



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Serving Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

AGNUS DEI

October 2022



WHY ME? WHY NOT ME?

Mollie Polhemus

Introduction by Jean Stinnett

"Count it all joy,
my brothers,
when you meet
trials of various
kinds, for you
know that the
testing of your
faith produces
steadfast-
ness. And let
steadfastness
have its full effect,
that you may
be perfect and
complete, lacking
in nothing."
(James 1:2-4, ESV)

One look at Mollie Polhemus tells you she is a happy person. When her lips are not smiling, her eyes are. Mollie leads a Praise and Worship session combining music and prayer each Saturday evening at the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd. For nearly an hour the Holy Spirit dwells among 6-15 attendees.

Mollie is president of La Gran Familia, an organization in Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, Mexico providing an orphanage and school for needy children established at the church built by Glenn Polhemus in 2001. A nonprofit entity receiving 40% of its funding from individuals, LGF has made impressive progress over the years: the care of needy children caught in absolutely desperate family situations, remarkable scholastic successes (2 registered nurses, 1 engineering graduate, 1 MBA in tourism, and 30 high school graduates since 2001-- in Mexico being a high school graduate is a big deal), with literally tons of food to feeding ministries in Harlingen, Eagle Pass and El Paso. Mollie remains a strong advocate in this ministry writing articles for the monthly newsletter, fund raising, delivering food to border communities, and as a strong prayer warrior.

Mollie inspires others to seek the Lord in song, service, gratitude, and prayer. She embraces life's challenges head-on with a proactive mindset. Her joy is contagious, drawing people toward her to discover what might be her secret to happiness. Here it is, revealed in her own words.

I am often surprised by my joy and happiness. I am almost always happy. I think happiness is responsible for one's perception of the things we go through in our lives. Changing my focus from "Why me" to "Why not me" has energized my entire attitude and filled me to the brim with happiness.

Ten or so years ago I met a couple who had moved to San Angelo to live with a family member because the business they owned many states away had crashed. How were they going to live? They were very concerned and not very happy.

The husband came to me one day in the church parking lot. He said, "I just do not understand! Why did this happen to me? Why me?"

I immediately said, "Why not you? These things happen all the time. You can say why me or say why not me. Things just happen." This dear sweet family chose "why not us" and happiness came into their lives. Their bad situation brought a far better scenario into their lives. They were soon in their own home with new jobs they loved.

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Five years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was discovered during an annual mammogram test. Before I even walked out the door a physician came up to me and said, "You have breast cancer." I was shocked. I wasn't expecting that but that is what it was. My first thought was not "Why me," but "Why not me? This happens to lots and lots of people and I just happen to be one of them." After the first surgery a cancer nurse came to my room and gave me what looked like a carpenter's apron. It had relatively small pouches sewn on the front of the apron as places to put the drain bottles. It was a miracle. It was so easy to manage. That was such a blessing! Blessings come in strange and unusual ways. Since that day I have made one hundred aprons for those women attached to drain bottles after surgery. Making an apron always puts a smile on my face.

In November of 2020 my very active husband, Glenn, died in his sleep while taking a nap after a 5-day driving trip. I could not and would not say "Why me?" With tears in my eyes, I said, "Why not me?" This will happen to all of us sooner or later. Glenn is home in heaven, and I have 53 years of wonderful memories to keep me happy.

Glenn and I married August 22, 1967 and immediately began moving: to Virginia where he served in the Navy aboard the USS Pocono, then to several cities in Texas where he worked in ranch management. We started our family of four children, two of our own and two we adopted. In 1984 Glenn was ready for a change. The last item on his bucket list was to attend seminary, so we moved to Pennsylvania. After one year in Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry he realized his calling was to minister directly to the poor. We moved back to San Angelo where we worked side by side at the San Angelo Feed Yard for 27 years. There, his service to the Lord flourished.

Glenn's compassion for the Mexican people and culture developed into a ministry. Having graduated with a business degree from the University of the Americas in Mexico City, he had the necessary people skills and connections. He volunteered to build and repair churches in Mexico and established La Gran Familia orphanage and school in Cuautemoc. Glenn managed the priest's finances in the US sending money as needed. When the priest's heart attack was ruled an accidental death, the insurance policy Glenn secured for him provided \$70,000.00 which was reinvested in real estate. Proceeds from this investment continue to fund La Gran Familia to this day.

When the San Angelo Feed Yard sold in December 2012, Glenn reinvented himself as a correction officer, substitute teacher, and tutor to non-English speaking students and their parents. Again, I volunteered along side of him. Our marriage was not spent staring into each other's eyes. It was like Mollie and Glenn each on a horse moving side by side in the same direction.

