

P605

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

TITLE: A REAL HERO

SONGS: Find us faithful 4:08 30 sec intro

1672 words not counting song do at .35 or subtract 45 words

INTRO: Everyone loves a hero or heroine. We're thrilled to watch the Super-heros win the battle over evil. We idolize the talents of Olympians and famous singers. And don't forget firefighters, officers, and servicemen and women who risk their lives to protect us. How about our mom or dad, pastor or teacher, or someone who models a noble trait? All these individuals go the extra mile to do something we don't expect a person to do. Public figures' deeds are easily noticed. But what about the quiet behind-the-scenes heroes and heroines who do the same without acclaim?

Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek, will share the story of one such individual who spent her entire life giving sacrificially to meet the needs of missionaries so that the Glorious Gospel message could go forth and impact people for eternity. Listen up and be inspired....

I met Dorcas when I was in line with her at a funeral. Though I had never spoken to her, I had heard about her. Life dealt Dorcas some hard blows, probably harder than most of us have ever experienced. Two of her sons died in an automobile accident on Thanksgiving day. I wondered how anyone could handle such a tragedy as this. I watched this woman from afar for many years, in great admiration. Her face wore the radiant peace of her Blessed Father she knew so very well. There seemed to be no bitterness or resentment toward God for allowing this to happen. She told me that early in life she had prayed...

"Lord, let me feel what You feel."

God answered her prayer and gave her grace to be a shining witness through the ordeal. The death of her sons had brought a rush of letters to her door, stating how God had worked through their lives and deaths to bring others closer to Himself. Dorcas would have undergone whatever it took to bring results such as this. I came to know that what was on her face was indeed in her heart. God is sovereign...He makes no mistakes. A kindred spirit drew us into a lasting friendship from that time on.

Our friendship continued for many years until she finally went to be with her blessed Lord, as she called him, in 2012, after spending seven years in a nursing home due to a debilitating stroke.

She had me write her eulogy 20 years before she died. Though she didn't want me to include any accolades, I told her I wanted folks to know what kind of great things can be accomplished for the Lord by a committed person. So here are some excerpts from the eulogy. May these inspire you to be a better giver, doer, and prayer warrior.

Dorcas grew up in a Christian home and at the age of ten realized her need of salvation. She came under such heavy conviction of her sin that she actually became ill and thought she'd die. She asked the Lord to forgive her sin and save her soul. Her Uncle led her to Christ while on her sick bed. Immediately the burden lifted and she was instantly well and full of joy - a joy which remained.

The spiritual gifts that characterized Dorcas the most were her intercessory prayer life and her gift of GIVING. In our prayer times together, she would often petition the Lord in tears to open the door to specific countries so His Word could get in. Missions work meant more to her than owning a fancy wardrobe or taking extravagant vacations. She sacrificed much to give. She'd often wear the same dress every Sunday so she'd have extra money for missionaries. She not only gave to their needs, she encouraged them through prayer, phone calls and letters. She would do whatever it took to ensure that what God laid on her heart to do for a missionary was done to completion.

God blessed Dorcas' dedication and increased her ability to give. He knew He could trust her with His money. She remained faithful.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus told the two who had multiplied what they'd been given that they had been faithful in the little things so He would give them more to be in charge of. Our first impression of this is that they should have been given a time to rest rather than continue working, however, the statement made next was the key. God said "enter now into your joy". Working for the Lord brings JOY. Dorcas found her JOY from giving and giving and giving again. It was this joy that often helped her rise above her illnesses.

God would direct Dorcas often to give a specific amount. He also led her to give to meet many types of needs. She gave gifts that facilitated the spreading of the Gospel...

**new car, van, 2-way radio, generator,
Christian videos in many languages for England,
Projectors, TV's & VCR's to show the Jesus film,**

a lamp so services could be held in India where there was no electricity,
100's of bicycles for native evangelists in India to enable them to travel into remote villages where cars couldn't go.
(She used insurance money from her sons' deaths to provide these)

She gave out the Gospel through these gifts...

**Literature, correspondence courses, Bibles,
reading rooms in Asian countries**

She gave practical gifts to help sustain missionaries and help the poor...

Wash machine

Food for the hungry, money to dig wells

support for a Russian pilot and pilot training program

a much needed operation for a missionary and support

for his family while he recuperated

monthly support for countless other missionaries.

In addition, she sent thousands of dollars for schooling and plane fare. The list goes on.

2 Corinthians 9:6-13 was one of her favorite Scriptures, and it was true of her life...

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

She just wanted to be able to say... "I have given out Your Word, Lord."

In serving on the Missions Board at her church, Dorcas was responsible for writing the missionaries letters and reporting on their progress and needs. She received no special accolades for her efforts, except for the priceless letters from some of the thankful missionaries. Listen to excerpts from just a few of these...

"You have been such a blessing to us in the many things that you have done for us."

"You have been so used of the Lord in our lives!"

"The memory of your smiling face and words of encouragement and servant's heart is dear to me."

"The children in Sunday School are learning about Dorcas of Joppa. It is true of the Dorcas of Joppa that I know...you have done many kind things for many, including me. I am so thankful, not just for the kindnesses, but for knowing you."

"Words can't express the joy in our hearts because God laid it on your heart to give so generously to meet our needs for a new vehicle, a two-way radio and promised monthly support."

"Greetings to you from Bangladesh. From your gift we know of three people who are now Believers through the literature that you made possible."

"Thank you for your bountiful gift. Your love for the Lord Jesus overflows in your stewardship. Only eternity will reveal the number of lives which have been touched because of your compassions and concern".

Grace Missions in Haiti constructed a building to store food and house short-term missionaries with funds donation by Dorcas. They named it 'Dorcas Hall' in her honor.

Dorcas achieved much for the Lord in her lifetime but was very humble about it all. On one of my visits with her at the nursing home, I noticed a sign that read 'Smile of the month'. When I commented about it, she said it meant so much to her because when she was young she felt she didn't have much to give the Lord and told Him so. He told her she could share her smile.

What more can I say about this outstanding, behind-the-scenes supportive

woman? Moses was considered a man of God. Dorcas was a woman of God. She was faithful - through good times and hard times - faithful to the end. Now it's our turn to follow in her footsteps.

***** WRITER: Steve Green

*** FIND US FAITHFUL *** LENGTH: 4:08

*We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
And those who've gone before us line the way
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace*

*Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
Let us run the race not only for the prize
But as those who've gone before us, let us leave to those behind us
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives*

*Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful*

*After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find*

*Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey*

*Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful*

You've been listening to Grace Notes. For more information about his ministry write to:

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Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!