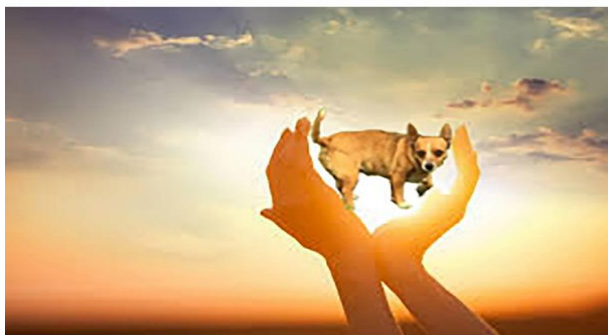


Pinnie



*An incredible true story of the
faithfulness of God and the courage
of a timid little dog called Pinnie*

Doolie Lindbergh

Pinnie

Published by Doolie Lindbergh and Emerald
Fire

www.pinnie.org

www.efire.co.za

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*The most incredible true story of God's
faithfulness
and the courage of a timid little dog called
Pinnie,
who was lost for two and a half days in the bush
in Africa, without food and water, through
the rain, long wet grass, no roads to walk along,
predators prowling everywhere and she
was bone dry when she arrived
at the back door of their home
at midnight.*

DEDICATION

This story is dedicated to our faithful Heavenly Father for whom nothing is impossible, and to this little creature Pinnie, through whose courage and determination to find her home and safety, millions will learn to trust our loving God who never slumbers nor sleeps, but cares for each of our concerns and is always near to help and comfort us through all the trials of life.

“Heavenly Father, Pinnie’s story is my gift to You this Christmas time, to say thank You for all You have done for me in my life and to share Your love with others through this simple little story. I am so grateful that You have loved me with an unconditional and everlasting love. You have never let me down. Your answers to my prayers have always been for my own good. I heard such wise words

from someone one day. They said that You always answer our prayers. The answer may be “Yes”, or “No, because I have something better for you”, or “Not yet, the time is not yet right”. You are always so faithful to us even when we are so often unfaithful to You.

My prayer for this little book is that Lord You will write this beautiful story through me because it's a story of Your love for us all and Your faithfulness. You want us to be kind to each other and to our animals as You say in the Bible in Proverbs – A righteous man takes care of his animals. Thank You for giving them to us as such dear little friends who are so loyal and who teach us so much about life - as did little Pinnie in this story -and how they teach us so much about forgiveness when others hurt us or mistreat us.

I pray that this little story will mean so much to each one who reads it and that they will come to know Your great love for them.

In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.”

CONTENTS

DEDICATION.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	9
INTRODUCTION.....	12
CHAPTER ONE	15
Thursday	15
CHAPTER TWO	23
Friday	23
CHAPTER THREE.....	37
Saturday.....	37
Saturday just past midnight.....	45
CHAPTER FOUR	55
Sunday	55
CHAPTER FIVE	58
Monday.....	58

CHAPTER SIX	62
Some lessons of life that little Pinnie taught me..	62
Prayers against all the odds	63
CHAPTER SEVEN	69
EPILOGUE	86
My Own Journey With God.....	86
FOOTPRINTS.....	99

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank God for this wonderful story. To those who prayed and trusted Him to keep her safe and bring her home. For His faithfulness to little Pinnie.

To my wonderful family and friends who always encouraged me to write and use this gift that God had given me.

To dear Shepherd and his wife Felistas who kept telling me to write this story down as people wanted to read more, after they had shown them the brief 3-page summary I had sent to them just after it had happened.

To our dear neighbours Fred and Anelle who love their little Pinnie and have cared for her all these years.

To one of my dearest friends Haiko, who proof read the final draft and made some very helpful comments as always.

To dear Elspeth Tavares who owns “The Business of Film” magazine and has encouraged me to have Pinnie’s story made into a short film - which she has already started working on.

To dear Jenny and Chanelle who helped me to spread this little story far and wide on the internet through their extensive network of contacts. They even told me an incredible story of how a woman had called them to tell them what had happened to her. She had made a decision to take her own life with her son that day, then she saw that a WhatsApp had come in and decided to look at this last WhatsApp. She opened the attachment of Pinnie which Jenny and Chanelle had sent to her. After reading this

story it made them change their minds as they now realised how much God loved them and how valuable their lives were.

Having lost a very dear friend of mine, Moira, who had always helped me so much with all my creative work I really couldn't think of how I would ever get this done without her. But God made a way and sent Phillip Fetting of EFire who made it all possible by doing the covers for me and putting it into eBook format.

I had thought of putting a picture of the black clouds and the African landscape with a figure of little Pinnie standing there alone on the front cover. But God had inspired him to put the miracle on the front cover rather than her seemingly insurmountable situation. As I wrote in a message to Phillip: "You are brilliant God showed me you were focusing on her miracle and I was focusing on her problem."

That was such a message to me to focus on His miracles rather than on our challenges.

INTRODUCTION

I want to tell you the most incredible story that happened these last few days- that of a timid little dog called Pinnie that belongs to friends of ours, Fred and Anelle, who live next door to our farm.

Pinnie is a story of so much. It is a story not only of God's love for a helpless humble little creature, but this little dog represents you and me during our trials of life.

This is a story of the incredible courage of this timid vulnerable little old dog, that braved the wet weather, long grass, no familiar roads to find her way home, predators prowling around

at night and no food or water for two and a half days.

It is also a story of the unwavering faith of those who believed against all odds that she was still alive. They completely believed in the faithfulness of God to answer their prayers - that this little dog would be found despite all the dangers around her, and that God would protect her. And despite everyone saying - "It's hopeless" - they wouldn't give up.

And above all else it is a story of the faithfulness of God who miraculously rescued her and brought the little creature home to her family. It was at midnight and raining - yet she was bone dry.

It truly is a most remarkable story of faith and courage.

How incredible is God when we trust Him completely for a miracle. We may give up but He never does. And when God answers prayers it is not always our timing but His time. The reason for it is to strengthen our faith and it's always the right time in the greater scheme of things.

It is a very simple little story and only has very few characters in it.

Our faithful God, brave little Pinnie, my dear neighbours Fred and Anelle, Anelle's son Andre, Shepherd a humble man of God who is working for us on the farm, his wife Felistas a godly woman who kept encouraging us from a small village in Zimbabwe, Oupa our wonderful gardener and myself their concerned neighbour.

