THE STORY



"The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference
that you have lived and lived well."

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON-

The Story

Every life has a story that can never be fully understood by looking only at what appears on the surface.

We often measure people by what can be seen - a transcript, a résumé, a title, or a single chapter of their lives. Yet beneath every surface lies a much deeper story waiting to be discovered.

This is mine.

["QUOTE"]

Some stories cannot be fully understood by looking only at what appears on the surface.

Surface

There is always more beneath the surface than first meets the eye.

Just as calm water conceals unimaginable depth, our lives often hide unseen struggles, quiet victories, and defining moments that shape who we become. If we are willing to look a little deeper - to peel back another layer - we begin to discover the story beneath.

SURFACE

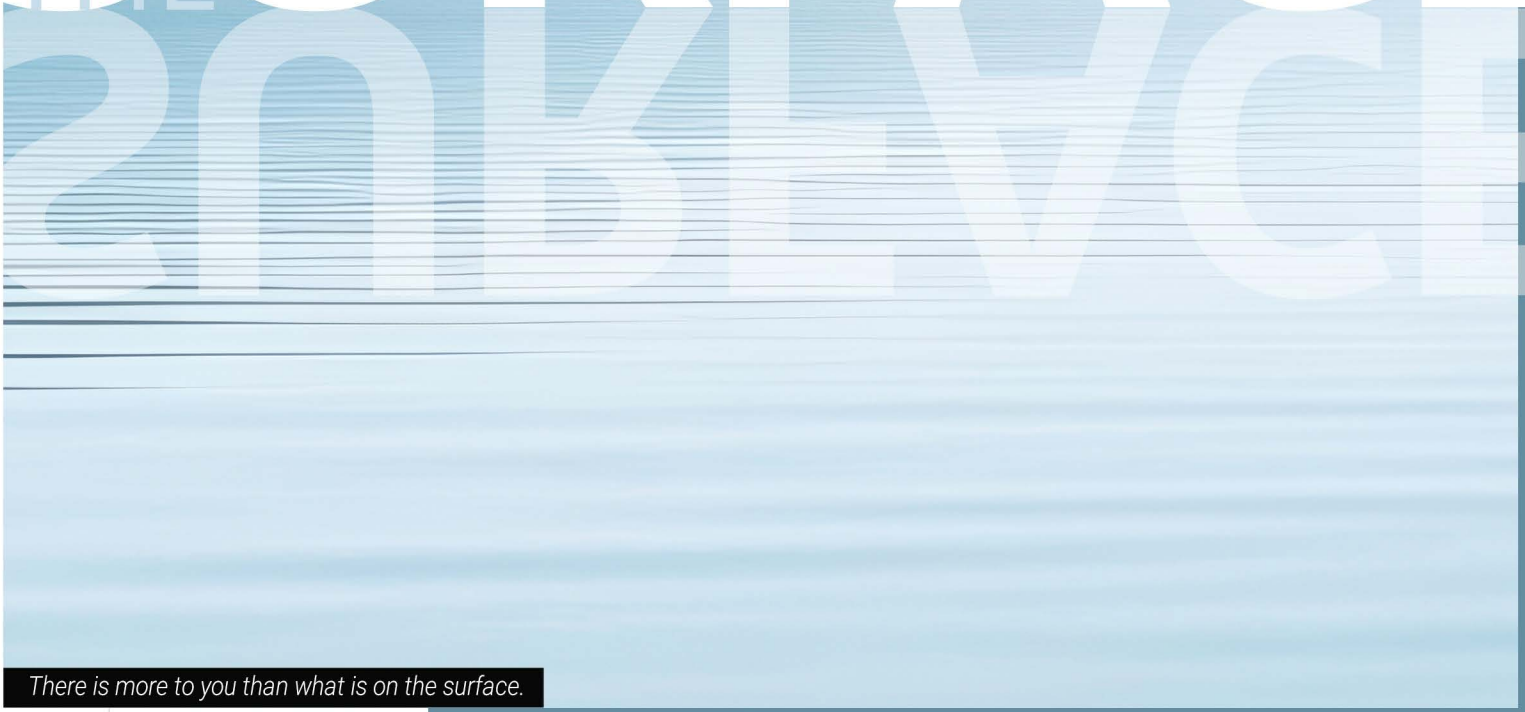
sur·face ['səːfɪs]

