

This booklet is a labor of love from many members of the Cohen family and friends. It is being shared with you that you might be as encouraged as we have through the kindnesses offered by many special people. ENJOY!

For more information contact:

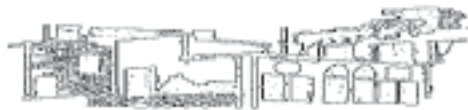
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*Hosith Emunah Press*



## *Jan Cohen's Book of Hope*



*For people in need of God's love and hope... words of encouragement from people who care!*



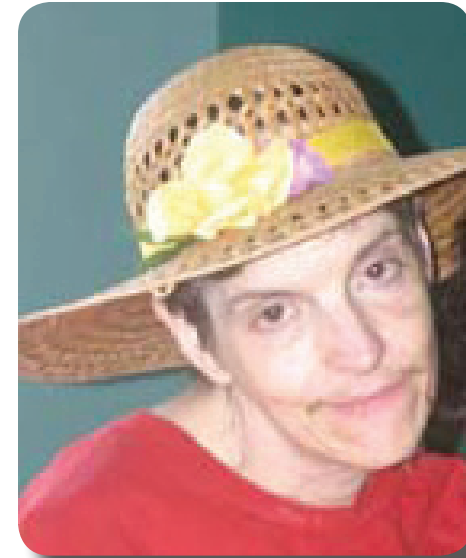
## Dedication

*This book is dedicated to the many care-givers and literally thousands of prayer-givers who invested their lives in Jan Cohen's long battle against Huntington's Disease.*

*It is especially dedicated to our five children: Micha, Sarah, Noah, Seth and Lizzy who sacrificed so much.*

*Also we fondly remember Liz Roos, Pat Dippold, Carmy Colvin, Terrie Haberstroh, Ramona and Irene Blank, and hospice workers Lori Bates & Jenni Wallace; the team at the Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence including Dr. Brad Racette and Stacy Barton and Melinda Kavenaugh; the members of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis and Rev. Greg Smith for their years of care, concern and help.*

*This is Jan's book of hope and we pray that you, too, may receive hope in the Lord.*



Jan Cohen 4/3/1950... 12/6/2007

She loved her Savior, her family,  
and **her music.**

She endured much battling  
Huntington's Disease.

The love of many lifted her hope!



## Introduction

Would you want to know if you had a disease for which there was no cure on the immediate horizon? This is the harsh dilemma for those in the Huntington's Disease community. Jan's mother died of HD in 1986, so Jan was "at risk" by 50% of inheriting this pernicious, tragic disease. While Jan did not want to know, as her husband, I felt that I had to know in order to prepare for caring for her. She was diagnosed in 1990.

Jan's gift was her music. Her vocal abilities were angelic, and I was privileged to have her join with me in my ministry for 22 years. Jan loved hugging people, too.

In 1996, I was the invited guest speaker to a Lutheran Women's conference near Lake Tahoe. I asked if it would be OK for Jan to come along and sing. During my talk, I handed out some 3x5 cards and invited the women to write a note of encouragement to Jan.

I will never forget that afternoon as we sifted through a couple of hundred of the most gracious notes written by caring people. Our eyes flooded with tears as we read the kindnesses poured out on simple cards. An idea was born --- give others the



chance to become involved in or lives by telling our story, inviting them to share some of theirs by writing words of encouragement.

What was most unexpected was when I wrote a devotional set for Portals of Prayer that was published in 2001. On one page I invited people to write Jan and encourage her. We have 5 albums full of the cards and notes sent to her from the thousands of readers.

Each note is precious - sharing of one life with another. *I pray that as we share these notes and insights, you might find HOPE from God in the midst of your trials. **To that end, we present this booklet with thanks to God.** Thank you to the many supporters who gave memorial gifts to Jan following her promotion to heaven in 2007. Those gifts are invested in these pages.*

Steve Cohen

1 Cor 15:58



Steve & Jan in 1972



## *Our God cares deeply*

Thirteen years ago my 31 year old daughter died suddenly with a heart attack. We knew she had an arrhythmia due to having mono while in France for her missions requirement for a cross cultural experience while going to college. The doctor said her condition was not life threatening but he was not right. Therefore when the police phoned us and said they broke into my daughter's apartment and found her lying on her couch fully dressed and the TV was on. This call was a shock to my wife and me but we had been prepared for such a situation by a message which emphasized that all of life's circumstances can make you either bitter or better and by God's grace we used this as a stepping stone closer to God knowing that His grace is sufficient and 2 Corinthians 12:9 became a reality to us and His love knows no bounds.

--Howard

God has been very active in preserving my life. He has given me many moments of great joy. I know from reading Steve's devotional messages that you and your family are not far from God's love and mercy. My prayer for you is that you never lose faith, you never forget that you go to a better place, and most of all, that God will never forsake you.

--Ken



I have anxiety that at times seems unbearable. It started in '98. It has caused problems in my life. My husband wants to help me and is trying with all his heart. After reading about your illness my health problems are minor. I will pray with all my heart that a cure is in the near future. Don't give up Jan, I won't. God is with us always.

--Renee

We as family of believers will pray for you. God knows everyone's heart. It seems to me your works for Christ have been numerous. What a beautiful attachment to our Lord. As Christians I know God puts people in our life for us to tell the "Good News of Christ." What a loving God!

May you sense the awesome presence of our Lord Jesus and find courage to face each day. May it encourage your heart to know that we are praying for you.

I am praying for your continued strength in this journey here on earth. Look to the Lord for everything and know that you are loved. When days get tough, know that we are behind you, that our prayers are with you and that we love you always.

- Kristi

We pray and lift you up. May Jesus wrap his comforting arms around you. How glad we are to know you love our Lord.

- Nancy



Help me to remember Oh Lord. Nothing will happen today that You and I can't handle together. Amen,  
May you daily, hour by hour, feel the presence of Jesus in your heart. He is there now for you and Steve and your children. He has been there, and will be there here and in eternity. May He grant you peace, certain of God's love for you and a place at the eternal Passover Table.

As our Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham replied that the "Lord will provide." May you know that God gives us all our needs, even the gift of healing. God bless you.

- Lois

Be thankful for all God's blessings. We don't see the BIG PLAN of God, so don't understand some things. Just know He holds you in His hands!! God be with you.

God loves you more than you know. Jesus is waiting for you to bring you back home to Him.

Be encouraged. The Creator of the entire universe loves you as if you were the only thing He had ever created. I pray Jesus will surround you with His awesome love.

--Scott

God is love! May He give you the strength to continue your battle, and with hope in the knowledge of sins forgiven and your home above.