CHAPTER ONE

Thursday

Last Thursday Anelle's son Andre took the two little dogs on a walk, one very brave little dog called Stokkies and a very timid little one called Pinnie. Pinnie had not really ever gone out walking in that bush area so wasn't very bush wise like her little friend Stokkies.

Anyway, one of them spotted a little buck and they shot off after it into the long grass. Andre tried to run after them and called them back. Stokkies, who he had trained as a puppy, came back but Pinnie didn't - she just seemed to disappear into the bush. Andre searched for about four hours in that whole area and got completely lost as he didn't know it either. He got back home distraught as he hadn't managed to find little Pinnie.

So, the family left and drove along the gravel road near their house looking for her in case she had made her way to that road, as there were no roads in that bush area. But no sign of her at all.

When I returned from town with Oupa, our dear gardener, we saw Fred and Anelle's little red car on the way to town so I called Anelle and asked if they were going to town. She then told me the story about what had just happened.

So I rushed home and we collected the green bakkie (pickup) which had very little petrol but this was an emergency and I would do anything for this little dog. God would provide when I needed more. Oupa and I drove in the two cars to Fred and Anelle's house so we could help them search for little Pinnie.

With the bakkie they could easily drive through the bush and the long grass. I thought I could go in my car which was an Xtrail and they could go in the bakkie, but Fred was worried about me damaging the car in the bush, so we all got into the bakkie and set off to search for this dear little dog.

We drove out through the bush. I was sitting in the front with Fred who was driving and Anelle, her son Andre and Oupa were on the back. I was worried as it was still drizzling and thought that maybe Oupa should have climbed inside as he doesn't have a good chest. I knew Anelle and Andre would have to keep calling her name so she would hear them - but she didn't know Oupa so it wouldn't have helped for him to call her name. But I realised that it was best to have all three looking for little Pinnie and Oupa has such sharp eyes.

They were spotlighting from the back and calling “Pinnie, Pinnie Pie, Pinnie, Pinnie Pie”. And I thought what affection was in that name “Pinnie Pie”, and all wrapped up in that special little family name was what she meant to them all. Oh it was so sad to hear as deep down one really wanted to find her little eyes shining in the light of the spotlight as we scanned the bush and the long grass, but at the same time fearing the worst.

Then suddenly Andre jumped off the bakkie and rushed toward something. They had spotted eyes in the bush which looked like they could be little Pinnie. With joy and relief, we all said – “Oh thank You Lord, thank You!” Then suddenly I heard them say it was a jackal and our hearts sank as she would be such easy prey for one of those and there were several family groups with pups in the area, which would mean they would need to take more

food home to feed them. How could this little helpless creature survive in this bush with all these predators?

We drove and drove everywhere until Fred said that we had covered the whole area and that we should go back. So downhearted we headed home thinking of this little creature alone in the bush in the rain. They kept saying she could have fallen in a hole or been taken by the jackals. I couldn't bear to hear this.

When we got back to their home, I told them I would come again in the morning and help them to look for her. They were so convinced she couldn't survive this ordeal with so many odds against her and kept saying – “Really Doolie don't worry we have looked everywhere and we cannot find her.” But I knew in my heart that I would never give up until I had found her.

So after driving around everywhere we went home and I just felt that the next day, Friday, I would take one of our staff called Shepherd, a truly incredible man of God, who has dreams and visions which God gives him to encourage us, and to steer us back on the right path when we tend to veer off. When he tells me about them it is unbelievable as only God would know those things.

When I got home, I told him about little Pinnie and he said I must not worry as that little dog is still alive. It gave me so much hope as I truly believe that he hears so clearly from the Lord. In my heart I wanted to believe that little Pinnie was still alive somehow - but I needed confirmation from him that mine was not maybe just wishful thinking. And his words encouraged me so much not to worry.

I think since Shepherd is such an important part of this little story, I need to share with you the incredible way in which I met him.

One day I was driving up to Johannesburg and I saw a man standing on the side of the road. I had driven past him but I felt the Lord tell me to help him so I turned around and drove back to see if he needed help. He had just lost his job. He was from Zimbabwe and needed to get to Johannesburg to go home, but he had nothing.

So he got into the car and when we spoke I saw what faith he had. When we got to Johannesburg I gave him my number so he could call me when he got back to see how I could help him. I am so grateful that I could help him financially to get home and we stayed in touch until he came back to South Africa. Since he arrived here at the farm, he has been such a blessing to us.

That was what I call a “Divine appointment.”
There was someone who loved growing
vegetables and crops, could build, help with so
much and above all honoured and loved God
with all his heart.

CHAPTER TWO

Friday

So Friday morning Shepherd and I went to Fred and Anelle's house, trusting the Lord that He would help us to find little Pinnie, even though everyone kept thinking it was impossible, we knew God was the God of the impossible. So we just had to trust Him and not look at the reality of the situation.

Like Peter when the disciples were in the boat and Jesus came to them walking on the water, Peter had the faith to step out of the boat and walk on the water towards Him - and it was only when Peter looked at his reality around him, the stormy weather and the choppy sea, that he started to sink. Then Jesus pulled him up out of the sea. Had Peter not looked at his circumstances but at Jesus, he could have

walked up to Him on the water - but his faith wavered and so he began to sink.

It was such a great support having Shepherd with me as I knew he believed just like I did - that nothing was impossible for God. That we could find dear little Pinnie despite all the obstacles around her.

I remember praying with Shepherd during this difficult time - then reminding him of a verse that said that if we commit our way to God He will lead us.

When we arrived at Fred and Anelle's house that Friday morning, Fred and his brother Anton were walking back from searching for her and had found nothing. They also told us that little Stokkies had got a thorn in his foot so was a little crippled that Friday, so he couldn't come with us. I am sure he would

have loved to come despite his injury but it wouldn't have been wise. I was a bit worried when they told us that he couldn't join the search as he was one of the best in our search party. The day before when he was with us, he kept picking up a scent here and there and dashing after it. We would then run after him hoping that it was little Pinnie's scent. Time and again our hearts were full of hope and then they sank – it wasn't her.

Shepherd told us that she had fallen into a hole and couldn't get out. So before we started out we prayed that God would guide us and help us to find her and that He would keep her safe.

