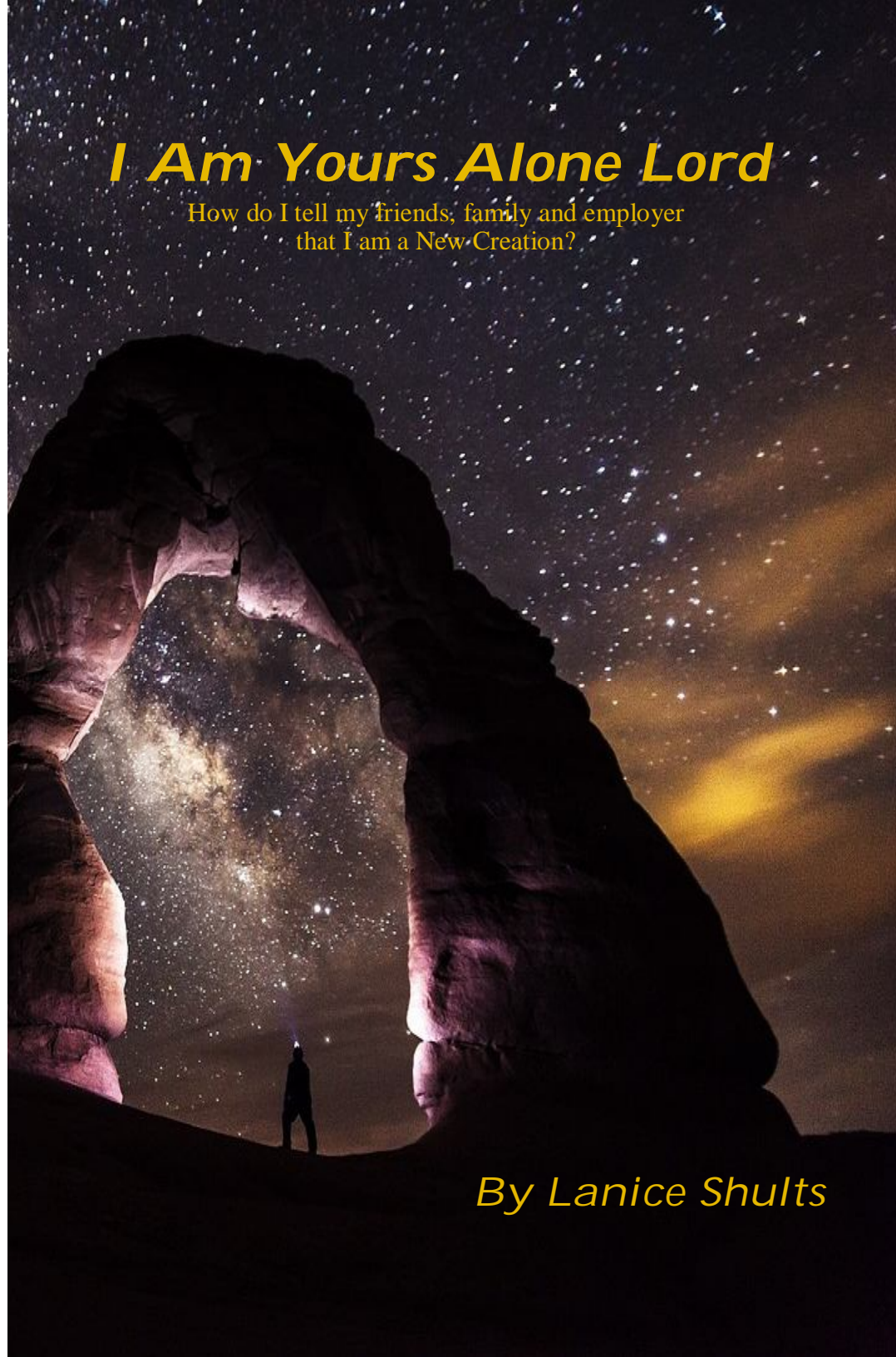


I Am Yours Alone Lord

How do I tell my friends, family and employer
that I am a New Creation?

