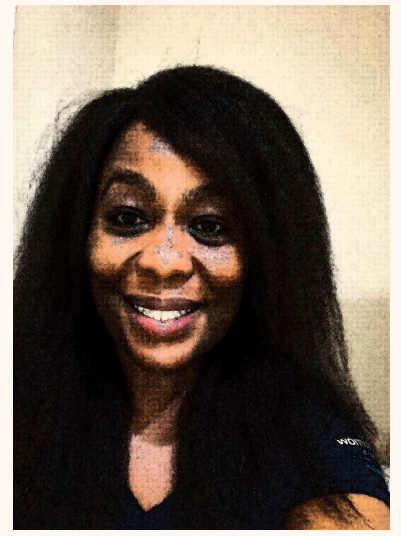


JANUARY 2022 - ISSUE 1

# ESTHER'S MUSELETTER

Monthly Publication To Encourage Creating Bible Study  
Virtual Communities & Our Faith In Our Lord Jesus Christ  
As We Survive The Impact of SARS COV 2 In Our World



*Psalms 96:1 Sing A New Song Unto The Lord*

WORSHIP MUSIC  
ACCOMPANIMENT QR CODE -

GUIDE ME OH THOU GREAT  
REDEEMER HYMN



## Am Starting Us Off 2022 Using Story Telling Parables to Encourage Us.....

### DO YOU PREFER A MAP OR A PERSONAL GUIDE?

I was reading some story telling exam books that I used as my point of reference when I submitted my last advanced creative writing class assignment at the University of Oxford. The mapping template that am using to share a modern day type of parable that I recently shared in our women in tech bible group study helped me communicate a biblical perspective accurately and with much clarity. It's short, sweet and it aligns with new beginnings in the first month of the year!

The main character here is an **adventurous explorer of sorts...**those who enjoy being outdoors like me, hey, we know how we like hiking and forest bathing surrounded by the scent of trees in the dance of nature released in the atmosphere at the national parks designated as forest bathing nature trails. I miss the sugarloaf trails in Clarksburg; there was a path on that trail that I would stop-by and take deep breaths because a certain collection of trees released a scent that superseded perfume and apothecary. On that spot, I would crank up the volume on my audio bible, take a seat on that wooden park bench and meditate on a Scripture like a thousand times! So soothing, actually, that was the specific spot where **God clearly spoke** to me about taking the architecture runway release engineer role at CAPI bank after they offered me the position and before I signed the deal.

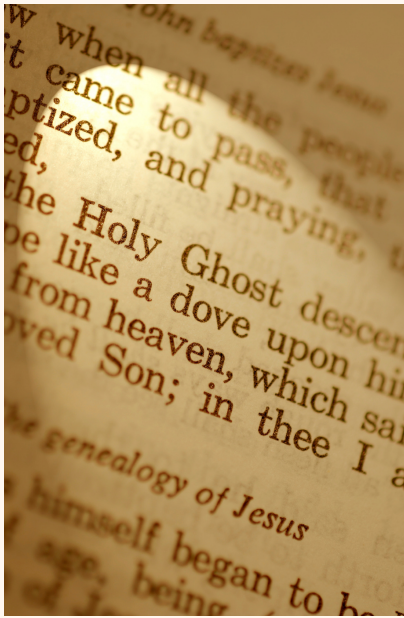
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"I intend to include the whole counsel of God from the Word and prayerfully hearing from the HolyGhost in the year 2022.....join me in this great adventure"

**BUT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, COMES, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL THE TRUTH [FULL AND COMPLETE TRUTH]. FOR HE WILL NOT SPEAK ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, BUT HE WILL SPEAK WHATEVER HE HEARS [FROM THE FATHER—THE MESSAGE REGARDING THE SON], AND HE WILL DISCLOSE TO YOU WHAT IS TO COME [IN THE FUTURE]. JOHN 16:13**

