

THE *Able* LIFE

Stories of ordinary people in the Carmel family cultivating lives which abide in Christ to build relationships and live the Gospel with everything.

SUMMER 2020



JOY-FILLED REMINDERS

More than just a delivery

Sherri Palmer joined Carmel in 1996 and has faithfully served in our Women's and Joy (Special Needs) ministries for many years.

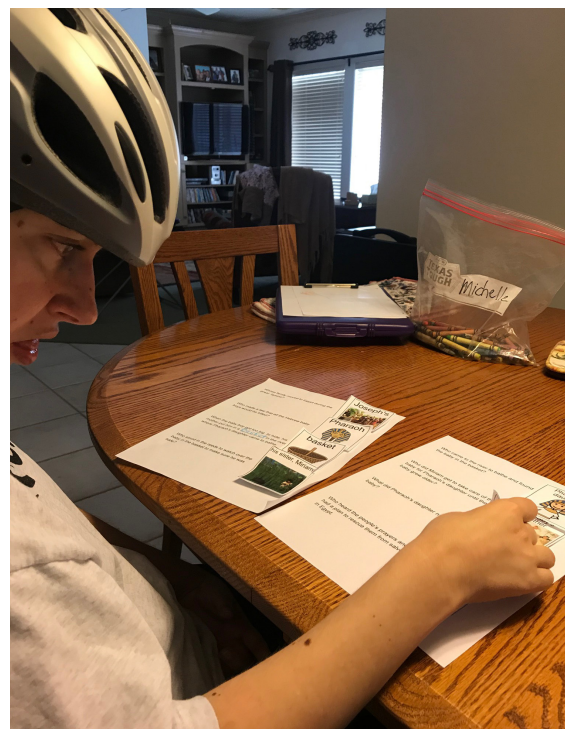
In 2006, Sherri was burdened to learn her friend in Houston, Texas was no longer able to attend church because there was not a class option for her daughter with special needs. Sunday morning worship became listening to a local Christian radio station from home.

Sherri wanted to help - but how could she living in North Carolina?

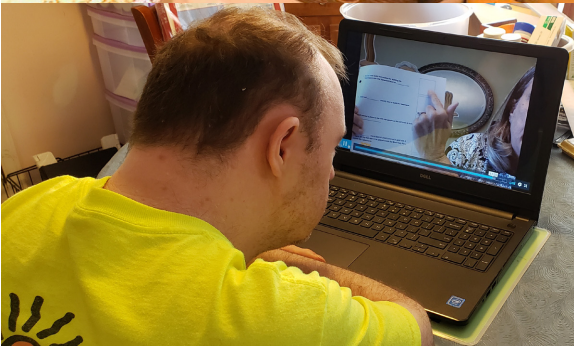
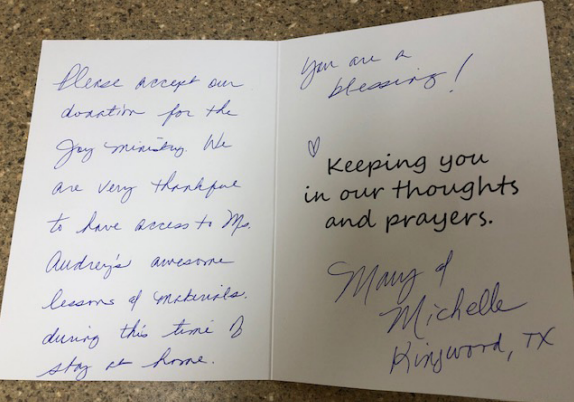
That next day - which was a Sunday - the Carmel bulletin called for volunteers to serve in our new Special Needs Ministry. The Holy Spirit impressed on Sherri's heart *"this you will do in honor of your friend and her daughter because there are parents in your church/ community with this same need"*.

Never having had any experience in this area, Sherri obediently went to the volunteer meeting thinking she would be a "helper". As it turned out, all who attended that meeting ended up taking turns teaching. While they were stretched beyond their boundaries, Sherri recalls *"We cried tears of joy every Sunday from the overflow of love in that room."*

14 years later Sherri still serves the Carmel Joy Class. She was thrilled when the opportunity came up to deliver meals to our Joy families that have been confined because of COVID. On her way to Carmel to pick up the meals, she came over the hill at Alexander and 51 and saw the church, *"...tears of sadness welled up because I had not seen the church since COVID restrictions. Even though Carmel has had online services, it's not the same as being there worshipping and serving together. It was then I realized how much I missed our church and the ability to gather."*



I want to never take it for granted again that we have a place to gather for corporate worship and serve our precious Joy Class members.



Sherri was blessed to see two of her JoyClass friends - Mark and Kristin. They shared sweet conversation and prayer. The families expressed gratitude for being remembered.

Remember those Houston friends? Sherri reports they currently attend a church that faithfully serves their special needs family! And on top of that, they also receive Carmel's Joy Class video lessons every week via email and in turn, share the lesson with other Houston area families.

"God has brought His purpose full circle when he prompted me to volunteer that Sunday in 2006, enabling my friends in Houston to even now be served by our Joy Ministry!"

More than just a meal

John and Melody Hogan's 10 year old daughter Ellie is an active member of the Joy Kidz Class. They shared this note about their meal delivery.

Wednesday was a rough one - not sure what triggered it, but the day was filled with one meltdown after another. By mid-morning we were exhausted. Then came this sweet call - our Joy meal was on its way!

We wanted to say a great big thank you to the team for coming up with such a practical way to be Jesus with skin on to our exceptional families.

You see, beyond being a DELICIOUS meal (and Chef Lance serving up Ellie's all-time favorite dish - SPAGHETTI!), she knew it came from her Joy Class. She was floored by your kindness - through tears she couldn't stop talking about how much everyone involved must love her...and how they were taking good care of her. Most of all, from this mama's heart, THANK YOU for helping her feel SEEN.

It's been a rough transition for her...but glimmers of goodness like this keep us going and remind us that we are not in it alone.

*We are beyond grateful.
The Hogan family*



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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