By Lanice Shults



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I Am Yours Alone Lord

(How do I tell friends, family and employer
that I am New Creation?)

1986 was the year that my whole life changed in such a way that I had chosen to take a stand for righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah). It was a year that I was going to face many confrontations and I was as unsure as a squirrel trying to cross the street and spotting an oncoming car, Yikes!

I am not particularly fond of confrontations and especially not the ones aimed at me. In hindsight I can see that this was the most important phase of growth for my life as of yet. This phase of my life challenged me to stand for my convictions. It also caused me to do some deep introspection (self examination). It was time to truly grow up and to analyze the possible outcomes of my decisions and stand strong for righteousness. This challenge was a tremendous character building experience. I had two choices before me:

1. Avoid confrontations and do things my way and maintain what many would deem as a peaceful happy life.
2. Face my greatest fears of rejection and possible loss of all I had built for myself.

Neither choice was coming without its own set of trials. I was not privy to which set of trials would be easier and you will not be either. The whole point is to choose the righteousness of Jesus (Yeshua) and not our own righteousness. Deuteronomy 6:24-25 (NKJV) *And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.* To put it simply there is only one choice and that choice can't be ap-

proached with timidity, it must be approached whole heartedly with all passion and strength. Deuteronomy 6:46 (NIV) *Hear, O Israel: the our God, the is one. Love the your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.* The only option is number two, to face your fears straight on. Our Creator wants us to grow into our fullest potential and that's not going to happen at all if we choose option one. So put on your stretchy suit because you are going to be stretched. Don't fear because Jesus (Yeshua) will be there with you through every step. You can be assured that He will be as gentle as He can be with you, so don't make it any harder for Him or yourself.

If you are reading this booklet then you are probably facing these same choices and are looking for help as you take the seemingly giant step of changing your whole theological background. You want to know how to deal with the fallout of telling the ones you love that you are no longer going to be celebrating Christmas, Easter, Halloween and other customs that are not biblical. Your heart may be welling up with zeal for the truth that you have learned; and zeal is most appropriate right now. Psalm 119:138-140(NIV) *The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy. My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words. Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.*

You may also need some guidance on how to tell your employer that you need to be off work on Sabbath and Holy Days. Some of you have children that you have set on the wrong path and you want to set them on the right one; the path that leads them to eternal life. Deuteronomy 30:19(NIV) *This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.* You want to do what is right in the sight

of God and maintain some semblance of peace. You want to be able to maintain some civility and also be a good representative of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah). Well this is where God gets into your Stuff! You are definitely not going to be happy as He goes ripping out things you love and requiring you to dispose of them. No more hoarding of ungodly behaviors and customs. Many things we build in our lives are built on a poor foundation; they are built on pride and greed or by lying and cheating. Many things in our lives are not good for our new walk in the Truth of God. Some things in our lives are in direct opposition to what God has planned for our life. If there are things in our lives that will hinder the work of God that He has purposed for us, then we need to decisively let them go. As we face each individual challenge we need to follow a process. It's time to clean the skeletons out of your closets. 1 John 1:9 [NIV], *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Here are some steps I follow and I hope it can give you a bit of insight for the challenges that face you:

1. Always, always seek God in prayer, completely yield your heart to Him and His will allowing the Word to rise up within you and never allow your carnal desires to cloud His voice. If you are unsure if it is His voice, then get confirmation in the Word and possibly in addition from a wise and reasoned brother or sister in the Faith.
2. Remember that our love for God is greater than our love for the world. When the people in our lives or the lives of the ones we love are not in the will of God; then we stand for God because we want to hold God's standard so that they will be able to find God for their selves someday by seeing our example.
3. Always approach each individual you need to face with the Love of Jesus (Yeshua). Try to avoid burning bridges because they may be the only way others can get to the truth of God later on. Following these points doesn't always mean it will go smoothly. There are no guarantees. God is going to

take you on the necessary journey that will have the best outcome for everyone.

4. Approach each challenge armed with your sword (The Word of God). You will need to be able to defend your position in the Truth. Bible Study is essential for every believer; it is the way God communicates with us.

