

Dear Friends,

Have you ever had a bad day? Now, be honest. I know you have. Did you remember to say, "My joy does not depend on my circumstances, but I delight in the blessings God has given to me?" And then as you



begin to make a list of your blessings, your entire day takes a turn for the better.

Maybe this is a good place to insert the clown pictures I have hanging in my room.

The pictures remind me of the circus my parents would take me and my siblings to when we lived in the Chicago area. Oh, how we laughed at the antics of the clowns. I believe God is quite willing for us to have a little fun in our lives. (Yes, you are right—the pictures were painted by Bob years ago.)



I think most of us were not very happy when we had to endure the extremely cold temperatures in January here in the Midwest. I am sure my nephew who lives in Alaska was chuckling at our complaining. They don't even close their schools until the temperature reaches minus fifty degrees. Our schools were closed for an entire week as the wind chills went down to minus 27 and lower. Small businesses were closed in our communities. Even the mail delivery was stopped for a couple of days. Whatever happened to the saying "*The mail must go through!*" Now that we are back to normal winter temps, we look at the calendar and realize that spring is on its way. I, for one, am anxious to sit out on the porch and enjoy sunshine.

You might recall that I mentioned in my last letter that I had a diagnosis of breast cancer. Once again, God showed Himself so faithful. As I waited for my surgery, He gave me complete peace. Following my surgery, I learned the final diagnosis—it was a pre-cancer condition which is to be treated with a daily anti-hormone pill. I don't even see the doctor again until May. I am humbled by God's choices for me.

I have been concerned with the number of children who seem to be dropping out of the mailbox club. I truly believe there could be a connection to the amount of time they spend on their phones and the lack of interest in things not using that technology. I see children, and also adults by the way, so totally absorbed in their phones that they have no idea that someone sitting next to them is speaking to them. Now don't misunderstand what I am saying because I truly see much good in technology. It can help in the medical field, communication, Bible translation and much more. Being the age I am, I remember the beginnings of TV. It all seemed good; but, in great dismay, we have watched the evil push its way into a large part of our entertainment. May I ask for you to be praying about this? If you have any ideas to help me encourage the children to continue with their Bible studies, I'd greatly appreciate it.

There was a time in the past, as I look at my records, I would have 80 students at one time. I recently sent out a valentine to each of the 22 students I still have doing the lessons. Ten of those 22 had fallen way behind on their lessons. For those ten, I also included a note telling them how I missed hearing from them. I invited them to pick up where they had left off by sending a duplicate lesson so that they could catch up. All the valentines were filled with some puzzles, a color page, and, of course, valentine candy. I am anxious to see how many of the ten will respond. Yesterday, I was encouraged to hear from three of the ten who wanted to start their lessons again.

Here is a prayer request from a discipleship student: "Please pray that I can get along with my brother."

I continue to thank you for being on the GHH team, reaching boys and girls for Jesus.

Because of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley".

Shirley