

Conversations with Terri

***'The path of the righteous is like the first
gleam of dawn, ever-brighter until the full
light of day.'***

(Proverbs 4:18)

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To Karen and Griff

Introduction

My neighbor and friend asked if I could meet with her mom, Terri, and talk. After twenty years in remission, Terri had received news that the cancer was back, and had spread. Terri was also older now, less energy and resilience, so the struggle was real, and the path ahead looked shorter.

At this time Terri was living in her own apartment across the road from our neighborhood. I contacted her and she agreed to meet me at our local park. On that first day we met she had driven to the park. We started walking through Bond Park, chatting. Although I did not know Terri very well personally, she had been a neighbor and friend of the family for about ten years. She had also become friends with my mother-in-law, and even visited her in Ireland. So Terri and I first chatted a little about family, about friends, about my kids and her grandkids. But the reason we had really connected was to consider some of life's deeper truths that have eternal reach, particularly Jesus, his message, his promises, his presence.

After that first walk together, we met every two weeks, and then as time progressed, every week. From the first time we met till Terri went to be with the Lord, about fifteen months had passed.

In this short book I share some of my

conversations with Terri, and some thoughts and reflections that came from our times together. I used to tell Terri – because it was the full truth – that my meetings with her were the highlight of my week.

Drawing Closer

'My sheep know my voice.' (John 10:27)

As I was walking through my neighborhood to meet Terri for the first time, I felt almost 'out of place'. She was older, wiser, and yet I was meeting her to talk about spiritual things. I knew very little about her own spiritual background or faith. It was clear we were meeting in this way because she was now ill, facing possible – probable – end of life in the near future. I just did not have any experience in this, really. But her daughter, Karen, had asked me to, and I felt it was something I just had to trust the Lord in.

What would we talk about? What's appropriate to say? As I wondered and prayed – getting closer to our meeting spot – a verse came to mind: **'Jesus said, 'My sheep know my voice.'**" (John 10:27)

I pondered this verse. It struck me that the Lord had called this verse to my mind for this meeting. Jesus said he would do this, that through the Holy Spirit he would **'call to our mind things he had taught'**. (John 14:26) I knew this verse was for Terri, for our meeting this day.

We met at the entrance to the park, and began to walk. We chatted about family, friends, and kids. She shared with me about getting news about the return of the cancer, and about recent treatment underway. She mentioned how she

was feeling – which was really good at this point – and she mentioned that it could be months or years...

After a short distance, I said, ‘Terri, as I was walking down here to meet you today, I was praying. I was just asking the Lord to bless our time, our walk, our talk. And a verse came to my mind, which I think may be a verse just for you at this time, even this season of your life.’

Terri looked at me with a half-smile, skeptical but curious. I remember it well. ‘So what’s the verse?’ she asked.

I shared it: ‘**Jesus said, ‘My sheep know my voice.’** (John 10:27)

I went on to say, ‘I wonder, Terri, if at this time in your life, the Lord is wanting to draw a little closer to you personally, and speak to your heart, your soul. He told us that as his sheep, his followers, we could know his voice, hear his voice.’

We walked on a few steps, in a slightly tense, awkward silence. Terri then asked, ‘How do you suggest someone hears the voice of the Lord?’

I said, ‘Well, honestly, the most important thing is that we want to. In fact, it is more of an ‘opening up’ to the Lord, letting him in, than anything else. There is an amazing Scripture where Jesus himself says, ‘**I stand at your door and I**

knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in. (Revelation 3:20) So, an open heart, a willing heart, to open the door to Jesus, well, that's the most important thing. Then, I would suggest a short time, a quiet time, reading a passage from the Bible, and praying. I personally read only one chapter a day, sometimes only a paragraph, and then I sit and whisper my heart's needs to the Lord, my thanksgiving to the Lord, and I just sit with him.'

Terri was open, and listening. Her skepticism had seemed to fade very quickly. She then said, 'You know, I've never really allowed myself that personal time and attention from the Lord. I've always thought my main purpose in life was for my children, and that my main value in life was to give to them. But I found it hard to take time for myself, and consider myself worthy of God's personal attention.'

