

The Parable of the Sticky Notes

Fay Nelson



For a number of years I've had the privilege of sharing about God's love and forgiveness in many places and many situations, with individuals and with large and small groups of people. There's nothing I'd rather do, for the sharing is often followed by seeing people reach out to God. Each time is special to me and often becomes my current "favorite." A friend shared about such a time last week. It's a story about a long and tempestuous relationship. It's the story of my friend's father and of God.

He is about to transition from this world into the presence of Jesus. In his heart he feels it's time as he is, biblically speaking, "old and full of days." His body is battling cancer. He misses his wife, family members and friends who have already gone before him. But right now he is reveling in victory.

He loves and has loved his family. But two of his children disappointed him so deeply that he harbored anger for many years. His wife's faith and cheerful, loving disposition tempered it, left doorways of communication open, and sought to comfort him. But when she died, the sorrow of losing her compounded his other issues.

One day he looked at the family portrait, taken when the children were nearing adulthood, and in a wave of hurt got out a pad of sticky notes. "Rebelleled against her family" went on the image of a daughter. "Abandoned his family" went on the image of a son who had tragically chosen to end his own life. The father insisted that the notes, mute testimonies of brokenness, be left on the picture.

Another daughter and her family live near him. She is relentlessly cheerful and loving, much like his wife, her mother. She talked with him for hours about God's love, forgiveness, and healing. And she prayed. She asked her friends and her husband's friends and her sons to pray. She regularly challenged her father to let go of the hurt and anger and bitterness as she demonstrated God's love and care and honor to him.

One day a couple of weeks ago she went to see him. Something was different. He asked her to accompany him. They went into the den where the family photo hung, notes still in place. He said, "I want you to watch me as I remove these." And he did.

He is free. Nothing can make the painful events go away; they cannot be undone. The daughter still lives in rebellion. The son is still dead. But the father is free. His healing was completed as he took the visible step of removing the evidence of resentment and pain that God had healed as he forgave his children.

What an awesome God we serve! What a privilege to go into all the world, beginning with our families and our neighbors, and share the Good News that God loves, forgives, and heals. God cares deeply about my friend who has struggled so long with hurt and grief. God drew him along at the pace he could go. God was there with grace, and strength and forgiveness when the decision was made. A decision, an act of will, a resolve, a repentance—and a life of brokenness was made whole. My friend now knows for certain that he belongs to God. He can live out his remaining days in victory and blessed peace, knowing that he will soon be in God's presence.

This is the Good News we have for Africa, for the UK, for Kitty Hawk, for you. God loves you. He has all that you need despite the economy, the political chaos, or any other upheavals that seem to bombard us every day. Our prayer for you, and for ourselves, is that any sticky note we may have lodged in our minds or spirits—referring to a person or event or circumstance—will be removed as we let God move in our lives.

🌐 **Most FAQ: "Where in the world are you?"**

Easily found! ☺

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**Our office staff will return or forward
your calls and answer mail!**

Program Report

CliffAnn Perry

Our time lately has been incredibly varied. We have been doing everything from prayer walking the windy wet streets of East-the-Water to traveling miles over muddy, rain drenched roads in Zambia to share the Gospel. It is all good but I'm beginning to wonder if rain, wind and mud are God's theme in these last few months.

Zambia



After a brief time at home in January, we took a small team of guys to Zambia. Trey and Levi are veteran missionaries but Elisha was our newest team member—and he proved an excellent one. We practiced hard and then packed 6 ministry sessions and 2 showings of the Jesus Film into 3 days. Many people (children and adults) made commitments to the Lord or had another need met as they came forward for prayer. Because we work with **NOAH Ministries** in conjunction with the local churches those new converts already have a church home and can begin to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

A very special moment for Fay and me was when we had a lady volunteer to interpret for us. The whole time we both kept thinking that we knew her. Mike said we had not been to that village before but after the ministry time we remembered she had been in the very first Children's Ministry Conference we had done years ago in Zambia. She is now married to a pastor and is a qualified teacher. We talked and fellowshiped with her and committed to pray for each other as we serve God.

The rest of our time in Zambia was spent getting the new orphanage building done and another started and to help with some office stuff. It was great to be with Mike, Linda, Joanne and Sherry.