In the context: of peeling another layer

the outermost layer or coating of a material that can be removed, detached, or separated from the underlying substrate. This can apply to both organic and inorganic materials, such as skin, wallpaper, paint, fruit rinds, or composite layers in engineering.

DEFINITION

THE SURFACE



There is more to you than what is on the surface.

chapter 1

Peel back another layer...

the outermost layer is essential for defending environmental threats while maintaining structural integrity.

If we are willing to look a little deeper - to peel back another layer - we begin to discover a much richer story. Every experience, every relationship, every joy, every sorrow, every triumph, and every disappointment quietly shapes the person we become.

A transcript is much the same.

It can measure grades, completed courses, and academic achievement, but it cannot measure the unseen experiences that shape a student's life beyond the classroom. It records academic performance, but it cannot fully reveal the perseverance, character, faith, or circumstances of the person behind it.

Looking back more than forty years, I realize my undergraduate transcript tells only one chapter of my story. It reflects one season of my life, but it does not reflect the woman I have become.

- J. CARR -

Behind Closed Doors

Some of life's deepest battles are fought where no one else can see.

Fear rarely announces itself.
Pain often remains hidden.
And for many families, silence becomes its own language.

What happens behind closed doors has a way of shaping the people who eventually walk back through them.

FORBIDDEN for·bid·den [fə'bɪdn]
In the context of: not allowed; banned

not allowed, especially by law: something, that is even more attractive because it is not allowed. To refuse to allow something, especially officially, or to prevent a particular plan of action by making it impossible.

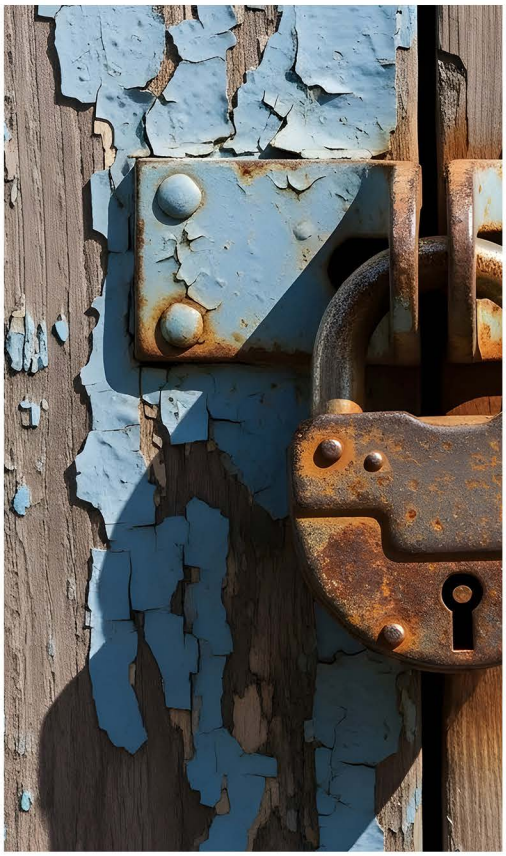
BEHIND

CLOSED DOORS



Where everything changed

Behind Closed Doors



When I was eleven years old, my father passed away. His death forever changed my life and the course of my family. As my mother struggled with severe mental illness, our home became increasingly unstable. By the time I entered college, I was living in an environment marked by fear, emotional turmoil, and abuse. Like many families of that generation, painful things remained hidden behind closed doors. Asking for help was not simply uncommon - it was forbidden.

