



Love Letter from God—Author of Unity

February 2018 - By Tamara Roberts

“And then many will be offended ... and will hate one another.” -Matthew 24:10.

“Shotgun!”

No, it’s my turn.”

“I called shotgun.”

“So.”

“Please, y’all. Try to get along.”

That conversation was the last thing I wanted to hear before beginning a drive to church. In the car, the bickering rose to an outrageous pitch. My back muscles tightened into a cramp

moving up my neck. By the time we entered the parking lot, my scalp was so tight my hair hurt. I screamed, “KNOCK IT OFF! WE’RE GOING TO WORSHIP THE PRINCE OF PEACE!” Then I stomped on the brake stopping abruptly in my parking place.



For about three years, my children’s disunity increased to the point that I wanted to run away from home more than once. I jokingly said, “It was only because of love and pity for my husband that I stayed. I loved him too much to leave him to raise quarreling children alone.”

I wonder if God feels like I did as He watches strife among His children. Disunity doesn’t stop at home. It roars through the airwaves and even the church. With disharmony everywhere around us, I believe this is the year to concentrate on unity.

In light of this awareness, my annual February Love Letter to myself from God simply had to address this issue.

Dear Precious One,

I've been here from before the beginning of the world. As a matter of fact, I created the world, the universe, and everything that was made. Everything was created for Me and by Me. I hold all things together. You are created in My image. You are wired for love and harmony. I am the author of unity. I came as the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation I am the head of the body—the church. While in the flesh, all the fullness of God dwelt on Me. My purpose was to redeem—re-unify all things in heaven and earth, making peace through the blood of the cross. That's why they call me the Prince of Peace.

When I came into the world, it didn't know Me. My own people didn't receive Me. But to all who received Me and believed on My name, I gave the right to become children of God. I love you and have adopted you just as I have adopted all believers. I made you all sons and daughters. I have made you a princess, a royal priestess. I called you out of darkness into My marvelous light for a reason. Among your many purposes, I want you to do good works to bring Me honor, share the good news of salvation, and tell about My wonderful acts.

Don't worry. Where I guide, I provide. I've given you all you need to fulfill all I have planned for you. Through Me, you have access to the Father. You are no longer a stranger to other believers, but you're all family, citizens in the kingdom.

In the garden of Gethsemane, I prayed for unity for all believers throughout all time. As one of My believers, that prayer was for you, Dear One. So, remain in unity with all in the body, loving one another as I have loved you. Yes, even the irritating ones. Remember, you may be irritating to someone else. I love all of you. When you remain in love, everyone will know you are Mine. My heart's desire is for you to remain in My love, in perfect harmony with others.

The root of all disunity is pride. Avoid pride like the plague. Be very careful not to fall in with the proud crowd because I oppose the proud. I don't want to oppose you, so monitor your motives. Check the roots of your actions and reactions. Cut out pride and replace it with humility. I give grace to the humble.

If your thoughts are like Mine, you will be able to remain in close relationship with others. Be positive. Keep thinking about things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, excellent, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy.

I've given you wisdom in My Word to have peace, unity, and joy. Check out these verses.

- ♥ Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so, drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. Proverbs 17:14 (NIV)
- ♥ A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends. Proverbs 16:28 (ESV)
- ♥ It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel. Proverbs 20:3 (ESV)
- ♥ He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered. Proverbs 28:25 (NKJV)
- ♥ Fools are headstrong and do what they like; wise people take advice. Proverbs 12:15 (TM)
- ♥ Fools have short fuses and explode all too quickly; the prudent quietly shrug off insults. Proverbs 12:16 (TM)

Refuse to fall into the bitterness trap. Instead, forgive. Refuse to take offense at other's hateful actions. Instead, give it to me. Refuse to speak in a negative, dis-unifying manner. Instead, forgive. How? Let it go. Pray for those who mistreat you. Love your enemies. Love always wins.

You are mine. Continue in My love and represent the kingdom well.

Love, The Great Redeemer, Your Father, God - Author of Unity

Prayer: Father, help us express love with kind hearts, and unified spirits. May we bring You honor and glory our whole lives here and into eternity.

Consider writing your own love letter. After your personal praise time, ask God what He wants you to write. Then, write what comes to mind. Find the scriptures and check if for accuracy.

¹ Deuteronomy 6:4

² Chronicles 1:15-20

³ John 1:10-12

⁴ Ephesians 1:5

⁵ 1 Peter 2:9

⁶ Ephesians 2:18-22

⁷ 1 Peter 5:5, James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34

⁸ Philippians 4:8

Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of January 24, 2018: Stan King (Daryl & Sue's son), Dorothy Doyle, Brenda McMillan, Lupe Garcia, Jenny Moore, Glenna Hays (Diane Bourne's mom), Imogene Mochizuki, Laron Streen, Ron Bramlett, Eva Pannell, Ezio Leite, Vickey Rice, Bob Votaw, Ray Hamelwright, and Ellen Shirley (Grady & Mary Stone's friend).