The grace and mercy of our great and glorious Lord be with you and your family.



**H**umble yourselves,  
therefore, under  
God's mighty hand,  
that he may lift you up  
in due time. Cast all  
your anxiety on him  
because he cares for  
you.

*1 Peter 5:6-7*



## ***Our God gave His all***

Jan, keep following and looking light and know that Jesus is always with you even when you feel lost or lonely with illness. My Grandmother told my Mother this, my Mother told me this. The greatest gift of all is the gift of love. Jesus Christ.

In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus gives two healings, and He does so in proper order. First He forgives sins and then He shows that He has power to do so by healing physically. You have the first by His grace. May He give you the later or the patience to live with your affliction with that hope.

We have not met in person here on earth, but from your husband I know your spirit and faith. I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel and I look forward to our being together for all eternity in heaven. Keep the faith and fight the good fight. Remember the real and greatest battle is not the illness, but against sin, satan and death. God has already won this battle. Victory is yours.

My heart and mind cries and prays for you and your Huntington's infection. May the Messiah help us all. He has already helped us and will continue to do so!

- Charles

Remember that the Lord is with you always. Even though I don't know you, I was taught to love all. I will be praying for you and your family. Your faith is inspiring. Please keep your faith and never give up. I will meet you in heaven!



## **Mark 2: 1-12**

**A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."**

**Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**

**Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"**





## *Our God helps us count our blessings*

Dear Jan,

I read of your health problem in Portals of Prayer. I am a widower 80 years old. I have a son who has had schizophrenia since age 22—he is now 48 years old. This is being controlled with meds but he has to live in a special needs home. I do see him monthly which helps us both. I cannot tell you the heartbreak his mother and I have suffered. We wondered why him—such a nice boy but then asked your question too—why not? I have so much to be thankful for having been a born again Christian saved by the grace of God. I and many others in our position know and look forward to a perfect body someday after we leave this vale of tears. All we can do is pray and believe. Jesus died for us and is waiting for all of us. We need him every hour and I count my blessings one by one. My prayers are with you sincerely that you and your family can carry this cross to a happy and rewarding day.

--Gene

My heart goes out to Steve and his family as they bear the pain of the very serious illness that Jan is suffering. I am an 80 year old woman who has survived stage 4 ovarian cancer and a massive heart attack last year. God has given me a gift of unexpected time and I will use some of it to pray for Jan Cohen and her family.

--Flo

My wife (Gayle) and I were married in May of 1971. I'm always reminded of my blessings when I read Proverbs 31:10-31. Gayle has suffered physically most of her adult



life. She has had 3 hip replacements so far. Her eyes are fixed on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His promises endure forever: Fear not, for I am with you/Jan, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you/Jan, I will help you/Jan, I will uphold you/Jan with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10

--Richard

I believe you have three strengths to help you. Continue to be strong. The first is your belief in Jesus Christ and that He is always with you. Second, Jesus has given you a supportive husband that has wonderful strength and courage to help you. He has a powerful gift that I'm sure reaches you as well as many people. He is an inspiration as well as you are an inspiration to him. Finally, third you have the support and prayers of us who believe in Jesus that your husband reaches each weekend. We pray for your continued strength and courage through good and bad. God bless you and your family.

Please receive Jesus' warm loving arms and blessings for His perfect peace and comfort around you. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. God bless you richly.

- A Sister in Christ

May the Lord Jesus sustain you. May the angels of God maintain you. May the Spirit comfort you daily and in all things may God be glorified.



You are in our prayers, asking God to continue to give you strength in your physical journey. May He bless you and comfort you. May your faith be strengthened by His promises and may you bask in the rays of His love.

- Alan & Lois

You are such a beautiful person not only in looks but of heart. Be strong in Jesus and keep His faith. I personally have had little toe operations (3) in fact, but these big toes when locked in joints stiffen, It was hard to walk after these operations, I'm able to walk, dance and wear my shoes!

- Denise

**I want to share with you things that helped me all these years.**

1. God can heal anything!
2. I am on a machine that breathes for me at night and on oxygen. I'm still praying and He has given a fantastic life and can't wait to get in the swing of things—going and doing.
3. Laughter is the best medicine! Try to laugh 5 times a day
4. Buy a little notebook. Each day write down your blessing that happened that day
5. God didn't do this to be but He let it happen. He will turn it to good!

--Bernie

Fourteen years ago at the Mayo Clinic, I was told I had NemaLine Myopathy, and only had 3 to 6 months



to live, but that's another story. God has done so many miracles in my life and has answered so many prayers. I could never count them all. As long as God breathes for me, or gives me breath, I will keep enjoying and loving life as long as I have plans, places to go, and things to do, and am surrounded by my loved ones and friends. Thank God for all the people who help me, take me out, plan things, call me, invite me out, and take time out for me. I thank all those who love me and have made this life enjoyable. Till God calls me home, in the meanwhile, God, what's next on the agenda? Thank you God for being so good to me.

--Bernie

**Your Sickness is Limited  
It cannot cripple love.  
It cannot shatter hope.  
It cannot corrode faith.  
It cannot eat away peace.  
It cannot destroy confidence.  
It cannot kill friendship.  
It cannot shut out memories.  
It cannot silence courage.  
It cannot invade the soul.  
It cannot reduce eternal life.  
It cannot quench the Spirit.  
It cannot lessen the power of  
the resurrection.**

Author Unknown.

contributed by Joan





Peace be with you, and may God bless you with pain free days and loving moments with your family and friends.

--Susan

May God grant you peaceful moments with your loved ones as wonderful memories are made for them to keep.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Continue to take joy in every little triumph, each day, the beautiful sunrise and glorious sunset.

--Steve

May it help you to know that others care about your condition. I'm sorry that Huntington's disease exists. Jesus died for this disease, too. Through our faith in Jesus' resurrection, we have hope for a new life. I trust that your five children and your other family members are your best earthly medicine. May God continue to sustain you.

--Karen

My mother has been battling the progression of Parkinson's disease for over 25 years. She often laments that she can't do the tasks for the church as she did for many years. I tell her that her role has changed to praying. As your life has changed, I pray you have found your role in God's plan.

As a cancer survivor, may God keep you remembering of Him. When the doctor told me I had cancer, I thanked him (God). I did not go in an accident or immediate death. I said thank you God for giving me the opportunity to get things right in my life. At the end of the road it is Christ –



What a blessing. May God bless you!

I lost my husband of 53+ years in 1995, after a short 4 month bout with bone cancer. In that hard time we shared our love of Jesus as well as our love for each other daily and hoped for a miracle, but always added "They will be done". And it was!