For me, college became more than an education; it became a refuge. It represented hope and the possibility of building a different life. At the same time, I worked full-time in an effort to become financially independent while trying to balance the emotional demands of home and college.

Looking back now, I realize I was living in survival mode rather than fully embracing the educational opportunities before me.

- J. CARR -

2 chapter

Sanctuary

Sometimes God begins drawing us toward Himself long before we recognize His voice.

Looking back, I can now see moments that once felt ordinary but became sacred turning points in my life. At the time, I thought I was simply searching for a place of refuge.

God was quietly leading me home.



I didn't know what to pray

GOD WAS GENTLY DRAWING ME TOWARD HIMSELF

I REMEMBER *the beauty of the stained-glass windows... the echo of my footsteps... the portrait of John Wesley... the stained glass window of Jesus in the garden of gethsemane.*

SANCTUARY sanc·tu·ar·y ['saNGk(t)SHo͝o erē]
In the context: safe keeping

refuge or safety from pursuit, persecution, or other danger: a place where injured or unwanted animals of a specified kind are cared for: a holy place; a temple: the inmost recess or holiest part of a temple: the part of the chancel of a church containing the high altar.

DEFINITION

SANCTUARY





GO TO ST PAUL'S

MY MIND WAS RACING, YET ONE THOUGHT ROSE ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS WITH UNMISTAKABLE CLARITY:

THERE IS ONE MEMORY FROM THOSE YEARS THAT HAS REMAINED WITH ME ALL MY YEARS.

One evening, after leaving home in fear, I found myself driving with no destination in mind. Then one thought came to me with unmistakable clarity:

Go to St. Paul's.

The sanctuary was silent. I remember the beauty of the stained-glass windows... the echo of my footsteps... the portrait of John Wesley...

I slid into a pew and simply sat. I didn't know what to pray. So I sat in the silence, carrying more questions than answers. Only now, decades later, do I understand that God was gently drawing me toward Himself long before I understood where that path would eventually lead.

chapter 3

> *Then, in the midst of the chaos, a quiet conviction settled over me:*
>
> .....
>
> *"The heart and soul of the Christian life is learning to hear God's voice and then developing the courage to do what He asks us to do." – Bill Hybel*

God's Classroom

The greatest lessons are not always learned inside four walls.

Some lessons come through textbooks.

Others arrive through hospital rooms, waiting rooms, kitchen tables, unanswered prayers, and the ordinary faithfulness of everyday life.

Those became my classroom.

God's Classroom

Every setback is a setup for a divine comeback.

CLASSROOM class·room ['klɑːsruːm, 'klɑːsrʊm]

In the context: pupils or students are taught:

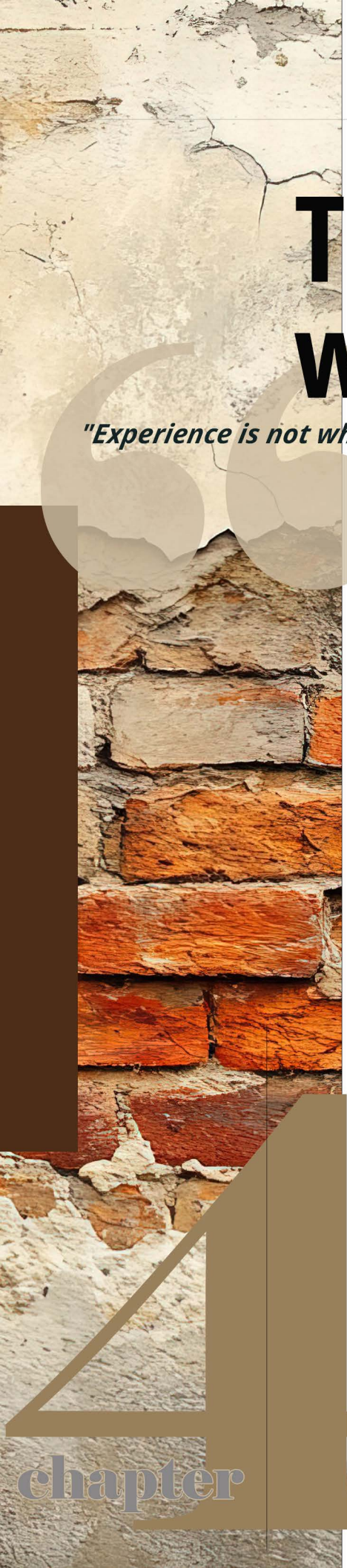
a body of students meeting regularly to study the same subject: a course of instruction: a room in which a class of pupils or students are taught:

