



## In This Issue

- WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT
- "GOD MET ME HERE" A TESTIMONY
- MEET OUR TEAM
- BOOK RECOMMENDATION
- REASONS TO CELEBRATE
- HOW TO PARTNER WITH LMT

## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

# "Where Are You?" The God Who Seeks

The First Question After the Fall  
 "...God called to the man, 'Where are you?'"  
 (Genesis 3:9)

It is remarkable that the first divine communication to humanity after Adam and Eve's disobedience comes in the form of a question. Understanding God's question— **"Where are you?"** —is foundational for grasping the heart of God. This was not a question of location, as if Adam could hide himself so well that God would be unable to find him.

Scripture clearly teaches God's omnipresence:  
 "Am I only a God nearby...and not a God far away?  
 Can a man hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?... Do I not fill heaven and earth?"

And again:

"I can never escape from Your Spirit! If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I go down to the grave, You are there." (Psalm 139:7-8)

**God's question was not geographical—it was relational.**

### A Searching Father, Not a Condemning Judge

The Hebrew expression used for "Where are you?" can convey searching, accusation, mockery, or consolation. In Genesis 3, it is the language of **a searching Father**.

God's question reveals conviction, not condemnation. It was an invitation for Adam to step into the light and for God to intervene in the consequences of his disobedience.

This moment establishes a pattern that continues throughout Scripture: **God initiates.** Before humanity recognizes its lost condition, God comes seeking. His aim is reconciliation and the restoration of relationship with a repentant people.

### God Still Initiates Today.

Paul echoes this truth: “But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much that, even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead...” (Ephesians 2:4–5)

God acts first. Grace arrives before awareness.

GOD ACTS  
FIRST.  
GRACE  
ARRIVES  
BEFORE  
AWARENESS.

### Christ’s Mission: To Seek and To Save.

The purpose of Christ’s birth is summarized in His own words: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)

Jesus illustrates His mission through the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Luke 15). Each story reveals the Father’s relentless pursuit of the lost. And not only unbelievers—He seeks His own children as well: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” (Revelation 3:20)

**God’s passion is an intimate, ongoing relationship with each of us.**

George MacDonald (1824–1905), the Scottish pastor and author who influenced C. S. Lewis, emphasized that God sent His Son not only to save us from coming judgment but to lead a reconciled people home to Himself.

### The Heart of Christmas

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may you remember—and respond to—your Father who so desires relationship with you that He “gave His only begotten Son...” Yes, salvation is a gift, but even greater is God’s longing for an experiential, intimate, ongoing, communicative relationship with you.

Bill & Gloria Gaither capture the truth of this in the lyrics of their song,

### Reaching

*This God who formed the world  
With His own hands  
Made love become a baby, one of  
our very own  
And spoke His Word so we could  
understand.*

*His love went on longing,  
His love went on reaching  
Right past the shackles of my  
mind.*

*Then the Word of the Father  
Became Mary’s little Son,  
And His love reached all the  
Way to where I was—  
Reaching, longing, searching.  
And the longing and the reaching  
Became Mary’s little Son,  
And His love reached all the  
Way to where I was.*



GOD’S  
PASSION IS AN  
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### The Pattern for Evangelistic Ministry

Luke 19:10 captures the gospel message: Christ came to seek and to save the lost. His earthly ministry reflects active pursuit:

- He “went through every city and village” (Luke 8:1).
- He “had to pass through Samaria” to meet one woman at a well (John 4:4).
- He searched for the straying sheep until He found it (Matthew 18:12–13).

These scenes shape Christian ministry today: believers do not wait for the lost to come—they go out seeking, mirroring the Shepherd.

May this truth draw your heart into deeper intimacy with the God who calls, searches, and lovingly asks, “**Where are you?**”

In Him,

**Bruce Hogarth**

# “God Met Me Here”

**BY : CAMDEN GILLUM**

On May 30, 2019, my husband, Ty, and I were indicted on 33 federal counts. In July of 2020, the charges on me were dismissed on all counts with prejudice. I could feel myself starting to become resentful toward my husband. I started to feel angry and became very short with him. I made a little internal vow when we were married on 12/30/94 that I would never leave my husband, but that he would leave me. This just confirmed all of that in my mind. My husband would be leaving me.

I usually hear from the Holy Spirit while showering or while on the mower mowing our grass. This particular morning, I was in the shower. The Holy Spirit said to me, “I am the one that indicted you on 33 felony counts. Not the prosecutor and not the Department of Justice—it was me. I want you to know exactly what your husband is walking through, and I want you to walk with him and beside him through this entire journey.” At this point I was a crying mess. I immediately got in touch with my husband and apologized for my behavior and asked for his forgiveness.

My husband was sentenced in November of 2022 to 60 months in federal prison. On March 1, 2023, at 5:15 a.m., he left our home. My world as I knew it had completely come to a screeching halt. How am I going to do this? My rock, the head of our household, the dad, the grandpa? How were we going to go on? It was as if a part of me had been taken away, and I wasn’t sure how to get through this time.

I was saved by Jesus Christ in September of 1994. We attended church regularly, and were both leaders of a Western KS ministry called Encounter Jesus. People always say there’s this inner most part of our being that can only be filled with Jesus. We can try to fill it with “stuff” but the only thing that satisfies is Jesus.



