



He didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it. - Clarence Kelland

Jonathan loves being a father! The things Gene taught Jonathan are now being passed onto my precious grandchildren. Watching Jonathan delight in Henry and Charlotte reminds me of how much the LORD desires for us to find our complete delight and satisfaction in Him as our loving Heavenly Father.

Gene reflected *His Heavenly Father's Heart*. The light in his life was apparent through his actions. People knew there was something different about him because he lived what he preached. He was in private who he was in public.

When you teach your son, you teach your son's son.



Gene was an incredible example to Jonathan of what a Godly father looks like. *"My dad taught me so much more than theology. It was the applied theology that really mattered. Throughout my entire childhood, I observed the way he served and loved my mother. He spent a lifetime praying for us, speaking wisdom into our lives and providing Godly guidance and counsel. Dad's faith never wavered and in those final moments he was walking closer with the Lord than anyone I've ever seen. Dad was my hero, my role model, and the Godly man I want to become. His last day, my dad asked each of us to sit*



beside his bedside. One by one, he placed his hand upon our heads and prayed a blessing over us. The words he spoke in that moment were his deepest hopes, aspirations, and prayers for our lives. He commissioned us to go out into the world and follow the example of Jesus."
-- Jonathan

Here is a little glimpse into the heart of an amazing man of God – an incredible husband and father! - taken from his journals.

10.07.1999 - Day 4 of a 40 Day Fast: "Thinking of Home" The Highway of Holiness described in the last section of Isaiah 35 tells us that the redeemed who are there will experience everlasting joy and sorrow will be absent. In Heaven there will be singing, gladness, and joy. Also sorrow and sighing will "flee away." What a breathtaking glimpse of our future home! Lord, thank you for going on to prepare a place for me! What security and joy fill my mind and heart! Cause me to think on Heaven daily and show me how to order my priorities in light of my ultimate home. Remind me to number my days in order to accomplish for you the maximum possible. Psalms 90:12

4.26.2000 – Hebrews 1 is a stunning description of the Son of God. The author of Hebrews describes Jesus in unbelievably majestic and exalted language. He is truly above all and made all and rules all.

3.13.2003 - Just as I was arriving at Carl's Jr. for my Quiet Time the Lord reminded me of the joy I have when learning more about Him in Scripture and prayer. If there is anything for which I have had an ongoing interest in (passion) it has been my daily time reading God's Word. Just reminding myself of Who He is and What He has done for me refreshes me in my spirit as nothing else can do. It is from these times of refreshing and replenishment that most of my prayers are shaped and refined. This is the core of who I am and without this daily time in His Word, my spiritual life would flounder and my ministry would drift. Lord, encourage me to continue pursuing You through Your Word and through prayer.

3.14.2004 - The fruit of the righteous (saved ☺) is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. Prov. 11:30 Prayer: Lord help me have deepening faith (trust) in you. Give me wisdom how to ask "in your name" in order to advance the knowledge of you and your kingdom. Remind me that I am wise to win others (souls) to you. These new believers are fruit on a tree of life. Amen

1.08.2009 – Was somewhat discouraged this morning. The Lord however reminded me of His presence and absolute control of the future and reminded me that although there might be impairment of my left side of my body that He is also in total control of whatever functionality He deems best! My part is to faithfully do my rehab and leave the results to Him. PTL!

Gene kept his eyes on Jesus. He faithfully prayed for Jonathan and Jennifer throughout their entire lives and his commitment to pray for them continued until the very end when the LORD called him home. He finished the race and was welcomed home.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

His HOPE - his ANCHOR was in JESUS! ***We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*** Hebrews 6:19

The Danger of Drifting

“As we sail through our days—particularly those of pain and suffering—we need an anchor of hope to keep us from drifting into wrong ideas and beliefs. Our lives get quite choppy at times, and it is easy to slip away and lose hope. Our faith is the chain which secures us to the anchor of hope in Jesus. And that anchor of hope in Christ will not fail us. His promises are hooked deep into God’s eternal plan. Placing our hope in who we are and what we have in Christ will keep us anchored securely until we reach the shores of eternity.

“Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” Heb. 2:1 Dwelling in the radiance of Jesus keeps us on the right course by tapping into HIS power. Some of us, though, have drifted away from our simple devotion to Christ. When we started this journey of growing in our love for Christ we never intended to drift away or to plug into other sources...it just happens...slowly sometimes...without us even hardly noticing.

Drifting is always more away from something than it is toward something. If we are drifting towards rocks or reefs, we would be well aware and alarmed, but that is not how drifting works. Instead, when we drift, we merely float away from where we are supposed to be. To drift, you simply have to do nothing. The word “drift” literally means to “float passively”.

We actively lock up our houses and cars because we don’t presume that our possessions are safe. We exercise because we don’t presume that our bodies will stay strong on their own accord. Yet, we presume that we will stay close to God without doing anything. We presume on our spiritual lives! – David Jeremiah

“People do not drift towards Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” – D.A. Carson

“Let all “drifters” take heed. If you don’t like what your life has become, ask God for the grace to make a new beginning. But be forewarned. Drifting is easier, more convenient, and more fun in the short term. Drifting takes no effort. You just relax and go wherever the current takes you. Spiritual growth comes through “grace-driven effort.” Pray for the grace and then make the effort. As long as you keep drifting, nothing will ever change.” – Prichard



“Amidst the darkness of our age, the church is called to be like a lighthouse. In foggy weather or on dark nights, lighthouses warn ships of danger and help guide them safely through treacherous waters. Because you and I have the light of God’s Holy Spirit within us, we have a responsibility. We are to send out a beam of truth into the circle of our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.



A malfunctioning lighthouse can mean danger and destruction for ships seeking safe harbor. What causes a lighthouse beam to grow dim or go out completely? If the glass is dirty, the light will be muted. If there is no power, there can be no illumination. Why is the church not operating as the lighthouse it should be? **Sin has lessened our ability to shine for God.** We’ve cut off the power of the Holy Spirit, who desires to work through us.” – Stanley

We as people all have a choice to make with regards to our rescue work. We can choose to allow our lives to become comfortable and we can find ourselves very content. And often times we may find that we have turned out our beacon of hope for one another. Or perhaps, I hope and pray that we find ourselves lighting and saving the path of others both in our words and deeds. - Ernest Corty

It’s not that the night is so dark, but that our lights are so dim. – Blackaby

Mother's Day Tea Celebration

What a privilege, what a delight it was to be invited to speak at the **Tempe Salvation Army Mother's Day Tea**. It was a beautiful event, and I was blessed by all the precious individuals I met!



Claudia

"I was so glad that Sara came to speak at our Mother's Day Tea at the Salvation Army on May 18. Our theme was **Rejoice** and Sara gave us the Word filled with the joy of the Lord! Her message was exactly what I was looking for and just what we needed to hear. Several ladies expressed how much they enjoyed the message." Corps Officer - Major Claudia Ruiz



"It was delightful to have Sara with us at the Salvation Army special Sunday service and Mother's Day Tea gathering. She had everyone laughing and then wiping away tears as she shared her journey of the loss of her husband. One of the most precious moments was her compassionate sharing of the gospel and the invitation, where two ladies responded by giving their lives to Jesus. Both of these ladies were members of my friend's family. My friend and I had been praying specifically for her family's salvation. Praise the Lord!"- Ruth Hoffman (Salvation Army Board of Advisors and Founder of Brilliant Light International).



Ruth

Golda

Divine Encounters



The Lord can use anything to open a conversation about Jesus. I was in the waiting room at Sonora Quest Laboratories and had put my notebook on the chair next to me so I could check a message on my phone. A gentleman came in, noticed the words on the cover and said: "I like what that says!" I responded: "Do you know Jesus?" "Yes I do!" he replied. "I was a pastor for 12 years in Washington."



We began chatting and before being called back, I shared with Brad that I lead a ministry called **Stop to Pray** and that I love telling people about Jesus. We happened to finish our appointments about the same time and ended up having a delightful visit and time of prayer outside before we left.