In my “quiet time” book that morning I wrote – “Oh thank You our Heavenly Father that You can do anything. You love us all with an everlasting love and even when we are unfaithful You are faithful. I am trusting You

with Fred's little Pinnie. You know where she is and You are in control. Please protect and keep her safe and bring her back to them in Your miraculous way. Please make them turn completely to You in every way, in our Lord Jesus' beloved name. Thank You in advance for everything You do for us all. Thank You that I had petrol to help them. Thank You so much."

Just before we set out from Fred and Anelle's house I took two big black plastic rubbish bags and made a hole in the top of each of them, as it had been raining and it looked like it would continue for some time still. I showed Shepherd to put his head through the one to use as a makeshift raincoat and I put one on too. That at least kept us more or less dry on the top part of our bodies but the very long wet grass made our trousers so wet. Andre was organised and had remembered to put on his own raincoat.

So with this hope in our hearts that we would find her, we went and walked all over with Andre. I had really wanted Shepherd to walk alone, trusting God to show him where she was, and I could walk quietly behind him just praying that God would guide him to her. I knew He could.

When Shepherd, Andre and I set out searching for her we all walked together at first, until at some point Shepherd told us that he would walk off to the right and we must continue straight and then veer off to the left and search for her. I think he also needed to be alone and quiet to listen to God's guidance.

We met again after about 45 minutes and I asked Shepherd – “What can we do now?” And Shepherd said – “Let's keep on searching.” I had felt exactly the same. But Andre was losing

hope and said – “Let’s go back. I have looked everywhere.” But we couldn’t give up.

As he had walked through the bush, Andre had broken the small branches of the trees which he had passed, to point out where he had already searched. He pointed out to us all the broken sticks, branches and other markers which he had left earlier while he was searching for her. It helped him to remember where he had walked and where he had already searched for her. “I have searched the whole area” – he said, but we kept on. Shepherd and I couldn’t give up hope.

I had also felt that we needed to just be quiet, but dear Andre had so much bush information he wanted to share with us that I didn’t want to dampen his enthusiasm. But my heart was just aching for this little creature and all that

was on my mind was to find her safe and sound.

However, I realised that if we hadn't been walking with him so much we would never have known how much he loved the bush and how much he knew. I realised that good always comes out of bad. I do believe that God can turn a difficult situation around and bring so much good out of it when we trust Him.

Andre was telling us all about the footprints in the wet sand. He would call out – “That’s a buck ...there’s a jackal ... there that one could be Pinnie ...” And so on we walked hoping that we would find some clue to lead us to her, but there were so many footprints in the sand and so much long grass that it made it almost impossible.

At one point Shepherd said to Andre – “This is where you walked, and this is where you lost her.” Andre couldn’t believe it as it was exactly what had happened and Shepherd had not been there that day. Shepherd is really blessed with a gift of knowledge.

When Shepherd had told us earlier that she had fallen into a hole and couldn’t get out, we tried to find the holes and looked everywhere to see if she was in one of them. It had continued raining and with the grass so long it was difficult to find all the holes in the area. But we were determined to carry on.

I just prayed that God would protect her from all the dangers as I knew how timid she was. I asked Him to let her sleep in that hole so she would be alright until we found her. Another time I asked the Lord to put a “GPS” in her to take her home as there would be no way she

could find a path in that long grass. It had been raining for days and she never knew the area, so she wouldn't have had any natural sense of direction to go home.

At some point during our search I had heard a faint noise similar to the whimper of a dog in the bush north west of the house. Shepherd said that he had also heard that sound earlier in the morning in that area. That gave us fresh hope. So we continued looking there hoping to see little Pinnie somewhere.

I kept telling Fred and Anelle that we would find her as God knew exactly where she was and could take us to her. They kept telling us to call it off as they were worried we would get sick walking in the rain. They said there was no chance that we could find her as there were so many jackals in the area, that she couldn't have made it.

Anelle had sent me a WhatsApp at about 11 o'clock that morning asking us to call it off and said just leave it in God's hands. I only saw it later but I would have carried on anyway. Her message said: "Doolie please call it off. It's raining you are going to get sick. There's nothing we can do anymore we've looked everywhere. Leave it now in God's hands."

Little did dear Anelle realise what God would do the next day! So on Sunday I sent her that message back, saying: "That was Friday from you and look what He did!"

During our search I had been sending location pin drops to them so we wouldn't lose the places that Andre had remembered or where he had seen her tracks.

Then at about 12.30 midday Anelle sent me another message: "Doolie please just come back you are too far away from the house. You both are going to get terribly sick. Please come back." But we had to continue for little Pinnie's sake. Somehow, I hoped our prayers and our searching were giving her courage to know she would survive.

While walking around everywhere it was hard not to feel concerned, as in reality time was passing and she had been out there since Thursday midday without food and water and in the wet weather. Sometimes in life we all have this sense of worry come up in our hearts in a difficult situation, but as we keep trusting God for His solution, we sense a real peace in our hearts despite the reality around us.

A special passage in the Bible that has meant so much to me at times in my life when I

needed to remember not to be anxious. It is in Philippians 4 verses 6-7 and it says: “Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart. And God’s peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.”

I had asked Anelle to send me a voice recording of her calling Pinnie, so I could play it loudly on my cell while we were searching. I thought if I did that Pinnie would maybe hear it and she would recognise her familiar voice - “the old familiar music” she would love and respond to - her mother’s voice calling her.

Anelle had actually then sent me a WhatsApp with a voice recording calling her name – “Pinnie, Peanut” but I hadn’t received it until much later as the signal wasn’t good that

day - so I couldn't play it during our search as I had wanted to. When I finally heard it later that made me so sad to hear, as I don't know what I would have done if she hadn't been found - and then only later realised that I actually had Anelle's voice recording to play to her out in the bush that day, to call her with a familiar voice she loved and trusted.

Finally we went home that evening after searching for many hours in the rain. But despite going home we continued to trust God for a miracle - just like I did once with our little dog Sandy. If He did it for Sandy He could do it for little Pinnie too.

Once I had lost Sandy in the bush on our farm and had looked everywhere where I had driven but couldn't find her, so I asked the Lord to please bring her home and He did. I remember I had called my dear friend Haiko

who was at home, to ask him to let me know if she came home. He said : “But she is lying here in the chair and not tired at all.” It was as if God had just picked her up and put her in that chair. A complete miracle!