5. Be of good cheer. You are going to need that good cheer. A joyful heart is magnetic to others and it makes the challenges a whole lot better for you.

6. Ecclesiastes 9:7(NIV) *Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.*

As you grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) there will always be confrontations and challenges that will stretch you more than you ever thought possible, especially where you need stretching. Our God is a personal God and He knows exactly where He wants us to grow and He knows exactly how to take us out of our comfort zone. This is probably exactly what you don't want to hear. Just like most human beings you probably want to be comfortable, happy and unchallenged. I hate to break up a good fairytale but "You! Yes, You" have been called by God to be a disciple of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah). Matthew 7:21(NIV) [*True and False Disciples*] "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*". You have a choice to either answer that call or to reject it. God has given all of us free will and He will never take that away from us. We all love freedom, yet when we are put in a place that we have to sacrifice our lives for it, many are unwilling to give their life to maintain that precious freedom. Psalm 119:45 (NIV) *I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.* Galatians 5:1(NIV) [*Freedom in Christ*] *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. When we are disobedient to the Laws of God we are in slavery. Sin is a*

trap that enslaves us and separates us from God. Only when we repent of our sin, accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) and turn whole heartedly to Him are we set free. Our obedience to His Laws and commands shows our commitment to His Kingdom and our love for Him.

The truth sets us free and His Word is truth. We are in a world where we face an enemy that is tirelessly trying to destroy the Laws of God and humanity; the way he does this is by tempting us to sin. The people of God are the ones called by God to hold the standard of truth (His laws) as a torch before mankind. You are one of those people whom He has called and you have a job to do. Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) showed us the perfect example of this with His life. He is the standard we are to hold up before the world. He kept the Laws perfectly and expects His disciples to do the same with His Spirit within us to give us the strength to do it. Simply put we need to yield our free will to Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) and lift Him up as the Standard by the transforming of our lives to be just like Him. He joyfully gave His life for us and we need to joyfully give ours for Him. He did not waiver when it came to the Laws and Commandments and He expects you to do the same. It is not worth your eternal salvation to disobey him for anything or anyone.

You may also be that beacon of truth to the people that God is trying to reach. The work of God is supposed to involve your life, that's why you are reading this booklet. Choose to be one of His disciples and follow Him wherever He goes. The only thing you can give Jesus (Yeshua) is your free will; everything else already belongs to Him. Obedience without free will would just be forced slavery.

My Unbelieving Spouse

You may have a spouse that does not believe the same as you do. You have come to the place where you are convicted by the Holy Spirit that you have to change your ways and it's time to live your life differently. You don't want to cause any undo friction in your marriage. You may also have children that may be torn in the process. How are you going to make these changes with the least amount of confrontation? I will try to help you with these steps.

1. Take a day to fast and pray. Draw close to God before you make any major life changes.
2. Be prepared to give answers that are doctrinally sound. Be able to find the answers in the Bible. If you are unsure take the time to find the answers. Don't overload your spouse with too much information at one time. Be patient and kind. Don't throw out accusations or make them feel defensive. It can take a long time for people to comprehend new ways of doing things. Not everyone receives information at the same rate and not everyone can make major changes easily.
3. If you have had any turbulence in your relationship, make every attempt to heal that relationship with acts of kindness towards your spouse. Be kind and do your part in the marriage. Finish all those undone chores. Be more affectionate. Be a better listener. Be a joyful partner. Most everyone is drawn to a joyful person. You have had a hand at making this marriage what it has become and now that you are making drastic changes in your theology, you may be facing confrontations that are loaded with past hurts and pain. At this point don't play the blame game. You have an opportunity now to reflect the love of Jesus (Yeshua). Exercise your use of the Holy Spirit.

4. Don't be hypocritical. How you exercise your obedience while being patient with your spouse speaks volumes of how Jesus (Yeshua) is always patient with us. It is because of Jesus' (Yeshua's) love for us that He desires us to be obedient; that we may have life and life more abundantly.