Glenn had grown up in the Episcopal/Anglican church but there came a time when we decided to look elsewhere and see where God was working. Very quickly we realized St. Mary's Catholic Church was where God was leading us. We were there nine years before being called back to the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd. Then, 34 years after attending seminary, Rector Father Hal Scott told Glenn it was time for him to be ordained! In October 2019 he was ordained a deacon and on August 9, 2020, an Anglican priest. His strongest callings were outreach and good sermons.

The happiest time of my life was Glenn's rosary and the funeral service. The Rosary was led by Deacon Mike Lopez. There were many people from St. Mary's and Good Shepherd and other churches. They were all part of one big family. Many stories were told about Glenn's time at St. Mary's. There was so much laughter, love and happiness that I still feel it today. During our years at St. Mary's we went every week for nine years to a Wednesday night Bible Study with five other couples. These faithful couples led the rosary by taking parts in the readings.

The next morning was Glenn's funeral. The church was filled with a beautiful body of love and thanksgiving for Glenn's entry into heaven. The closing hymn was *La Montana* played on the guitar by Tomas Alvarez. The English translation of the song *La Montana* is "a mustard seed can move a mountain." It raised the ceiling. It was so awesome.

Happiness is the essential element in changing negative experiences into positive ones. A "why not me" attitude allows me to receive God's joy in whatever situation comes my way. Every challenge is a new opportunity to serve Him.

In loving memory of Glenn Polhemus, July 14, 1944-November 13, 2020

Daughters of the Holy Cross Sunday September 11, 2022



Sunday, September 11th the Daughters of the Holy Cross Renewed their four-fold vows of Prayer, Service, Study, and Evangelism. Officers installed were Nan Holloway, President; Teddye Read, Vice-president; Barbara Robken, Secretary; and Jean Yarbrough, Treasurer.

Daughters of the Holy Cross collect personal items for local organizations at their monthly meetings.



Pictured above are (left to right) Nan Holloway, Teddye Read, Erlene Springer, Karen Czarnecki, Sharon Weber, Barbara Caskey, Jeannette Anaya, Ruth Ann Wallace, Jean Yarbrough, and Jo Millican.

Pictured right: Teddye, Jean, and Nan delivered diapers and other baby and children's supplies to a women's and children's shelter.

The Daughters meet the first Saturday of each month.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Good Shepherd Chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, please contact Teddye Read.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO
OUR CHURCH FAMILY
'SCRAPBOOK'?

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GOOD SHEPHERD'S

Children's Ministry Moments



Kate Grant recently presented several original works of art at the San Angelo Public Library. Her sister Grace is there in support.



Two of our new kiddos, Camryn and Carson have really taken to Fr. Hal. Cameron and Carson attend with their mom Rachel Cris-tiano. When you see them expect a big smile and a happy greeting. They are a joy to have here at Good Shepherd.



Kate takes advantage of a church history lesson from Mark at our recent Remembrance and Revival luncheon.



Children's Time on Sunday mornings with Miss Laila is always fun!



Fr. Hal and Debbie welcomed two new grandchildren in the month of July.

Pictured left is Debbie with granddaughter Maya, daughter of Joel and Anne Dewey.



Pictured right is Fr. Hal with grandson Ryan Scott Welch, son of Colt and Susie Welch.



MEET OUR NEWEST GOOD SHEPHERD ACOLYTES!



KATE GRANT AND GRACE GRANT



LUKE AND LIZZY GRANT ARE THE PROUD PARENTS OF KATE AND GRACE :)



Kate and Grace provided the voiceover as the voice of Motts, our church greeter, for our video that will be presented at our upcoming Annual Synod meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in November. The girls did an outstanding job! Watch for a sneak peek at a future fellowship event here at Good Shepherd!!



Dr. Paul Foxcroft has added an impressive skill to his already impressive resume. Woodworker extraordinaire! Dr. Foxcroft built this table and chairs set from scratch with his own hands. Well, and a few power and hand tools. The craftsmanship of the chairs in particular is outstanding. The finish work is glowing. And he still has all his fingers! 🙌🙌

REAGAN SMITHWICK

GRANDDAUGHTER OF BILLIE SMITHWICK



Regan graduated first in her class from Miles ISD.

She is now enrolled at Oklahoma State University and is loving life. She was fortunate enough to receive a McKnight endowed scholarship which will help fund her studies.

During her high school career she played volleyball basketball softball and tennis. She was all district in all these events and so two state bronze medals in tennis. As you can tell she did not let any grass grow under her feet.

In addition to sports she was an avid sheep shower. She participated in shows in Dallas Fort Worth San Angelo San Antonio and Houston.

You have probably guessed that I am a proud Mimmie. I marvel at all she has accomplished.

I feel that she is one of the biggest blessings the good Lord has bestowed on our family.



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of the Good Shepherd



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Anglican Diocese
of the Southwest



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Anglican Church
In North America



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