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**Quarterly Quotes**

Don't set limits to the mercy of God. Don't believe that because you are not pleasing to yourself you are not pleasing to God. God does not ask for results. God asks for love.

**Thomas Merton**

Love is blind, we like to say, but no; Love is not blind. The ego is blind. All it can see is itself. But Love is not blind. Love is pure vision! God, seeing through us! The more we allow God to see through us, the more we will notice a great healing taking place in our world.

**Macrina Wiederkehr**

What we are asked to do is to love; and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbor worthy if anything can.

**Thomas Merton**



**Habit of Permanent Expectancy**

By Jaque Shank

It's been a long time since I took one of our Hope classes. Living in a new state and making new friends I recently took it again with four other women. Wow! I've been extremely encouraged (again) with the meaning of hope. Real hope is not wishful thinking; it is based on certainty or the very hope with which God hopes. In other words, His life in us offers us hope to hope with. When we abide in

God's presence, hoping with certainty becomes a habit--the habit of permanent expectancy. It's important to note that we can't hope with God's hope until we understand the presence of His good will in us. God is good. Interesting, isn't it, how easily we consent to that mentally but refute it by our words and actions? How often do we say we hope in God but then experience futility? What would it be like to experience a constant

hope with the assurance that what we're hoping for will certainly come to pass? I may get loads of questions on this, but I'm glad I didn't say it. God did. Look.  
*When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're go-*



**The Community of Online Class**

By Sara McDaniel

My husband is active duty in the military and so we usually move every three years or so, give or take a year. While we were stationed in Oki-

nawa from 2005-2008 I was blessed to be a part of a wonderful Visionwriters community, which grew from obedience to Father's initial command to hold

classes. He instructed me to begin by going through a Visionwriters course with my immediate family first and that He would then bring people to me who



## VI Goals

We have renewed vision and rekindled passion to mentor as many new students as possible. We want to see infants become toddlers, adolescents, and onward to adult stature. We want others to reach the level of maturity that many of you have now reached. Is there a part of you that wants to help us reach this goal?

One of our goals is to streamline our audio and printed material. We plan to standardize the format of our manuals, bring uniformity to our style, actually reducing the number of print pages. The content will remain the same and we will continue to self-publish, but we will utilize "print-on-demand" features for a more professional presentation. More importantly, the economical savings of print-on-demand is a strong factor in our decision.

In addition to standardized formatting, we want to advance our material by making it available for instant download through our website. This is a positive solution for those who still find the cost of purchasing the physical materials a

hardship. We save time and money by not having to publish, duplicate, or replicate manuals and CD's and the extensive savings will benefit the students.

We have inspiration for other booklets and various support materials to help others grasp the fullness and glory of true union with Christ. We trust God's timing and purpose in all things. Some of these goals are older goals that the Lord is now turning into a priority. We are beginning to recognize an amplification of His desire to bring these goals into fruition. Only He knows the impact of their purpose.

We see ways that we can help people to tap into the good news. Our message and strategy has brought several small bands of spiritual ragamuffins to maturity in Christ. It was a God-send, rescuing us from false identities, empty religion, easy manipulation, and from being tossed and turned by every wind of doctrine.

There are still so many who do not know the Holy Spirit as their most valued Teacher.

They are, quite literally, dying to know that God has a personal interest in them and their lives. It worked for us and it will work for those still living with the needless ache of a silent God.

We know that our goals are a group effort. We need those who want to find their place with us. You can fill in the gaps by:

- Giving financially and consistently
- Advising gently and insightfully
- Praying sincerely and intuitively
- Serving skillfully and attentively

If you have an impression to help then we trust it is His movement in you.

Visionwriters has been in a season of transition and transition brings maturity to all. You have grown, we have too. We've learned many lessons, gained appreciation, and have become better stewards along the way. God is rekindling the flame, and amazing us with the manifold wisdom of group leadership.

We look forward to hearing from you!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

*Margaret Meade*

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

*Ken Blanchard*

"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

*Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

"A group becomes a team when each member is sure enough of himself and his contribution to praise the skills of the others."

*Norman Shidle*

"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there."

*Virginia Burden*

"Respect your fellow human being, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it."