I am never alone since HE is with me. I will think of you often and offer a prayer for your sustenance, and for as much time together as He wills.

--Ellen

### **Count Your Blessings**

Verse 1

When upon life's billows You are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged Thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings Name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you What the Lord hath done.

Chorus:

Count your blessings Name them one by one.  
Count your blessings See what God hath done.  
Count your blessings Name them one by one.  
Count your many blessings See what God hath done.



Verse 2

Are you ever burdened With a load of care,  
Does the cross seem heavy You are called to bear.  
Count your many blessings Every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing As the days go by.

Verse 3

When you look at others With their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised You His wealth untold.  
Count your many blessings Money cannot buy,  
Your reward in heaven Nor your home on high.

Verse 4

So amid the conflict Whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged God is over all.  
Count your many blessings Angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you To your journey's end.

Words by Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1922

Music by Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921

***Praise be to the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
blessed us in the heavenly realms  
with every spiritual blessing in  
Christ. Ephesians 1:3***



***Mount Clothing... a true story of Jan***

Loss of motor skills and coordination comes in the middle of the HD, and Jan fell – a lot. Jan went to the emergency room six times, three by ambulance. She had numerous stitches and a broken collarbone. We worked hard to make the house less of a danger to her.

We rearranged her walk-in closet so that she would not slip on something strewn on the floor. A few nights later, Jan fell in our just-cleaned-out bedroom closet. There was no grab bar to help with stability, so she grabbed the nearest thing she could, the clothes. We all heard the thud from downstairs and rushed up to see Jan on the floor with “mount clothing” piled on top of her – everything had collapsed. She was quite a sight, with arms and legs akimbo under the jumbled mass of clothing and hangers. Thankfully, she was not hurt.

At 10:30 in the evening, Seth, Lizzy, and I were un-piling the clothes and re-hanging them. Once that was done, I herded everyone down to the kitchen table and declared that we were having a celebration with ice-cream floats. The kids asked what we were celebrating and I said, “We are celebrating the fact that the paramedics did not have to come. Mom was not taken to the hospital, she did not need stitches, there is no recovery period, and she is not in pain! Also we got to clean the closet once again!” Jan’s battle with HD has helped me to count the blessing of each day and each situation, quite a change from my indifferent days in college. ***We counted our blessings, even in the midst of great trials.***



## *Our God knows our fears*

Your ministry is still in my prayers as it has been over the years from the time Steve and Jan came to my class and made a presentation. At that time one might say that you were still in your youth, almost, and Jan was in vibrant health. From the time I learned from your newsletters of Jan's health problems, I have prayed that the Lord would bring healing or slow down the ravishes of Huntington's disease. Please know that I love you, thank God for your ministry to the Jews, and will continue to pray for Jan's health.

--Vida

My prayers go out to you and your loving husband as you face this disease. May Jesus give you and your family strength while awaiting a cure. God bless.

- Vicky

My prayers are with you, Jesus will hold your hand and guide you in everything. Give Him your burdens, He wants to be your help. Thank you for taking Jesus' love to so many.

- Shirley

When things look the darkest to me I thank God that He speaks to us the words of Romans 8:28 [*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*] and gives us the



faith to believe what He promises in the face of a situation that does not make sense to us. We love you and pray for you.

- Dick & Emmy

Be strong and courageous, Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 Isn't it great how His Word is ready to give each of us what we need at just the right time.

--Florann

Over the years I have prayed for you for healing, strength, courage. It is for times like these that Jesus has come.

--Elise

May God be with you through this tough time and give you peace. May others be touched by your dedication to this mission. We have.

Though we do not always understand God's purpose in our lives we do know that He is always in control. Remember the trials of Job, but trust in the one who has gone before us, Jesus, who suffered all for us. By His grace you will be restored, established and strengthened. Endure and do not lose heart. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

--Steve

I am sorry to hear about your illness. My wife of 28 years passed away six months ago. Even though we did not attend church on a regular basis, she always had faith and



trust in God and knew that her salvation was through Jesus.  
--John

He never closes a door without opening a window.

I pray that God grants you peace. I also suffer from a degenerating disease that is slowly stealing my ability to function normally. Sometimes, God is my only relief. Stay steadfast—God is with you.  
--Jack

Let not your heart be troubled—Trust always in the Lord. For never will He leave you forever He will be your strength and comfort throughout eternity.  
--JMB

*Psalm 118:1-7*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say:

“His love endures forever.”

In my anguish I cried to the LORD,  
and he answered by setting me free.

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

I will look in triumph on my enemies.



## *Our God knows our sicknesses*

I understand you are struggling with Huntington's disease which strips your body of its strength. From reading the words of your husband, it is quite obvious your true strength is in 'you.' Your faith and your words have enabled Christ's love to enter the heart and mind of your husband who in turn passes them on to the rest of us. Thank you for your strength in Christ our Lord and Savior.

--Armond

I was very sorry to hear about Jan's Huntington's disease. It sounds like, from your writing, that Jesus, the great Comforter and Counselor is helping your family cope. My mother-in-law recently died after a 3 year battle with bone cancer. A person and their family can learn a great deal through the sufferings of diseases.

--Sarah

Your situation with Huntington's disease reported in Portals of Prayer on December 27 2001 was read by me here in prison for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row when I was feeling sorry for myself. Your situation and your strength and faith in God, shot my pity party down. Thank you for standing up and being a testimony of God. We may not see all that God is doing through us, but God sees the whole picture and uses what man thinks is useless to use for His good.

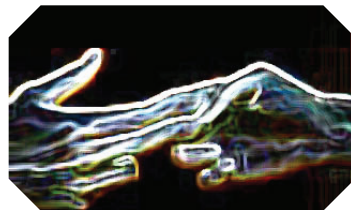
--Bud

## Jan Cohen's Book of HOPE



When diagnosed with cancer, my wife's mother refused treatment, trusting her Savior's promise of eternal life. I, myself, am recovering from surgery on the right carotid artery in my neck. My doctor knew the two back arteries in the back of my neck were also affected. There were 17 electrodes glued to my head to monitor brain function. When the doctor clamped off the artery for surgery, my blood pressure dropped through the floor, and all brain function ceased. I had another stroke, affecting my left side. My left eye did not function, and I had lost the use of my left arm. I am blessed with Christian doctors. He rushed out to my waiting family, and told them the news that if I did not recover I would be a vegetable the rest of my life. The doctor hurriedly asked my family to join hands in prayer. He asked my son, who is pastor of a large Lutheran church, forty miles across town, to lead them in prayer. Afterward the doctor rushed back to me in surgery. He quickly returned to my family, declaring God's praise for answering prayer. I have told you this story to bring you hope, and strengthen your faith in time of testing, I am also seriously handicapped from puncture of my spinal cord during surgery. I know not what the future holds, **but I know who holds it in His omnipotent hand! Life is worth the living just because HE lives!**

--Ed



## Jan Cohen's Book of HOPE



I was recently treated for breast cancer and I know I would not have gotten through if not for my Christ. May His love and peace be with you.

