

THOUGHTS  
to  
PONDER

Daily Readings

ANNE SKINNER

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Publishing



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Hannah House, MPO Box 2813, Niagara Falls, New York, 14302

ISBN-13: 978-1535325288

ISBN-10: 1535325283

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to my beautiful niece

Carrie Anne Vacca



When Carrie was four years old we were camping by the water. All the other kids were going to play and have fun. Carrie came to me and said “Auntie, I am staying with you. I don’t want you to be alone”. Over the years she has faithfully visited letting me know that I am not alone.

Love you Carrie

Special Thanks to



GARY JEFFERSON

Who graciously has let me use his beautiful photography. He has truly been a blessing to me. This cover is done by him and also the scripture he posted.

To contact Gary Jefferson please visit  
Facebook  
**<https://www.facebook.com/gary.jefferson.71?fref=ts>**

There you will find many beautiful pictures that he has taken with his lovely wife. Gary also has a page on FB of photography lessons that I am sure you will love.

## Cover Photo

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

The Spanish missions in California comprise a series of 21 religious outposts; established by Catholic priests of the Franciscan order between 1769 and 1833, to expand Christianity among the Native Americans northwards into what is today the U.S. state of California.

Gary Jefferson

## Introduction

For many years I always wanted to write a book that would give daily readings of encouragement to others.

This is the one of many books that will do just that. Please read and pass it on to others.

May you be blessed as you read.

**1** WHAT WE SAY is so important. Each time we go to open our mouths lets stop and think about what we are going to say. Life and Death are in the power of the tongue, did you know that? SPEAK positive things about yourself and others... Stop hating and start loving others. LOVE youself first of course or you certainly won't be able to love anyone properly. We can pull people down, change our circumstances, and change our way of thinking if we watch what we say. TODAY IS GOING TO BE A GREAT DAY....Enjoy it

**2** OUR LAND IS IN A MESS.... OUR CITY IS IN A MESS.... I read this scripture this morning and had to write this .... GOD IS SPEAKING TO "HIS PEOPLE" those in the Churches, those who profess to be "Christians" RIGHT? What is He telling the Church here, TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES and PRAY...SEEK HIS FACE and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS.... Yikes I have heard this preached that this is for those who have never come to the Lord at all... WELL WAKE UP CHURCH this is directed at YOU..... I am so tired of see so many suffer, our Kids/Teens are in a mess and dying all around us, little kids fighting and parents edging them on as they take a video to post on Youtube... I could go on and on with the stories but what I really want to say is "WHERE ARE THE CHURCH PEOPLE" WHERE ARE THOSE WHO "SAY" THEY LOVE GOD... Do you really read your Bible and see what it has to say to you? It tells us to walk in LOVE and to go out and tell others ..NOT JUDGE THEM, NOT CONDEMN THEM but to tell them of the LOVE that God has for them... HOW DO WE LOVE THEM? DO something to help them.. and don't expect anything in return...Share what you got and stop hoarding things up.. You won't be able to

take it with you... YOU WANT YOUR LAND  
HEALED OR WHAT? I DO... I WANT PEACE  
HERE ON EARTH... there is only ONE WAY  
my friend... Get out from behind the pulpits  
and quit sitting in your pews and let's reach  
out to others...

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name,  
shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek  
my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then  
will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their  
sin, and will heal their land.

**3** THE OTHER day I went to dye my hair well I put another color in it and it turned out purple... after much work it became a smokey purple, very light ... Made me think how we can change our outward appearance and yet we are still the same inside. God looks at our hearts, you can't fool Him even if we change our hair color, get a face lift and lose some weight... We are still the same inside... What does your heart look like? Will God be pleased when He looks at your heart? Do you love others? Take a minute and think about these words... You may have to make some adjustments...

## 4 Psalm 118

118 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

3 Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

4 Let them now that fear the Lord say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

5 I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place.

6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

7 The Lord taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

8 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

10 All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them.

11 They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about: but in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

12 They compassed me about like bees: they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

13 Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall: but the Lord helped me.

14 The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly.

16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly.

17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord:

20 This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter.

21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord.

27 God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

28 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

29 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

**5** It is so wonderful to realize that we are loved, no matter what.

For many years I used to think God was way up in the sky and it was impossible to reach Him. Little did I know that I could have a personal relationship with Him. Since I discovered that it wasn't Religion but a Relationship with God that I needed my life has changed. I am FREE, not because of anything I have done but because of what JESUS has done. He paid the price for my Freedom and I am so truly thankful. You too can be FREE today... Call upon Him and give Him all your burdens and cares...