DEFINITION



I didn't know what to pray

"SEEK WISDOM, AND IT WILL GUIDE YOUR HEART AND MIND."



chapter 4

The classroom without walls.

"Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you."

- Aldous Huxley

There was a time in my life when I believed education happened only within the walls of a classroom. Professors stood at the front of the room, textbooks were opened, assignments were completed, and grades reflected what had been learned.

Looking back now, I realize that God had enrolled me in a very different classroom.

One without walls.
One without semesters.
One without grades.

Its lessons were taught beside hospital beds, around kitchen tables, in waiting rooms, during long nights of prayer, and in the quiet, ordinary moments of faithfully caring for those I love.

It was in that classroom that I learned patience when there were no easy answers.

Compassion when words were no longer enough.

Perseverance when exhaustion became part of everyday life.

Humility when I realized I could not carry life's burdens in my own strength.

Faith when circumstances offered very little certainty.

And hope when God's presence quietly reminded me that I was never walking alone.

Caregiving has transformed me in ways I never expected.

Long before I became my husband's caregiver, I had the privilege of helping care for two of my beloved aunts and later my mother. At the time, I simply viewed it as loving my family. Looking back now, I believe God was gently preparing me for the season I would one day enter.

THE CLASSROOM CHANGED, BUT THE TEACHER HAS REMAINED THE SAME.

I also began to recognize something that had been quietly woven throughout my childhood.

I grew up watching my family care for one another.

My aunts lovingly cared for my grandmother. My uncles stepped in whenever someone needed help.

No one asked for recognition.
No one expected applause.
Serving one another was simply what our family did.

As a little girl, I watched.
As a young woman, I learned.
Today, I understand.

Those quiet examples became one of the greatest gifts my family ever gave me.

God taught me through caregiving.

Perhaps my greatest theological education has not taken place through reading books alone, but through living out the words of Christ in ordinary, often unseen ways.

Love became less of an idea and more of an action.

Grace became something to extend even when I felt empty.

Prayer became less about finding the right words and more about faithfully showing up before God each day.

I have discovered that theology is not simply something we study.

It is something we live.

Every act of service, every difficult conversation, every quiet sacrifice, every prayer whispered in the darkness has deepened my understanding of God's character far beyond what I could have imagined years ago.

And perhaps that is why I now feel such a deep desire to study Him more intentionally.

Not because I have all the answers.

But because the more faithfully I have walked with Him, the more I have realized how much there is still to learn.

-J. CARR-

SOME OF LIFE'S GREATEST LESSONS WERE NEVER LEARNED FROM A TEXTBOOK.



PROFICIENCY 01

A WIFE:

Core Qualities: Empathy and Compassion: A good wife demonstrates understanding and emotional sensitivity toward her spouse, sharing in his feelings and providing comfort during challenges, which strengthens emotional connection and communication within the marriage.

.

Trustworthiness and Honesty: Honesty is essential; a good wife is reliable, transparent, and maintains integrity, creating a foundation of trust that supports long-term marital stability.

.

Support and Encouragement: She actively supports her partner's ambitions and personal growth, offering encouragement during successes and setbacks, which nurtures mutual respect and admiration.

.