- Mary

Father God – bless Jan with assurance of communication for all your needs beyond our human understanding. Bless your husband as he struggles with the unknown. Bring him peace and assurance. God's love.

Here I sit in a worship service where I have just heard your husband speak, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to my heart. I've only got this teeny tiny tablet of paper on which to write a message of hope to you. I know you have Huntington's disease. I will pray for you to be healed. Now, God can say "Yes" or "No" to that. That is in His hands. He will watch over you more tenderly than any human could. May he bless you always.

- Yvonne

My health is also not great. St Paul's words to the church of Corinth constantly give me courage and hope (2 Cor 12:9 ff) "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power may rest on me.

- Rev. Richard & Susan

Your lives have paralleled ours! We have also been married 27 years and have 6 children (20 yr old twins) and they are the same ages. I cannot imagine what you are going through, but I can just sense some of your pain and fear. I



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pray for your deliverance and that God holds your family in His loving hands and that what ever His will is for you and your family, that it be to the glory of Christ and the strengthening of your faith!

My husband almost died from complications of an illness called Guillian Baire Syndrome three years ago. We truly believe it is only through the prayers of people across the United States and Canada that he is alive today. Our prayers are with you. May God heal you and make you a stronger witness for Him.

I know well of your disease. I also know well my Lord, Jesus Christ. I will pray for you, for your family and your mission. Thank you for sharing your husband every weekend in the name of our Lord. May you feel the Lord's arms around you and His warmth in your heart.

- Drew

Now I must share our most sincere and deep feelings regarding Jan's illness and the changes it has brought to the lives of all your family. It is not easy for any of you to be a part of this challenge that lies before you. It is such a blessing you have a strong and beautiful faith as that is what will carry you all through each day. I am caregiver for Leith who is in declining health as well. He is 87 years old—has suffered a heart attack and several mini strokes. He is diabetic, crippled terribly with arthritis and has Parkinson's, as well as a few other things. We have learned to lean on Jesus, and take one day at a time. In fact to be very honest, one hour at a time, is the way we live, most days. He longs for his Savior's call when he can finally go Home and be free of pain. Please know we

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share in Jan's illness and pray it may help a little just to know we care about her and her family.

--Dora

My heart goes out to you. I pray that your days are pain free and comfort-filled with Jesus' love and compassion. I think of you often as I study Huntington's disease and other such bodily disorders as a nurse and a person with numerous 'thorns' as well. I look forward to Heaven when our tears will be wiped away.

--Eloise

No disease, affliction, or malady can keep anyone away from Christ, much less someone who so actively served Him.

My mother too, is homebound. I will be praying for your comfort and strength.

--Cyndi

As a mother with children of special needs, I know the power of prayer. Keep praying!

Your husband told us of your illness, I pray that you will experience the healing that I received from God—miraculous! If it is God's will I pray you will be healed. If not, may He give you the peace, strength, and courage to bear your burden until He grants you the ultimate healing in your home in heaven.

--Louise



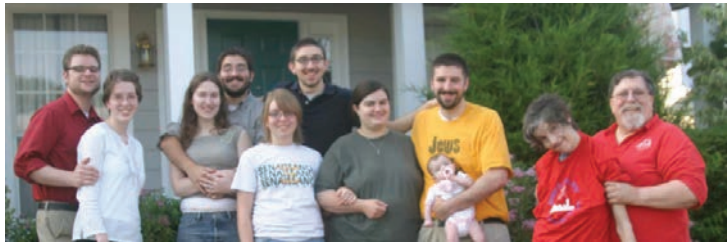
I've not met you but I pray for your healing and easing of your suffering. God bless you. I'll see you in heaven.

--Mary

May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who created the body, be the healer of your body, that the Great Physician our Savior Jesus Christ bless you and be with you always.

The doctor said cancer. Breast cancer had spread to my liver and bones, even breaking my right upper arm. After 105 chemo treatments I said no more because my hands and feet were numb. After months tests proved the cancer had snuck into my head. After serious radiation the cancer is mostly gone. Life is glorious. Without Christ we have nothing.

A brain tumor and 5 small children. "The words I'll carry you" constant in my head that day. Now 13 years later 2 married, 1 last year of college and the baby way out of diapers. "He" has been good to me. And I know God will do the same for you. In my prayers... Anonymous



The Cohen Clan



## Isaiah 58:6-10

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe him,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and  
blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear  
guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.  
"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.



## ***Our God knows our sorrows***

2001 left me sad, I lost my companion in May after 41 years of marriage it really got to me, and I still am out of sorts, but thank God, my knowing Him has helped me. I am an arthritis sufferer and on a walker, but my trust in my God is strong, and I know He is with me all the way.

--Mildred

God will give you the strength and comfort to bear your burdens. What a wonderful husband you have! We really enjoyed a new perspective in Jewish Christianity. His devotions were so interesting. Excuse my writing, but I have molecular degeneration where my eyesight is severely limited. But God has made me a better Christian because of it and made me more charitable toward others with medical infirmities.

--Bud

Dear Jan, sister in Christ,  
Your husband has "told us about you" in the Portals of Prayer reading for December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001. I am confident that you were well aware of what he had to say about you. I relate more to his situation than I do to yours, however. My wife died from the effects of cancer in June of 1997. One of the questions that my wife heard were about the "why" of her situation. her response was quick and succinct. "Why not me?" She viewed her "condition" as being something that God wanted her to experience, not something that He had afflicted her with. She understood the meaning of Matthew 5:16. I have the sense that you do, also. I like



the closing verses of Jude where reference is made to the joy that our Lord will experience when He presents us, faultless, before the presence of His glory.

See you there,

--Bill

I've suffered tremendously. I cried out for mercy and my prayers were heard. I too suffer w/ chronic pain, anxiety & depression. You and your husband are a testimony to faithfulness.

Learning of your health problems and the challenges you face, my heart goes out to you and my prayers go up to God on your behalf. May he continue to be good to you, have mercy on you and strengthen you in every way. May He also keep you strong in faith, hope and love.

`- Karl

Since my wife just had brain surgery, I can understand your sorrow and joy. You will be in our prayers.

Oh my sister, how true, our hope is based on nothing more than our Jesus. I pray that our precious great Physician will touch you with healing in His hands for His glory and the good of your family. I love you.