Then Terri said something that really struck me. It was deep and insightful. She said, 'Maybe, however, in taking time for myself, to really be alone and personal with God, this is a way to model to my children that they, too, are worthy of personal time with God, and personal love from God.'

Terri agreed to accept from me a daily devotional, and a Bible, so that she could read one entry a day, and maybe look up in the Bible the verses suggested at the end of each entry. I said I would drop these off at her door, and

maybe we could meet again in a couple weeks.

I asked Terri if we could pray together, just as we came to the end of our walk. She agreed, and expressed that she would like that. I asked if there was anything in particular that was on her heart. She said she really wanted to finish creating online the photo books for the grandkids, particularly Gracie's. So as we walked the last short distance I prayed with Terri, thanking God for our time together, for her life and faith, for her family and friends. I prayed for her health, and that the Lord would give her strength and inspiration to finish the photo book she was working on.

Can Jesus Relate?

'We do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.' (Hebrews 4:15)

Terri and I met up again two weeks later, for another walk on a sunny day. This time we were straight into 'faith talk'. Terri had been reading the devotional and the Bible verses, and she had a few questions.

Her particular question was about the struggles of Jesus, particularly his experiences of temptation and 'despair'.

Jesus was tempted, we can this see from the verse above. Although Jesus did not give into the temptation, he felt its pull. He can relate to us in our struggles with temptation. He's been there. And he does offer us his own hand, personally. Look at the verse that immediately follows on from above verse:

'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.' (vs.16)

Terri and I discussed this help and hand of Jesus in our personal lives, in our struggles. He came for this very reason, to connect with the

individual. We discussed the meaning of his name, ***‘Emanuel, which means ‘God with us.’*** (Matthew 1:23) And then we discussed his experience of ‘despair’, of fear. We’re told in the prophecy about Christ on the cross, that when surrounded by the evil of people, ***‘his heart was like wax, melted within him’***. (Psalm 22:14) He knew fear. And we’re told in the garden of Gethsemane before he died, that his soul was ***‘overwhelmed with sorrow, to the point of death.’*** (Matthew 26:38)

Jesus himself, as we sit with him now in Spirit, as we whisper to him, can meet us in *our* fear, *our* despair, *our* temptation. And he can help us in our time of need.

This was the essence of our walk, our talk. We prayed again as we came to the end of our time. Terri said to me that day, *‘You told me last week that the Lord speaks through the Scriptures, and by his Holy Spirit to our hearts; but I feel the Lord has been speaking to me through you.’*

I told her that this, too, is God’s way. He uses people to speak his Word to people. He always did, through the prophets and others, and he always will. I told her that she, too, through prayers and words of faith, would be speaking – ministering – God’s word to people. I told Terri that some of her own insights, and words of faith and humility, were also speaking God’s word to me.

Organized Religion

Our next walk together was around the grounds of Terri's apartment complex, which included a nice lake and path. We met here because it was getting a little harder for Terri to get in the car and drive to the park.

We walked and talked about family and friends. Terri was feeling quite well, generally, but less energy. A couple surgeries and tests were now pending. We discussed this key verse – and we revisited it often over the coming months:

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6-7)

We also then talked about faith and religion. Terri shared that from a young age she had valued faith, and believed in God and Jesus. However, she had an interesting experience at one point in her youth.

In the mid 1960s the Vatican held their second council, *Vatican II*. Terri recalled going back to school after a summer break, and hearing that some things in the church had changed, and some past requirements were no longer in place. The Mass could now be said in English, not

Latin, for example. What struck Terri most was that teachers she had, who were nuns, now asked to be addressed by their names from birth, both first and last. Before Vatican II – and in this case, before this new school year for Terri – these same teachers and nuns had used a chosen name, only one, e.g. ‘Mary’, when entering the service of the Catholic Church. So a teacher that might have been ‘Sister Mary’ (with no last name), was now ‘Sister Ellen Rose’, from her childhood name.