We both have a passion to see people come to know Jesus. He later sent me this text: "**So beautiful to hear the living Christ through a new friend who is wired like yourself!!**" Brad Hering was receiving the Paul Westphal coach of the year award for Arizona Christian University. He is the Head Swim Coach at Arizona Christian University. Brad was such an encouragement to me, and I look forward to keeping in touch with him and his wife!

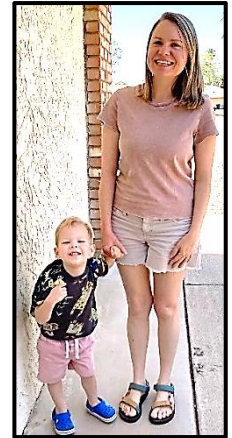
I had the opportunity to ask Dana, who was working in the Lab, if there was anything I could pray for her. The Lord gave me the opportunity to share how Jesus had changed my life and how she too could know Him. I gave her the **Would You Like to Know God Personally?** booklet. She was very open and said she would read it. People all around us need Jesus!

"There is never any shortage of lost people to share with or believers who need encouragement, as the Scripture says, "when I sit at home and...walk along the road" (Deut. 6:7). The same passage tells me I can only do this if God's words are upon my heart (v.6). So my job these days involves holding my heart in my hands before God and making sure that it is never empty—that it is filled with God's thoughts and ideas, His commands and promises, before I set out into the grand adventure of each and every day." - Jill Briscoe



"I met Sara at Target of all places. It was just before Christmas and I was strolling through the store, pushing my one-year-old son around in a shopping cart. As Sara was passing by, she stopped to greet me with a warm smile and said to my son, "aren't you cute?" We chatted about my son for a minute but started to part ways.

Something inside of me told me to reach out and keep talking to her (which as an introvert and someone who is very self-conscious, was a difficult thing for me to do). I can't recall what I said to her, but she walked back toward me, and we started to talk some more. Sara asked me if she could pray for me in any way and I was overjoyed to learn that she was also a Christian. We exchanged numbers and kept in touch with one another. My son and I visit her when we can. It is so nice to have someone in my life who is so passionate about sharing Jesus with others.



Something that Sara didn't know at the time was that I had prayed to God for Christian friends to come into my life. Jesus saved me in 2016 through a series of events where He revealed to me that He was real, living, and the truth. It was through watching Christian's testimonies on YouTube that Jesus really opened my eyes to his light, his love, and my need to be saved. I had a rough few years because I wasn't plugged into a church and I was not reading God's word. I was a new Christian surrounded by people who did not believe.

During the pandemic, God gave me a hunger to read His word and to find a church to attend. At the time, I felt very alone as a new mother, and I started to pray for Christian friends to enter my life. I wasn't sure how God would answer my prayer because I am not one to start up a conversation with someone I do not already know. But God is faithful, and He answered my prayer mightily by bringing Sara and several other women into my life. I am so thankful to God and to all the wonderful Christian women I have met over the past year. I have been thinking lately that it is important to share Jesus with the lost, but it is also important to reach out to our Christian brothers and sisters who may be new to the faith, who may be struggling and need encouragement and discipleship. We all need friendship and to see the love of Christ working through His body, His church, His people." – Erin

Erin has been a sweet blessing in my life, and I adore precious Arlo! He kept saying, "Sara's house" after their first visit! 😊



"The child of God never awakens to a day unplanned by heaven or unattended by the Lord. When the alarm goes off each morning, we roll out of bed knowing we have a divine purpose, plan and presence. There are no blackout dates on the calendars God keeps for our lives. There are no mistakes in His almanac. "His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Our greatest joy is to open each day determined to invest our daily allotment of hours doing exactly what God has planned for us—being about our Father's business. If we begin each day with a prayer for His will to be done as it's done in heaven, we'll end each day bringing glory to Him. This pattern, pursued for a lifetime, will enable us to finish the work God has given us at the end of our earthly life, & we'll begin our heavenly careers with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant." -- Morgan

May our lights shine brightly for Him,

Sara