May God richly bless you every day! My wife and I have seen our two children join their Lord in heaven and God has never failed us. His peace comforts us. His love holds us safe. The death of our children has opened many doors

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for us and has reminded us of what God does every day. May He graciously lighten your load and keep your eyes always focused on Him! God be with you.

- Bob

Don't give up hope. I lost my life in a car accident. Jesus gave me life again through his hope and believing in Jesus.

Minutes can be as joyful as years, and tears as happy as smiles. Enjoy your minutes and your tears as precious reminders of God's love. In love He gathers us all unto Him – Praise God.

- Susan

We don't know why God has not healed you, but He gave us His Son Jesus to help us through this time. Love and God bless,

- Isabelle

May the Word of Yeshua, our Father & the Holy Spirit through David in Psalm 16 continue to light and strengthen you on your path on your way home, and my prayers for saving faith in your family members who do not yet believe in Christ join yours.

Christ is risen, and your faith in Him is not futile – you are no longer in your sins. By the grace of God you are what you are, and His grace to you is not without effect. Death's sting and victory is gone – Thanks be to God who gives you the victory through Christ Jesus our Lord! In Christ's love & eternal Hope,

- John

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Thank you for serving the Lord, both past and present. You are still touching people's lives in a powerful way in the midst of your illness. Steve's message of your continued faith and support of him is moving. I pray that the Lord strengthens and supports you, in times of suffering. Your brother in Christ,

- Tom

I pray your Mother-in-law finds God and rediscovers the family she is missing out on. Being without a parent is a difficult thing. Continue to be strong in your personal life and in battling your illness. God bless!

We have some things in common. We also have 5 children whom we love dearly and our family has also known serious illness. But God is good and we felt His presence and His strength every day. We pray for your family that you too will feel the strength and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. You have a great ministry.

--Mark and Rachel

We pray for your good health to return and that God would ease your pain and lift your spirits.

We were very happy to hear your husband's message regarding the Apple of His Eye ministry. We are sorry to hear of your illness and pray that God's love will fill your heart and you will receive His peace in spite of your suffering.

--Catherine



I cannot imagine the daily struggle you face but my prayers are with you and I thank God for your ability to reach through your pain to touch others. Thank you.

We keep you in our prayers that God will hold you in his tender, comforting hands. God bless you, Steve, and your entire family.

I'm praying for you and your loving family. We can wonder why these things must happen, or do happen, but only our heavenly Father knows. I can't imagine the pain people have, that do not have Christ in their hearts. I never heard of your disease until I read your dear husband's word. I shall keep praying for you and your family. Prayers do get answered. It has happened in my family. I have a younger sister who was diagnosed with cancer, in August of last year and was told she had two weeks to live. Our church has prayer for her since then. With her chemo and medicine and prayer she is still alive. We don't know for how long, but every day is precious to her and us. Jan, I am close to 82 years of age. I lost my love 7 years ago in May. I shouldn't say lost—I gave him up to our Lord, He wanted him back. We never had children. We wondered why, and as our life unfolded, we took care of different sick family members. We just moved our furniture out of our small living room and put their own beds there. After taking time out and we started to think of our lives, we knew what our purpose in life was, and why we were childless.

--Ella



## **Isaiah 53**

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.





## *Our God knows the future in which we hope*

Dear Jan,

I recently learned of your illness and I wanted to join with others to encourage you to believe your sickness could become an occasion for greater faith in your Lord.

You can get involved—learn all about your disease.

Remember your disease is not an end. Disease is part of our life here on earth. What could be better than a miraculous healing from your illness? Eternal life that's what! That can be yours through faith in Jesus. Use your illness as a sign pointing you to Jesus Christ and the eternal life that He offers you through faith in Him.

By all means, pray for healing. Pray with confidence that God is doing something good in your life, even tho' it may not always seem that way. God will either heal or give you something way better. If the healing doesn't come and you suffer pain, that doesn't mean God has abandoned you! Release from sin has still come. And with that comes a peace of mind that enables you to continue believing God's love. God will give you the patience to bear your burden. Love, peace of mind and patient strength are miracles from God. There is a blessing from God for each of us then, whether we live with or without miracles.

--Carol

I look forward to rejoicing with your family in Heaven on the last day.

--Irene



No matter what the future brings we can survive anything if we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

--Nardy

Our hearts go out to you in your distress but we all can look forward to the day when we have perfect new bodies and all tears will be wiped away. We pray that God will bless you daily until that time!

--Priscilla

As I see that you are a Huntington's sufferer, I am grateful that you and Steve have put your trust in the One who is the source of all things. My husband died unexpectedly at age 44. I raised my two children without him here, but God never failed us. I felt His love and care every day. Someday, as I promised my husband when he lay dying, I'll meet him in the morning. What an awesome God we have!

--Carol

Dear Jan,

With the help of our Lord, keep up your courage and strength. God grant you a steadfast faith as we journey toward the coveted prize, eternal life with our Lord. Courage! He is with us, our Rock! God holds you in His hand!

--Marie

I'm sure that you recall the words of Scripture that our God makes things work out for the good of His people.



**Jan's Joy**  
by Steve Cohen  
6/7/2007

**The shadow of her smile lingers for more than a while  
As her face searches the morning sky  
Traces of hope surround her seventeen-year trial  
But we do not stop to ask the question why  
For Jan's joy radiates from within this day**

**The sounds of her laughter are fewer than before  
Because it is harder to utter them now  
We know she wants to laugh out loud  
At the disease which seeks her joy to disallow  
Jan's joy can never be taken away**

**The steps she takes each day are fewer  
As we wheel her about the house  
From stairway to living room, kitchen she's a daring-doer  
These are the days true love is shown to my spouse  
Jan's joy found deep in her heart to stay**

**Jan's joy is found not in things we buy  
Nor in the places we'd go  
But in Y'shua Her Messiah this we will never deny  
For though the body fails we know  
Our resting place is with the Lord as by still waters we lay**

**The end of life for each of us nears each hour  
As we draw closer to eternity we offer up to you  
A word of hope and joy and light from God's beacon-tower  
Receive God's free gift of salvation free for gentile and Jew  
And share Jan's joy along life's topsy-turvy highway**



He who made the suffering and cross of Christ—something horrible to contemplate—turn into blessing for all mankind, knows how to make trials turn into blessing. Is Huntington's considered terminal? I tell people that old age is a terminal disease. I'm 83. I like to tell this anecdote: A Christian went to visit a dying Christian. Said the visitor, "Brother, soon you will leave the land of the living and go to the land of the dying." The dying Christian replied, "No, I am soon leaving the land of the dying and going to the land of the living."