It was this experience that made Terri realize the difference between God himself, and human religion and tradition. She felt if a policy in the Church – something of supposed spiritual importance and meaning - could be changed by human decision at a council or conference, then that policy, and the Church itself, was not the same thing as God himself.

Despite this separation of God and religion in Terri’s heart and mind, Terri said she had continued to believe, and even tried to honor the Lord in her youth by living and forgiving and giving. She said the belief that Jesus would reward her for pushing through in challenging situations, was a comfort and inspiration to her in her youth, and throughout life had often helped her push through in tough times.

We discussed the flaws in religion. Although I personally did not grow up in the Catholic faith and church tradition, the same flaws and sins

have abounded in the 'organized' Christian churches and ministries I have been a member of. We discussed how quickly churches and 'movements' can become more focused on their own identity and survival and power, and come to emphasize membership in their religion as more important than relationship with Jesus.

We talked about this amazing verse, words of Jesus to the religious leaders of his day:

'You search the Scriptures because in them you think you possess eternal life, but you refuse to come to me, and have life.'

(John 5:39-40)

Terri said to me, *'I do believe in Jesus. It is organized religion that I have had a problem with.'* I said, *'And that is OK! If you love Jesus, Terri, and know you are loved by Jesus, you have achieved the main point, the highest prize, of why any Christian organization exists!'*

Something to Look Forward To

‘For the joy set before him, Jesus endured the cross...’ (Hebrews 12:2)

I asked Terri who she was actually looking forward to seeing in heaven. This was a profound, almost surreal conversation, and yet felt more ‘real’ to me than my daily life here. I believe – as C.S. Lewis describes it in *‘The Great Divorce’* – that heaven is *‘more real’* than life here, not just *‘as real’*.

Jesus had a ‘joy’ set before him that carried him through his sufferings. And we discussed the ‘joy’ set before each one of us, as we near the end of this life. Our ‘joy’ at our end here on earth, is meeting those we love again in heaven. Paul puts it this way:

‘What is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.’ (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

So I asked Terri who she was looking forward to seeing. First, she mentioned her desire to see her long, lost mother. This was natural. But then she said she was looking forward to seeing her ex-husband, Kevin. Now let me explain why that surprised me, and why it touched me.

As a young, married man Kevin had struggled with addiction, which caused much pain to Terri

and the kids, and resulted in divorce. When I personally met Kevin for the first time, it was when many years later, now terminally ill, his daughter, Karen, took Kevin into the family home to nurse and care for him. Terri was also living at Karen's home at that time, though working and traveling quite a bit. Although it was Karen's decision to open her home to Kevin, Terri would also be of practical support when she could to help with driving, etc. At the time this act of kindness and mercy by Karen, Ken, Terri and the family, impacted me deeply.

Now years later, Terri spoke of wanting to see Kevin again in heaven. As Terri shared this with me, it was like seeing the pure spirit of a child, so forgiving in essence! And I recalled Jesus' own words: ***'Unless you change and become like a child, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.'*** (Matthew 18:3)

Forgiveness is a deep thing, not a pat answer. I believe true, deep forgiveness is stepping away from taking personal vengeance. It is giving the judgement call to Christ. There will be judgment, this is clear in Scripture. In forgiving we are not wishing away true judgment, we are simply stepping away from the judgment seat. We are giving our pain to the Judge to deal with, and allowing our hearts to rest, to breathe, to live, focused ahead and not behind.

Terri longed for things to be right in people's souls, their eyes, their hearts, the land, the

world. She longed to see Kevin fully restored, fully repentant and contrite, so that her forgiveness could 'land' on good soil. She did want redemption; she expressed this. She did want vindication; she expressed this, also. But she was not vindictive. She primarily wanted restoration. This moved me.

Eyes of a Child

‘Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.’
(Psalm 73:25-26)

After Terri and I had settled down on her porch - me with coffee and Terri with tea – she opened up our chat by referring to the above verse. She had read it in her devotional, and it perturbed her a little.