Respect and Appreciation: A good wife respects her spouse's individuality, values his contributions, and expresses gratitude for both small and significant actions, fostering a positive and harmonious home environmentl.

.

Independence and Self-Identity: Maintaining personal interests, friendships, and independence ensures a balanced relationship where both partners thrive individually and together.

Intellectual Compatibility: Engaging in meaningful conversations, challenging each other's perspectives, and stimulating intellectual growth helps keep the relationship dynamic and evolving.

Caring and Sensitivity: She is attentive to the needs of her family, noticing small details and responding thoughtfully, which enhances emotional well-being and strengthens family bonds.

PROFICIENCY 02

A MOTHER:

The greatest blessing of all. Becoming a Mother.

LESSON 01

They were learned beside hospital beds...

PROFICIENCY 03

I built a career... as a graphic designer and changing from my major to my minor I became a chief of staff and speech writer.

LESSON 04

They were learned during long nights of prayer...

LESSON 02

They were learned around kitchen tables...

LESSON 05

They were learned through the quiet privilege of caring for those I love.

LESSON 03

They were learned in waiting rooms...

-J. CARR-

CAREGIVING

CAREGIVING TRANSFORMED ME IN WAYS I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED. **Perhaps** my greatest theological education has not taken place within the walls of a classroom, but through faithfully loving and serving others.

The Calling

God rarely reveals the entire path.

More often, He simply asks us to trust Him with the next step.

I do not know exactly where this journey will lead.

But I have learned that obedience begins long before certainty.

AUGUST 2026

THE CALLING

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:1

IF YOU LOVE ME

keep my commands.
JOHN 14:15

WHEN GOD CALLS YOU TO SOMETHING

He is not always calling you to succeed;
He's calling you to obey!
The success of the calling is up to Him;
the obedience is up to you."
- David Wilkerson

God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. The answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and dont's - it's falling in love with God."

Francis Chan

Main Article

A Tug Within My Soul

Ring, rrrrring

Caller ID: God

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

- Ephesians 4:1

ARTICLE ON
Page 14



CALLING call·ing ['kɔ:lɪŋ]
In the context: the action or sound of a calling:
a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence

DEFINITION



Looking back now, I realize God had been calling long before I knew I was listening.

Throughout every season of life, one desire has continued to grow within me -

a longing to understand God's Word more deeply...

I want a deeper understanding of Scripture...

I have always felt a deep calling...

A tug within my soul...

To know Him more intimately...

No matter how old we are, we never stop learning.

I believe God is never finished teaching those who are willing to keep learning.

-J. CARR-

chapter 5

A TUG WITHIN MY SOUL

Ring... ring... Lord, is that You?

Did you not see the caller ID



I don't know where this road will lead, but I know Who is walking beside me.

.....

"A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."
- Proverbs 16:9

There was a time when I believed a calling arrived with a clear destination - a detailed roadmap, a carefully written plan, or a certainty about the future. I have since discovered that God rarely works that way in my life. More often, He has gently invited me to trust Him with just the next faithful step. Looking back, I can now see that every season of my life - both the joyful and the painful - was quietly preparing me for something I could not yet understand. The calling was never simply about where I was going; it was about who God was shaping me to become along the way.

Today, I cannot honestly tell you exactly where this degree will lead. I don't know whether my future includes writing, teaching, mentoring, speaking, or opportunities I have not yet imagined. What I do know is that there has been a persistent tug within my soul - a desire that has grown stronger with each passing year - to know God more deeply through the study of His Word. It is not driven by ambition, recognition, or achievement. It is driven by love, by gratitude, and by a longing to faithfully respond to the quiet invitation I believe God has placed upon my heart.

For many years, I have watched God faithfully reveal only enough light for the next step. Rarely has He shown me the entire path. Yet with every step of obedience, He has proven Himself trustworthy. That is why I can move forward with peace, even without having every answer. I have learned that faith is not having complete clarity about the destination - it is trusting the One who is leading the journey.

