



April 30/08

Dear Prayer Partner

The events of the past weekend have left me freshly amazed by God's grace. I was speaking at a women's retreat in beautiful Kananiskis country. The first evening we sat around tables. Beside me was a woman named Valerie. I noticed that during prayer, she crossed herself and took I note of the fact she was likely not a regular attendee of Bethany. Turns out she was a co-worker of one of the Bethany women. Julie* had invited her to attend the retreat, not because they were especially close, but because Julie knew that Valerie was going through a very hard time in her home life. She was trapped in an abusive marriage, and because of extenuating circumstances, she knew she would lose her son if she left.

The second day of the retreat, I spoke on forgiveness. When I prayed with Valerie afterwards, she said she felt she needed God's forgiveness before she could forgive anyone else. I asked her then if she had ever asked Jesus to come into her life and take care of her sins once and for all. Her answer reminded me of the reason we do what we do. "I'm not worthy." she said. Then it was my privilege to explain to her the wonder of grace: that none of us are worthy but that when we accept Christ's payment for our sins, God in heaven looks down at us he sees only the moral perfection of his dearly loved Son. That there is nothing we can do to make him love us more and nothing we can do to make him love us less. Valerie prayed right then, inviting Jesus into her life – personally experiencing the wonderful grace of Jesus. She still went home to incredibly difficult circumstances. But now she goes with the presence, the comfort and the grace of Jesus. That is why we do what we do. And it never gets old.

Please pray that Valerie will grow in her new faith. She needs to get plugged into a church where there is good teaching available to her and her son. Pray that she will overcome the guilt Catholics often experience in going outside their tradition to find a place to grow. Pray that she will increasingly experience God's grace in her marriage and that Julie* will have wisdom in continuing to mentor her.

Pray for all the other Valeries and Melissas and Marks and Brents out there - the ones we have not yet met and who have never experienced Gods' grace. Pray that the Julies of the world will bring them along to the events where Randy and I speak and that God will prepare their hearts. Pray that God would give Randy and me the sensitivity to see where God is at work and the words that will open hearts to the wonder of his grace.

In the grip of His grace,

Donna

Straight Talk Schedule

March - April 2008

Praise God For...

Safety for us and our girls. Though we lost a car due to an accident this month, the girls and their passenger are fine.

Great 10 Smart Things book sales –especially in U.S. Wal-Marts!

A fully booked spring and summer for Randy.

Doors cracking open for 10 Smart Things in the South Africa and Australia.

Providing a fantastic office manager in Heather Cowan!

Please Pray...

That Straight Talk's income will continue to increase this year enabling us to keep out of our emergency fund.

Health for Randy during a very busy season of ministry.

Both Randy and Donna will experience God's leading as they prepare new material. Randy is working on a new series for summer camps and Donna is writing a book proposal.

For continued open doors for the 10 Smart Things course around the world.

Safety as we travel and for the girls while we are away. Kendall commented that that worst things always happen while we are gone. No surprise, that.

Randy's Schedule

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| May 1 | EMMC youth retreat, Taber, AB. |
| May 10 | Youth for Christ Wetaskiwin city-wide outreach |
| May 17-18 | First Alliance services Calgary |
| May 23-24 | BGEA Event Horizon, St. John |
| May 25 | Wesleyan Church service, Moncton |
| May 30-31 | BGEA Event Horizon, Moncton |
| June 6-7 | Rockpointe youth leader's retreat, Vernon, BC |
| June 14 | Royal Oak Victory Church service |
| June 28-July 4 | Camp Qwanoes, Vancouver Island |

Donna's Schedule

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| April 10-June 12 (Thursday evenings) | 10 Smart Things live at First Alliance |
| May 10 | Royal Oak Victory Church outreach - Calgary |



38 River Rock Cres. S.E.
Calgary, AB
T2C 4J4
Phone/Fax (403) 720-3832
Web Page www.straighttalk.ab.ca