Terri said that we had talked about who she wanted to see when she gets to heaven, when she ‘crosses that river’ and walks into the ‘celestial city’, which we had taken from the imagery in *‘Pilgrim’s Progress’*.¹ She had said she wanted first to see her mother, but this verse made her wonder if she had a strong enough longing to see Jesus himself. Maybe, she said, she should be wanting to first see Jesus, and then her mother and others?

I assured Terri that her ‘childlike’ longing to see her mother first, was a God-given longing. We discussed how a parent loves to see their children delight in one another. The parent does not feel neglected or left out when two sisters laugh and enjoy each other’s company. And God is a higher expression of this sentiment. He

¹ *‘Pilgrim’s Progress’* by John Bunyan.

delights at our love and longing for those we know, our family and friends. In fact, we are admonished in Scripture to even 'prefer' those who are in our earthly 'families':

'Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith...'

(1 Timothy 5:8)

Jesus calls us to be like children in our innocence, our hearts, our faith, and Terri's longing to see her mother first, well, this is a pure, childlike desire.

So where does this passionate love of God come from that the Psalmist writes about in Psalm 73:25-26? Terri put it this way, at the end of our time together: *'I suppose it is God who gives me my mother, and gives me heaven and reunion with my mother, and this makes my love for God grow all the more.'*

'I'll Fly Away'

One day I shared with Terri an analogy of life that I sometimes ponder. I think of life as an airport. People, young and old, all races and creeds, milling around in different parts of the airport - *chatting, checking in, shopping, eating...* People in groups of friends and family, others on their own. Some are sad, some happy, some lonely, some lost.

Everyone is in the airport with one goal: to fly away. To leave. People are all here, but all here with a destination elsewhere. People are, as it were, all awaiting their 'flight call', their moment to depart.

Airports are exciting. There is 'anticipation' in the air, excitement about striking out into the unknown, new places and spaces. The time of flight is important, and it is ticking down from the moment you arrive. The same is true of life.

From the moment of being born, time is limited, time is ticking, and everyone of us will catch a flight to the eternal. Jesus came to secure this journey for us, to book us in for the sweetest, surest of destinations.

Jesus said, ***'In my Father's house there are many rooms. I am going to prepare a place for you... And I will come back and take you to myself, so that you may be where I am.'***
(John 14:1-3)

'I'll Fly Away', by Albert E. Brumley, 1932

*Some glad morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away*

*I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away
When I die Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away*

*Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away*

Living Hope

On one of our times together, Terri shared that some anxiety had crept in. She was wondering if her 'hope' for heaven, for the afterlife, was real, was founded, or maybe her thinking over the years had misled her...

We first revisited the amazing promises of Jesus. He had offered himself to whoever would listen, as the 'door' to salvation. Such a vivid image and striking promise!

'Jesus said, 'I am the door, and anyone who comes through me will be saved...'

(John 10:9)

We discussed this passing through the door of Jesus, as something completely of faith – not of works, not based even on a good life. It was a letting go, and a 'stepping through'.

Now, when we *truly* accept Jesus – which is manifested by both a confession of faith (heart/words), and turning away from sin in our life (action/changes) – the Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts, our very souls:

'And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...' (Ephesians 1:13-14)

The Holy Spirit awakens in us a '*living hope*' – not just any hope. We are not 'hoping' for heaven like a man hopes for a better job, or for good weather, or for good health. No. This spiritual hope we have about our future with Jesus after we die, comes from the Spirit of God himself, and is a '*living hope*':

'In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope...' (1 Peter 1:3)

Terri and I prayed together, that the Spirit of Jesus would give her peace this day, that she would feel her anxiety and fears subside, and that the '***peace that passes understanding***', that comes from Jesus himself, would '***guard her heart and her mind.***' (Philippians 4:6-7)

Later that same day I received this text from Terri:

Thu, Aug 27, 5:36 PM

Living hope has been very uplifting today .

