

Looking  
for  
Answers



# Looking for Answers

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## *Foreword*

Life is a challenge. With the world, the flesh, and the devil against us, we need all the help we can get. God often works through his people to meet our needs. One of those servants gifted by God is Verna. My first memorable meeting of Verna occurred when I accepted a call to serve the Randville Bible Church in 1992. One of the highpoints of serving that good and godly body of faith was getting know Verna and her family. It was soon evident that she has a heart for God, for his people and for her community. Blessed with a buoyant spirit and a keen mind, her opinions were highly regarded in her church family.

Some years ago I was surprised and excited to discover her writings in the Daily Meditations column of our local newspaper. Her meditations are thoughtful and insightful, relevant and challenging, and always Bible based and nurtured by life's daily experiences. We are blessed to be a blessing and I am grateful and glad that she has chosen to share the blessing of her gift with an even wider audience.

I am confident that in reading and reflecting your way through this book that you will discover a new perspective on your challenges, trials, and temptation and will gain a renewed appreciation for God's answers to your problems.

Jim Danielson Pastor Evangelical Covenant Church Norway, MI



## *Preface*

I had tried my hand at various genres but couldn't settle on a particular one. I did have a novel in progress, based on my own fairytale romance. However that wasn't progressing very well. One morning as I awakened, several "godly" thoughts crowded my mind. "These would make great devotionals." I thought as I quickly wrote them down! The next morning I had the same experience and again wrote the ideas down. The third morning was similar but more compelling. My spirit was moved and I asked the Lord, "Are You telling me to set the book aside and write devotionals?" I sensed a vigorous nod of His head, "Yes."

"Okay" I replied, "But I can't do three hundred and sixty five!" Three months later I had themes for more than three hundred sixty five! But what was I to do with them?

Soon after at a Stonecroft conference I was asked if I'd like to write for their publication. That was incredible! I was a green inexperienced "wanna be," being offered the opportunity to write for a huge readership!

I did in fact write for *Progress* and *In His Presence* for several years. I had a wonderful editor and other staff members who taught and coached me with godly patience and expertise.

My deep desire is to reach the unreached through the written word and encourage those who have been reached.



## *Acknowledgements*

*A*lthough my parents are both deceased I am forever grateful for the years of love and godly guidance they provided.

When I timidly voiced my desire to write my husband said, “Do it!” That spurred me on. I took a Children’s writing course and joined a writer’s club. When I told a friend of my interest and involvement, she asked if I’d like to write some children’s stories to accompany a Bible lesson curriculum she was writing for her church. Thanks Frieda for giving me a great start!

I sold a few devotionals and was privileged to write for Stonecroft. Words cannot adequately convey my gratitude for the guidance, love and blessings I received from Constance and other staff members.

Thanks also to Pastor Jim who was instrumental in getting me started writing for our local Newspaper. Also to pastor Blaine Donaldson, my home church pastor, and his family for their love and encouragement.

Thanks to all my family and friends for your input and support. Thanks for your help Jacob! Last but not least my gratitude goes to Samantha, a dear friend who has spent endless hours proofreading, typing, fixing computer glitches etc! I couldn’t have done it without you!

To all who had a part in this endeavor, blessings! Above all I give my humble praise to our great God. This book is without a doubt a “God thing.” All praise and glory belong to Him.



## *Intro*

I have known Verna for almost two decades. For thirteen of those years, I had the privilege of serving as her pastor. Verna faithfully serves the Lord in a little country church in Randville, MI. One of my first memories of Verna occurred the first weekend that we moved there. Verna and her husband Ken had us over for lunch and then showed us the nooks and crannies of the beautiful countryside around Iron Mountain, MI. Over the years, Verna continued to be a hospitable and faithful friend who lovingly made us and many others a part of her family.

Verna has a love for the Lord which is expressed by both her words and actions. She is a student of the Scriptures and has a keen ability to see connections between the principles of the Bible and the world in which we live. Verna faithfully uses her God-given gifts. She especially has God's heart for those who are rejected by society: those who have come to hard times and are struggling with the basic needs of life. Verna ministers the Gospel to them both in word and deed. Her passion for the salvation and spiritual well-being of others comes through in almost every conversation she has with me.

Dearest to Verna's heart is her family. In her relationship with Ken, she models faithfulness, care, love, and patience. She cares for her children through encouragement, prayer, support, counsel, and practical help.

Verna has always expressed appreciation for our family, but I believe that she has been a far greater blessing to us.

This book, as an expression of Verna's walk with the Lord, will bless you as you seek to grow closer to Him.

Pastor Blaine Donaldson, President

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches



## *Bio*

*V*erna Pollock lives with her husband in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Verna was born in Canada, graduated from high school and nursing school, and then took a year of Bible College. She went to Alaska to work where she met and married Ken and subsequently they moved to his hometown in Michigan. When their oldest son entered the USAF, Verna decided to become a US citizen. She also utilized her RN capabilities for twenty six years in the Veteran's Hospital.

Verna has served as a speaker for Stonecroft Ministries for many years. These engagements has taken her to various areas of the US and Canada. She was also a devotional writer for Stonecroft publications, "Progress" and "In His Presence." Her writing career includes publication of several stories in books; children's stories in Guide magazine; a children's adventure series, also published by Guide, a true story in a nurse's magazine plus daily meditations in the local daily newspaper for the past three years.

Her greatest passion is to share Jesus Christ.



## *New Year Dawns*

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Each year as January 1<sup>st</sup> approaches, we hope for a “better” year. Perhaps this year the economy will improve, jobs will be available, our troops will come home. Maybe this year health will improve or family relationships will be healed. Without hope our lives shrivel and die.

Change is inevitable and may not seem good at first. When our son left home right after high school to join the United States Air Force, and our daughter went off to see the world, things changed. I wasn't prepared for those changes. However, I found that God used those hard times to help me grow and develop a deep inner strength, peace and contentment. When we allow God to direct our desires, He makes productive changes. As we spend more time with Him and get to know Him intimately, our hearts change. The Bible says, “out of the heart the mouth speaks.” Have you ever said something and then wondered, “Where did that come from?” The answer is somewhere in the deep recesses of the heart where we often harbor things that ought not to be said. We can hide them temporarily, and behave respectably but eventually our thoughts become words. The heart, or spiritual core of our lives, controls what we think and say. If we give control of our hearts to Christ Jesus, He will fill us with good things. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore if any man (woman /child) is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold new things have come.” God has given us the ability to choose and the grace to overcome. As we enter the New Year, may we allow Him to make the changes needed in our lives and it will truly be a Happy New Year!