His love never fails.

CHAPTER THREE

Saturday

I could hardly sleep that night as I couldn't bear thinking of little Pinnie alone in the dark out there and afraid. But I needed to remember my prayer - when I asked God to protect her and keep her safe, I needed to just trust Him to do that. That's when we need to remember just to hand it over to God and ask Him to take care of our loved ones who are in any danger.

There are such special verses in the Bible that really encourage me in times like these.

In Proverbs 3 verses 5-6 it says: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways

acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

And in Psalm 46 verse 10 God reminds us - “Be still and know that I am God.”

God knew that I needed an encouraging word that morning and when I looked at my WhatsApp’s, I saw that Shepherd’s wife had sent me such a dear message that Saturday morning, saying: “Good morning my dear. I heard that you lost your puppy. Don’t lose hope keep on searching you will find it.” My heart surged with hope once more and it kept me believing that we would find her alive.

I immediately answered her saying: “God is faithful. I will send your message to Shepherd because I told him this morning what we must do. I want to take him there alone for God to show him without disturbance of anyone

talking. I want to show those people how God is a God of miracles and Shepherd is a true man of God."

She answered:

"Yes God is faithful all the days so don't bother yourself."

I know God is a God of miracles - as I have seen it so often in my own life, that I truly do believe He can do the impossible as we trust Him completely.

So that morning I told Shepherd that I was going to drop him off with some food and that he must go alone and find her. I had to go to town to fetch my brother so I couldn't come until later. But I felt he should be totally alone and just ask God to show him exactly where she was. So I dropped him off on my way to town.

I sent this message to Shepherd's wife: "I am dropping Shepherd off now please pray for him till he finds it. We are trusting God for a miracle."

When I got back from town I dropped my brother off at the house and then called Shepherd to see what had happened. On one hand not wanting to hear any bad news - but on the other, I wanted to know if there was any chance he had found her safe and sound.

In the morning he had prayed and asked God to show him exactly where she was. He had prayed that just as God had led the Israelites through the desert so He could easily do this for him.

But then when I spoke to him, he told me that he had returned to Fred and Anelle's house,

and gave me the sad news that he had found a jackal hole where there had been a fight and there were fresh bones there that looked like a little dog. I couldn't believe it – somehow I just didn't want to believe it.

I went to collect Shepherd feeling devastated and so guilty for letting little Pinnie down, feeling we could have done so much more to save her. I kept seeing those dear little brown eyes.

Shepherd said that we must accept it. But I couldn't imagine it, nor could I easily accept this. I had just hoped and believed that she would be found safe and sound.

So I drove to Fred and Anelle's house to collect Shepherd. When I arrived there he was talking to Anton, Fred's brother, who had accepted the fact long before that she could not have

survived this ordeal. How often we listen to others and get convinced that maybe they are right and yet we are just hoping against hope for something that cannot be.

We drove home, Shepherd telling me to accept this situation, that we must accept God's will. But somehow I felt there was a waver in his voice and I hoped that he would say- " We will find her don't worry, we will find her." But he didn't and that made me so sad.

When we got home I dropped him off and I went to my house just feeling so down. I felt so sad and guilty that I had not done more to look for her. That I had somehow let her down. I was devastated. Little did I know that Shepherd, despite what he had told me on the way home, continued to pray for this little Pinnie - so deep in his heart he also had a feeling that somehow she was still alive.

I sent this message to Anelle : “Too sad about our little Pinnie Pie. I thought yesterday Shepherd must just go alone and ask God to lead him to her. And we all went together by mistake. Today I told him to go alone and find her and it seemed he did. I am so so sad for you and feel we could have saved her had I listened to what I felt was right yesterday - that Shepherd just be quiet alone to find her. This has been a real lesson to me.”

God truly speaks to us through our inner voice, and when we listen to that small quiet voice within we always make the right decision - despite what others around us may be telling us to do.

I couldn't get that dear little dog out of my mind. Later that evening I wrote to Anelle: “ I am sure the other dogs are wondering when

she will come home. But they have a way of accepting more than we do.” Somehow I felt closer to little Pinnie when I wrote about her to Anelle. I also realised that both Fred and Anelle would be suffering so much and missing her.

During these past days when she had been missing, God had made Shepherd, his wife and me feel in our hearts that she was somehow alive even when the family had given up on ever finding her. So when Shepherd, Andre and I had walked around calling her name – “Pinnie, Pinnie...”, and Andre had whistled like he used to with them so it would have been familiar to her, one hoped that she may have known we weren’t giving up on her, no matter what.

But God had another plan. His timing is not our timing. Had one of us found her, it would not

have been such a miracle as what unfolded that Saturday at midnight. It was almost as if God waited until we had almost all given up hope and then He showed up with something that nobody could have imagined possible.

Saturday just past midnight

Anelle rang me just past midnight. When I first heard the cell ring I thought – “Oh no what has happened now and I can’t even help them at the moment as I would always want to.”

But she said: “I have good news for you!” And then she told me the incredible story.

She said that at midnight Fred had been lying in bed praying that God would protect their home, their family and their animals. And he had heard a noise outside. He thought it was something near the chicken coop, so he looked

there but there was nothing. He never imagined it could have been her. He then heard that the noise was at the back door, so he went there to open it - and there in the rain was little Pinnie, bone dry looking up at him.

I was so excited and sent this message to her right away: "God is so faithful He kept her safe and protected as we prayed and brought her back – what a complete miracle!"

As soon as I had heard the news, I sent this WhatsApp to Shepherd so he would see it as soon as he woke up in the morning.

"She's alive just arrived at their back door!!! They rang me now. God is so faithful and so great!!! I just couldn't believe it yesterday and felt so guilty that I had let her down by not finding her. Thank you for everything xxx"

I believe that God could have helped her out of that hole and put a “GPS” in her so that she would know exactly where to walk in that long grass, and that He would have put a shield around her protecting her from all those predators during that time. But He could also have done something else. It was as if God had picked her up out of the hole where she was stuck and put her gently down at the back door, bone dry, to show that He hears our prayers and answers the most impossible ones - that He is faithful to the end.