Faith

One day Terri shared with me that she was learning to 'cast her cares on the Lord.' She had come across this verse in her readings:

'Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7)

Terri told me how she was learning to pray about something or someone, but then also trust God with it. In other words, she would pray, and then walk away. She would step away from that worry in faith, having cast it on God.

I was blessed with this deep insight and expression of faith. Terri was reminding me that yes, there is a time for 'supplication' – i.e. coming to God repeatedly with the same prayer, the same request² – but there is also a time to pray and walk away. There is a time to really trust that God has heard the cry of your heart, and you can rest now, wait on him.

'But as for me... I wait on the God of my salvation. My God will hear me when I call.'
(Micah 7:7)

² Luke 18:1-8

Heaven's River

There are two amazing passages in Scripture that describe heaven. These are in the last two chapters of the Bible. Terri and I discussed them both on a few occasions.

‘Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

(Revelation 21:1-5)

The second passage is even more descriptive of the landscape of heaven:

‘Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be

no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)

Once when I met with Terri, and closer to the time of her departure, she told me that she had been reading and re-reading this passage in Revelation 22, that described the river in heaven, and the trees with fruit and healing. She said it was a beautiful image to think on. Then she said, *'I can see that river now.'*

Over the course of our times together, Terri had become more and more mindful of the Holy Spirit's presence in her life. She told me once, referencing a particular Scripture that we had discussed on occasion,³ that she was now praying specific prayers for specific people, *'to God in Jesus' name'*, and she was feeling much peace in this. She had in the past prayed prayers by 'rote', by recitation; but she was now feeling she had more of a personal relationship with Jesus, and could also pray to him directly, in her own words, about people and needs.

One of the most powerful things I heard Terri say, speaking to the truth of God in her life, and the truth itself of the gospel, was this: ***'The weaker I get, the more forgiven I feel.'***

³ 'Jesus said, 'Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.' (John 16:24)

And regarding relationships and 'time', this particular line she said struck me, and challenged me: ***'I realize that some of my distance from people over the years has been from the darkness in me.'*** Terri went on to explain that she had blamed others for some breakdowns and distance in relationships, but she was now seeing her own part in this. I remember pondering this line the rest of the day, and thinking through some of my own relationships.

Terri stated that one of her deepest desires from childhood was that she would live to have time with her children – time she had not herself had with her own mother. And as Terri reflected, she told me that she had lived to enjoy much time with her children, and grandchildren, and she believed this had been granted to her by God. Only weeks before she passed, she told me that she truly felt she had had 'enough' time, and was ready to go, and that everyone – specifically her son and daughter – would be just fine.

Over the months that Terri and I met together, she mentioned to me a number of times that she wished some of what she was seeing and learning about the Lord, she had known earlier in life, and could relay to those she loved. It is my hope and prayer that this collection of memories accomplishes just that.

One of the last texts I received from Terri, June 16th 2021:

Today 8:34 AM

I gave a lot of thought to what you talked about yesterday. I think you were talking about where I started on this journey and where I am now in it. In the beginning for me the peace was to be able to meet my mother but as I continue on it, it is about actually being with Jesus. I'm realizing that my mother is with Jesus. There is no separation. He wants us all to be of His presence. Moses was complete when he saw the whole light of Christ. Each of us will be then. We are individuals on this earth and separated from one another and Christ but we will one day be together as part of His Glory. Is that what you were trying to explain to me?

Today 9:40 AM

Yes! Your mother is a 'gift' from the Giver. And it is as if you are now seeing more clearly - and helping me see - the sheer power and love and 'oneness' of the gift and the Giver - Jesus Christ.

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"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."
John 1:3 NIVUK

Delivered

In Memoriam

Theresa Margaret Molloy
10th March 1950 – 7th August 2021

(Appendix 1) Terri's Favorite Scriptures

During our times together we would discuss some Scriptures, and sometimes read a passage together. Afterwards I would 'message' these verses to Terri, and she would save them and read them for comfort and encouragement.

We would only reflect on one or two verses at each meeting. Below is a collection of most of these Scriptures:

'The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'

(Deuteronomy 33:27)

'Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.'