As I begin this next chapter, I do so with open hands and an open heart. My prayer is beautifully simple: that I remain teachable, obedient, and willing to go wherever God chooses to lead. If He opens doors I never expected, I will walk through them. If He asks me to serve quietly behind the scenes, I will serve there with joy. My calling is not ultimately about a career or a title. It is about becoming more like Christ and faithfully following Him, one step at a time.

.....

Ready

Every meaningful journey reaches a moment when preparation quietly gives way to purpose.

There comes a time when we realize that every lesson, every disappointment, every unanswered prayer, and every unexpected detour has been shaping us for something still to come. Looking back, I can now see that God was never simply asking me to wait. He was patiently preparing my heart for the next chapter.

Today, I do not stand here because I have all the answers.

I stand here because I am finally ready to take the next faithful step.

READY

...SET...



> Looking back over the past forty years, I have come to realize that although life interrupted my formal education...
>
> It never interrupted God's work in my life.

READY read·y ['rɛdi] In the context: action or situation; fully prepared: made suitable and available for immediate use: prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action prepared for immediate use. Immediately available

DEFINITION

MY BAGS ARE PACKED AND I'M READY TO GO



I'M STANDING HERE OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.

So many times I've played around... but...

Now the time has come and I'm ready to go

Tell me that you'll wait for me.

CONTACT ME (713) 851 - 7210

If you'd like to offer me a spot at Asbury

WHY I'M READY

For years, God has been quietly preparing me for a journey I never could have imagined. Looking back, I can now see that every chapter of my life was shaping me for this moment. Today, I stand at the threshold of a new beginning with gratitude for the road behind me and great anticipation for the one ahead. My bags are packed—not with certainty, but with faith. I am ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to follow wherever the Lord chooses to lead.

janetbcarr@gmail.com

14007 Conway Lndg.
Cypress, Texas
ZIP 77429

Destination: Tulsa, OK.

Status: Ready for Departure

GO





chapter 6

Looking back over the past forty years, I have come to realize that although life interrupted my formal education...
It never interrupted God's work in my life.

Every season-
both joyful and painful-
has been preparing me for this one.

After much prayer and research, I believe Asbury Theological Seminary is where God is leading me.

If I am completely honest...

I do not know exactly where this degree will lead me. And I have discovered that I am at peace with that. I simply know that God has placed this calling deeply within my soul. My desire is to be obedient to my Father's voice.

For much of my life, God has been quietly preparing me for a journey I could not yet see. Every joy, every disappointment, every responsibility, and every season of waiting has become part of that preparation. Today, I feel as though my bags are packed - not because I know exactly where this road will lead, but because I am finally ready to take the next step. With a willing heart, an open Bible, and a deep desire to continue growing in Christ, I stand ready to go wherever He leads.

There comes a moment when preparation gives way to faith. I believe I have arrived at that moment. My life has been shaped by experiences I never would have chosen, yet each one has prepared me for this season. I may not know every destination ahead, but I have learned enough of God's faithfulness to trust the One who is leading me there.

-J. CARR-



"KNOCK"

AND THE DOOR SHALL OPEN

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you"

Matthew 7:7

One Faithful Step

Rarely has God shown me the entire road ahead.

Instead, He has gently illuminated just enough light for the next step, quietly asking me to trust Him before revealing what comes next. Looking back, I can now see that what once felt like ordinary moments of obedience became the very path He was using to shape my life.

Faith has never required me to see the whole journey.

Only to faithfully take the next step.


ONE
Faithful
step



NO MATTER HOW FAR I'VE STRAYED, I'M COMING BACK TO **YOU**

RUNNING FAST TO REACH YOU, JESUS

Some stories are written one chapter at a time. Mine has been written one faithful step at a time.

