

Jhe Love Letter

Abba's Arms International, Inc. 4th Quarter Volume 14

Rick & Sue McCou

UPDATES FROM AFRICA PROJECTS

It's exciting to share some updates from our pastor friends in Zambia and Kenya! In Zambia,

Eunice has shared videos we've made with her congregation as well as two of them at a conference she held in August for pastors



and people in a very rural part of Zambia. As we agreed with her in prayer, she saw God supernaturally pay for all the expenses of the conference!

In Kenya, Samson has been able to show our videos also. He has seen many young people experiencing God in his services and hungering for more of Him! We are rejoicing that the seeds sown are growing and changing hearts and lives!

Lastly, John, the Zambian pastor raising chickens, in October used his profits to feed and teach 33 orphans. The Lord led him to ask what some of orphans have a vision of doing in the future. John shared that some of them are quite intelligent despite their circumstances and expressed wanting to be doctors or a soldier. We pray Father will continue to use these pastors and the resources that Abba's Arms is sowing through your giving to touch more hearts and lives!

Chicken Project: Total cost \$6,000 Received \$3,600



Computer Projects: Total Cost: \$2,700 Received: \$1,700

You can give towards these projects online at our website <u>https://abbasarmsintl.org/</u> Or send checks payable to: Abbas Arms International, Inc. P.O. Box 1396 State College, PA 16804-1396

Nothing is Impossible for God!

Has anyone ever said to you, "That is impossible!"? Many years ago, people said it was impossible for man to fly, but the Wright brothers built the first airplane and flew a short distance! Since then, man has flown to the moon and back and much more. Others have broken a 4-minute mile, the sound barrier, and many other things that men thought were impossible. In the natural, we all have certain things that we see as impossible. But do we stop and realize we have a supernatural, Almighty God that created everything and sees things differently? A few years ago, I heard, "When are you going to stop limiting Me?" Father showed me that if I don't know or can't see who He fully is I put limits on what He can do for me or through me in this world! The images we have in our heart need to agree with what His Word says. I desire to paint some pictures of who our God is! He wants us to experience the reality of who He is for ourselves! May we believe Jesus' words, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

How Do We Limit God

What image do you have in your heart about who God is? Any place where our image doesn't line up with what the Bible reveals is a place where we may limit Him. While watching the movie, Annie many years ago, Father showed me ways I was limiting Him. Annie was a little girl living in an orphanage, where every day she was expected to clean and work hard. When Annie was taken to Daddy Warbucks' big house, she only had an image of working for him. She didn't know or expect to simply spend time with someone who accepted and valued her just for being herself! Like Annie, I didn't see my Heavenly Father's heart clearly. He began to show me some of the wrong images I had of Him. I had a good father, but there are no perfect parents. Growing up I knew there were limits to what I could ask for and I often felt I had to earn my dad's love and time. While I went to church every Sunday, I didn't expect God to be involved in my everyday life. Now I know He cares and wants to be involved with every part of my life! Ask Him what memories or wrong images you have of Him that are limiting who He wants to be for you!

Throughout Israel's history, they struggled to follow and walk in God's ways. Psalm 78 records both God's miraculous ways and many of the ways Israel did not trust God. Verse 41 says, **"Yes, again and again they tempted God and limited the Holy One of Israel."** *Limited* in the Hebrew means *grieved and caused pain* to God. I believe most of the

people after leaving Egypt never got a new image of present and flowing into this situation in my life!" their loving Father's heart. They only saw Him as their master and themselves as slaves needing to do everything right to please Him. They quickly forgot the many miracles God performed to deliver them from Egypt; how He miraculously provided for them in the wilderness for forty years; and the ways He made the walls of Jericho fall when Joshua took them into the Promised land! Our God has never been little nor lacking in power, but we too often make Him little by our thoughts and what we believe He can do for us!

Much like today, Judges 2:10 says, "Then another generation grew up that didn't know anything of God or the work He had done for Israel." Many people, especially the younger generation, have never gone to church or read the Bible. They have no idea who Father God is and all He wants to be for them. With all the negative circumstances in our world today, we can be like Gideon hiding in fear and not seeing ourselves like

God sees us. This can cause us to limit what God can do in and through us. Check out Judges 6 and read his story. Gideon was changed forever after having an encounter with the Angel of the Lord! God supernaturally delivered Israel from a great enemy as Gideon did exactly what the Angel told him to do! When we have an

encounter with the living God, we see Him in a new way and it changes how we see ourselves too! Just like Gideon, we can look at the outside and fail to see the Greater One who lives within us. Fear can try to rule our natural senses and stop us from doing anything, but when we see Him, it can change our responses! Ask Him to reveal who He is that you have never known and let Him show you how He sees you too!

