You are the God who sees, and that her pain has not gone unnoticed. You desire to satisfy her deepest needs. Comfort her in ways that only You can—hold her close. I pray this Christmas, she experiences a peace that surpasses all understanding that comes from You, the Prince of Peace.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray the Lord will continue to heal and equip my heart for this ministry.
- Please pray for the Lord's leading and preparation as I look to start a young widows support group within the Central Valley in the Spring.
- Please pray for opportunities to make connections with churches and individuals who may want to partner with Dwell Forever.

*thank you for praying for me!*

# ways to PARTNER with me

## PRAYER

Please join me in praying for the women (and their families) experiencing the heartaches of widowhood. Pray for comfort and peace as they process their grief and move forward without their husband.

**See specific prayer requests for Dwell Forever on Page 3.**

## GIVE

Would you consider becoming a ministry partner of Dwell Forever?

It would be such an honor if you'd join me in serving young widows. You can make a regular contribution or a one time gift at [dwellforever.com](http://dwellforever.com) or [mgfhq.org](http://mgfhq.org). You can also donate by check—**sent and payable to MGF with memo: Jackie Yoder - Project #162**

Missionary Gospel Fellowship  
P.O. Box 153  
Turlock, CA 95381

## ENCOURAGE

James 1 makes it clear that **caring for widows and the fatherless is an assignment of God's Church**. You can encourage a widow in your life by checking on her, sending her a set of Dwell Boxes, and showing up for her in real and tangible ways.

View a list of ways you can support a widow by visiting [dwellforever.com/resources](http://dwellforever.com/resources).

## Remembering Steven

### December

Various memories during the Christmas season including traditions of making massa sovada, tamales, and gingerbread houses. We loved spending time with friends and family!