As Jesus said in Mark 10 verse 27: “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Little Pinnie reminded me of the one lost sheep in the parable in the New Testament. Jesus said that the shepherd would leave the ninety-nine sheep and go and look for the one

lost sheep until he found it. It was like Shepherd and I were looking for little Pinnie just as the shepherd in that parable would have been searching and searching for his one lost sheep until he found it. Pinnie was like our little lost sheep that we were searching for and we didn't want to give up until we had found her.

It was just so incredible - I thought that God seemed to wait until even Shepherd had accepted little Pinnie's fate at the jackal hole. When I couldn't believe it, didn't want to believe it, Shepherd just said quietly - "It's in God's hands." Somehow those few simple words are all someone needs to hear to comfort them in a difficult situation that is out of their control.

It seemed that once we had all accepted it, God showed up in the most incredible way and in His perfect timing!

I had WhatsApp'd dear Anelle: "Yesterday about lunch time I called Shepherd and he had just arrived back at your house after searching for little Pinnie. He told me that he had found some bones but I just couldn't believe it. He had also felt that she was still alive, somehow. That was the Holy Spirit telling us she was alive!"

I continued: "I can't wait to show these messages to the staff here to understand the power of prayer and how God shows us things so clearly – only He could have protected her from all that danger around her."

I encouraged Anelle: "Please share this miracle with all your friends on Facebook. I am going

to write a film about this little dog and her story. It will be so famous all children will want to see it and all ages – called just “Pinnie”. It will be a story about faith and not giving up as God is completely faithful.”

I asked her to send me a photo of little Pinnie saying: “Please remember the photo as I want to post on Facebook today with the incredible story of her courage and God’s complete faithfulness.” I don’t often post things but this was too special not to share with others to encourage them.

I asked her to send me a message about exactly what had happened that Saturday night.

Her message read: “Do you know what - Fred could not sleep, it was just past midnight so he prayed the Lord to protect his house and people and animals because lately all these

bad things are just happening without stop. While he prayed he heard a strange sound and went looking and found her at the back door. It was raining outside but Pinnie was bone dry. How did this happen? Could only be a miracle by God.”

I answered saying: “I know God is such a God of miracles! He waited till we had stopped searching after Shepherd had found those fresh bones yesterday at the jackal hole, but I kept feeling this can’t be and deep down so did he. When people give up, He shows up. Like those lost at sea, shipwrecked and treading water, praying that someone would find them – amazing stories of how they were found miraculously! I was thinking of that when we were looking for her.”

Just after that wonderful call from Anelle this is what I wrote in my “quiet time” book (in

which I write some of my prayers and thoughts when I am sitting quietly with the Lord).

“Oh Lord You are so faithful. They just called a few minutes after midnight. You answered our prayers to protect little Pinnie and to put a GPS in her to find her home. You are so so wonderful Lord. May they believe like never before and all their family and friends, in Jesus’ beloved Name I pray.” (And how You answered this prayer in a way we couldn’t even have imagined - thank You so so much!)

I had continued to write in my “quiet time” book: “May everyone who sees this film have a faith surge within them to know they can pray and trust You to answer the impossible like You have answered me time and time again. Help them to trust You too like Shepherd and I do.”

When Anelle had sent me photos of little Pinnie I sent this message: “Love those photos so much that little face was in my mind all the time.”

I later sent this message - “God gave me an idea we must pray about it – to find a toy company that can make little Pinnie dogs for children and the profit can go to helping vulnerable abused children – and abused dogs. She’s going to be world famous every child will want to cuddle and care for her.”

One hears such incredible stories of how dogs protect their human families even at the expense of their own lives. That is how much they love yet so often they are neglected, abused and hurt by the very people they would die to protect. I hope this little story makes people realise that kindness to animals is so

important too. Maybe one day their lives will depend on it.

CHAPTER FOUR

Sunday

Shepherd's wife sent this message: "How are you my dear? Did you find the little dog?"

To which I answered: "You will not believe it God did a complete miracle!!! The little dog came back to them last night at midnight to the back door – after two and half days with no food and water –through the rain, long wet grass, no roads to walk along, jackal prowling everywhere and she was bone dry when they opened the door! The husband was praying at that time asking God to protect them and their animals and look what He did. He brought her back bone dry. It wouldn't have been such a miracle if we had found her, but this was a complete miracle!"

Then I wrote: “I am going to send you my WhatsApp to them. God is so faithful He kept her safe and protected as we prayed and brought her back – what a complete miracle!”

She then sent this wonderful message – “My Lord is faithful. Don’t stop praising Him. He can do a lot of miracles ...He never fails His promises to those who endure in His word.”

And I replied to her – “Oh how true and your encouragement meant so much to us confirming what we both felt.”

On Sunday I was so looking forward to seeing little Pinnie, but I thought best to leave her quietly to just be at home again and not to be disturbed by the noise of the others barking when I arrived.

I wrote to Anelle: "Oh I want to see her but I think best she is just with you today. Going to start writing her story today. You will see how famous she will be. I just loved her from the minute I saw her little eyes just like Tessie (my little Jack Russell) - so timid and that makes it even more incredible", and then I added – "Going to write the whole story this week about everything. What a time we all had throughout this but God came through as I believed He would xxx"

In my "quiet time" book that day I had written

–
"Thank You so much Heavenly Father for helping me to write that wonderful story and all the wonderful ideas. I am sure it will go viral (as they say) because it's an incredible miracle. May everyone who sees it be absolutely amazed and believe in Your miracles again. In Jesus' beloved name."

CHAPTER FIVE

Monday

Shepherd told me that his wife had said to him that this story was spreading all over Zimbabwe and they wanted more of the story!

I had sent this little story (just the three pages which I had initially written) to some of my friends around the world to share what an incredible thing had happened to me that week. I told Anelle that this story was going all over the world - a story of God's faithfulness and their incredible little dog Pinnie.

I went to see little Pinnie today and at first she was so timid, but after a while as I bent down and stroked her gently and spoke to her, we bonded - and I am sure she knew deep down

that I had a special love for her - that's why I never gave up searching for her.

Another very special thing happened on Monday morning when Fred and Anelle came to the farm to check on the cattle. Fred was very subdued and he told me that after little Pinnie had returned he felt so close to God and so much more at peace in himself. He said that he had felt distanced from God recently, but this whole ordeal with Pinnie, and how she came back to them while he was praying, made his faith come back again like never before.

This was truly an answer to my prayer that night, just after I had received that wonderful news from Anelle about little Pinnie's return.

