



Volume One

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Sweet Rest

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Psalms 91:1



Phoebe Dunford and Luke Davis catching some “zzz’s” on a hammock in the shade. In the next issue, hear about Luke’s miraculous journey from Russia to Enid, America!

~ Photo courtesy of Allison Davis

One evening my daughter came running upstairs crying, “Daddy, daddy, I’m scared of the storm!” The thunder and lightning had truly been quite loud that evening and we all, for the most part, tried to carry on without giving it much notice. But all of a sudden, a gunshot-like sound went off not very far from us. At that point, the Dunford Tribe kicked into gear.

A few years back, God directed our attention to Psalms 91 as a constant reminder that we had a place of refuge in Him. He was in essence our “hiding place.” But it was our responsibility to remember to abide in Him when the situations of life seemed to crowd in on every side. There have been times in the past when we received a not-so-positive report about something and fear would begin to mount. Then somebody in the family (one of the kids, most likely) would say, “God has not given us a spirit of fear (2Timothy 1:7)”, so let’s get in our “secret place.”

So that night we all went downstairs with little miss Esther (4 at the time of this writing) leading the way and began to prayerfully rehearse Psalms 91 over our family and all that concerned us. Before it was all over, we sang, jumped around, and had ourselves a good time. The fear dissipated. But I must tell you, about three hours later that same night, our neighborhood was flooded with fire trucks and rescue vehicles. Apparently, the sound we heard was lightning hitting the roof of one of our neighbors! It caught a mattress on fire in the attic, unbeknownst to those in the house. Thankfully no one was harmed, but the point was brought home for us. Take nothing for granted.

Here is an example of Psalms 91:1 in prayer: ***We dwell in Your shelter, Most High God, and we rest in Your Almighty shadow, in Jesus Name!***

I must say here, prayer is not a formula. It is simply taking God’s Word and applying it to our lives. It isn’t based upon our ability to make the promise happen. Our job is to agree. So today, “practice” dwelling in the presence of the Most High God. And don’t hesitate to intercede the promises of Psalm 91 on behalf of your fellow man. You might be surprised at the results. Yes, it’s true, God still answers prayer!

by Lorenzo Dunford, Jr.

 *Together We
Can Change
The World*



The Dunford Crew: (L to R) Jennifer, Caleb, Hannah, Benjamin, Phoebe, Micah, Nathaniel, Esther, Lorenzo

Making Connections

Connecting people to God and one another is the heartbeat of DFM. In order to see this accomplished, we make ourselves available to churches, schools, businesses and social organizations. And with family values and biblical principles, we demonstrate the love of God in very practical ways. We sing, we teach, we counsel, we advise, and most importantly, we encourage.

This past August, we shared in worship services with the Puritan United Church of Christ, The Enid Mennonite Brethren Church, First United Methodist, Covenant Life Christian Fellowship, and the Arbors Assisted Living Center. It is always such an honor for our family to be invited to play a part in what God is doing in the local church and community.

We also worked with the staff and students at Chisholm Middle School and Waller Junior High. Our role was one of sharing character qualities that make for a healthy community. These opportunities are always a blast!

One of the highlights of the month was being invited to speak to the OU Sooner Football Team. What a great bunch of guys, players and coaches alike. Our family is grateful to be a part of such an awesome tapestry of God's love and kindness. *Please keep us in your prayers!*

DEVO DIAMONDS

Encouraging words from our daily devotion-

Armed Against Deception

The devil loves to trip me up and make me focus on the smoke screen... instead of the incredible power that was given to me at the cross! I love what you said about the sword of the spirit... wow! That is powerful. J.E.

Your First Best Friend (Just for Kids!)

Hello and God bless you, Hannah. This is one of the most simple bible truths I have heard. Thank you for blessing me with this profound, beautiful truth from God's Word. C.M.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

You truly are a gift from God to us! Thank you SO much for the time, effort, sacrifice and prayer that go into every week's e-devotion. A.J.

Who Do You Say They Are?

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE your 'home' series!! I want a book on THIS!! Keep up the great work. J.W.

To all our partners, family and friends who take the time to share words of inspiration with us, we thank you! If you are not currently receiving our daily devos and would like to, simply email us at ldunford@sbcglobal.net and we will add you to the list!

If you or someone you know might like to receive this newsletter, please let us know their address. We are sending this to partners, family, and friends, but we might have missed you! We want to be good stewards with our resources, so we try to only send it to those we are certain would like to receive it. If you would like to be removed from our list, no problem! Just email us with "unsubscribe newsletter" in the memo.

Thanks so much!

Building Community

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- Build relationships with local pastors through weekly prayer meetings and appointments
- Encourage local congregations through music, messages, and ministry insights when applicable
- Assist congregations outside the Enid area whenever the opportunity arises.

