

# RACERUNNERS

CHRISTMAS 2006



## I'm A Millionaire!

(Eleven Million Thirty Seven Thousand Six Hundred!)

Debby Woods

On November 1<sup>st</sup> 1985, I drove off the parking lot of the Jefferson County Board of Education. I traveled up 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South thinking, "THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE" ...the day I had put all of my energy and passion into was finally here. For years I had dreamed, prayed, longed for and begged God to let me quit my job so I could "tell the world" how much He loved them...and on this day God said, "Yes!" I WAS LIVING MY DREAM!

About six blocks from my office satan interrupted my "dream" and said, "Debby, you like your car don't you?" "Yeah," I responded shakily. He then said, "How will you pay for it? You have no job, no money and no supporters. You JUST QUIT YOUR JOB and you are going to lose your car. You are going to have to walk!" Instantly FEAR replaced my excitement. In only a few moments, my heart went from total exhilaration and boundless joy to terrified despair. I had not calculated losing my car in gaining my dream. My mind started rehearsing satan's lies but quickly Jesus came to my rescue with truth. "Debby, what is your dream?" "Well, Lord, my dream is to love the world to Jesus. I want to tell everyone how VERY much You LOVE THEM." "That's right, Debby, and I just have one question for you. In light

of your dream, is it worth losing a Toyota?" I paused and reflected on my dream. I envisioned people...lots and lots of people. I could see their eager faces and hungry hearts. I reminded myself of the incredible burden God had placed in my heart relentlessly for 14 years. I knew that "the love of God had been poured out within me" (Rom. 5:5). I was so full that I absolutely had to tell it. So, I answered Jesus with a very joyful and confident, "YES, LORD!" and this silenced satan's lies. That day I settled the questions of the enemy and declared, "No matter what happens or what comes my way, this heaven-born dream God has planted in my soul is worth whatever earthly costs that come."

Twenty one years later, there have been many days of obstacles, fears, questions, failures, doubts, attacks and uncertainties. In facing each one, however, I knew that the dream God had given me was literally worth not only losing a Toyota, but also worth losing shelter, friends, family, comfort, ease, popularity and yes, if need be...even my life. It's been worth it to see the thousands of "impossibilities" that became possible, the 11<sup>th</sup> hour checks that were "unexplainable", the hundreds of "that will never happen" events happening and testimonial letters from 18 countries and every state in the nation. That's 7,765 days of miraculous provision, protection, blessing, healing and direction...11,037,600 MINUTES with no "visible" means of support. ELEVEN

MILLION MINUTES...man, I am a *millionaire!* Beloved, that is a staggering thought and gives me an overwhelming sense of humble gratitude to our great God! HE IS MY SHINING STAR! I fall on my knees and cry, "HOLY is our God! Glory to Him in the highest!" Who is this God who chooses to demonstrate such wonders to sinners saved by grace? "He is a God who DELIGHTS in unchanging love" (Micah 7:18).

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, we gathered to celebrate His goodness as well as the thousands of people who were once only a vision but who now are our reality. God gave us Haggai 2:9, "The glory of the latter house will be greater than the former." Basically with this verse He is saying, "Debby, all of the glory that you have known pales in comparison to what is to come." I felt the Father prompting me to pray for a tsunami of glory to overtake all of us (and that includes YOU) and flood our souls and lives with His glory. His promise is both encouraging and challenging. It is encouraging to each of us in that no matter what level of glory we each "feel" we have experienced, whether it be a little or a lot, He is saying MORE...*much more*... is to come. It is also challenging in the sense that as His eyes move to and fro throughout the earth, I must ask myself, "Am I willing to be an available blessing...to be in the "eye" of the storm when the tsunami comes ashore?"

The call on Racerunners is a certainty. I know, that I know,

that I know that we are called to know God intimately and while discovering His great love afresh daily...*tell the world.*

I thank God for this opportunity to say thank you to Jesus and to so many of you who have been our partners all of these years. We give Him all the glory for all of the changed lives, healed families and hearts forever set free. We are grateful to you and ask you to pray for us as our journeys continue. As you budget for 2007 would you pray and ask the Father if He'd have you partner with us with a one-time gift or on a regular, monthly basis? We'd be honored by your partnership as we seek to spend the next eleven million minutes telling the world HOW MUCH HE LOVES US! Selah (pause in these moments and think on that!)