England

We came back with a fresh outlook and excitement about what God is going to do and anticipation of the doors He is about to open here. We are busy in the community volunteering for a high school lunch time drop in center and several other times with teens. We now have Friday night Kids Club at Westward Ho! Baptist and are still training our staff of two girls to do puppetry and drama.

There are new doors opening like the growing group of adults and teens who want to be trained to do puppetry. The local schools are beginning to be interested in having us come for assemblies and we are getting some church invitations as well.

Recently we did the parable of the Sower and the Seed with kids ages 5-11. I am always blessed as children get honest with God about where their hearts are and want to pray about the difficulties they are having. Some knew they were more like the rocky soil, others knew they had weeds growing and others felt they were a combination of the good soil and some other one. Two little boys admitted that they have hearts like the road (hard) and have not asked Jesus to be their Savior. One was not interested but one said he thought he was. We talked through the basics of the Gospel and he was fine until I asked if he was ready to give his whole life to Jesus. At that, he honestly said he wasn't. He was willing to let us pray with him that Jesus would soften his heart and make him ready. I noticed a softening even before the evening was over and know that God is at work in him. We come to Jesus individually, whether we pray in a group or alone, God receives us one by one. It is such a joy to watch as God is drawing people to Himself and such a challenge to have eyes to see what He is doing and do what He shows us.



A Note from Levi



Hey Ya'll,

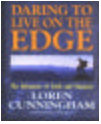
I started praying for faith when I was very young. Asking God to give me faith to move mountains and all that cool stuff. Recently God's been trying to give me faith. You know faith is not always healing the sick people and raising dead people. It says in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that we have to "walk by faith, not by sight." Doing what God tells us to when we have no conceivable idea how on earth it's gonna work. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths

straight."

Another translations says, "He will direct your paths." God has shown me how he has directed my paths in the past, when I've done His will and is showing me day by day that, now that the challenges are bigger than ever and growing that I can trust Him and He will guide me.

So walk by faith and not by sight!

We Recommend!



The subtitle of the book is “The Adventure of Faith and Finances.” Obviously we have been on that adventure even more as we are currently living where the dollar is worth 50 cents. This book is not new but is a classic and is a great read for everyone.



This is a nice collection of modern worship songs from a variety of artists. We've listened to the first CD a good bit as we pray and worship together.



Levi's been rereading this classic and can't recommend it highly enough. So often the “deepest” things are the ones that are simply stated. Part of Lewis' gift and richly deserved reputation as one of the foremost theologians and apologists of his day was his ability to explain the realities of God with simplicity and clarity.

Prayer Requests

Thank you for joining with us and praying for the critical needs of our ministry:

- Traveling safety
- Our health
- Anointing as we train folks, minister to folks, and share the Good News.
- For our provision.
- For encouragement as we do spiritual battle daily so that we can minister effectively.

Schedule

March 18	Ministry for two groups of preschoolers in Appledore
March 25	Fay returns to England
March 31	Levi returns to US
April 6	Ministry at Barnstaple Baptist
Every Monday	Junior Staff Training
Every Friday	Kids Club at Westward Ho! Baptist
May 2	CliffAnn and Fay return to US
May 11	The Dwelling Place, Wilmington, NC
May 17-18	Burning Heart Fellowship, Nashville, NC
May 22	Return to East-the-Water

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About Our Finances

We started this great adventure with a great deal of God's grace and some significant gifts from ministry partners. We are so grateful! And week by week we are seeing answered prayers as people are receiving the Good News and Christians are coming together to pray and get trained and begin working with us as we reach out to the future of our area, its children.

We need your help! The falling dollar has strained our tight budget exceedingly. It was ironic while Fay was home that gas seemed so incredibly cheap—it's over \$10 a gallon here!

Would you pray about an investment in our work? In these extraordinary times, we need extraordinary help to do what God has called us to do. More than anything we need your prayers . . . Your investment would be a close second!

Thank you for praying, and for your encouragement!

Fay and CliffAnn



What's the weather like in the UK? The answer is shown here—the preschool “Wellies” trees! We're praying for a rain of God's Spirit that will exceed the physical rain!

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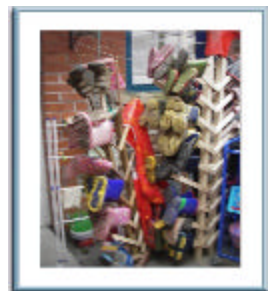
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