At my age I think of dying. I wonder what it is like. Some years ago I was called to minister to a dying parishioner. After praying with him we noticed that his breathing became slower. The nurse noticed his pulse was becoming weaker. The man fell asleep. It was so peaceful. No struggle. I have often wished I could die like that. I recall words of a Bach chorale that we sang at seminary, "Ah, then, close mine eyes; wake me in Paradise." It's like Simeon, Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

--Bernard

Our son has been battling cancer for the past 3 years and Isa 40:31 is one of my favorite verses [Is. 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.]. It is a reminder to me of where our hopes lie. I praise God that our bodies here are temporary and that we have an eternity to look forward to. I will pray for you and your family. I know how hard some days can be.

- Barbara

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Rev 2:10 "...*be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" Heaven is your home, Jan! What a wonderful gift Jesus is to you!

As a believer in Christ, I know you will have an everlasting life with the Almighty. God bless you in your journey home. God's blessings.

May Jesus, your Savior, Lord and Friend give you peace and strengthen your faith that you may be faithful to the point of death and receive from Him the crown of life! See you in Heaven!

- Rev. Steve

May God hold you and your family in His steadfast grace. And you know that someday you and your family will be reunited in His glorious Kingdom as His children.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. May you rest always in Him.

- Bruce

Here is a big, big hug. I have M.S. and know some of your suffering. We have the hope of our new bodies when we meet God. Bless you!

- Kim

I found hope in Jesus, how God can be glorified through your illness and my husband's illness – Alzheimer's. Eternity is what is important. Praise Him here on earth

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Hope God will bring an occasional smile and laugh to your days as you imagine, beyond our imagination, what fun being in the presence of our King of "perfect Love which casts out fear."

--Beth

We have been caregivers for our parents (mothers) for years. Only recently have we been exposed to your illness, Jan. We know a better life lies ahead. We have to keep turning the pages over in our book of life. You have experienced so much—There is more!

--Mary Ann

Jan, take strength in knowing that no matter what happens to our earthly bodies, Satan can't rob us of our everlasting gift! Praise be to God!

Please know that you are in my prayers to God that He blesses you with the courage it takes to live until He bids you to come home, where illness will be replaced with the heavenly joy of being in the presence of God through faith in Jesus, who died for our sins. You are blessed with a wonderful family, co-workers and friends who surround you with their love, God bless you greatly,

- Clara

I wanted to tell you I am a hospice nurse in Milwaukee. I pray for you to be comforted on your journey to Jesus. Soon you will be perfect and whole with Jesus. I'll pray for you.

- Beth



Heaven is our home, what more can we want. See you there. God bless.'

- Ernest & Ema

I have been given 88 years of life. I do not know how much longer I am given, as you do not know how long you have. It is written in the Book of Heaven. In the book of Isaiah 46 God says He has cared for us from the time we were conceived. He will do so until we die. In Psalms it says He cures all our diseases. The end disease will be cured with the joy of seeing and being with the Lord God—no more sins, diseases or troubles. Leaving our loved ones is the saddest. I wish I could be close to you to give you a hug as we look forwards to everlasting Joy. May the God and Shepherd let you lie down in Green Pastures—peace, perfect peace! Lead you by quiet waters. Guide you on the paths of righteousness to the everlasting Peace in Jesus' name.

--Inez

Praying for God to give you strength and to look forward to a place with no pain or illness.

Jesus has prepared a beautiful mansion for you in Heaven. We'll be holding you and your family up in prayer in the days to come.

--Jeff & Mary

You are a strong woman of God who is an inspiration even in your absence. Thank you for generously sharing your husband's time with us this weekend. May all the rest of your days on this earth be filled with love, joy, and smiles. May your heart rejoice when you run into the loving arms



of your maker!

--Keira

I look forward to seeing you in Heaven, you'll have to show me around when I get there.

May the love of God and the promise of eternal life give you hope. May the good news that Jesus lives forevermore fill your heart with joy. May the knowledge and understanding which the Holy Spirit imparts to you give you peace. May you always know that nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We pray the Lord will continue to give you courage in facing the days ahead through His promise of eternal life.

We at Prince of Peace pray for you. Remember, we will all meet Jesus in eternity, free of all sickness, grief, and sin. May Jesus be with you.

--Frank

Thank you for your courage in standing up for Jesus, for supporting your wonderfully gifted husband, Steve. I look forward to meeting you! That place may be in heaven, but whenever, I look forward to that time, to be basking in the light of God with all believers. God bless—may your pains be short and God's blessings be many.

--Greg



Jesus waits for all of us. Hope to see you there.  
--Gene

Jesus has a special room for you. He promised that.  
You will see Him and will be with Him there in a perfect  
body and with songs of joy and thanksgiving! I will see  
you in eternal life.  
--Elsie



### **Revelation 21:1-5**

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."**





## *Our God loves us eternally*

I know your faith will get you and your family through these tough times. I also know that your life is in the hands of the greatest physician the world has ever known. I don't know the physical outcome of your disease, but I do know that you will live with the Lord Jesus Christ for all eternity. Life eternal is not based on anything that we do or say or even deserve. It is based on what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. He shed his innocent blood for us and arose on Easter morning. He is now in heaven preparing a place for all believers.

--Bill

The Lord will be with you here and when He sees fit will welcome you home, good and faithful servant – Be brave and strong in Him! God bless you.

What courage you have. Life can be so hard, but God so good. God's blessings!

- Jermaine

I will include you in my daily prayers. I am living proof that God has a plan for everyone. I know also that He walks beside each one of us throughout our lives.

In the journey through life, know that the Lord will take you by the hand and lead you through the valley of the shadow. Psalm 48:14 tells us: For this God is our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.

How fortunate you are to be leaving this world of troubles



– May God keep you in His care always!

After hearing Steve at St Paul's, I almost feel as though I know you, at 70 years of age and having a heart condition, I look forward to meeting you someday.

--Lee

Thank you for singing and sharing your music tonight. May our Lord and Savior grant you courage, strength, and peace during these difficult times. May the love of Jesus, our Savior, uplifting you and abiding in you, strengthen your faith, give you hope and assurance of salvation. Amen.

Thank you for sharing Steve with us tonight! May God give you and your family His continued blessings and when we meet in heaven, we'll spend eternity worshipping and thanking Him who brought our hearts together tonight!

May the love of God surround you and bring you peace. Even though we've never met—we are connected because we are sisters in Christ. As believers, we know our home awaits us in heaven where a special place has been prepared. What a wonderful time to anticipate! I pray Jesus will sustain your days and continue to give you strength and courage till He comes for you! Continue to have hope in the reality of His resurrection where our salvation is a promised sure thing. I look forward to meeting you in the New Jerusalem, with bells on!

