



Cyndi Woods

Finding Joy and Peace in Disability

We all strive for joy and peace, those seemingly elusive elements of life. It's difficult, at best, to find them both under well-balanced circumstances; then we add disability into the mix, and it's a whole different situation. How does one find joy in disability? How does one find peace? Isn't it impossible to have both of these fruits of the Spirit to hold hands with disability?

When we examine where we find our joy, we understand that it's not rooted in our circumstances, feelings, emotions, or outcomes.

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" (**Neh 8:10**). When obstacles or limitations get in the way, we have a choice to see them as such or as opportunities for God's power to be revealed. I'll be the first to admit that finding or expressing joy at the center of disability isn't always easy, but if we

desire it, God will provide that joy. As a blind woman, "seeking" joy seems counterintuitive, right? How is one who is blind supposed to seek? The joy I speak of is sought with one's whole heart. Rather than seeing all the limitations or boundaries, shift the focal point to the other side of the fence.

Choose to see the unique ways God has gifted you to accomplish His work. When someone with a disability is observed praising God, it is memorable because they endure an added hurdle in daily life, allowing God's joy to be seen in a different and unique light.

What about peace? How do we find peace amid disability?

Matt 11:28 says, "Come to Me, all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest." This is the starting point of that peace. God's word also says, "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

John 14:27. But what does this look like practically? What if we don't feel that peace? Honestly, disability can feel anything but peaceful sometimes. Let's be honest and tell God we don't feel the joy and peace we're supposed to.





David Buldoc,

President

The Lord Continues to Bless!

The recent Michigan Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting was a busy time for our staff! Besides helping out with our booth, Tom, Jilane, John, and Jodi recorded multiple interviews, Kam met with countless supporters and squeezed in an interview, I helped a bit with the engineering for a recording and made sure the nightly and Sabbath morning feeds got back to our main studio. Our volunteers Laurie, Steve, Mike, and many others were such a Blessing. Thank you!



What is also exciting is that we are soon to begin building stations. As usual, the enemy has thrown more delays in our way, but we are pressing forward. I am scheduled to meet with our tower climbers in Greenville the first week of July. Our engineer for Tower Hill will meet with a tower crew in the second week of July. I'm praying a last-minute contract issue will be resolved on our Port Sanilac station and our engineer and crew will be ready to begin construction there the third week of July.



On behalf of the Strong Tower Radio (STR) board, I want to thank everyone that has been praying for these stations and providing the needed funds. The Lord has been pushing us to step out in faith throughout this journey, but we shouldn't be surprised!



He asked Noah to build a ship with the cargo door in the side, no engine or steering, just in time to face the worst storm in the history of mankind. He told Abraham to go somewhere and have a family when he was already 75 and his wife, 65. He told Moses to ask Pharaoh to take all of the enslaved Israelites on a week-long wilderness journey with no supplies. When things seem impossible, remember that God has a plan.

faith

And so in faith, the STR Board has hired an Office Manager, and in faith, Amy Fox and her husband, Larry Matelski, will be joining the STR family very soon. They have both been active as members of our Advisory Board, and we have already seen the Lord leading in the hiring process.

Changing Lives

Jenn Marie Brandys



Kam Ferguson,
Development
Director

When asked how she first discovered Strong Tower Radio, Jenn Marie Brandys states, "The Lord brought it to her attention; nobody told her about it directly." Using the Tune in Radio app, she discovered STR and began listening. Jenn found the content well-balanced and a blessing, even when she heard a program twice.

She later noticed an STR yard sign inside her local church lobby, but someone else took it home before she did. Jenn will soon have one of those signs and put it in her yard to invite others to listen.

Jenn was adopted into a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) family at eight years old, where she first learned to love Jesus. She later walked away from her faith as an adult, had some rough experiences, and five years ago escaped drug addiction through recovery in Jesus Christ. There was no blazing light, no audible voice or dream. Jesus never left her and drew her back to Himself one step at a time as Jenn realized her need through the trauma of her daily life and yearned to be free!