*Bill Bradley*

## The Habit of Permanent Expectancy, cont.

*ing to have a big family, Abraham!" Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said.*

Romans 4:18-21 (MSG)

*For our salvation is by hope: but hope which is seen is not hope: for who is hoping for what he sees? But if we have hope for that which we see not, then we will be able to go on waiting for it. And in the same way the Spirit is a help to our feeble hearts: for we are not able to make prayer to God in the right way; but the Spirit puts our desires into words which are not in our power to say;*

*And he who is the searcher of hearts has knowledge of the mind of the Spirit, because he is making prayers for the saints in agreement with the mind of God. And we are conscious that all things are working together for good to those who have love for God, and have been marked out by his purpose.*

Romans 8:24-28 (BBE)

*That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.*

Romans 8:24-25 (MSG)

I believe our highest calling is to stay pregnant with Godly hope by abiding in His presence. The constant sense of His goodness will keep our hope anchored to Him. Look, we live in changing times. Now that can be said in

any decade, can't it? But I think not so much as right now. How are we going to get through the coming changes and challenges? I think our most vital need is to make a permanent habit of expecting God in His loving power to show up and be God in the midst of every future unknown.

Visionwriters offers order, instruction and a strategy to help my mind stay focused so it's easier to abide in God's presence every day; it was founded to help you do the same. We now offer opportunities to do a class online as well as with others in your immediate proximity. I hope you will join me or Sara or any of the other Visionkeepers who facilitate our courses in keeping with the habit of permanent expectancy. Maybe some of you will go beyond that and become keepers of the vision with us. I sure do hope so!

—Jaque

**My goals (in Christ) must continually inspire me, therefore I continue to journalize the word of God."**

JAQUE (BANAS) SHANK

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 PETER 1:3-9 (NIV)

## The Community of Online Class, cont.

were hungry for more of Him. This He did over and above all my expectations and I found the joy of walking closely with others as we chose to journey together spiritually, cultivating close friendship, while we learned how to listen to God together. We experienced the joy of being able to ask questions without fear of being judged and of being loved for who we are.

Wayne Jacobsen says that discipleship always comes before community and that when you learn to follow Jesus yourself and help others to do the same, you'll find "body-life" springing up all around you because the church (Christ's body) thrives where people are truly focused on Jesus.

In the nature of the military lifestyle, I moved on from Okinawa and the friends I knew there have also

moved on and are now spread across the country, and into other countries. Some of them became Visionkeepers and are holding their own classes but some have not yet found folk with whom to share this tool.

Holding a class locally will always be the best way to form deep and strong communities because you can get together and share your very lives. But in the waiting periods that sometimes come due to transitions, we have found that we can keep connection via online Visionwriters classes as a kind of 'virtual community' but no less real for that; just different.

Our online classes are open to everyone who would like to take a Visionwriters course but are unable to attend a local class. We have delighted in meeting new folk and getting to know each other. Not only are

the students typically spread all across the USA, but some are also in other countries such as Japan, Canada, England and even Cuba. Currently we are beginning Reflections In Righteousness with 12 students. We have a private discussion forum for those enrolled in the course but hope to post some gems from there onto the regular forum now and again. Coaching of response questions is still a priority and is done by email.

If you've been wishing you could get back into a Visionwriters course and enjoy deep spiritual dialogue with others, this could be the answer for you. If you are a displaced Visionkeeper, you can even start your own online class! It's easy to do and we would love to have many on offer concurrently. If you would like to know more, please email me at

[saram@visionwriters.com](mailto:saram@visionwriters.com).



## Thanks for Your Help

No group of people are more vital in helping us eliminate the ache of a silent God than our monthly supporters. Consistent monthly support is the collaboration that keeps our vision in motion.

A Withworker is simply you "working with" us. Your monthly support is the practical, tangible substance that allows us to facilitate people's longing to eliminate every doubt that God exists.

How different would people's lives be if they knew God cared enough to talk to them every day? How would their life change if they could hear Him for themselves and get the answers they need?

Visionwriters provides a practical application that supports the practice of written dialogue with God in the safety and accountability of a group setting. Our mission is to help others experience God's speaking voice as their unshakable reality.

Our vision supplies hope and a future and your monthly support turns that hope to reality. We are careful to seek the proper use and management of each dollar. We strive to keep operating expenses to a minimum to maximize our outreach.

A Withworker's monthly support is devoted to the furtherance of our vision. If you are not already, please consider becoming a financial supporter. We are asking the Lord

## Thanks for Your Help, cont.

for more Withworkers and trust Him to stir hearts with a longing to see others personally acquainted with His voice.

There is much to do. God continues to ignite vision; therefore He will supply sufficient resources and help. If your heart is with us, then your help is the help we need!

How can you become a Withworker? Listen to your heart. Is God

aligning your heart with our mission? Do you want to help us eliminate the lonely feelings of abandonment that afflict so many?

