



## **“Beauty for Ashes” by Minister Gracie Spearman**



“Shall we indeed accept only the good from God and not also accept adversity and disaster?”  
—JOB 2:10, AMP

Someone was trying to encourage my son Chris after the fire destroyed our home, and they said to him, that what happened to you and your family is kind of like what happened to Job and his family. I thought about what my son said to me and I politely smiled and said “Son we are nowhere in the league of what happened to Job, but I see God's grace at work in our lives just as He

was in Job's.” God is faithful in good times and bad times.

This article was supposed to be about the Grace of Adoption and our journey from Foster Care to adopting Antonio Josiah. Adopting our son Antonio has been a joyful occasion in our lives and this young child has blessed us more than words can explain,

but the Bible provides us with a beautiful picture of adoption. Regardless of the brokenness we have experienced in life God pursues us with his love and adopts us into his family when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior (Romans 8:15-17). We have been accepted by grace into the loving arms of our heavenly Father who deeply cares about our well-being.

Understanding this profound truth gives me hope every day in good times and bad times. Adopting Antonio at our age is both a rewarding experience, and sometimes difficult and emotional, especially when an unforeseen disaster occurs. When you have a home one day and in 5 minutes you're homeless without even shoes on your feet and your world as you know it is turned upside down. I said I will bless the Lord at all times, and His praises shall continue to be in my mouth, it's time to put up or shut up! I cannot shut up because even from the joy of adopting Antonio to becoming homeless I still see God as the same yesterday, today, and forever more. God is still worthy to be praised! I see God's grace in the kindness of strangers, in family, in friends, in my church family here at OFUMC, in my community and most of all by God encamping his angels around us and sparing our lives! I am just overwhelmed with sufficient grace as I have never seen it before. Shall I accept Antonio Josiah that's been a blessing and a joy and not an unforeseen disaster that left my family homeless and challenges my faith but yet has brought me blessings and joy, unexplainable joy that I know the best is still yet to come? I believe in God's Word when he said "It is written, eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things God have prepared for those who love him, (1 Corinthians 29). No, we are not

in the league with Job but God can restore just as He did for Job. What the fire destroyed are ashes of yesterday. God said in (Isaiah 61:3) "I will appoint unto them that mourn in Zion to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for heaviness...."

I will accept God's beauty for my ashes any day. To God Be The Glory!



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Summer Tea!**  
**Saturday, June 24, 2023**  
**11:00AM — 1:00PM**  
**OFUMC Fellowship Hall**

# Mother's Day CELEBRATION at Oxford First UMC

On Sunday, May 14, 2023 OFUMC celebrated Mother's day with a play "What Kind of Mom are You?" performed by the women and youth of the church. Afterward, the United Methodist Men served a marvelous meal to the mothers. The following is a pictorial review.



# Ty Campbell Awarded



Ty Campbell, a rising senior at Oxford High School, recently received an award at the First Annual OHS Pathways Awards Night, and he received his Certification in Construction. Career Technical Education is thriving in OSD and is preparing students for college and the workforce. Ty is the son of our very own Sherrita (Shae) Murray.

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