"I have discovered that God's calling is rarely about finding extraordinary people. More often, it is about sending ordinary people into extraordinary places with the extraordinary hope of Christ."

He left the 99 to rescue me



"AFTER EVERYTHING... I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHERE I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HELD."

FAITHFUL faith·ful ['fāTHfəl]
In the context: remaining loyal and steadfast:

having or showing true and constant support or loyalty, deserving trust : keeping your promises or doing what you are supposed to do, firm and not changing in your friendship with or support for a person or an organization, or in your belief in your principles:

DEFINITION





One Faithful Step

Throughout my life, I have learned that God rarely reveals the entire journey at once. More often, He gently places the next faithful step before me and simply asks me to trust Him. Looking back, I can now see that some of the most significant moments in my life did not arrive with certainty or detailed instructions. They came as quiet convictions - gentle promptings that only made sense years later.

One such moment came unexpectedly during the stillness of an early morning. As the first light quietly filtered through the windows and the world had not yet awakened, a thought settled gently upon my heart. It wasn't loud or dramatic. It wasn't a lightning bolt or an audible voice. It was simply a quiet conviction that refused to leave.

Help the hard-to-love ones.

The words lingered.

I found myself thinking about those whom much of society has forgotten - men and women living behind prison walls, those serving life sentences, even those awaiting execution. While I believe in the rule of law and understand the purpose of justice, I also believe something with equal conviction: no one is beyond the reach of God's grace while they still have breath.

Every person is created in the image of God.

Every soul deserves the opportunity to hold a Bible, hear the Gospel, and encounter the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

I do not know whether this gentle prompting will one day become part of my ministry or simply remain another way God continues to shape my heart. I have learned not to dismiss these quiet invitations too quickly anymore. Looking back over my life, many of God's greatest invitations first arrived as gentle whispers.

As I continue to pray about where God may be leading me, I find my heart increasingly drawn toward those the world often finds hardest to love. Christ consistently moved toward those others avoided. He met people with truth, justice, mercy, and love. If He were ever to call me to serve behind prison walls, I would go willingly - not to excuse what has been done, but to share the hope of the Gospel. I believe every person, regardless of their past or their sentence, should have the opportunity to hear God's Word and know that the invitation to repentance, forgiveness, and grace remains open for as long as life remains.

Jesus knelt and washed the feet of His disciples, fully knowing that one would betray Him. That act of humble service has become a picture of the kind of servant's heart I pray God continues to form within me. If He should one day ask me to kneel beside someone the world has forgotten, to wash their feet, to place a Bible in their hands, and to remind them that they are not beyond His reach, I hope my answer will simply be...

"Yes, Lord."

For now, I simply continue taking one faithful step at a time, trusting that the God who has faithfully established every step behind me will faithfully establish every step ahead.

Looking back

I can now see that every faithful step was leading me closer to the One who had been walking beside me all along.

-J. CARR-

Perhaps

the most beautiful chapters are still waiting to be written.





JANET B. CARR

CEO of all things House of Carr

THIS & THAT

1962 - 2026

Native Houstonian

5'9" (most people are always surprised by my height when they meet me!)

Part Mexican - through my father's family, who immigrated through Galveston during the Mexican Revolution.

Follower of Christ

Lifelong United Methodist

Lifelong learner

Graphic designer

Illustrator

Children's book author

Future seminary student

Caregiver

Storyteller

CONTACT ME

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+713 851 7210
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Address

ABOUT ME

"Who is Janet Carr?" I think I'd answer this way. Janet is a woman who sees life differently than most people. While others see a room, she sees its possibilities. While others see a transcript, she sees the story behind it. While others see a photograph, she looks for the meaning beneath it. While others see a project, she sees people. She notices details. She treasures ordinary moments. She believes God is quietly present in everyday life. She has spent much of her life caring for others, and now finds herself answering a calling she has carried for years. Above all, she is a woman whose heart longs to know God more deeply and to faithfully follow wherever He leads.