**6** The world around us is in turmoil and yet we can have that assurance that nothing will hurt us. We can walk and hold our heads high knowing that God has everything under control. No matter what people say. No matter what people do. We have a GOD that loves us unconditionally. I often think about this world without Jesus and my heart skips a few beats. WE need Jesus in our lives to keep us going. Please read your Bible and Pray and ask the Lord to help you through every day. Our world is in turmoil but we can be at peace knowing HE is with us.

**7** SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY people just don't turn to God...I once was told that it was a crutch and they didn't need a crutch, they were going to live their life. Well it was a few years earlier I stood by the bed of that person, he was dying... He asked for prayer and wanted the Lord in his life. He died a few days later at the age of 25 years old. He didn't think it was a crutch then, He knew he was dying and needed JESUS... When I gave my life over to Christ, my life changed... I still had to learn alot but it changed and for the better. People are struggling so much but still won't give their lives to GOD.. He can help you as He did me if you will only give Him a chance. You will never look back when you really meet Him... You will be so happy .... happier than anything could ever give you...Many seem stuck in their misery... How truly sad...

**8** I REMEMBER a few years ago having a Missionary Couple come and stay with me for the Weekend... Wonderful couple and we still keep in touch. They were Missionaries from India. The lady asked if she could see my little rabbit that had a cage outside. I really didn't want to take her out back as I had put straw down since there was no grass and it was so muddy for the kids.. Straw seemed to work fine... Well I started to tell her how bad my backyard was and she looked at me with such love in her eyes... "Anne, my living room is a dirt floor in India" She smiled and we went out to look at the Rabbit... I learned a lesson that day... When people give their ALL to follow Christ they are not concerned with their surroundings, they just go and do what Jesus wants them to do....

**9** FUNNY how it is that people with addictions tell stories that are not true, they make excuses for their actions and try so hard to convince others that they have to do this or do that. Their life is caught in a turmoil of sin and they are being pulled under each time they take a hit. It is our job to pray for others and to realize that this addiction that they are living with controls every thought that they have and every move that they make. They put it first before anything else in their life. Before their mother, loved one or children. They are caught in the trap of satan and many times they wish they could get out but yet keep going back to the same old thing. It can get pretty discouraging for those around them that love them but I have found out the only answer is to give them to GOD and pray for their souls.

**10** I SPOKE with a girl on the streets yesterday and my heart was so broken inside. She started to tell me of her life as a child and the many things that she had gone through. It was so hard to believe that a lovely little girl could suffer so much at the hands of her mother. I felt her pain but it made me realize that many in this world are suffering and are in need of help. No, we can't do it all but we can do something to help. Reach out today and do something for others. It may just be a phone call or a smile you share. That smile may turn their day into a blessing. Never stop loving others no matter what the circumstances look like around you. This lady cried and cried as we talked and I knew that she had suffered so much and was still suffering with the memories. If you have been hurt in your past, don't let it affect today. Give your hurts over to Jesus and He will fill your heart with love. Pray and read your Bible and know that He is with you .

**11** I remember when I was a little girl our family had decided to travel and visit some relatives. Everyone was ready and then mom remembered something in the basement. As she took her first step down her shoe got caught and she fell down the flight of stairs landing at the bottom. I screamed for my Dad and he ran after her. She was laying at the bottom of the stairs and we had to get an ambulance. I remember them taking her, my dad went with her and the neighbor came to stay with us kids. I was so heartbroken as I knew my mom was hurt. I asked the neighbor if we could pray. She knelt down by the couch with me and I prayed and asked the Lord to take care of my mom. A few hours later my mom and dad came back. She had a small concussion and had to rest. Later, I remember asking her why God had allowed that to happen. She said that sometimes things happen in our life to prevent other things from happening. She said maybe if we had went on our trip we could have been in a serious car accident or something. I understood then that Faith in God was so important. My mom taught me a good lesson that day and I never forgot it.

**12** PRAYER is the KEY... For those of you who wonder why things are taking place in their lives and yet you seem to be so helpless in the situation the best thing for you to do is PRAY... GOD loves you and hears your prayers... IF you have asked JESUS into your life, YOU belong to HIM, YOU are HIS child... He wants to hear your pray to Him. HE wants to answer. HE wants you happy and at PEACE... Why do so many keep trying to do things on their own, maybe it is stubbornness or the feeling that they are quite capable of handling situations BUT many times they are not. GOD always brings us to a place where we NEED HIM... Turn to Him today and ask HIM to help you... HE IS WAITING ...IF you are not happy tonight I urge you to give HIM a chance to change your life...It's that simple..

**13** ONE THING I HAVE REALIZED is that no matter how hard the sun is shining there may be a few clouds just around the corner... Do you have a THORN IN YOUR FLESH? It can be so small and yet bring so much pain... We are not promised that life will be WONDERFUL all the time when we follow Christ, but we are promised PEACE... PEACE in the storm of life...:) I am trying so hard to dig this thorn out of my flesh but man is it hard...lol Just like that little splinter we get that just doesn't want to leave ... Have a great and blessed day knowing that OUR GOD walks with US...