My Children

If you have children that have been trained with a different set of religious beliefs or have no religious beliefs at all you are going to have to be patient and loving as you explain your beliefs to them. Tell them you would love to show them why you desire them to be part of this new way of life. You could receive a multitude of reactions from indifference to hostility. Remember hold back your temper and take it slow. Remember, God gave each of us free will and the best approach is to be respectful of their opinions and listen. You are the parent and ultimately you have the power to force them to comply but that will not produce a child that desires to live according to the ways of God. They need to choose freely. Present the positive aspects of the new life you will be living such as Holy Days and the exciting adventures in living for God. Explain that there will be challenges and decisions that will be life changing, yet in the long run if they choose God's way of life they will have a blessed and abundant life. The relationship that we have with Jesus (Yeshua) takes time as does every relationship, your children may not have a relationship with Him as of yet. You may be their only contact with Jesus (Yeshua). Be patient and encourage them.

1. Do not act prematurely in demanding obedience from children when there is opposition from your spouse. Remember that it takes time forming beliefs and it can take time changing them. You and your spouse are supposed to be a team. Do your best to respect the marital teamwork that God ordained. Your best approach is to set an example of the love and the beautiful character that is built through obedience to God. How you deal with your family can make or break whether or not they receive the truth you have come to understand. You can't express your love for your family too much through these times. If you are showing them the love of Jesus (Yeshua) along with your changed life, then they will see the improve-

ment in you and will be more likely to listen and hopefully follow your lead.

2. Once you have become one with your spouse (Not always possible, but always desirable) it is time to teach your children the beautiful truths of God and how they will bring life more abundantly. You will have to use creativity and patience. I suggest purchasing an age appropriate Bible and teaching them at their level. This should be fun and not burdensome or forced. I can't stress enough the need to make this pleasant. With my children I would fix a cup of herb tea for us with a snack and curl up with the Bible to read together. When my children were real small I would preview the weekly Bible story ahead of time choosing a craft to compliment each story. I would use the craft as a type of reward for good behavior and listening to the story. We would have questions and answers to encourage enlightened discussions. We used life applications when possible and tried to implement what was learned. On occasion we would use a learned lesson to go out and practice it in public, such as visiting a Nursing Home, volunteering to help in community, bake treats for a neighbor etc. By bumping up your walk for Jesus (Yeshua), you will be having a lot of fun and gaining personal discipline. Every aspect of life can be a lesson of how to walk like Jesus (Yeshua). Look for opportunities to teach and grow. Deuteronomy 11:18-20 (NIV) Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
3. Pray as a family. You know the old adage "The family that prays together stays together." In the morning at breakfast is a great time to start everyone's day off right. This is also a good time to place your hands on your children's heads and speak blessings into their lives with words of encouragement and the acknowledgement of

their talents and abilities. At bedtime thank God for the day and opportunities to show His hand in our lives and the lessons learned that will help us to change our ways to be His ways. As a family you are a unit and as a unit you should pray whenever needed. You will grow closer as each member hears heartfelt prayers from one another. Too often we don't realize how much love there can be between family members and how much can be built by praying together.

How do I tell my parents I want to be of a different religious persuasion if I am under age?

I am excited that you are choosing to answer the call to the truth of God and are seeking guidance. I pray that God be close at hand to you and that you hear His voice and that you are of good courage. Approaching your parents about wanting to change the ways you have been brought up with is one of the most difficult tasks to accomplish when you are a minor. Most of the time a parent won't allow a minor to take control of their religion. If you are blessed to be able to follow through with this decision then thank God for the favor. If you are like most then you have to do the best you can. Here are some steps that can help.

1. Pray and ask God to open doors for you to be able to keep His laws and commandments. Be humble and ask God to help you to have the utmost respect for your parents and to express your gratitude for all they have done to raise you with the best of their abilities. Remember their perspective is that they are responsible for all you do and they may not understand what you are taking on or if it is serious or just a phase.
2. If at all possible try to explain to your parents what you believe. Do not argue or push. Remember the commandment to honor your father and mother. This is a commandment just like the other nine and cannot be dismissed. If you are able to talk about what you believe and what you want to do then consider yourself in the minority. Most young believers have to wait until they are of legal age.