MY HEART

I love Jesus.
I love Scripture.
I love helping people.
I believe every person has a story.
I believe there is beauty hidden beneath the surface.

I believe obedience is often quiet.
I believe small acts of kindness matter.
I believe home should feel peaceful.
I believe everyone deserves grace.
I believe God prepares us one step at a time.

THINGS I LOVE

The ocean, Bread, Matcha, Olives, Coffee, Vintage treasures, Antique furniture, Old books, Lamps, Magazines, Cozy rooms, Plants, Dogs, Rainy days, Cooler weather, Beautiful typography, Designing with intention.

FUN FACTS

I'm an introvert who loves deep conversations. I have a degree in Graphic Arts and Advertising. I enjoy theology just as much as art. I can spend hours rearranging one room.I find peace organizing spaces. I love magazines so much that I think in magazine layouts. My favorite song, *I Can Only Imagine*, I use to work in politics.

MY FAVORITE ROLES

Wife, Mom, Caregiver, Friend, Author, Artist, Student, Bible study participant, Encourager.

THINGS THAT MAKE ME SMILE

Fresh bread, The smell of books, A lamp glowing in a dark room, Ocean waves, The feel of the wind, Autumn, Libraries, Coffee shops, Vintage finds, Well-designed pages, Beautiful photography, Dogs asleep nearby, Well written English. Hugs.

MY STRENGTHS

Compassion, Perseverance, Creativity, Loyalty, Writing, Curiosity, Faithfulness, Observation, Organization, Hospitality, Encouragement.

THINGS LIFE HAS TAUGHT ME

You can break unhealthy cycles. Grace changes people. Forgiveness is freedom. God is faithful. Caregiving is sacred. Love is often quiet. Small moments become treasured memories. God uses ordinary people. There is always another layer to discover. Hope is stronger than fear.

LITTLE JANET-isms

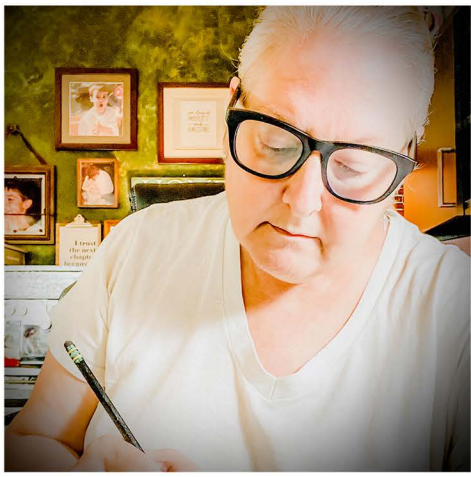
"OMGEEEEEEE!" "Putter, putter, putter!" "One more thing before I say goodbye" "Just wait..." "Top of the morning!" "Heellllooooo!" "Oh, please. Put on your big girl panties." "Peel back another layer." "You will not believe"

THE Story OF US

A PICTURE'S WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS











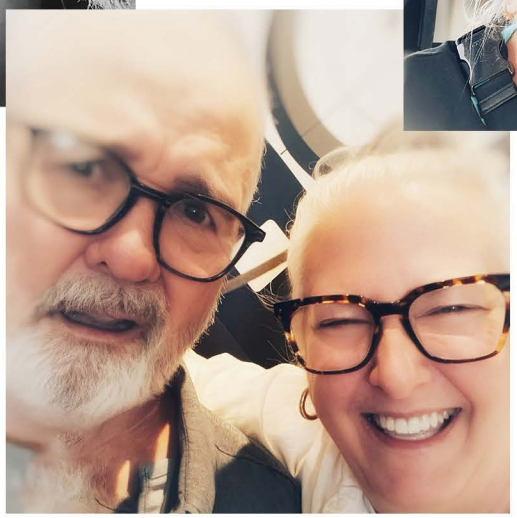


















WHAT STORY WILL YOU WRITE