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Judy Blevins, Claudia Bone, Maxine Calvert, Al/Jonathan Cardenas, Delbert Ca-son, Judy Cherne, Sherry Christensen, Pat Clark, Mike Cobb, Karen Coker, Anne Coleman, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Jim Corley, Betty Crumpler, Terry Denson, Ryan Donaghue, Lucy Eisenmann, Kathy Engeling, Bob Englemann, Jeannene Evans, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Jan Giles, Larry & Anita Griffey, Tom & Hue Leita Harvey, John Heath, Virginia Hitchcock, Marie Holt, Karen & Kemp Hoop, Brian Hostin, Vaughn Kankey, Mary Frances Kelley, Ed & Minerva Kimbell, Helen Kingston, Bob Korb, Ruth Leeth, Doug Leming, Isaiah Lucas, Virgilia Martin, Doris Pait Mayfield, Charlene McGee, Evelyn McIntosh, Frieda Merrell, Janell Miller, Bob Miner, Ralph Mochizuki, Joyce Moody, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Jean Pulliam, Dell Richardson, Amanda Roach, Nelda Roik, Jody Rushing, Sutton Savage, Don Shaver, Linda Shepherd, Becky Shroyer, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Bea Smith, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Charlsie Smith, Doris Snider, David Spradley, Danny & Joyce Stafford, Matha Sterling, Crystal Stewart, Ladena Sullivan, Sutherland Springs, Latress Tavaglione, Karolyn Taylor, Hubert Thedford, Leland Thomas, Mike Thomas, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Homer Wallace, Eddie White, Jim Willeford, Justin Williams, Lorene Williams, Helen Wilson, Calvin Winters, Mandi Womack, and Glenn Wright.

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:

☞ Wisdom in determining future Cross Church staff needs.
☞ Speedy cooperation from City of Ft. Worth on Cross Church construction permits.
☞ Preparations for Tailgate Sunday. That it will be used as an effective tool for evangelism and fellowship.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

✝ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund. We look forward to having our own building.
✝ Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.
✝ Effective strategy/leaders for community engagement.

Danny Koonce Worship Pastor & Jay Krivsky Worship Ministry Associate request prayer for:

🎧 Music & Ensemble preparations for the new year.

Dave Bryant, MS, HS, & College Ministries requests prayer for:

📖 A powerful work of God in the lives of students during DNOW weekend, February 16-18.
📖 That the speaker, band, small group leaders, host homes, & other volunteers involved would be a vehicle for what God plans to do.

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

🚲 Preschool needs helpers at 9:30: 1 for babies, 1 for 1 year olds, and 1 for 2 year olds.
🚲 ESL; an opportunity to minister to our community.
🚲 More KID Connection volunteers needed at 9:30 and 11:00 so parents can attend Worship and BFGs.

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

👄 Women to form godly friendships.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

👄 Stronger, healthier, and happier marriages.
👄 Re-Engage class starts January 21 and runs for 12 Weeks.
👄 Those marriages that are just barely hanging on - That God would use this class to bring those couples closer to Him and to each other.

Daniel Stafford, GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

😊 God's direction in the GPS (Singles) Ministry.

T. J. Daugherty, Director of Global Missions requests prayer for:

🌐 God's direction in Missions. Helping those in need.

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.
👄 NRHBC widows to feel love & experience ministry.

Joshua Jones, Director of Communications requests prayer for:

👄 Courtney and I as we are fostering. Prayer support to raise these children to know and love Jesus.
👄 More volunteers are needed for Media Ministry.

Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

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

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

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

Feb 4—Tailgate Sunday!
Feb 5 & 19—Mom to Mom
Feb 9—Kids Night Out Friday Childcare
Feb 10—GPS (Singles) at 6 Stones for Mission Project, and Men’s Breakfast.
Feb 11—Discover NRHBC New Members classes, GPS (Singles) “Go Texan”
Sunday with BBQ lunch, Deacons Meeting, IHP (In His Presence) Evening
Prayer Service with Lord’s Supper.
Feb 15-18—DNow! Weekend.
Feb 25—Baptism Sunday and Discovery Dinner.
Feb 26—Harvest America Church Involvement Meeting.
Tuesday Morning Senior Bible Study & Tuesday Ministry Choir singing at
various facilities
GPS (Singles) Prayer&Praise GriefShare Ministry Hispanic Ministry
Homebound Ministry KID Worship Kids Beach Clubs
Ladies Prayer Group Library Ministry Media Ministry
Men’s Bible Study Men’s Ministry Music Ministry
NRHBC FineArtsAcademy New Members Ministry
Pastor’s Prayer Team Preschool Ministry
Senior Adult Ministry Upward Basketball
Wednesday Night WILD Wellness Center Ministry
Women’s Ministry Young Singles 20s Ministry
Youth Ministry Young Singles Thursday Night Bible Study

Academy Home School
Choir
Adopt-A-School Mentoring
Angel Land Preschool
Apartment Ministry
BSF Groups
Bus Ministry
Child Care Ministry
Children’s Choir
Children’s Ministry
Connect Classes
Couples Ministry
Cross Church Campus
Divorce Care
Divorce Care for Kids
ESL Program
Financial Peace University
Food Pantry
G.A.L.s Drama Group
Global Focus Ministry
Good News Club
GPS (Singles) Ministry