If your parents are willing to accommodate you, then be grateful for every step forward you are able to take. Ask them which of your requests they can accommodate and work with them as best as possible. Have a calendar to show them the Holy Days, explain the dietary laws and cooperate with their decisions.

4. You may not be allowed to keep the Holy Days or Sabbath by going to church services, or you may not be able to tithe, or follow the ways of God completely. They may not accommodate your desire to not observe Christmas or Easter or Halloween etc. Do the best you can with what you are permitted to do. If you can't go to services on the Holy Days and Sabbath, then try to observe at home by studying your Bible, praying and worshipping God. Do the best you can to honor God.

As a minor you are not always able to do everything God has commanded. You are able to pray and that can't be taken from you, so draw close to God and allow Him access to your heart and life. Remember that the relationship you build with God will fuel your life later when you are able to make all the decisions on your own. It is difficult for young people to be disciplined like an adult that has spent years learning from experience to have self-control and patience. Take this time to grow in the character of God. Honor your parents and set the example of a transformed life as best as you can. Be more considerate and kind. Behave more disciplined and self-controlled and by doing all you can to represent God's way. Pursue to gain favor with God and family. Being under another's authority is vital to being under God's authority. The parent and child relationship shows this aspect better than anything else. Be the best son or daughter you can be. Many adults in the world have never been able to submit to the authority ordained by God. Take this phase of your life and learn the lessons that God has stored up for you by respecting authority.

How do I tell my boss I am not going to be able to work on Holy Days?

This can seem like the most difficult and ominous decision you will ever face. You may have a dependent family with children. You may have bills, a mortgage payment and a car payment or two. You may be up to your eyeballs in debt. How on earth can you risk everything you have and take the risk of losing your job and possibly more? I would with all sincerity like ask you this one question: How on earth and in Heaven can you risk everything you have, including your eternal life, by not allowing God access to every part of your life? Everything on earth and in Heaven all belongs to Him; at this point you have come to realize that He has things He wants you to do. God is watching everything you do now to see if He is first in your life. All that you have built may come crashing down with the one sentence spoken to your boss: "I need to have off on these days." You're not adventurous? Well I understand this is an extremely life shaking moment and as with every life changing situation we face it goes right to the heart of who we truly are. I can also tell you I have been through the fire and survived. My husband and I went through bankruptcy and foreclosure. You may not have to be tested to the point we were, or you may be tested at a higher level. If you are here facing this challenge just make the decision and go forward. There is no other way. Genesis 22: 1-19 This is your Abraham- Isaac moment and this is where you either allow God to be God or you choose to be god. As with Abraham, God will provide a way that is better if you are obedient without hesitation. This is your act of faith. Here are some tips that may be of help to you.

1. Pray and ask for forgiveness for not including God in all of your previous plans. Ask Him to take over from here on and relinquish control to Him. Commit to seeking Him from now on before you make any decisions or changes in your life or the lives of your family that is

within your home or control. The amount of loss you may suffer here is contingent on one thing. What God doesn't like about the Grand Castle you have built is coming down. This isn't always bad; you may have done something He actually likes or even something He can allow to remain. Psalm 127:1 *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.* Look at it this way; you are going to get the opportunity to build a strong house on the Rock Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah). Nothing can tear that down.

2. Oh! You're still here? Good! Let's move on. You need to explain to your family the possibilities of what can happen and prayerfully make plans for how to deal with the possible outcomes. Always include God in every plan from now on. God needs to be officially in charge of all plans made. All parties involved need to pray together and follow biblical principles in all decisions. No more being led by the flesh. More money and prestige doesn't always come from above. If something doesn't increase the Kingdom of God, then it isn't of God. Remember the enemy is always, always trying to steer us off the path of righteousness and into a snare. Galatians 5:13-18(NIV) *Live by the Spirit. You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
3. With pencil and paper in hand prayerfully make a financial plan in case of the worst outcome. You also need to prayerfully make a financial plan in case of the best outcome. Financial plans with God's principals are always great. Your life is His now and you are going to succeed.

We have a book for financial success that you may like called, Careful Stewardship of God's Rich Blessing by Pastor Bill Shults.