--Marsha



Dear Jan,  
When Steve mentioned that you can't sing anymore, it touched me deeply. Some years ago I began experiencing trouble when I started singing in church. I have used my voice also to lead the music in my ChristCare groups. Acid Reflux was the cause. I have always enjoyed singing so much. It hurt to not be able to trust what would come out. I pleaded with the Lord. Anyhow, I just wanted you to know that I probably understand some of the feelings you are experiencing. Listening to your tape—you had a beautiful voice! I thank the Lord that He is helping you through this difficult time. May He continue to hold you in the palm of His hand.

--Emily

As we age, slowly but surely we begin to lose abilities and grieve over their loss. But we gather from Steve that you have lost none of your faith, hope, love, sense of humor, and inner joy that nothing can take from you—not dungeon, not disaster, not disease, not even death.

--Ed

When we look into eyes, we see a miniature reflection of ourselves (upside down). When we look into God's eyes, we see ourselves in the light of His love. "He only has eyes for us." How comforting.

--Ed



He who choreographs the stars in their courses is also in charge of the tiniest detail of our lives.

--Elisabeth Elliot

One drop of blood shed on the tree washes the sins from you and from me. This hope and joy my life sustain and give me peace within. I pray that God will use your life however He may please, knowing His plan is greater than any we may see. His joy and hope keep you and yours throughout the earthly strife. And bring you safely to His home at all of your lives end.

I have suffered for 16 years from a chronic illness. I feel for you and your family. I too live each day to its fullest and thank God for it. I pray for you and all dear suffering people. Thanks be to God that we have Christ and one another. Thank you for sharing your husband with us and spreading the Good News.

Our God, Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, grant you His saving grace in Him and give you His forgiveness, peace, joy and HOPE and HEALING in Jesus to endure in faith to the end!

--Otto & Jill

Praise God this world is not our home we are all just passing through. Through faith in Jesus we will live in our true home in Heaven. Our prayers are with you.



We care about you and thank God that you have a future to look forward to. We know there are many who do not know the saving message.

--Donna

May you be comforted by knowing that Jesus holds you in His arms. He understands your good days and bad days – He too walked this earth. He too wept. May God bless you – He works all things together for the good of those that love Him!

In the dark days, may the holy angels attend you and the peace and joy and love of the Lord fill you until we are all made perfect in place he has prepared. You will be in my prayers

--Lu

God loves you so much! I will be praying for you. Always remember that even as we walk through the shadow of death, our loving, gracious God is always with us!

Take one day at a time!  
Peace be with you

--Linda

God's Blessings to you. The 46<sup>th</sup> Psalm has always helped me keep strong in the faith even in times of trouble. God is our refuge and strength.



God has most certainly challenged you. May you find many blessings and strength and hope with His plan. We will pray for you and others and that a cure will be found to help you and them now!

I know that you have a disease. You must be miserable. But when it's your time, both you and I know that you will go to Heaven and you will be living a pain-free life there.

--Peter, age 11

Your husband spoke at our church today delivering a beautiful message of the hope we have in Jesus and also telling us of your work in sharing the Gospel. We pray that you also feel that hope even though you are suffering. Jesus promises to be with you and is preparing a place in Heaven for you and all believers. God promises He will never give us more than we can bear. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." We will pray for you and your ministry.

--the Zielles

God loves you! You and your family are just what my family needed to hear from today. My husband lost his job and I had come today selfishly. I am sorry for your condition and I love you too.

--KB

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I find great peace in Luke 12:22-23

Life is hard, but God is good. May God provide for you daily.

I have never forgotten your smile and the way you encouraged me as a young mom—back in the Gloria Dei days. In love, keep praying and praising!

--Maria

Psalm 5:11-12 “but make everyone rejoice who puts his trust in You. Keep them shouting for joy because you are defending them. Fill all who love you with your happiness. For you bless the godly man, O Lord; you protect him with your shield of love.”

May the Lord God Almighty hold you tenderly in his arms and grant you healing and peace. God bless you and keep you, giving you comfort and strength.

--Barb

May the Lord strengthen you daily with the hope that only He can give. The hope that one day you will be perfected as you meet Him in Heaven. I pray that if it is His will, he will heal you!

--Kathy

Remember Jeremiah 29:11. What we don't know, God does know. And we **do** know that He is faithful. Keep the faith,

--Julie

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“Habbakuk” means “one who embraces.” In the midst of things he could not understand, God said “live by faith!” Habakkuk then wrote “Though...yet I will rejoice.” May our Sovereign be your strength and make your feet like the feet of a deer and enable you to go on the heights! (Habakkuk 3:17-19) God be with you.

--Jon

“He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart”

I pray you will find much comfort in knowing that many are lifting you up in prayer. Including myself.

--Wanda

By His stripes be ye healed!

The suffering of this present time cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed through Jesus. I will continue to pray for you both.

All things happen for good for those who know Him. I truly believe this as the worst times in my life I later found out turned out for my good. Thank God for our victory though Christ Jesus.

--Jan



In your pain and with your trials may the Lord use you—just as He used Paul. May you know that the Lord's grace is fully sufficient. May He grant that grace in double portions, to you and your family. I pray that that grace now sustains you.

God's ways are so different from what we expect. My prayer for you is that you grow in true knowledge of Him and come ever more deeply to know the depth of His love for you and your family.

Our prayers are with you and your family as you face the daily struggles with your illness. My own mother has ALS and is doing quite well nearly 4 years after being diagnosed. She is living courageously knowing that her future is secure in Jesus Christ. The power of prayer is tremendous! I will include you in my prayers.

--Karen

Dear Jan,

God be your strength and your song! We pray that He will give you the patience you need, the strength you need and the peace that you need to continue to serve Him. You inspire me to do more for Him! Have a blessed Messiahmas!

--Eddie

God **never** makes **any** mistakes in what He does—but has a seen or unseen (wonderful) purpose. You are being used in a wonderful way by Him.

God loves you and so do I.



Your body may let you down, but God never will.

I am sorry to hear about your illness. I hope and pray that you might see it as a gift of disability. In this gift, may you witness for our Lord and Savior. Your gift of music does, and so is your suffering.

--Carrie

God's blessings to you. I don't know much about Huntington's Disease but I know what it's like to live with a disability. Our son has a disability called PolyMicroGyria and I do know that your love of Jesus will show others how God does work through you, just as God's love shines through our son Evan.

"My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand."