**"...all of the glory that you have known pales in comparison to what is to come."**



1985

2006

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS



# “Whoever Loves the Father Loves the Child Born of Him” - 1 John 5:1b

Karen Welch

I have one sibling, an older sister, with which I grew up, fought, laughed, played and shared my life. This year she had her first child. From the moment I heard she was pregnant, God gave me an incredible love for her little girl. When I got to hold the baby for the first time, I couldn't put her down! I was hooked for life. But what made me begin to love my niece so much before she was even born? I like babies but I don't go crazy over them. Why this one? Was it because she was family? That might partly explain it but it seemed to be more than that. Then I realized...it was because of my love for my sister and my relationship with her. Because I loved her so much, I automatically loved her child...sight unseen.

My personal experience shed new light and understanding on 1 John 5:1, "...whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him." When you really have a special personal relationship with God

and love Him with all your heart, you can't help but love His children. This kind of love for God's children is not based on anything except the fact that they are His so nothing they do can change your love for them...just as nothing they do changes His love for them.

"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18). Not only will you love God's children but you will have a need to demonstrate that love to them. I couldn't help but find a way to express the love I had for my sister and her child. I was compelled with great joy to sew baby things for months and then drove 16 hours to be at my sister's baby shower. It makes me think of Jesus asking Peter in John 21, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." My paraphrase, "If you love ME, then love my CHILDREN and help them grow."

"We love, because He first loved us" (Jn. 4:19). As I receive how much God loves

me, I respond by loving God and then it naturally flows that I love His children. So when I am not loving, I can probably trace it back to not understanding or receiving God's love for me and not allowing myself to love Him in return. I can stop trying to love people, i.e. act right on the outside, and start receiving God's love afresh for today...this circumstance...this moment. What is true of other believers is true of me as well. I am a child of God who is loved and cared for by God himself. He never orphans His children (John 14:18) but loves and cares for them.

Oh, how precious are His children...the apple of His eye (Ps. 17:8, Zech. 2:8)! I know that my love for my niece is not even a drop in the bucket compared to God's love for us. Oh, how much God loves you!! Will you receive it and love Him back? When you do, then you will have abundant love for others and a rich, full life. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments" (1 John 5:2).

**"I am a child of God who is loved and cared for by God Himself. He never orphans His children" (John 14:18).**

## believe

It seems that believers (you and me) find it hardest to... well, believe! We want to know, just like the disciples wanted to know, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that you BELIEVE..." (Jn. 6:28-29). Even in the healing of the centurion's servant (Lk. 7:7,9), it was no marvelous work or stepping out that Jesus marveled at or responded to, it was a simple act of belief. The centurion simply believed and his servant was healed.

Our greatest and toughest work, oftentimes, is simply taking God at His word -- believing He will do what He has said, period. First and foremost, it is the believing heart that catches God's attention. Then God will show us what to do with the faith that results from our believing. With this series, embrace the freedom of simply believing and the power of taking God at His word.

5 CD Set Just \$25.00 (plus s/h)

## "LORD, ANCHOR MY SOUL"

The storms of life -- they come and they go. And some are stronger than others. We think, "If this would just end or be over, then..." However, it is not what is going on outside that is the source of our troubles, but the turmoil within that is causing our unrest. We can be "anchored" to Jesus and find peace in the storms of life. "We have a hope that is an unbreakable, spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right into the very presence of God" (Heb. 6:19 TM).

Learn the secret of keeping yourself anchored to the "lover of your soul" in stormy and troubling times. Re-route your fear of the storm to faith in Jesus and find "right now" rest amidst the storms blowing in your life!

2 CD Set Just \$8.00 (plus s/h)

Or get both sets for just \$36.00 (free s/h)!

# Healing Rain Is Falling Down

Laurie Cagle

I had gone to see MercyMe and Michael W. Smith in concert at the Oak Mountain Amphitheater. Just before it was about to start, I could see the storm clouds moving in overhead and it looked as if they would break loose at any moment. As ominous as they appeared to be, however, they never did really let loose. A firm but gentle breeze began to blow and then a steady, slow rain began to fall - just enough to get you wet but not soaked. People everywhere were scurrying for cover, wishing it would quit. But I, uncharacteristically, was not. I was actually enjoying it. We wound our way up the steps through a sea of people and finally got to our seats. With lights dimmed, Michael began to lead the crowd in familiar praise choruses. It was quite moving to hear such a large group of people singing in one accord. As we sang, my attention was soon drawn upwards to the rain that was falling and I remembered what a friend shared with me years ago - that each and every fall of every drop of rain is the Lord saying, "I love you, I love you, I love you." To this day when it rains, I think about that. This night was no exception. As I gazed upwards, I shut my eyes and just let the rain fall on my face, soaking in His "I love you's" one after another. Soon, I sensed the Lord's presence -