In my adventurous terrain escapades, I like to think about it from a story teller's perspective this way: Say, I Esther was hiking the arizona grand canyon [*I plan to do that one day, I hear there's breath taking views and amazing panorama photo sites for family picnics*], so I prepare myself, hiking gear, backpacking and all safety gadgets in check then when I set off my adventure, God gives me two options, He says, "Esther, you can have a **map or have a personal guide** and these are not mutually exclusive events [*maths people, we mean these can't occur at the same time its an OR operator not an AND*] what do you choose Esther?" Yea, I think some people would take a chance at the thrill of decoding all things complex processes. Folks who enjoy fixing jigsaw puzzles independently at the office enjoying the moments when they find that still thread that travels thought from point A to point B, yea, self-reliant people that would say "I'm good at reading maps. I'll take the map." Yep, they grab that map and set off hiking the unknown crevices within the Grand Canyon, places they have not been before enjoying the adventure! taking off to the sunsets, enjoying the vistas as they unfold on every view, birds are chirping, the air is crisp and refreshing and there's all kinds of happy outdoors therapeutic feelings happening. Infact you say to yourself, "**This is so easy! This is a piece of cake!**"

Then about three days later, the Grand Canyon national park has actually **turned into a mazed in a jungle and your map shows you that your'e always headed almost or around Northwest in the middle of a jungle.** It is midnightish. A storm is actually sweeping through and you'r already soaking wet, and skidding around in your hiking shoes. By now the map is also soaking water and **the direction it has finally given you lands you on the edge of a precipice.** Alas, you realize that you do not know **whether you are facing north, south, east or west and any small step you take from this point is guaranteed to skid you down the rocks!** But a **gentle voice says, "Can I help guide you?"** And you reply, "**Help, help, Oh how I need you!**" The Guide says, "**Give me your hand and I'll lead you back to safety**" A little while later, you and your Guide are out on the road again and **walking along side by side.** Then it occurs to you, "**why was I getting too panicky about that precipice? I could have made it on my own.**" So you turn around to explain this to your Guide, and the Guide is not there any longer! You shrug your shoulders and say, "**Well, I can make it on my own,**" and you set off again. About two days later, you are in the middle of a bog and you sink a little deeper with every step you take. You do not know what to do! You think to yourself, "I can't ask for help again. Last time I got it and I still thought I did not need the help."



# EXCITING ADVENTURES IN FAITH BEGIN WHEN WE ARE INTENTIONALLY BEING REGULARLY LED BY THE HOLY GHOST.....

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Romans 8:14



*Psalms 96:1 Sing A New Song Unto The Lord*

WORSHIP MUSIC  
ACCOMPANIMENT QR CODE -

I HAVE A MAKER - HE KNOWS MY NAME



## How Many Times Do We Go Back To Trusting In Our Own Wisdom When We Need Direction?

**IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK BY THE SPIRIT. GAL 5:25**

At this moment, you discover to your astonishment that the **Guide is right beside you once more. He says, "Let me help you,"** and you start off together again. At this point, you remember the dried out sketchy almost tattered map that is still in your pocket. So you take it out and offer it to the Guide saying, **"I think you might need this map, I used it when I started this adventure and it helped me abit"** But the Guide says, **"Thanks, I know the way, I don't need the map."** Then he says, **"As a matter of fact, I made the map."**

Halleluya! Here's our parable explained.....>>>the map, of course, is the **Word of God**. It is perfect. Every detail is exactly right. Every single item in the geography and direction of our lives is correctly marked. It is up to each of us to decide, **"I won't take the map. I'll trust my Guide."** Who is the personal Guide? **The Holy Spirit of course!**

How many times do we go back to trusting our own wisdom and our own cleverness and fail to seek direction from the Holy Spirit? I still say this once again with all I am, and everything within me...this is what I have learnt mostly surviving SARS COV 2...when the direction that my Guide the Holy Spirit leads me to diverse testing seasons because HE can also lead us to such seasons too! I remember asking June Hunt a question about such seasons one time and she said to me that God is such a loving Father, HE understands and He cares so much for His children, thats why HE subjected His own Son to the worst of all kinds of suffering on our behalf, sometimes He removes His child from the hurricane but other times, HE comforts His child in the hurricane of testing seasons. I always remember *Prov 3:5 -6 Esther, Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart, And do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].*

**I pray we trust in the Lord this year more intentionally too! our journey is not new to Him, HE made our Map, we are a children of purpose and intention in His Hand, nothing in our map is guess work for Him, nothing is hit and miss or people's predictions about our map, He is in our lives to lead us with an exactness that can sometimes leave us astounded! I testify that everyday I am seeing that in my life and getting excited to wake up everyday because of what God will do tomorrow and everyday is amazing in my world....**