4. The day has come to face your boss. You are all prayed up and you have your financial plans made for either outcome. I recommend you keep it as simple as possible. Bring a Holy Day calendar to give the boss if things go that far. If you have been a good employee and have had a good reputation, hopefully your boss will accommodate your needs. I will not tell you exactly what to say except that less is usually more. You don't have to volunteer your whole doctrinal statement of beliefs. This is not a time to proselytize. Be gracious and thank the boss up front for taking time out of their schedule for you. Explain why you need to have Holy Days off and give them a calendar for their files. Remember you are a representative of Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah). Whatever the outcome this is business, the boss may have rules they have to follow or they may even have been looking for a reason to get rid of someone. Either way you are on the Lord's side now. You will be living a different life and you are going to have a fresh start to do things right.
5. You may still have your job now or you may be seeking new employment. You may be starting your whole life over from the bottom up. If you held firm then you have God right by your side and you will never be alone as long as you allow Him to direct your steps. There is no better place to be than where you are now. Walk forward and receive God's rich blessing. Things are looking up and you have a fresh start.

The First Day of the Rest of Your Life

You are making the greatest decision of your life by choosing to follow Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah), not as the world does but as He has shown you by His example. He laid down His life for you and now you have come to a place where you will choose whether or not to lay your life down for Him. If you have chosen to follow Him, then your life will no longer be your own. You are now a vessel through which He lives. Everything that occurs in your life from now on needs to be laid down before Him, allowing Him complete access by your obedience to the Word. Your main task is to be obedient to the Word and to study it with devotion. The Word of God is the Holy Standard by which you now live out your life. Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) is the Word of God that became flesh. I can't emphasize enough that you serve a very personal, active and loving God. He is so very involved in your life. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is right there through every decision or trial you encounter. He is here with you right now. Listen for His voice; it is always, always in agreement with the Holy Word. Your task will be to prove that all of your decisions and deeds are in agreement with the Word. You will be a beacon of light in the darkness, a standard for all to see. You have a great responsibility to be an ambassador of the Kingdom of God on earth. You may be the only contact many people encounter with the true Living God. A great responsibility is upon you. Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) is neither selfish nor should you be. He was not an enabler of wrong principles. He upheld the standard of His Kingdom at all cost. He was not a drunkard, or an abuser of substances. He didn't lie, steal, cheat or deceive. He was not arrogant or boastful. He was the epitome of humility. His Father's will is His only desire. He respected authority and worked through the authorities placed on earth. His mercy endures forever. He set before you the standard and the assignment to preach the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. Through your life and all that you have been given, you have been called to teach, reflect and be a citizen of the Kingdom of

God. You are no longer a citizen of this world. You are a new creation and a citizen of the coming Kingdom of God. You are in this world but not of this world. John 18:36(NIV) *Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place"*.