He was near to me and I sensed that "something" was up. The music stopped and the stage went dark, as if God was pausing for the introduction. The piano slowly began to play and the strings began to fill in and build into the most beautifully orchestrated sound. It was as if the music had been written specifically and perfectly for the rain. The singer began to sing..."I'm finding myself in the midst of You, beyond the music, beyond the noise, all that I need is to be with You and in the quiet hear Your voice, Word of God speak, would you pour down like rain? Washing my eyes to see Your majesty? To be still and know that You're in this place, please let me stay and rest in Your holiness, Word of God speak" ("Word of God Speak" by MercyMe). At the conclusion of that song, Michael began..."Healing rain, it comes with fire, so let it fall and take us higher; healing rain, I'm not afraid to be washed in Heaven's rain... healing rain is falling down, healing rain is falling down, I'm not afraid, I'm not afraid" ("Healing Rain" by Michael W. Smith). It was incredible! How I wished the moment wouldn't end. Each element of nature, man, music and word had been divinely arranged to produce what I can only describe as the sound of heaven. As I stood there soaking it all in, I couldn't

help but think to myself, "This is what it sounds like to hear God singing over you with His love." He was in the breeze; He was in the rain; He was in the music; He was in my night...and He was healing me.

The rain. How often we resist it. We take cover from it, seek shelter from it and run to get out of it. It's just too messy, too inconvenient and it slows us down. But what a blessing the rain can be when we turn towards it and just let it fall. The Bible says we'll receive a blessing from God when we do; "For the soil which has drunk the rain that repeatedly falls on it and produces vegetation useful for those whose benefit it is cultivated, partakes of a blessing from God" (Heb. 6:7 AMP). Often God calls forth the rain in our lives - the rains of sorrow, difficulty, pain, grief, trials - and we run for cover. We resist the pain that we associate with it. Yet, how quickly we forget that with the rains of sorrow and pain, also fall the rains of mercy and lovingkindness. If we'll just stop and be still and let it fall; if we'll embrace rather than resist, we will hear Him saying, "I love you, I love you, I love you" in every drop. For it is the falling rain that loosens our bonds; it is the falling rain that softens our hardness; it is the falling rain that washes away what separates us from Him.



**"He was in the breeze;  
He was in the rain; He  
was in the music; He  
was in my night...and  
He was healing me."**

Every "I love you" silences all else and the healing truly begins as His mercy and grace uphold. There's no greater blessing on earth.

Healing rain is falling down. Will you let it fall? Will you embrace it? Will you let it wash all over you? I assure you His love is in every single drop. Can you hear Him? "I love you, I love you, I love you."

## Join Us For Our Regularly Scheduled Studies!

### Monday Night Bible Study Birmingham, AL

Monday Evenings 7:00PM  
First Baptist Church of Birmingham  
2209 Lakeshore Dr.  
Room #233

### Tuesday Night Bible Study Montgomery, AL

Tuesday Evenings 7:00PM  
Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
6610 Vaughn Rd.  
In the chapel

Call the Racerunners' office for current schedules and directions.

[www.racerunners.org](http://www.racerunners.org)

RACERUNNERS

PO Box 59230
Birmingham, AL 35259
2870 Old Rocky Ridge Road
Suite 109
Birmingham, AL 35243
205.824.8313
205.824.8315 Fax
Email: DAYINCRTS@AOL.COM

The purpose of Racerunners is to proclaim God's message of love, joy, peace, forgiveness and life. We disciple others in developing a dynamic, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through Bible study, praise, discipleship, retreats, special events and an extensive tape ministry. Copyright © RACERUNNERS 2006. All rights reserved.

RACERUNNERS is published by Racerunners, Inc.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BHAM AL
PERMIT NO. 56

Climbing Higher...Together!



PLEASE NOTIFY US
BELOW IF YOU HAVE HAD AN
ADDRESS CHANGE OR
NO LONGER WANT THIS
NEWSLETTER.



Would You Be A "Gap-Stander" For Us?

We are so grateful for the generosity of our precious supporters. Would you ask the Lord at this time if He would have you join our monthly support team and stand in the gap for us financially and prayerfully?

Yes! I would like to contribute to your ministry!

- \$20.00 to help cover the production and mailing of this newsletter.
You can count on me to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ regularly as you reach out to our community and world.
Enclosed is my one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
I commit to pray for you \_\_\_\_\_ daily; \_\_\_\_\_ weekly.
I want to be a part of paying off the "House That God Built." Please put \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of my contribution to that fund.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
CITY / ST / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_
DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDER INFORMATION:

If you prefer the convenience of charging your donation or would like your gift automatically deducted from your bank account each month, please call 1-800-745-7223.

Table with 3 columns: Contribution type, Price, Total. Includes 'believe' (\$25.00), 'Lord, Anchor My Soul' (\$8.00), 'Both Sets' (\$36.00), and 'Contribution'.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_