It makes me think how often God answers our prayers, yet we forget to stop and thank Him so much for those answered prayers.

“Thank You dearest Heavenly Father once again for that answered prayer, as so many others in my life. Help us to always thank You for all You do for us.”

During that week I sent a message to Anelle – “I have been praying about you for God to give you favour and a new beginning. Just you expect something new. Andrew Murray once said: “Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectation.””

Just like what happened that Saturday night. Not one of us would have imagined!

In my “quiet time” book that day I had written

–

“You helped me write that wonderful little story so it could go around the world and little Pinnie, so humble and dear, would become so

loved around the whole world. She will remind everyone of what You did for her in her time of need in impossible circumstances. And You can do it for each of those reading these pages in any of their difficult situations that overwhelm them.”

CHAPTER SIX

Some lessons of life that little Pinnie taught me.

To me little Pinnie is like a symbol of God's faithfulness through our most difficult times.

This story of what happened to her made me realise that you need to really cherish the things you have that matter to you when they are there. It's often only when you lose something that you really love that you realise how much you loved it.

So, cherish whatever really matters to you in life while it is still there to cherish.

Another lesson which I had learnt from this I had written in my "quiet time" book that following week.

“Oh Lord this little story of what happened makes me realise that You love me, just as I am, You love me – no criticism, no judgment, no condemnation, just unconditional love. Thank You so so much. I think of how we worry so much and yet You remind us how You feed the birds of the air, so why do we worry so much? “

In Matthew chapter 6 verses 26- 27 Jesus tells us: *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”*

Prayers against all the odds

Do you know when I think of my prayers for this little Pinnie - they would seem impossible

to anyone who hadn't yet experienced the power of believing that God can answer the impossible. He truly does answer impossible prayers when people themselves often give up.

When I prayed that God would protect little Pinnie, make her sleep in the hole where she fell and put a GPS in this little dog's head - I believed completely that God could do that for her.

My prayer for each of you is that this story inspires you to remember that God is always there to answer your prayers, even the most difficult impossible ones, but it is not always in our timing or in our way that He answers. He does it in a way that we couldn't ever imagine or hope and how grateful we are for His faithfulness. When we look back it's always the right time and the best way in the greater scheme of things.

I remember just asking God to help me to write this wonderful little story for Him because it is all about Him and His love and care for His little creature Pinnie, which is in a way like a symbol of each of us. It's about His faithfulness and His perfect timing in coming to our rescue. It's about His miraculous answers when we almost give up He shows up and does far more than we could ever ask or imagine.

May this little dog Pinnie always be a reminder to you never to give up, to trust God's perfect timing and to always remember that you are never alone, even in the most difficult times of your life. God was there for little Pinnie in her darkest hour and He will be there for you too, to bring you to a place of safety as He did for her.

To all those who believe I pray this little story will inspire your faith and your trust in our Heavenly Father whose love never fails.

And to all those who have never known the unconditional love of God in a real way, may you come to know Him and understand how much you mean to Him through the pages of this little story. I pray that you would also experience His deep love for you, His constant watching over you and realise that He is but just a prayer away in any situation.

In 1 Peter 5 verse 7 it says: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

During those difficult days I noticed that at the bottom of each page of my "quiet time" book, that a dear friend had given to me, there was a different Bible verse - and how special each one was in helping us at that time. I just felt I

wanted to share these with you. I am sure they will also encourage you when you need them. Some I have shared in the story but these I have left until now.

Psalm 139:23

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”

Nahum 1:7

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”

Psalm 31:3

“For You are my rock and my fortress; and for Your name’s sake You lead me and guide me.”

Psalm 32:8

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will guide you with my eye.”

I have found that so often when we need it, the Holy Spirit will bring a verse to our mind to encourage or guide us. So we are never left without His help.

CHAPTER SEVEN

When I decided to write little Pinnie's story it was so that many would hear of her courageous survival and know that it was only through God's miracle that she came home to those she loved. I just wanted to write this story so it could be shared with others to encourage them about God's miracles and how He answers our prayers even in impossible situations, and to share about the courage of this dear little dog called Pinnie, that had burrowed herself into my heart from the minute I first saw her without her even realising it. Such a humble gentle little creature whose story of courage will change lives around the world.

I also realised what an incredible story of faith and courage. On the one side our faith that this little dog would be found despite all the

dangers of predators and the wet weather – and that we wouldn't give up despite everyone saying: "It's hopeless". And on the other side the courage of little Pinnie, and how she survived days without food and water, with so many dangers around her, yet she arrived miraculously at the back door of her home at midnight.

This simple little story of Pinnie has come to mean much more than I ever thought – something I never even expected, but God did. It is evolving into something so much more than I imagined, into a wonderful ministry that is touching so many lives already.

I came to realise that this little story could become a wonderful evangelism tool because it is such a simple little story yet with such an impact on people's lives. It all began when

Shepherd's wife decided to share this story with her church one Sunday in Zimbabwe.

A week after dear little Pinnie came home, Shepherd's wife told me that she was going to share this story at Church the next day, as I had sent her a brief summary of what had happened the previous week, as she had asked me to do. She had been so touched by it.

I sent her this message "This is going to be such an incredible evangelism tool for children and their parents and so many around the world, to know the love of our Heavenly Father, that He sent His Son for us because He loves us so much."

She wrote back to me – "All thanks and glory to the Almighty who gave you the power and the authority to use Pinnie as the way of evangelism."

Just after her Church service on this Sunday, Shepherd's wife sent me this incredible WhatsApp – "Today was a very good day. I see the power of the Lord when I was busy ministering Pinnie's story, people were very touched with the story and most of them repented of their bad doings. "

I couldn't believe it at first – "Oh my goodness, how incredible is that? This little story is from the Lord to the world. Such a simple little story yet with the power of God behind it. What an incredible thing that the Lord showed you to minister that story yesterday and the Holy Spirit changed their hearts because of its message of God's love and faithfulness, and that He can do the impossible in our lives when we trust Him completely. Can you try and send that to all the Pastors there? Oh, how wonderful that little Pinnie's story can change

hearts at this special time to focus people back to the real reason for this season of Christmas – God’s love for mankind through sending His only Son Jesus.”

Shepherd’s wife had sent me another message saying – “Your story teaches to have patience and to wait for God’s right time. Thank you so much.”