**14** JUST finished another book called “Heartbeats” it is about Native American People, especially the two children I cared for at different times in my life. Today I was thinking how GOD leads us in many directions that we would never think of going. Today just sit back and PRAISE HIM for the situation you are in. You are not there by chance, He has a purpose for your life. To those who are in a circumstance and feel there is no way out, there is.... Just be patient... God isn't finished yet.

**15** My mother in law is such a wonderful person. She has taught me so much. She had so much heartache too. Her husband passed and both her sons, one of them being my husband. My heart really went out to her but she was strong, real strong and wanted to go back to her family in another City. She told me to leave and go back to my family but you know I felt that her family was now my family. I had learned so much from her and I didn't want to leave her alone.. She had suffered too much as I could see so I decided to go with her. She did beg me to leave and make a life for myself but I told her that I knew what I was doing and that She was my family now. We are here now and I see the plan of God unfold....

Ruth...

Read the Book of Ruth in the Bible you will meet her...Her name is Naomi...

16 I heard the trumpet sound today  
It rang out loud and clear  
It's time to free the broken hearts  
It's time to set the captive free  
I've asked so many  
To come with me  
To reach the hurting and sad  
But not too many want to go  
Material things make them glad  
I begged them to help  
To dry the tear stained face  
But they would rather walk away  
And hang in another place  
To reach the dying, the one on drugs  
To see the children smile  
We need you to join with us  
It's time to walk that mile  
Leave all your past, your things behind  
They only turn to dust  
Come join us in the fight of HOPE  
It's a command to follow, we must  
To say you are a Christian  
To say you love the Lord,  
I want to see some action  
Not just your words  
See Millions are dying  
I hear their cry today  
Won't you join me to spread HIS love

Stop going the other way..

**17** I am getting so many prayer requests from ladies who are struggling in relationships. They are being abused and used to the limit. If you know anyone like this who needs to be set free from please contact us. God wants us to live at peace and be happy. God is good and today I tell you from the bottom of my heart that **NEW THINGS ARE COMING YOUR WAY**. You will be delivered from all those who pull you down, all those who are abusing you and taking advantage of you. We serve a **GOD** who loves us so much and if we **TRUST HIM** he will move the mountain out of our life. Be happy and know that deliverance is coming in Jesus Name...

**18** Last night I was awoke by thunder and lightning, it was so good to hear the rain fall as it has been so long since we have had any. It cooled off things for a little while. Today I thought about how Great our God is.. He is in the storms of life and tells us not to worry about anything. He is in complete control and is working everything out for our good. All is required is that we love Him back and believe in Him. God is on your side and will never leave you alone...☺

**19** DO YOU HAVE A LEECH? LOL I know this might sound silly but I have to write this...Here is the definition....  
an aquatic or terrestrial annelid worm with suckers at both ends. Many species are bloodsucking parasites, especially of vertebrates, and others are predators.

a person who extorts profit from or sponges on  
TODAY I was thinking about when I was a kid  
and went to camp... remember swimming in  
this dirty pond, all of a sudden I felt something  
on my leg and thought I better get out of the  
water and see what was clinging to me ...  
YIKES it was this worm or so I thought ... it  
actually was a blood sucker or leech... Well I  
was scared of course and had to have one of  
the camp attendants take it off of me... Isn't is  
funny how there can be people around us that  
suck the life out of us, hang around for  
whatever they can get and sometimes we don't  
see it until they have put their claws in and  
drained us of most of our life, our savings, our  
joy.... TODAY check out those who just may be  
LEECHES and throw them to the curb... GOD  
tells us to help others most definitely but not  
to be a doormat...:)



# 20

NOT MY CIRCUS, NOT MY MONKEY ... Have you ever heard this before? Well I am trying to live this way... LET ME EXPLAIN... When things go on around you and it has nothing to do with you.. Just say "NOT MY CIRCUS" So many times we get caught up with "OTHERS" in a negative way and it can bring you down, way down. Your whole day can be ruined if you are not careful. I have made a decision and it is a good one that no one or nothing will keep me from being happy or rob my JOY.... God tells us that the JOY of the Lord is our STRENGTH...:) JOIN ME TODAY and let those CIRCUS's that come along go on their merry way...



## 21 STOP CHANGING YOUR MIND.....

Do you know when you think one way then think another way that it is wrong. You are tossed back and forth like a wave in the sea. What happens is that you never accomplish anything because you are double minded. MAKE UP YOUR MIND and stick to it. If you have made the wrong decision GOD will turn it around. We WORRY and WORRY and jump all over like a jumping jack... GOD sits back waiting for us to stop and some never do... THINGS BETTER CHANGE or we will never get anything done...