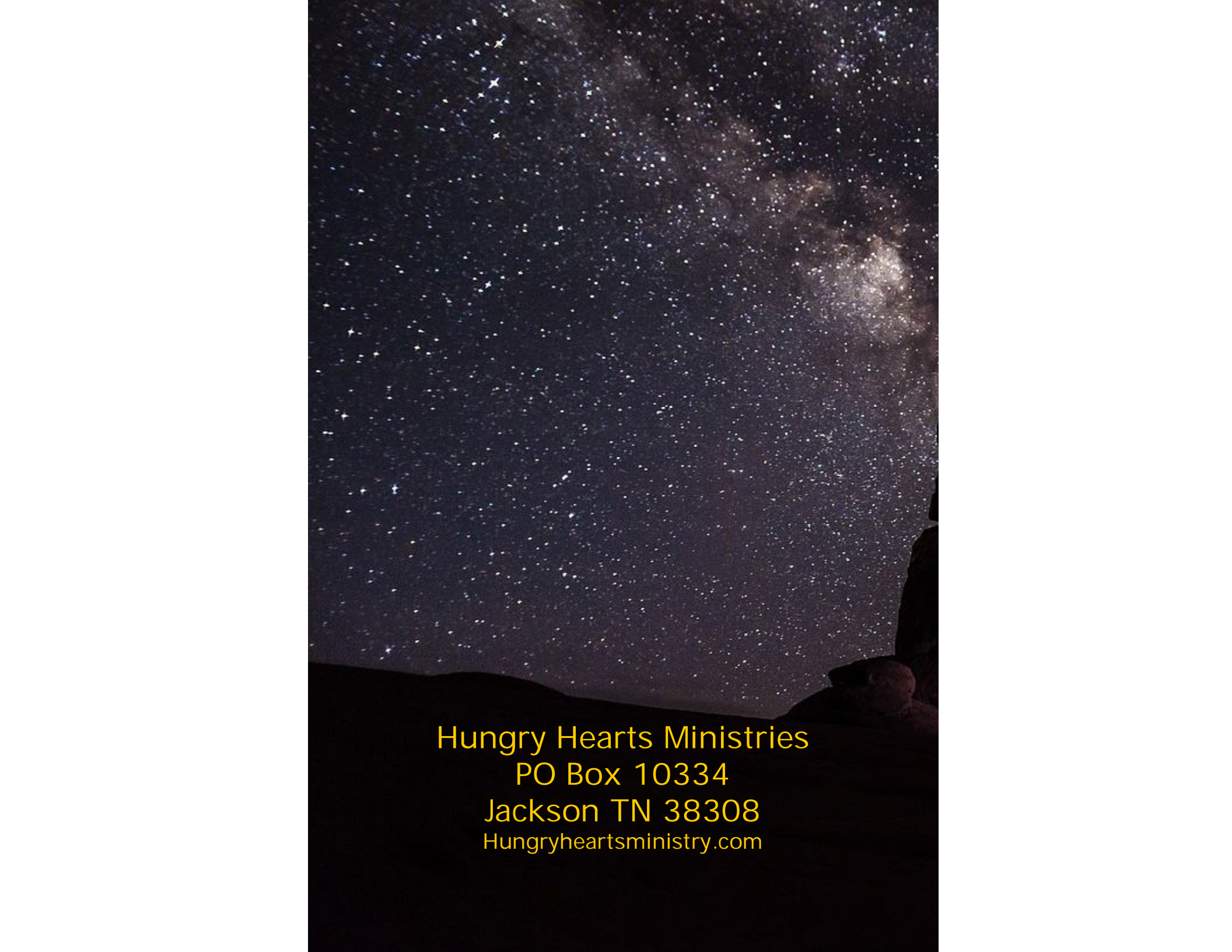
Adventure lies before you. Your life is on a new course and you need to pay attention to details. You are on an assignment from the King of Kings and you are a warrior. You are facing a tireless enemy who will be relentless in trying to stop your assignment. Your enemy is near his end as ruler of this earth. He is not happy about the coming Kingdom in which you are a part of. He is going to come against your weakest points. The areas of weakness within your character are the areas for you to focus on correcting. Jesus (Yeshua) also knows about your weaknesses. He allows the enemy to attack you there, so that you may be made aware of them. You can overcome these weaknesses with the help of your Savior. Pain is the most powerful tool to reveal weakness. Always analyze your pain and look for your weaknesses there. Search for the truth that you need to overcome in the Word.

May God bless all the days of your life as you walk with Jesus Christ (Yeshua Messiah) living within you. I pray the Word of God always be a lamp to your feet, guiding you on your journey through life. I hope in some way I was able to help you find answers to some of your concerns. Let's run the good race.

Prophet Lanice Shults



Lanice Danielson Shults was born in Washington D.C. and moved to Daytona Beach Florida with her family where she attended High School. She continued her education in the trade of Cosmetology and practiced that trade until 5 years after she married her husband “Pastor Bill Shults” at which time they decided to have their first daughter Raina. Then, a mere 16 months later had their other daughter Kyra. She and her husband attended church at the Worldwide Church of God starting in 1986 where they began observing the commandments of God. They started Hungry Hearts Ministries in 2003. Lanice was baptized Sept. 1986 and became Spirit filled early in 2002. In April 2005 she was ordained a prophet in Hungry Hearts Ministries.



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