Though it had been such a hard time it was all worth it because of what God was bringing out of that difficult situation.

Just after I had received this wonderful news from Shepherd’s wife, I sent Shepherd this message - “Oh Shepherd isn’t this amazing that God is going to turn so many to Him through the pages of this little story. Isn’t it incredible but that’s why the Holy Spirit showed us to write those three pages – and now the other

pages will be finished tomorrow. He will bring the right people to help with the book. Going to start the Children's book this week. "

In my "quiet time" book that Sunday I wrote - "Oh Lord she ministered the story of little Pinnie to her Church and she said how most of them repented of their ways. Please help keep that little story alive all over Zimbabwe to give them hope and a future. Thank You so much for Shepherd's wife. How incredible that You led her to share that little story and how it changed hearts to repentance and coming to You. May the gentle Holy Spirit do this each and every time it's read, in Jesus' beloved name I pray. Thank you so so much. "

As I mentioned I had never imagined this happening as a result of my writing this little story which I believe God had given to me to share with others at this Christmas time.

I have known for a long time that writing is one of the gifts that God has given me, to be a blessing to others and to share His love with the world. I want to use the gifts that He has given to me to write His wonderful stories like this one to encourage others.

But I always seemed to put off finishing these special stories which I honestly believe He had given to me to encourage others through the characters of each of them. I realised that procrastination is often just a lack of confidence and a fear of failure holding one back and that so often our greatest limits are usually the ones we place on ourselves without even realising it.

I just prayed that God would help me to write Pinnie's story and to finish it before Christmas so that I could share it with people all around

the world to bless them at this special time. And He answered my prayer and helped me - so I know He will do the same with all the other stories too. Writing and finishing this story has given me the confidence to write and finish the other stories which He has given to me to share with His broken and hurting world.

When Shepherd's wife had first asked me to send the story to her, I had only written those three pages as a summary of what had happened over those days with Pinnie. When I sent it to her I also sent it to some of my family and friends together with two little photographs of Pinnie with the simple inscription - "Brave little Pinnie" and a note - "Please share with all your friends - so incredible it happened this past weekend. God is a God of miracles!" I do hope they did.

When I saw the reaction to those three pages from all those to whom I had sent it, I realised that this little story would touch so many hearts. So with the encouragement of Shepherd's wife I began to write the full story before Christmas so this wonderful message of God's miracle would go around the world at this special time, to remind all those reading it that He is always there for them and is still a God who cares for their needs just as He took care of this little Pinnie He will take care of them. He can do the impossible for them too - just as He did for this dear little dog.

My darling Mum had also sent me a lovely message - "It truly is such a wonderful story - only God could do that." She always encouraged us to just do our best, that was all we could do. And how true are those words. She never put pressure on us to get the best results at school but simply to do the best we

could. That way we felt accepted no matter what results we ended up with - as long as we did our best.

One of my dearest friends Carol Lappeman was so amazed by it when I sent it to her too – “What a miracle and happy ending to all the worry and searching!!” During those days there were times when one had to remember not to let worry take over, but to just trust that God would make a way.

A dear friend of mine in America, Ingrid Faro sent me this special message too - “What a wonderful and amazing story. And you write so beautifully my friend! Thank you for sharing this big little miracle of God’s tender love and care.”

Another friend of mine in America, Elspeth Tavares, who has been in the film business for

many years and owns “The Business of Film” magazine, was so touched by it too.

She sent me this dear message - “How amazing completely amazing heavens be to the Lord! Everyone must have been so HAPPY - just reading the story brought tears to my eyes – the little sausage out there in the wild on its own.”

Elspeth also encouraged me to do YouTube clips of the story and how to do it - which I am so grateful for. So I hope to do that soon - as YouTube is a wonderful way of sharing stories that matter. I had mentioned to her that I had thought of writing a book and having a film made of such courage and to show that God answers impossible prayers even when we have given up.

I was also so touched by the special messages from Komotso, the dear daughter of Caroline Sere who had been born on our farm and is such a wonderful godly woman.

“Oh, my goodness such faith! God says as long as we cling to Him, we will not be put to shame...my goodness. I’m so fired up this morning.”

Then she added this special verse that I had mentioned earlier – Matthew 6 verse 26:

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

“I’m truly touched and inspired this morning,” she wrote. “If God can take care of all the plants and animals ... what more can He do for

His children ...What manner of love is this? He truly is God of all flesh.”

I also told her about the idea which I believe God had given to me about having little Pinnie toys made for children. I believe they would mean so much to them - and they would remind them all their lives of God's constant love and faithfulness.

These little Pinnie toys could have a small brass tag around their neck with an inscription – “I am here to remind you how much God loves you always and He is a God of miracles”.

I would love these to be given to all Sunday School and Creche children with a little Children's book called “Pinnie” - to encourage their faith while they are still young. As the Bible teaches us in Proverbs 22 verse 6 that if you teach someone when they are young, they

will not depart from it in their old age. It would also remind them, many of whom may never have known their earthly father, that little Pinnie was saved miraculously by their loving caring Heavenly Father.

When I mentioned this to Komotso she answered with joy - "I'd also want one, especially after hearing what God did to bring Pinnie back home, safe and secure. It'll remind them of God's love and care that if He could save that little dog, He can save them too."

It made me think if others wanted one, we could have a copy of the three page summary to go with it. I am going to pray for the right company to help me do this, as I believe these little Pinnie toys would be a reminder of all Pinnie represents.

As Komotso is a wonderful singer too I asked her to write a song for this little story - as I could use it when I do the film one day. I know it will be a beautiful song as the Holy Spirit will anoint it.

Just like with all the special messages which I had received, I had so appreciated Shepherd's wife's encouragement about writing Pinnie's story in full with all the details that I remembered. I had told her that I am just trusting the Holy Spirit to help me as it's God's story about His love and faithfulness. And I knew little Pinnie would be a reminder to everyone of this. What an incredible little creature she is.

I am so happy that I wrote this little story around Christmas and I hope that those who receive it will share it with others and in their Churches too - just like Shepherd's wife did. I

pray that Pinnie's story will continue to draw people to God through this simple message of His love and faithfulness –so that they could learn to trust Him completely in all their situations and know that He can help change their lives day by day. He is only a prayer away.

