



# Heart Heart

A Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

"...that their hearts may be encouraged..." Colossians 2:2

Fall 2018

## **"In Christ You Can Have Life, And Have It More Abundantly."**

By William Kelley

**W**OW! What a precious promise God has made to each of us who is His child. LIFE...not just plain, ordinary, humdrum life, but an **ABUNDANT** life!

As a parent of a child with spina bifida, I have to admit that I have sometimes reflected on those words of Scripture and pondered their significance for our child. With the limitations of mobility as a result of the affected muscles and nerves from this birth defect, how then can she have life more abundantly? I feel that I may not be alone in this reflection.

Sometimes I am asked the question of "why?" "Why did God give me a child with cancer, M.S., C.P., etc?" If He promised me an abundant life, than He must obviously be a God who doesn't keep His promises. I immediately ask myself, "Doesn't God love me anymore?"

First, God does love you. He loves you with a love that passes all human understanding. He loves with a sacrificial love. That sacrificial love being His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Secondly, God does not bring evil or sorrow to His creation; for this would be out of His character. God does, however, permit evil and sorrow to test and try His **SPECIAL** creation...YOU!

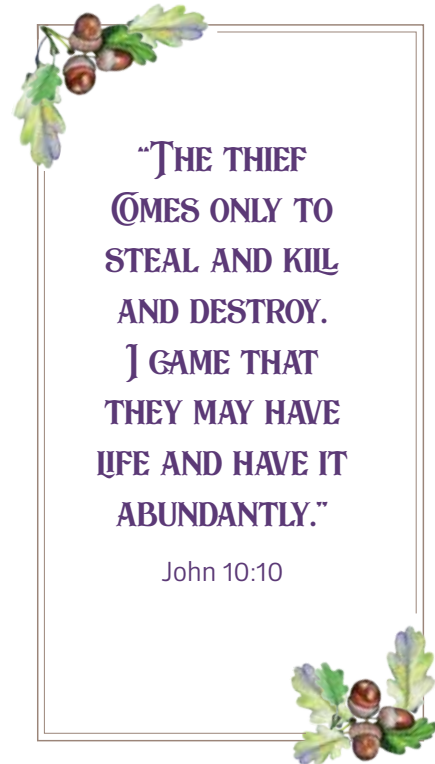
God's Word tells us that we are created in His image and likeness, and that He breathed into mankind the breath of life. As a result, we became a living soul, a special creation. We were created a little lower than the angels themselves, but given a crown of honor and glory (Hebrews 2:7).

Christ's ministry was not only to those who were "whole" in body, but also to ALL peoples who would receive Him. He went to those who were deformed (2 Samuel 9:1; 21:7), blind (John 9:19, 20, 32), deaf, and mute (Matthew 9:32; 12:22; 15:30)

God sent His Son to die for ALL His creation. He tells us to be strong and of good courage and to trust in Him. We are to cast all our cares upon Him, for He is the ultimate "Care Giver."

The question is, "Do you?" Do you trust and cast, or do you doubt and hold back? Do you take God at His Word, or do you allow the devil to cast seeds of distrust, bitterness, or anger into your heart, mind, and soul?

It is God Who strengthens, and through His always available strength, and not through anything we can do, are we able to conquer fear, doubt, and distrust—quenching even the fiery darts of Satan himself. It is through trusting in Jesus and standing on His promises which cannot fail, that we can indeed have life and have it more abundantly!



**"THE THIEF  
COMES ONLY TO  
STEAL AND KILL  
AND DESTROY.  
I GAVE THAT  
THEY MAY HAVE  
LIFE AND HAVE IT  
ABUNDANTLY."**

John 10:10



## H\*VMI Events

**Monthly Bible Clubs &  
Parent Support Groups**  
*(see reverse side for details)*

**October 13**



**PA 45th Anniversary Banquet  
Fundraiser,**  
*Yoder's, New Holland PA*

**November 16**  
**ExtraOrdinary Give Fundraiser**

## Heart to Heart DIY

Everyone can play! Sometimes something as simple as a game with friends or family can turn into quite the challenge. Here is an easy idea to help someone you love be able to more independently have some fun with others! Find a box with a lid and turn it upside down. If the box is big enough you can store your cards in it! You can cover the box with some pretty wrapping paper to dress it up.



As always, let us know if you have a DIY that works well for you so we can pass it along to others!



**“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECARES THE LORD,  
“PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU  
HOPE AND A FUTURE.”** Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Living abundantly stems from the overwhelming peace and trust we can have in our heavenly Father. Do I truly trust that God will provide in all things? Meet all my needs? Have a plan for my good and His glory, even though my circumstances in life seem hard? Give me the strength to take each moment as it comes? It's not easy to have such implicit trust, but thankfully we have a loving, gracious, and ever patient Father who will encourage and remind us forever of His vast love and provisions. My idea of an abundant life might be a beautiful home, perfect children, and really cute handbags—but that is probably NOT God's perfect plan for my abundant life. I need to shift my perspective and alter my posture to live more abundantly in Christ. I need to recognize the many blessings from Him, cultivate that perfect peace and trust, and live abundantly for His glory.



## Support Groups

Join other parents of “children” (of any age) with disabilities for fellowship, sharing, prayer and encouragement from God's Word at our **PIP** (Parents in Progress) Support Group meetings:

### South Jersey

Collingswood, NJ ..... 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM (Sept.-May)

### Lancaster County

Akron, PA ..... 2nd Monday, 7:30 PM (Sept-May)

## Bible Clubs

Individuals (ages 5 and up) with disabilities can attend a Bible Club where they will hear a lesson, worship, and receive encouragement.

Collingswood, NJ ..... 3rd Thursday, 7:30pm (Sept-May)

Akron, PA ..... 1st Thursday, 6:15pm (Oct-April)

Contact us at  
**717.859.4777**

or visit  
**hvmi.org**  
for details.

**Heart to Heart** is produced  
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a ministry under the  
leadership of



## Parents In Progress

is a group designed just for parents of children with disabilities, offering resources to help them as they raise and nurture their children; and providing a “safe” environment of support and encouragement where they can freely discuss the issues unique to their families.

*“PIP is the one place I can truly express my frustrations because I know everyone there understands and cares.”*

Please feel free to contact **Heart to Heart** regarding articles, resources, or information contained in this publication. We also welcome your thoughts, personal testimonies, articles, and resources that would be helpful or encouraging to other parents!

**For more information, please contact Christine Whiting at:**

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