The doctor said cancer. Breast cancer had spread to my liver and bones, even breaking my right upper arm. After 105 chemo treatments I said no more because my hands and feet were numb. After months tests proved the cancer had snuck into my head. After serious radiation the cancer is mostly gone. Life is glorious. Without Christ we have nothing.

I will pray for you every day. I am only ten but I believe I can help you just as much as anyone else by praying. I hope you get well as soon as God's will.

--Cameron





## *Praising God for his daily blessings*

I am adding your name to my daily prayer list. We can pray they will find a cure. God has a plan for all of us. He has been especially good to me. I am a survivor 23 years from breast cancer. I thank him everyday for my health.

--Marilyn

Dear Jan,  
So many of us have problems. I'm 85 years old now, and thank God for what I have left, regardless of all the aches and pains, knowing that someday we will all have new bodies.

--Hazel

My husband suffered from a chronic lung disease and was dependent on oxygen continuously. Like you, we could have been angry and distraught. But our faith in Jesus kept us going, and we too, were thankful for each day's blessings. The greatest gift is the assurance that Jesus came in to this world to care for us, remove our sins and assure us that salvation is ours. Gordon entered into God's kingdom in January of 2000. The certainty that he is now with our Savior in Heaven has been my greatest comfort.

--Marlene



As I pray for my husband who is losing his eyesight, I will pray for you because I watch his heart see more and more as I pray, and I see his soul and pain being healed. I help him know how lucky we really are.

Today you were brought into the hearts and lives of 250 people at one time. We wish to thank you for sharing your beloved husband and the knowledge of Jesus. It warmed our hearts to know Steve has a loving Christian wife that he fondly loves, and shared it with us. May the memories of the youthful years stay with your family for many years to come until you are united in heaven.

We know God can work miracles and we know He works in ways we cannot always understand, so have faith and believe He is watching over you.

--Mary Ann

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.”



### **What Did I Learn from Jan?**

By Alan Butterworth

When I met Jan Cohen in 1997, Huntington's Disease made it difficult for her to speak clearly, let alone sing. But I was blessed

to have many wonderful experiences with Jan at the Cohen household and even around the world.

Listening to her unique voice on her CD often caused me to well up with tears.

So what did I learn? Five things come to mind that will always help me:

#### 1. Obstacles.

Image? Aches and pains? When I elevate these things to "obstacles", I change my behavior. But are these things that really matter?

Jan had obstacles. Can you imagine going through the changes she experienced? She had rare physical beauty and tremendous musical talent. On the surface, the disease changed Jan. But her heart for the LORD didn't change! Over and over, no matter what she was going through, Jan praised the LORD with every fiber of her being, even as the fibers disappeared!



I pray that as I am tempted to see something as an obstacle, I will think of Jan's perspective and determination. Jan taught me not to focus on obstacles, but to give thanks for and to work with what you have. Every day, to the very end, she used everything she had to praise and serve God!

#### 2. Standing Up to Steve.

To know Steve is to know a visionary: passionate and focused about reaching the lost. He often needs help to see what others around him are experiencing.

No matter what she was going through, Jan let made sure Steve understood how her needs affected what she would or wouldn't do. I remember Jan falling on a concrete sidewalk, and refusing to accept help from Steve to get back up. Jan fought the Disease her way, with every fiber of her being!

She loved Steve, but she had goals and boundaries. The key to getting along was communication. Jan taught me how to stand up to Steve!

#### 3. Communication.

When Jan couldn't speak anymore, she taught us about communication. For a long time, she expressed so much through her hugs. She was a



world-class hugger. No one could forget a hug by Jan\.

When the ability to hug was gone, she took stock of what was left, and used eye movements and the noises she could make to communicate.

My last memory of Jan was in September, 2007. I told a story about sharing with an unbeliever when I ran out of things to say. She knew I am a talker, and this struck her as very funny. With perfect timing, she let out some noises that we all understood was laughter!

Jan taught me about being creative and concise to communicate effectively.

#### 4. Faith.

When I face problems, I am tempted to think about what I did to upset God. When things are going well, I often try to figure out what I did to please God to deserve the good things. To write this makes me embarrassed to think how self-centered I am.

Jan's relationship with God was not affected by what was happening to her. She loved God, and her understanding of how much God loved her was not affected by her health. When she could no longer speak, she made noises to communicate an emphatic "Amen" as she heard the Gospel.



Jan taught me that faith is not affected by circumstances. Her life showed she knew God's love in Yeshua is unconditional! She never lost her passion for her first love, her relationship with Yeshua, or for reaching lost people. I pray as I focus on myself, I will remember Jan's focus on the LORD!

#### 5. L'Chaim!

When I face health problems, I have a pity party. When it seems something is inevitable, I give up and go through the motions.

Jan knew her life with Huntington's Disease was not all about her. She has five beautiful believing children who each may have to face the same struggle. She pushed herself to show others life doesn't end when you get a horrible disease. Doing everything to the glory of God shares His joy!

Jan taught me to go for the gusto no matter what; to live, L'Chaim! To Life!!

I Praise God I had the opportunity to get to know this precious child of God! I can't wait to hear her in the choir when I get to heaven!



## *Epilogue:*

**God** remembers who we are. When disease, pain, emotional trauma, circumstance, or other mode of tragedy imposes on our well planned lives, life becomes selfish and myopic. It is often the case that you simply can't see beyond tomorrow if you can see tomorrow at all. God knows that. He remembers who we are even when we cannot. He knows the dreams of our hearts, hears the silent prayers of agony and grief, and upholds us when we can no longer rise. When independence and autonomy are distant memories, He remembers how we barreled downhill on a sled or drove cross-country. When putting one foot in front of the other becomes a perilous journey, he remembers how you skipped rope and danced on the lawn. When just writing your name is a struggle, he remembers your elegant script and your music notation. When the piano keys become foreign soil, or your throat strangles on the simplest tune, He remembers how He made you for praise. When it seems that all hope is gone... it is not. God remembers who we are.

What I'll remember most about Jan is that she was a force of nature. You couldn't be in a room with Jan and not turn toward her. You couldn't listen to



her sing and not be moved. And when she spoke and lived out her faith, eyes and hearts were opened. People around her were inspired and empowered. During her long illness Jan took joy and comfort in her family, friends, and caregivers, and in those prayers offered by so many on her behalf. Many notes and letters of encouragement and hope found their way at the right time to the right place to accomplish His errand of blessing. May we all be lifted by Jan's example and find a sight, a song, or a moment that will inspire praise to God every day, and be a source of hope and light to those around us. In this, she will continue to be an example of faith and hope until we're together again. -

Beth (Isbell) Nelson - Jan's sister



Beth & Jan



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