Angels intervened to protect Jenn from an abusive ex, physically preventing him from hitting her when he tried. Realizing he was overpowered, he exited her life. Jenn recognized God's working in her life and began reaching out to Him in response. While in a court-ordered recovery program, she began attending nearby churches. God placed a Seventh-day Adventist at the recovery home where Jenn was living, and this encouraged her to return to where she first learned to love Jesus. Upon completing the program, she continued rebuilding her life, gained employment, and soon began attending her local SDA church.

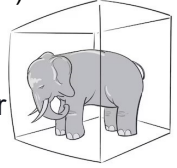


While listening to STR recently, Jenn learned that we're to be transparent in our works to God, to "do them in such a way that God is seen, not you/me." "God's wonderful work in my life is about Him, not me. When people ask me why I'm so happy and smiling often, I tell them of God working in my life to change me and deliver me from drug addiction.

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Finding Joy and Peace in Disability... (Continued from page 1)

Let's talk about the elephant in the room. Disability is hard. There are challenges that arise, sometimes daily. As I take part in the early morning hours to go and water the gardens, challenge accompanies me. I have difficulty keeping track of the green hose on the lawn.



But if I choose to focus on the beautiful warm weather, I can shrink the challenge to a smaller size and glorify God and His creation to a greater magnitude. We must make a concerted effort to focus on what is joyful about our current situation, not the struggle. We must be diligent in creating space for optimal joy. This might mean planning proper time and resources to complete any task and maintaining a joyful attitude during the process. God's word tells us to be thankful "in" all circumstances, not "for" all circumstances (**1 Thes 5:18**).

Uneasiness can accompany disability as well. Feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, and even fear are very real emotions for those of us who live with disability. The unknown or everchanging struggles with disability can easily rob us of our peace, and searching for it in worldly offerings will only leave us empty. There are wonderful people in our lives who lend a hand when needed, granting a momentary reprieve and making us feel at peace. These are not bad ways to combat stress; however, they are only temporary. Again, we must take the necessary steps to create as peaceful an environment as possible. Making sure we don't place ourselves in stressful situations unnecessarily.

*Peace
& joy*

But the simplest way to obtain joy and peace in disability is to meditate on God's word, which tells us we are dearly loved, and He has His watchful eye upon us. He doesn't leave us alone to handle

difficult situations, emotions, or feelings. Knowing that God is for us brings joy and peace that cannot be duplicated in any other way. When the feelings of stress and anxiety threaten to overtake us, return to God's promise found in **Isa 43:2**, which says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you". These words can restore joy and peace in disability.

Changing Lives Jenn Marie Brandys... (Continued from page 3)

My current mission field is the manufacturing facility where I work." The Holy Spirit is stirring within Jenn a greater desire to reach the unreached with the message of freedom in Jesus Christ!

She currently works 3rd shift and enjoys programs like Night Sounds with Bill Pierce, the first program she hears on STR as she begins her work shift. When asked to name her favorite program, she enthusiastically shares, "I love it all; it's such a blessing to me!"

Praise God; another person nurtured and blessed by Strong Tower Radio broadcasting the everlasting gospel 24/7/365!

"Knowing that God is for us brings joy and peace that cannot be found in any other way." Cyndi Woods



What Listeners are Sharing With Us

Dear Strong Tower Radio,

I just want to thank you for the programs you air on your radio station. I drive my wife to work every morning at 5:30 a.m. and I listen to your Christian station. I am sending you a small donation to help keep your station on air.

Sincerely, GH

Dear STR,

Thank you for sanity on the airwaves!

Help STR share God's Character!!

Please make electronic donations using our secure website, StrongTowerRadio.org or by calling **231-468-2087**.