I AM Almighty God

The word, Almighty, reveals more of who our God is and wants to be for us. The Lord first appeared and introduced Himself as Almighty God to Abram when he was ninety-nine years old. Gen. 17:1 God had never used this name before but, Abram believed God's words that he and Sarai would have a child despite their age. In Hebrew, Almighty means, Shaddai, most powerful. I am Almighty God doesn't mean He has all might but that He is all might! There is a difference between having and being. If I have something, I can give it to another, but if I am something you want or need, I must give myself to you! The Almighty God who has all the might in the universe wants us to look to Him. He is the One who has all that we need and He is ready to give Himself to change things in our life. Can we see Him present in a situation? Then say, "Thank You for Your life and power being

Besides Abraham and Sarah having a child in their old age, there are many people that knew Almighty God and saw great miracles. Read the stories of Noah, Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Rahab, David, Elijah, Elisha and Esther to get a bigger image of Almighty God. Rather than looking at just what they could see in the natural, they believed their supernatural God could change their natural situations! Joshua and Caleb were the only two in a group of ten men sent to spy out the Promised Land that believed they could defeat the giants and obstacles they had seen. The other eight men saw themselves "as grasshoppers in their own sight" instead of seeing their big God! Can we see God as being more than enough for any situation we face? Or do we see and feel too small to overcome a problem in our lives? As many of you know, I am rather short physically. For many years I felt small, insignificant, and not able to do much. But then a woman of God called me, "Small, but mighty!" It changed the way I saw myself

> and now I know and have experienced mighty power in me and flowing through me to bless and heal others. Take time and stare at His bigness. Then ask Him to tell you how He sees you!

Almighty God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. Psalm 91:1 talks about each of us "abiding under the shadow of the Almighty!" What an image that gives of the Almighty wanting us to feel protected and cared for no matter what is going on in our lives! 2 Corinthians 6:18 reads, "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters says the Lord Almighty." He wants us to know we are His and belong to His family as we ask Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. We have a home! The last verse is Revelation 1:8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." This verse makes me feel very secure knowing He is the One who has seen and knows all my past, present and future and will always be there for me! I never have to feel alone or fear the future when I remember He is in all my tomorrows!

Nothing is too Hard for He's only Good

As a woman, it can be hard or difficult for me to open some jar lids, carry a big ladder or large stone pavers, but my husband can do those tasks with ease. Yet we all face much harder things such as problems in our bodies, jobs, finances, relationships or more. Consider meditating on the image, that nothing is too hard for God! In Jeremiah 32:17, Jeremiah talks about God making the heavens and the earth by His great power with *nothing*



being too hard for Him! In verse 27 the Lord says, "Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" In the Hebrew, hard, means to be marvelous, be wonderful, be extraordinary, to do extraordinary or hard or difficult things. I stand in awe of the things God has created from the details of a beautiful flower to how our earth revolves around the sun at just the right distance to sustain life! If we look at many of the situations in our world today, they seem so big that we can lose hope that things can get better! We don't have answers, but the past couple years, I have started saying, "But God! For no-thing is too difficult for You!"

Why is nothing too hard for God? I believe it is because He is only GOOD! Some people don't think God is good because bad things happen in our world. But it is our enemy that comes to steal, kill, and destroy! He is the one behind the bad things. When Moses asked to see the glory, God said, *"I will make all My goodness, pass before you."* **Gen. 33:18** Goodness is who our God is, and He wants us to experience it. **James 1:17** tells us "Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father..." I am always looking for the good gifts my Father brings me every day from a colorful sunset, a text from a friend that makes me smile, or a revelation from His Word. The more I focus on His goodness, the easier it is for me to believe He is able to handle the hard things in my life and world too!

Nothing is Impossible with God

Impossible is defined as "*cannot be*" in Webster's 1828 dictionary. In Greek, it means *without strength*, *impotent, powerless, weak, unable to be done.* Jesus uses the word, impossible, more than any other person in the New Testament. He frequently said, "*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*" Have you taken time to consider all the things Jesus did that a mere man cannot do? He stilled storms, walked on water,

multiplied food, raised the dead, healed every kind of disease, and much more! I believe our Father God sent His Son to give us a clear image of who He is. Jesus said if you have seen Me, you have seen My Father. John 14:9 It's time to open our hearts again and read through the Gospels seeing Jesus walking as the Son of God with all things being possible for Him and through me!

Possible in Greek means able, powerful, mighty, strong in wealth and influence, excelling at something. Sometimes we may find it difficult to believe something is possible because it doesn't make sense in the natural, but we are told to believe with our hearts. When we truly see Jesus' compassionate heart toward the people He interacted with, it is easier to believe and receive His words that change our lives too! This Christmas season put yourself in Mary's shoes. What was it like many years ago when Gabriel came and told her she would conceive a son and call Him Jesus. In the natural that was impossible! Mary was a virgin and had never known (had sexual intercourse) with a man. When Mary asked how she could have a child, Gabriel said, "For with God, nothing is impossible!" Luke 1:37 Mary believed the angel's words and totally yielded herself saying, "Let it be according to your word." Her agreement with Gabriel's words allowed Father God to do the impossible - and the Holy Spirit placed Father's seed in Mary's womb. Jesus entered our world to show us who He really is and to die on the cross to save us from our sin. Then Father raised Him from the dead and placed us "in Christ" to be part of His family too. Wow! I am thankful that Mary believed the angel's words! He wants us to believe for big things too! Read Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." Will you believe and expect that all things are possible, and nothing is too hard for our Almighty good Father?

A Father's Blessing!

I bless you to let go of the limits that you have put on your Big God! May your heart begin to see the extravagant, Almighty God that wants to do good things in you and for you. I bless you to see your God and yourself through His eyes, looking at the inside and not just your outward weaknesses. May you stare at your awesome God and glance at yourself so that no situation or problem is bigger than

Him! I bless you to believe possible with your God and Him. May you begin to do more than your greatest unbelievable dream and imagination!



that all things are no-thing is too hard for believe and ask Him to request, most exceed your wildest

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