If so, then the next step is to contact us to let us know how much you would like to contribute each month. We make it as easy as we can by giving you the option of making online donations or to pay monthly by check.

- Please visit our website at: [www.visionwriters.com](http://www.visionwriters.com)
- Or click on this active [Withworker Link](#)
- Or write to us at:  
Visionwriters International  
PO Box 2020  
Edgewood, NM 87015
- Or call us at :  
(505) 717-7100



## A Withworker Says it All!

I am a Withworker! In other words, I am a fellow laborer, a companion and cheerful giver to, a friend, supporter and recipient of...I am in union, partnership, cooperation, alliance, affiliation, concert and in cahoots with...I am hooked up, tied up, joined to, enlisted with, and a rejoicer in...I am pulled, held and hung together with, hand in hand, heart to heart, arm in arm, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, and back to back with in good times or in bad...

Not because I should or must but because I'm delighted to. I am a helpmeet, a sister, a sidekick, a teammate, a servant to, a colleague with, an ally, an associate, a champion of, a sympathizer, a well-wisher, an intercessor for, a homegirl and a very happy camper in the ministry of Visionwriters International. Get the picture?

There is a saying, "Put your money where your mouth is." This implies that if you praise or make claims or boast on something, it's important to put tangible, supportive substance into it and not just words.

I have come to understand that money isn't to just pay the bills and it isn't just to impress, to buy positions or to tip with. When given in the right spirit from a sincere and cheerful, glad-to-do-it attitude it is truly an act of giving part of who I am to be part of what I'm investing in.

What I give represents my time, ability, energy, gratitude and trust — my life. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We must ask ourselves, "Where is My treasure? What do I treasure? and Is it the kingdom of God things?" I think it's appropriate to say, "Put your money where your heart is."

My heart is joyfully knit with the ministry of Christ through Miracle in the Mirror and I treasure the way the kingdom of God is being revealed and honored in it.

And that's why I'm a Withworker!

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

**John Bunyon**



"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."

**C.S. Lewis**

"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving."

**Albert Einstein**

### About Us

*Visionwriters is a mentoring program with a long-term vision or worldview; one that is committed to a long-term Gospel. Vision either determines victory, or its absence produces despair. God's word imparts vision. Writing the vision helps us sort things out, for thoughts are untangled at the point of a pen. But writing isn't enough if it falls short of application. We help people apply the truth, because truth without application is just information. When truth is applied it is powerful.*

*We facilitate people who ache to hear the voice of Truth and experience a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ ~ people who want to hear God's voice and open their communication with God ~ those who want answers to their most perplexing questions ~ people ready to admit there is a hole inside and who want to overcome this inner loneliness.*

*Journalizing, or Visionwriting, is taking dictation from the Holy Spirit. Because we want to understand God's personal instructions, we write to capture, assimilate and obey them. You will learn how to hear God's voice, have communication with God through a spiritual relation with Him. Through that spiritual relationship you will overcome loneliness.*

### Philosophy of the D.A.R.C.

#### **D = Discipline**

God's discipline, sated with love, is our wake up call to righteousness. A renewed mind can't grasp the revelation of righteousness alone; this revelation requires the heart to be awakened by the voice of His love. "Today if you will hear My voice..." (Hebrews 3:7-8). To hear with disciplined intent is to not only agree that God initiated a covenant with us, but to finally agree to fully and personally receive it. A long persistence in the right direction is required if we are going to 'see' the place to which God calls us to abide. We write the vision out of our deep longing to "understand" and then "do" what we see our Father doing.

#### **A = Accountability**

Each one of us is accountable for our own personal relationship with God as we bear it in front of others. Because we genuinely want to read so we can run with the vision, we surrender to the Holy Spirit and He leads us to what helps us sort out our thoughts and let go of what isn't true; then we can integrate what is true into our hearts and lives. Here we begin to learn the freedom of open and honest relationships.

#### **R = Relationship**

Our relationship with God is central to everything and everyone. It is intimate, up close, and personal. Therefore we are ready to explore ourselves the way God knows us and to drop human judgment in order to receive others and encourage them toward the recognition of all God knows them to be. We are "response-able" as we proclaim the truth—here as "selves for others."

#### **C = Community**

We need one another; God made us that way. So community is the place all things finally make sense—where God's promises are realized—where the corporate ache is filled. As we operate in union with Him we lose ourselves and get nothing less than our true selves back. This is when we begin to deeply experience our self-giving nature and where "the whole is defined by the sum of its parts."