

The Secret Weapon

August 2017 - By Tamara Roberts

“But, why can’t I go?” I stood with my hands on my hips.

Mom calmly and firmly repeated, “I just have a red flag. I know you don’t like or understand it, but I’m standing firm on this because I love you.”

“Sometimes I wish you wouldn’t love me so much.” I stomped to the phone and called my friend to cancel our plans for skating. “Yes, I know. It sounds crazy. She says she has a red flag.”

“What’s a red flag?” My friend sounded as disappointed as I. “What’s wrong with four girls going skating on a Saturday afternoon?”

“Mom just gets these weird feelings she calls red flags. I don’t get it. She knows I’m disappointing the whole group, but she won’t budge.” We discussed the disdain we had for parents ruling our lives. We were twelve, after all.

Later that evening when my fever was the highest it’s ever been and I could barely lift my head above the pillow, I remembered mom’s red flag. I had the red measles and would’ve probably started a small epidemic. I missed the whole next week of school.

I lay propped on the couch, listening to lyrics from Burt Bakarat. “What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.” Guilt overtook me as memories of my disrespect swam through my feverish head.

“How did you know, Mom?”

“Sometimes you just know things in your knower.”

I mentally checked all over my body trying to remember my science lessons. “Where’s my knower?”

“It’s a place deep inside your heart. You’ll understand someday.”

“Thank you for loving me, even when it made me mad. I’m sorry I was mean.”

“It was hard to say no. I hated for you to miss out, but love makes us strong. It’s God’s secret weapon.”

LOVE is patient. Love is kind.
It does not envy. It does not boast.
It is not proud. It is not rude.
It is not self-seeking. It is not easily
angered. It keeps no record of
wrongs. Love does not delight
in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects. Always trusts.
Always hopes. Always perseveres.

~ Corinthians 13:4-7

Decades later, in my quiet time, I read 1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV) “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Mama’s words came back.

Looking at my own sinful self as well as our sinful world, I prayed, “Why would you put up with us?” I’m so thankful God loves me—us more than we love others. Our Great Jehovah overlooked our me-first mentality even as He said, “No” to His Son Jesus, who asked for His coming trial, torture, and death to be avoided.

There was no other way to power through the hate of the enemy than for Jesus to spread out His arms on the cross, opening Himself up to hate, humiliation, and ridicule. “Father, forgive them.” He said in love even as the world hated Him to death.

Love was the secret weapon that saved the world.

Jesus taught and modeled love. In Mark 12:28-31, He said all the commandments are fulfilled when we love God and love others. “And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, ‘Which commandment is the most important of all?’”

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John passed on Jesus’ teaching in 2 John 4-6. “I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.”

- When soldiers and first responders run toward trouble, love is the secret weapon.
- When we forgive those who offend us, love is the secret weapon.
- When we seek to help those in need, love is the secret weapon.
- When we do the right thing, even when it’s hard, love is the secret weapon.
- When we share Jesus, love is the secret weapon.

All the weapons of our warfare—belt of truth, shield of faith, sword of the Spirit, helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace—protect us. Love is the secret weapon that not only protects us, but serves others and honors God.

Knowing this, why do we fall short so many times?

If you’re like me, I’m better than I was, and hopefully not as good as I am going to be. Love can be difficult. Especially when, like my mother, you are loving in a way a person can’t yet understand.

The answer is to stay as close to God as possible in prayer and Bible study. Ask Him to increase the love in our hearts for others. The Holy Spirit will give us the power we need to use love, the secret weapon.

Prayer: Mighty, Loving Father, Thank You for loving us when we were unlovable, unworthy sinners. Help us wield our secret weapon of love in a manner that brings You glory and honor and fulfills Your purposes. Amen

Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of July 25, 2017: James Nix, Emily Burger and baby Kellan, Sutton Savage (Mike & Joyce's grandson), family of Donna Pace (D'Ann Laywell's sister and Jeanne Casten's daughter-in-law), Zac Cook, Allen & Shirley Ramsey, Ignacio Garcia (Lupe's uncle), Mike Green, Family of Dr. John Wright Freeman, Jr. (Laurie Hindman's dad), Ezio Leite, Valinda Elrod, Matha Sterling, and Cynthia Garcia.

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Darlene & Doug Anderson, Linda Andruss, Carol Barbee, Connor Bayless, Darlene Blackburn, Claudia Bone, John Boone, Martha Bradford, Maxine Calvert, Al Cardenas, Delbert Cason, Judy Cherne, Mike Cobb, Karen Coker, Anne Coleman, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Betty Crumpler, Joan Daniel, Mike DeArmond, Terry Denson, Ryan Donaghue, Ron Donahue, Brent Doyle, Jean Doyle, Kathy Engeling, Bob Englemann, Martha English, Jan Farr, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Lupe Garcia, Jan Giles, Larry & Anita Griffey, Bill Griggs, Tom & Hue Leita Harvey, John Heath, Karen & Kemp Hoop, Brian Hostin, Vaughn Kankey, Mary Frances Kelley, Lee Kibbe, Sandra Kidd, Ed Kimbell, Helen Kingston, Bob Korb, Jackie Mapston, Joe Martin, Frieda Merrell, Bo Mings, Joyce Moody, Jenny Moore, Maxine Moore, Charlie Nelson, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Doris Mayfield Pait, Dot Piretti, Leon & Jean Pulliam, Kristine Rines, Nelda Roik, Jody Rushing, CD Seely, Don Shaver, Linda Shepherd, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Doris Snider, Bea Smith, David Spradley, Matha Sterling, Ladena Sullivan, Karolyn Taylor, Hubert Thedford, Mike Thomas, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Bob Votaw, Homer Wallace, Eddie White, Jim Willeford, Justin Williams, Lorene Williams, Calvin Winters, Mandi Womack and Glenn Wright. Pray for NRHBC Staff and their families.

Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ God's leadership as we finalize the calling of staff members.
☞ Cross Church influence in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor and Global Missions requests prayer for:

✝ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund. We look forward to having our own building.
🌐 Effective strategy and leaders for community engagement.
🌐 God's direction in Missions & helping those in need.
🌐 Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.

Music & Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🎧 Our worship ministry during this interim time.

Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

🚌 Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist each week or every other week; Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings.

Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

🏆 Opportunities to share Christ with those who use the Wellness Center each week.
🏆 Vitality among senior adults as they serve Christ.
🏆 Each NRHBC widow to feel loved and experience ministry here.

Daniel Stafford, Singles Ministry requests prayer for:

😊 God's direction in the Singles Ministry.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry & Susan Young-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Our annual Leadership Camp to be beneficial to Children & Preschool Ministry workers.
🚲 Our Ministry Assistant, Heidi, to heal after foot her surgery.
🚲 Follow-up after VBS and Camp.
🚲 Teaching Opportunities to be filled quickly for the upcoming new church year.
🚲 Volunteers in KID Worship.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

💞 Relationships to blossom among NRHBC women.

Ben Lacey, MS, HS, & College Ministries requests prayer for:

🎒 Our students and families as they wind down the Summer, and get prepared for going back to School.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

🏆 We are starting our new "Re-Engage Marriage Ministry" on Sunday, August 6. We need to be praying for the recruitment of marriage mentors to lead this ministry and the couples who need to come and attend. We really believe God is going to use this, but we want Him to put all those pieces into place.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
diane@nrhbc.org

North Richland Hills
Baptist Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT. WORTH, TX.
PERMIT NO. 586



Let us pray for the special activities of our church

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| Aug 6—Deacon Meeting | Academy Home School Choir | Angel Land Preschool |
| Aug 6—IHP (In His Presence) Evening Prayer Service | Apartment Ministry | BSF Groups |
| Aug 6—All-Church Ice Cream Social following Evening Prayer Service | Child Care Ministry | Bus Ministry |
| Aug 7—Staff Calendaring | Children’s Ministry | Children’s Choir |
| Aug 7—Mom to Mom | College Lab | College Bible Study |
| Aug 10—Good News Club Training | Connect Classes | College Worship |
| Aug 10—GPS Singles to Medieval Times | Cross Church Campus | Couples Ministry |
| Aug 10-11—Willow Creek Summit | Divorce Care for Kids | Divorce Care |
| Aug 13—Connect Fair begins | Financial Peace University | ESL Program |
| Aug 13—Discover NRHBC New Member Classes | G.A.L.s Drama Group | Food Pantry Ministry |
| Aug 13—Annual NRHBC Leadership Camp “Re-Focus” | Good News Clubs | Global Focus Ministry |
| Aug 16—W.I.L.D. Training | GPS Singles Ministry | GPS Singles Book Club |
| Aug 20—SMBS Promotion Day | Hispanic Ministry | GriefShare Ministry |
| Aug 20—MS Orientation Lunch | KID Worship | Homebound Ministry |
| Aug 20—ReEngage Marriage Enrichment 12-week couples class begins | Library Ministry | Kids Beach Clubs |
| Aug 21—Staff Worship | Men’s Mentors | Ladies Prayer Group |
| Aug 21—BISD First Day of School | Middle School Hangout | Media Ministry |
| Aug 25—GPS Singles Bible Study, Volleyball, Games & Pizza | New Members Ministry | Men’s Bible Study |
| Aug 27—Baptism Sunday | Pastor’s Prayer Team | Men’s Ministry |
| Aug 29-Sep 9—SE Asia Mission Trip | Senior Adult Ministry | Music Ministry |
| Aug 30-Sep 5—Brooklyn, NY Family Mission Trip | Wednesday Night WILD | NRHBC Fine Arts Academy |
| Aug 30—Angel Land Teacher Training | Wellness Center Ministry | Preschool Ministry |
| Aug 31—Angel Land “Meet the Teacher” | Young Singles 20s Tuesday Night Bible Study | Upward Basketball |
| Tuesday Ministry Choir singing at various facilities | Youth Ministry | Women’s Ministry |
| Tuesday Morning Senior Bible Study Fellowship | Youth Summer LIVE | Young Men’s Study Group |
| Adopt-A-School Mentoring Ministry | | Youth Prayer Group |
| Cross Singles Wednesday Book Club | | |
| Cross Church Summer in the Park | | |