James 1:8

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

So if we are DOUBLE MINDED and jumping back and forth here is what happens...  
Meaning of UNSTABLE...prone to change, fail, or give way; not stable.  
"the unstable cliff tops"  
synonyms: unsteady, rocky, wobbly, tippy;  
More  
prone to psychiatric problems or sudden changes of mood.

GOD HELP US TO CHANGE... WE GOT TO DO SOME THINGS TOO... Never forget that...

**22** TODAY IS A NEW BEGINNING... For some of you we are really getting tired of how life is treating us. We complain, we moan and we feel like no one is listening.. Well, they probably aren't. You can have a NEW BEGINNING... Look back on your life and see what you have done that have made your life miserable.. I hear so many people say .. IT IS SIN... that caused this... This is not all truthful... IT IS YOU by your choices that have messed up your life... TODAY IS A NEW BEGINNING... Look in the mirror and start over... DON'T GIVE UP.... START OVER... Each day can be a blessing or a curse.. IT IS YOUR CHOICE...There are times when my day begins that I feel BLAH....LOL but I make a CHOICE to make it a good day.. I ask God for His wisdom and leading and then I move forward....SMILE... IT IS A GOOD DAY..

**23** Each day I go on Facebook to get the prayer requests and read the comments posted on my page. I usually put up about three or four notations with words of encouragement or an advertisement letting others know what is going on in Ministry. There is so much to read on there and yet it can be draining if you are not careful. God tells us to think on things that are pure. Today I saw a few posts that were running down others and I thought to myself. WHY are we not spending more time in prayer? People can spend many hours talking about others and condemning them, but if we took that same amount of time asking the Lord to change things in their life and in our own what a different world we would live in. Something yesterday was said to me and it made me stop and take notice. I realized even more the need for prayer. Take time to day to pray for others, ask the Lord to help them open their eyes to the truth. GOD LOVES US SO MUCH but do we love others enough to pray for them? Just a thought...

**24** MY HEART BREAKS FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING tonight I feel their pain. If things could just change for them. Do you know anyone who is suffering in some way? Don't you wish you could just reach out and take their HURT? I DO.... I can't do that though so I WILL PRAY and I know things will be OK...

**25** Have you ever sat and felt real good then a person send you a message or a phone call and when you say goodbye you feel awful? I have. What happens is the words that they say to you can pull you down and either make you worry or get you thinking on a negative plane. God wants us to TRUST Him no matter what people say or do. When we give it all over to Him He starts to work on our behalf. I can't believe how quickly our moods can change and if we are not careful we will fall into that slump of depression. Today is a GOOD DAY, This is the DAY the LORD has MADE ☺ Let us REJOICE and BE GLAD in it... Have a great day today my friend.

**26** I REMEMBER once sitting in a little house, having all my needs met and watching the waves hit the shore from Lake Erie. It was beautiful there but deep inside I was a bit bored. I had cleaned my house, fed the animals and here I was just sitting enjoying the view and drinking a coffee and wondering what would come next in my life. It was almost as if the Lord was saying ‘ENJOY this time of relaxation’. I thought it strange at that time to have that inner voice say that but I sure found out a few months down the road how busy I was about to become. I began working in Ministry and it took up most of my time. I remember thinking how nice it would be to sit at that window again, drinking a good cup of coffee and watching the waves come in. So today I want to tell you to ENJOY your time of relaxation because you never know if God is going to keep you busy in a few weeks. Have a great day...

**27** My parents have both passed on and I miss them so much. I have great memories of the times we spent together but it would be so nice just to see them one more time. Then I am reminded of God's Love and how that there will be a day when we are reunited in Heaven. If you have a loved one that you miss a lot, be assured that there is a day coming that you will see them again. The Bible says that tears only last for the night and JOY comes in the morning. Do you ever wonder if they are looking down upon us smiling at what we do? I do... Keep looking up...



## 28 I WATCH YOU

I watch you when your sleeping  
I look at that sweet face  
God truly has blessed me  
With a child so full of Grace  
You make me happy  
You bring me joy  
You are the cutest and best  
Handsome little boy  
God knew what He was doing  
When He sent you to me  
Now I want to wake you  
And have you sit upon my knee





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anne Skinner

Anne is an author of many books and was Co-Host of a Television Show called “The Gospel Road” for three years. She still keeps writing and is also the Founder of Hannah House...

Anne is an ordained Minister and President of Lighthouse International Ministries.

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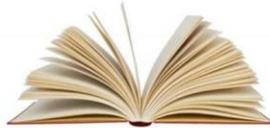
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