By this little story going out at Christmas time I prayed that those who would see it would focus on God and His love for them – rather than on materialistic things which pass but His Word endures forever. I wanted it to encourage people to remember Christmas time is about the greatest gift of all to mankind – Jesus.

I prayed – “Please help me to send to all the Pastors and Preachers around the world so that they can include this little story in their message one day to remind people of Your

love, just like Shepherd's wife had done. Thank You so much for helping me to put this down on paper. Forgive me for the delays that got me a bit off track. But You are a loving, caring and forgiving God and every day is a new beginning. May this little Pinnie live on in the hearts of people around the world as she will always remind them of You."

EPILOGUE

My Own Journey With God

Do you know that this little story would never have happened and I wouldn't have written it had the three of us - Shepherd, Shepherd's wife and I not had a close relationship with God. We have all grown to trust Him completely and to know that He will never let us down. We have learnt to trust His timing and His plan though it may not always be the one we want at the time, but we know He loves us and His plans are to bless us not to harm us.

As God reminds us in the Bible in the book of Jeremiah 29 verses 11-13 it says-

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

When I was 22 years old God brought someone across my path, a dear friend called Ingrid from America, and she shared her love of God with me. I knew that I loved God but my lifestyle was nothing that honoured Him in any way. I realised that I didn't know Him like she did. She never judged me or condemned me but only showed God's love for me.

She asked me a simple question: "Have you ever asked Jesus into your heart?" I said – "I thought so, but I realise maybe I haven't."

She invited me to a Church service and the Pastor asked at the end of the service if anyone wanted prayer. Eventually after another dear friend Dafna kept saying – "Why don't you go up and talk to him. You keep saying you are feeling bad about your lifestyle so go up. He

can pray for you.” Of course many people, like me, who are very private in their character feel embarrassed to do that in front of lots of people. Often it’s just our pride. So she had to keep saying that over and over until eventually I did get up and go forward for prayer. That is how God can use others in our lives. He knows when we are ready - it’s just often that our pride stops us or not wanting to change our lives.

So I finally went up to the front to the Pastor. I started to tell him about my situation but of course the Holy Spirit already knew and could show this to him. My situation was only a reflection of the condition of my heart and mind.

He just said quietly- “Lift your hands”, and he started to pray for me. Lifting my hands was very important as it made me humble myself before God and everyone who was there. Pride was one of my biggest stumbling blocks that had caused a lot of problems in my life.

The most incredible thing happened to me and I realised that God had changed me. I felt the Holy Spirit in my heart to overflowing and that God had forgiven me for everything that I had done in the past. All I needed to do was to accept Jesus into my heart and He promised that He would give us the Holy Spirit to help us, comfort us and guide us. And He did.

Since that day so much has changed in my life, especially in my character. I was selfish and God made me kinder and more thoughtful of

others. I was immoral and God made me realise the importance of morality in my life for so many reasons.

We often feel the need to change other people, but it is God's job not ours. We only need to love them, and share God's love with them like Ingrid did with me. That is the way others can learn of God's love for them. And when they have the Holy Spirit inside them, He changes them day by day.

It is not my job to try to force people to believe in God, or to love God, or to accept Jesus in their hearts, that is God's. I can only share what God did for me. He will draw people closer to Him but He never forces us. He gives us a free choice.

As Jesus said : “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.” Revelation 3 verse 20.

Though at times, more than I want to remember, after I had accepted Jesus in my heart, I had felt far from God. I had not spent much time with Him or listened to His guidance for my life. I had started to do my own thing again, which only brought sadness into my life and others’ lives around me.

But as we ask God to forgive us for the things which have been wrong in our lives, and trust Him to forgive us, He does time and time again. There is so much we can learn about this

lesson of His mercy and forgiveness toward us and others.

Though we stray off the right path, God always gently brings us back. The Holy Spirit is the quiet gentle voice within our heart saying – “This is the path, walk in this path.” Yet how often do we try and dull that gentle voice with the “busyness” of life and people around us - and listen to everyone else around us, and bow down to the pressure of others and others’ opinions - and not heed this inner voice that knows what is best for us in the long term.

This is the one way you can always know what is the right way to go, as only God can talk to your heart in the inner man. No one else can. He guides us with His peace. So when there is a lack of peace in your heart, that is not the right

decision for your life, even though you may think it is. But God knows the future and how it will affect your life later on if you take that path.

I realise that when I walk close to God, He not only speaks to my heart through that gentle inner voice which is the Holy Spirit, but as I read the Bible which is His Word, He guides me in the most incredible way. And then once again - it is my choice to listen to His voice. When I do, there is always incredible peace in the midst of any situation.

Another thing I want to share with you is that God is our Protector. God has protected my family and me in the most incredible way. Once when we were facing guns pointed at us and one of the people said – “Oh just shoot

them, shoot them!” – God protected us and gave me the words I would never have had if I hadn’t known Him. I spoke out with total confidence in God’s ability to protect us – “In Jesus’ Name stop it! In Jesus’ Name just stop it!” And they ran away out into the dark. How incredible is that.

I want to also share one of my favourite passages in the Bible. In Ephesians 3 verses 20-21 it says:

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. “

This little story of Pinnie means so much to me and I hope it will to you too, as it shows us that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. If He did it for little Pinnie He can do it for you and your loved ones.

I want to finish “My Own Journey with God” with this very special verse. In John 3:16-17 it says: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

Always remember that God is only a prayer away. You can say a short prayer like this one if you feel led to accept Jesus into your own heart. It will change your life. You will never feel alone and as Shepherd, his wife and I knew – God answers our prayers and He is the God

of the impossible. He is faithful to the end - even when we are unfaithful, He remains faithful.

“Lord Jesus, thank You so much for what You did for me on the cross while I was yet far from You and so often only thinking of what I wanted to do. You died for my sins to cleanse me and bring me close to my Heavenly Father. I ask You to please come into my heart and change me and make me the way You want me to be. Forgive all that I have done that has been wrong or hurt others and grieved the Holy Spirit. Thank You so much for loving me just as I am. Amen.”

***THE END
OF A SPECIAL STORY THAT
I HOPE TOUCHED YOUR HEART***

FOOTPRINTS

One night, a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life, there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replies. "My precious child. I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

*When I look at the sky, which you have made,
at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places —
what are human beings, that you think of them;
mere mortals, that you care for them?*

Psalms 8:3-4 GNB