(Psalm 17:8)

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 4:6-7)

'Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

(John 14:27)

‘Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.’

(Psalm 63:3)

‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.’

(1 Peter 1:3)

‘We boast in the hope of the glory of God... And this hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.’

(Romans 5:2-5)

‘The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, ever-brighter until the full light of day!’

(Proverbs 4:18)

‘So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.’

(2 Corinthians 4:18)

‘Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.’

(2 Corinthians 4:16)

‘I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.’

(Psalm 4:8)

'But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.'

(Philippians 3:20-21)

'Our God... we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.'

(2 Chronicles 20:12)

'Lead me, Lord... make your way plain to me.'

(Psalm 5:8)

'Jesus said, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

(Matthew 6:34)

***“Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the Lord.***

***“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.’***

(Isaiah 1:18)

'Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.'

(Psalm 118:19)

'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.'

(James 1:5-6)

'Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.'

(Psalm 139:12)

'When I am afraid, I put my trust in you... Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll – are they not in your record?'

(Psalm 56:3,8)

'We have this hope, as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.'

(Hebrews 6:19)

'For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.'

(Hebrews 13:14)

'But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.'

(2 Peter 3:13)

'For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.'

(Isaiah 41:13)

'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.'

(1 John 5:11-13)

'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.'

(1 Peter 2:9-10)

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

(Romans 8:38-39)

‘So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.’

(Zechariah 4:6)

‘For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling.’

(2 Corinthians 5:1-2)

‘He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.’

(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

‘Remember him — before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.’

(Ecclesiastes 12:6-7)

‘As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and

asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed — or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

(Luke 10:38-42)

“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth...”

(Hosea 2:14-15)

‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘In quietness and trust is your strength.’

(Isaiah 30:15)

**“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!**

**Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost...**

**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.**

**”As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

***As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and
bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the
juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."***

(Isaiah 55:1,8-13)

***'Whoever has ears, let them hear what the
Spirit says to the churches. To the one who
is victorious, I will give some of the hidden
manna. I will also give that person a white
stone with a new name written on it, known
only to the one who receives it.'***

(Revelation 2:17)

‘Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

”Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

(John 11:25-27)

‘Christ Jesus destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light.’

(2 Timothy 1:10)

‘For this is what the Lord says: “I will extend peace to her like a river... As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”

(Isaiah 66:12 -13)

‘When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.’

(Exodus 34:29)

‘Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.’

(Psalm 73:25-26)

‘Jesus said, ‘Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and

opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.'

(Revelation 3:20)

'For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?''

(1 Corinthians 15:53-55)

'Jesus said to them, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.''

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

(John 14:1-6)

(Appendix 2) Worship Music

These are the songs that I shared with Terri over the course of our time together.

1. **The Blessing** (Elevation Worship)
2. **Let The Heavens Open** (Kari Jobe)
3. **Here In The Presence** (Elevation Worship)
4. **Spirit of the Living God** (Vertical Worship)
5. **Great Are You Lord** (One Sonic Society)
6. **Praises** (Be Lifted Up) Josh Baldwin
7. **Call Upon The Lord** (Elevation Worship)
8. **Majesty** (Here I Am) Hillsong Live
9. **Sweetly Broken** (Jeremy Riddle)
10. **Waiting Here For You** (Jesus Culture)
11. **I Love You Lord** (Hillsong Young & Free)
12. **Trust In You** (Hillsong Live)
13. **I Love Your Presence** (Bethel Music)
14. **You Revive Me** (Passion)
15. **I Can't Wait to Get to Heaven** (Keith Green)
16. **Blessed Assurance** (Elevation Worship)
17. **In a Little While** (Amy Grant)
18. **Not By Might** (Robin Mark)
19. **It Is Well** (Kristene DiMarco)
20. **Life** (Hillsong United)
21. **Rain/Reign** (Hillsong United)
22. **Water to Wine** (Hillsong United)
23. **O Come to the Altar** (Elevation)

24. **Breathe** (Michael W. Smith)

25. **With You (Paradoxology)** (Elevation)