You may also support us by check or money order
**mailed to: Strong Tower Radio,
PO Box 567, Cadillac, MI 49601**

Plug
in to



**STRONG
TOWER
RADIO**
Where God's Character Is Proclaimed

CURRENT EVENTS

Tom Mejeur



Program Director

Camp meeting reflections and memories. First, it's wonderful to meet you!

Kam recounted a listener's journey during the Thursday evening meeting, and on Sabbath, he shared Nita's testimony from Kalamazoo. Another listener, Jeremy Swanson, from the Cadillac area, made a decision for Christ last year, and his wife, Jamie (who was just baptized!), shared their journey of finding truth on Strong Tower Radio.

30 We recorded 30 interviews including the following:

Interviews! Evangelist Mark Finley, Dr. Eric Walsh, Dr. John Shin, Tammy Conway, Larry Hatcher, Melanie Quion, and Nancy and Mike Graham. We shared 600 Father's Day stickers, popcorn, and more.



This month on STR Today, (see our broadcast schedule on strongtowerradio.org), we are doing a series called "Faith & Science." Episode 1 interviews Dr. Ronnie Nalin & Dr. Tim Standish of the Seventh-day Adventist Geoscience Research Institute. The 2nd episode will be with the Southwest Adventist University Dinosaur Science Museum & Research Center staff during their annual June dig near New Castle, Wyoming. Over the last quarter century, this unique project has excavated and cataloged more than 30,000 dinosaur bones and brought together thousands of students and researchers at the Hanson Family Ranch. Episode 3 will be with Dr. Stephen Gray of the North Dallas Adventist Academy. If you miss any of these programs you can access them in our archives soon.



STR Feature programs include a behind-the-scenes look at the "Talking Points" Sabbath School program; Jeremy Hall's "Who Am I?" on the topic of sexual identity, and current religious liberty issues with Jonathan Cherne. Listen to an on-site visit to Adelphian Jr. Academy including a powerful testimony from a non-church member who said, "This school and church saved my family." Also, hear an update on the Cuba Mission project with Rich Sutton and the Great Lakes Adventist Academy group who were there this past March. There are a lot of programs to check out!

**MISSION TRIP
TO CUBA**

Active Love

Thank you, faithful reader, for your active love. Your continued prayer and financial support of Strong Tower Radio have resulted in many people accepting Jesus as their Savior and Lord and many others moving in that direction. Glory to God for many stars in your crown!



You've read how God used STR to change the course of Jeremy Swanson's life. Radio remains a powerful tool in your hands to reach others with the lifesaving truth of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, all day, every day, and listeners are tuning in to hear. There are ripple effects to these radio waves: Jeremy's wife Jamie recently embraced the everlasting gospel, signifying through baptism as she responded to the Holy Spirit's calling. Praise God!



After over six years of regular listening, a minister of another denomination recently confided that he is convicted to join this movement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church! Another listener, a Protestant Bible scholar in a different Michigan area, after listening to an STR broadcast excerpt of the book *The Desire of Ages*, visited a nearby SDA church to obtain the book and has continued attending most Sabbaths since then. Praise God more, as through you, His love is active!

**Praise
GOD!**

We love God because He first loved us. As we behold God's love, our love for Him increases, and we express it not only in words but also with actions toward others. This is the direction that love flows, outward, from each of us toward others.

For God so loved the world that He gave. What did He give? All of heaven in Jesus Christ. God not only tells us that He is love, He shows us active love. It's the only real love. Thank you for all the ways that you love others, including your generous support to keep STR proclaiming God's character to more searching souls every day!

*Thank
you!*

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P.O. Box 567
Cadillac, MI 49601
StrongTowerRadio.org
231-468-2087



Where God's Character is Proclaimed

STR Engagements:

7/4	All Day	Independence Day	Spend it with your family
7/13	11:00a.m.	Kam Ferguson	South Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church
7/20	11:00a.m.	Kam Ferguson	Hastings Seventh-day Adventist Church
7/27	11:00a.m.	David Bolduc	Cadillac Division St. Seventh-day Adventist Church

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