HOME COMMUNITY

- Motivate couples to impact their world right from home through devotionals and books
- Create tools that inspire children to achieve great things while they're young
- Live by example

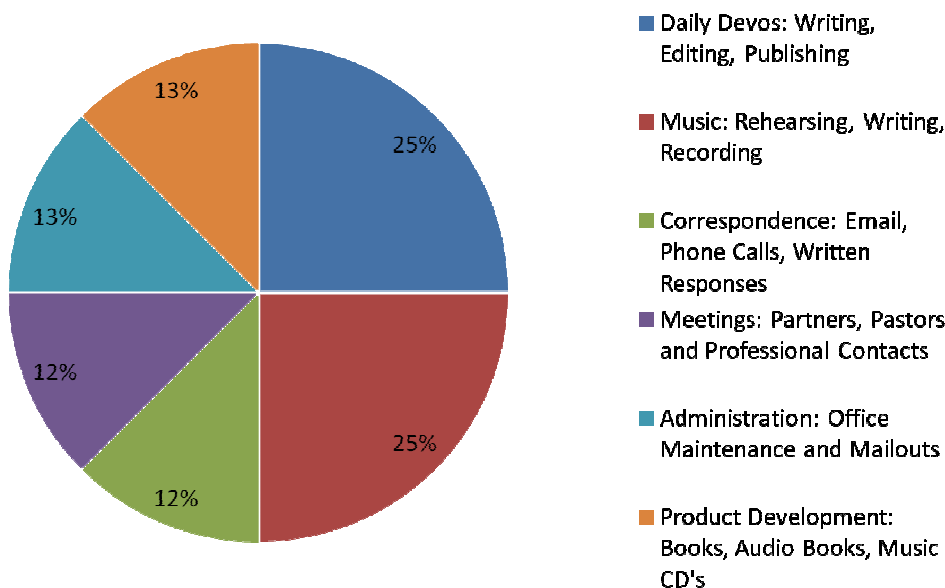
BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Share positive insights to healthy communication in the work environment
- Produce tools that help employers empower their staff toward Christ-like behavior in the workplace

EDUCATION COMMUNITY

- Help school officials connect with students through character-based programs and workshops
- Work with students to enhance communication skills with peers and those in authority
- Develop tools for effective communication suitable for the homeschooling family

DAY-TO-DAY AT DFM



**Partnership
Helps
It
All
Happen**

When we as individuals “come and tie ourselves together,” we form the most powerful organism in the world: **a family**. That’s what Dunford Family Ministries is all about. Whether it’s in the **Church, the Schools, the Home, or the Business Community**, our goal is to help build strong family dynamics that produce the lasting fruit of unity. And our partners help make it all happen! We have been blessed with many who are standing with us in this special ministry. And there’s not a day that goes by we are not aware of their prayers and support! Our primary aim is to help the world around us hear, see, and feel the love of Jesus in very practical ways. We can not do this alone. We are aware of the fact that God uses people to help accomplish His mission on earth. Therefore, we invite all those who have a heart for this ministry to prayerfully join us financially as they are moved by God to do so. If this is you, please let us know by sending us the enclosed form. *May God bless you!*

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A Thankful Heart

by Jennifer Dunford

Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude. Colossians 4:2

Benjamin is our two-year old boy. Raise your hand if you are in the throes of the "terrific two's!" (Or went through them at one point in your life!) He is very much a typical boy, though very calculated and sometimes quiet and serious. For the past week he has decided to go to the potty. Miraculously, he has even slept overnight without wetting his diaper. Awesome! How exciting!

At the same time, he also has energy for "days." We can wake him up early, lay him down for a nap at three, and two hours later, you guessed it. Still going strong. He's usually singing at the top of his voice, looking at a book, or most recently, escaping from his bed to go play on the piano or wake up his baby sister.

I have never had a child escape from his bed or boycott naps. But I've never had a little boy potty-train at two and a half, either. (Reminder to self, never say "never" or "always.")

I was thinking of Ben this morning, and how thankful I am for his graduation out of diapers, as I chuckled a little at my frustration with him going AWOL during

quiet time. In the stillness of a small moment with my Father before the day began, I heard the words, "Be thankful." And this thankfulness begins to bring peace, it opens my physical and spiritual eyes, *wide open*, to see the good all around me. Saying "thank you" to our loving God helps us see things aren't so bad! No problem or circumstance is ever too big for Him to handle. "Nothing is impossible" with God!

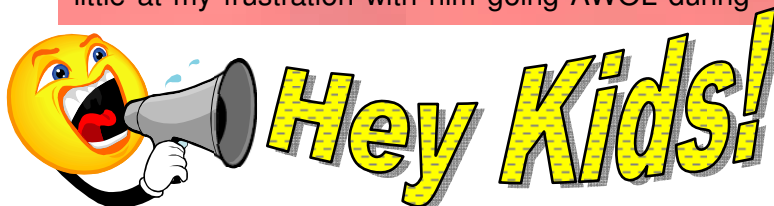
In the stillness of a small moment with my Father before the day began, I heard the words, "Be thankful."

When I was in high school, a song came out by DeGarmo and Key called "A Thankful Heart. It seemed to fit my day.

*I have a thankful heart, that you have given me
And it can only come from You
There is no way to begin to tell
You how I feel
There are no words to express
how You've become so real
Jesus you've given me so much
I can't repay
I have no offering
But I have a thankful heart, that you have given me
And it can only come from You*

Today, pray, stay alert, with eyes wide open to every blessing. And say "thank you!"

"Father, thank you for all you've done that I've looked over today. Help me see the good, help me see my cup not half full, or half empty, but overflowing! In Jesus Name, Amen!"



THERE IS A "JUST FOR KIDS" NEWSLETTER COMING DOWN THE PIKE! BE SURE TO GET YOUR COPY BY WRITING OR EMAILING US (ASK YOUR PARENTS FOR HELP). YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD AND HE LOVES TO SEE YOU ENCOURAGED. GET SIGNED UP TODAY!



\$5 each

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