My innermost being has been filled with Jesus since 1994. But there was always this tiny place in my heart that longed for my husband. I missed him so much, and I grieved his absence deeply. Nothing—absolutely nothing—could fill that void. I would be driving with praise and worship music blaring, and out of nowhere, I would just start sobbing.

At one point, I even had the thought that it might be easier to process a permanent loss than to live in the ache of not knowing when he would come home. But God quickly corrected me through close friends who had lost their husbands. Their stories showed me the truth: a loss is permanent, and I was not living in that reality.

The Lord spoke gently to my heart, “I am bringing your husband home—in My time, not yours.” He also showed me that He was allowing me to taste what it feels like to lose a husband, so that when mine did finally come home, I would love him and cherish him even more deeply.



“I could feel myself starting to become resentful... but in the shower the Holy Spirit said, ‘I want you to walk with him and beside him through this entire journey.’”



I was finally able to go see him at Leavenworth Prison Camp in April of 2023. I cried and cried when I saw him. He looked really good. He looked very healthy. He had lost probably 20 lbs., but it was a healthy-looking weight loss. I was able to visit him from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Since I was driving so far (4 hours one way), I could see him Saturday and Sunday.

On this particular day, I started not feeling well. Ty said I didn't look well. We said our good-byes, and I went to a hotel so I could see him the next morning. I was shaking profusely and was freezing cold. I crawled into bed at 3:30 and did not wake up until 7:30 the next morning. I believe I had a breakdown from all of the stress and anxiety leading up to his leaving and then missing him so badly. Thankfully, I awakened the next morning and felt amazing.

This was my life for almost 2 years. I drove 4 hours from western KS to eastern KS to visit my husband in prison every weekend.

Our son knew Bruce and kept recommending I reach out to Bruce to see if I could meet with him. Our son recommended Bruce in May of 2023. My way was not working for me, and I knew that I needed to do something different. My husband was in a class that was 9 months long, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. He was getting lots of counseling and coping skills. I knew that I did not want to be sitting on the same rock I was sitting on March 1, 2023, the day he gets home.

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## KNOWING WHO I TRULY AM IN CHRIST IS WHAT FULFILLS ME.

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Finally, on May 18, 2024, I started meeting with Bruce every 2 weeks. Stubborn? Maybe just a little. LOL. Meeting with Bruce has been the most life-changing thing I have EVER done in my entire life. I was walking in so much shame that I didn't even realize the extent of the shame I was walking in. The shame controlled everything and every person that I would come into contact with.

Slowly but surely, we started peeling back the layers. I discovered my shame-based identity and remember thinking, wow, this is great. I don't ever have to deal with this again because I have identified it.

Next session, Bruce and I were laughing at my thought process from the prior session. I told him that the shame-based identity is like a wave; it is all over and touches everything. It is in everything.

The last 1.5 years of meeting with Bruce have been the best thing I could have ever done for myself. Freedom feels incredible, and for the first time in my 50+ years of life, I was able to honor and validate myself. And you know what? I love my husband dearly and never want to spend another day without him. But even with that deep love, it's knowing who I truly am in Christ that ultimately fulfills me.

I get to live the rest of my days with my husband. I am happy to say that I picked up my husband on July 30th, 2024. My husband served 17 months of a 60-month sentence. God is so good!!

I want to thank Jesus Christ, Life Ministries Today, and most of all, Bruce Hogarth, for doing what God has put him on this earth to do.



# Meet Our Team

## DISCIPLESHIP COUNSELORS



BRUCE  
HOGARTH  
PRESIDENT



LARRY  
WATKINS



GINNY  
JOHNSON



CAREY  
ODUM



TERESA  
HOGARTH

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

## REASONS TO CELEBRATE



227 Clients  
Seen



71 NEW  
Clients



1,000 Hrs of  
Counseling

We've all seen the headlines. Masculinity is in crisis. Men are lost. What's the matter with men? We are confused about what masculinity is and what roles men play in our culture.

Manhood, says Joby Martin, is harder than ever because we have forgotten what true masculinity looks like. Real, Biblical manhood is not about driving big trucks, having the biggest guns, or hunting the biggest buck. (Though he's a big fan of all of those, truth be told.) True men of God surrender themselves before the cross, serve and lead their families, put on the full armor of God, and stand guard against the lies that threaten to tear our churches and our culture apart.

In this book, Pastor Joby walks through what the Bible means when it says, 'be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong, and let all that you do be done in love' (1 Corinthians 16:13). He guides readers through what scripture says about who men are, how they should act, and what it means to be a man in today's culture, and he asks tough questions about how God calls men to respond.

Stand Firm and Act Like Men is a call for men to rediscover Biblical manhood in their churches and cities, and to love, serve, and support their families and one another.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH LMT

### OUR MISSION

To walk alongside individuals, couples and families through the process that encourages them to know and experience freedom in Christ as proclaimed in *John 10:10*

Countless lives are being **transformed**, families **restored** and relationships **healed** through discipleship counseling and small group relationships. We humbly thank each of our supporters for your generous gifts to this ministry.

**Life Ministries Today** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry. Donations may be made online or mailed to the LMT address.

**Would you prayerfully  
consider a financial gift?**

**DONATE**



\*All donations are tax deductible.  
Thank you!