

# Abba's Promise

30 Stories of God's Pledge to Provide

compiled and edited by  
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ST JOSEPH, MISSOURI USA

## **ABBA'S PROMISE**

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# Contents

For Our Needs and Wants.....	11
Fishes and Loaves .....	15
Snapshots of God's Provision.....	19
Small Potatoes.....	23
Landslides.....	27
Unexpected Source of Provision .....	31
The Late Check Provided .....	35
One Thousand Times Blessed.....	39
Promise of His Presence .....	45
His Guiding Presence .....	49
Faith and a Steel Pipe .....	53
Surrounded by Love.....	57
Courage.....	61
An Everyday Miracle .....	65
T.R.U.S.T. ....	69
The Power of Praying Friends .....	73
I Will Carry You .....	77
Healing of the Heart .....	81
God Always Leads Us .....	85
A Journey Through the Maze.....	89
Your Storm.....	93
The Blame Game .....	97
Tapestries of His Grace .....	101
Only a Shadow.....	105
Order my Steps and Guide my Socks!.....	111
God and the Small Details .....	115
Five Casseroles and a Prayer.....	119

## DEBRA L. BUTTERFIELD

The Stranger.....	123
A Place to Call Home .....	127
Why I Memorize Scripture .....	131
It Just So Happened.....	135
Exactly as Asked.....	139
The Roof Over Our Heads .....	143

# Why Thirty-three?

You might be wondering why thirty-three devotional stories are in this book. After all there are either thirty or thirty-one days in a month, not thirty-three.

I chose that number because in biblical numerology thirty-three means promise, and this book is all about God's promises.

To grasp the surety of His promises, we must understand a few things about His attributes.

He is perfect.

Think about that for a moment. Now consider a few more of His many attributes. He is omnipotent — no being possesses more power. (God can squash Satan like a bug any time He likes.) He is omniscient — no being knows more than He. He is omnipresent — present everywhere at every moment.

If some other being were more powerful or more knowledgeable or also omnipresent, wouldn't you be more inclined to worship that being rather than the God of the Bible? Wouldn't that also make God less than a god?

In his book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, AW Tozer states, "Any failure within the divine character would argue imperfection and, since God is perfect, it could not occur."

So now, let's consider the truth of James 1:17: God never changes. He is immutable — He never differs from himself.

DEBRA L. BUTTERFIELD

Again quoting from Tozer's *Knowledge of the Holy*, "If He is unchanging, it follows that He could not be unfaithful, since that would require Him to change."

To fail to meet His promise is to be unfaithful. And He cannot be unfaithful. So as Hebrews 10:23 NLT says, we can "hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise" for "Every word of God proves true" (Proverbs 30:5 NLT).

It is my desire that the thirty-three stories of *Abba's Promise* will encourage you and grow your faith. Like Paul, "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13 NLT).

—*Debra L. Butterfield*

# *Abba's Promise*

for our  
FINANCIAL NEEDS

*“And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.” — Matthew 6:30 (NLT)*





# For Our Needs and Wants

Kelly F. Barr

*“So do not worry saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” — Matthew 6:31, 33 NIV*

**F**or many years, I struggled with trusting God for provision. If I couldn't see we had the finances to provide for our needs, I felt like I needed to do something to get the money. Usually, this resulted in thinking I needed to get a job, but my husband and I are the parents of three adopted sons. Our first son needed me to be home with him, so we made the decision I would be a stay-at-home mom.

My husband worked jobs that had a slow season. He would get laid off for some months of the year, usually near Thanksgiving or Christmas or just after, times when extra money was needed, though we never spent extravagantly even for Christmas. There were also times when my husband faced a permanent layoff because the company he worked for was either closing or downsizing. This sent me into a panic. How would we pay

our bills, put food on the table, or provide for our basic needs?

But my husband never panicked. He trusted God to provide, and God did. Even if it was nothing beyond our basic needs, our needs were always met. We've gone many years without things wanted and without vacations, but have always had our needs supplied.

In addition to being a stay-at-home mom, I also became a homeschool mom. I made friends with women whose families had also chosen to live on a single income so they could raise and teach their children the values they felt were important.

These ladies taught me how to make more foods from scratch, even bread, which helped us save money. I already shopped at a discount

grocery and only went to a regular grocery store for items the discount grocery didn't carry. I also became a frequent shopper at our local dollar store. I was learning to trust, but also did what I could to minimize the financial need — being a good steward.

My husband has always been faithful in paying tithe. He believes being faithful in giving back to God is a large part of why God is faithful in providing for us, just as He had instructed Joseph to provide for the seven years of famine in Egypt because Joseph was faithful to God even in the hardest times of his life.

As we faithfully tithed and I learned to trust God for His provision through the years, I began to see God shower us with

*I began  
to see God  
shower us  
with even more  
blessings...*

## ABBA'S PROMISE

even more blessings by sometimes providing some of the things we wanted, in addition to our needs. For example, one year we wanted to get our, then two, boys bicycles for Christmas but didn't have the money. God provided by someone giving us an anonymous monetary gift with a note that even suggested we use it to purchase bicycles for the boys for Christmas!

The most amazing thing God provided for us came near the end of October 2010. I received a phone call from the private agency we worked with to foster-to-adopt our children. A local building company had contacted them and asked them to choose a family to have work done on their home who wouldn't be able to afford to do it on their own. They chose us! We could choose one project to have done to our house, something like having the kitchen remodeled, or new flooring put in, or finishing our basement to create more living space.

After talking it over with my husband, we decided to ask to have the basement finished, as that was something we had been wanting for quite some time. The building company came out to look things over and said it would be fairly easy to create both a family room and an additional bedroom down there.

However, the project grew. Other companies kept donating for this annual "Day of Caring" project, providing funds above the original project budget. The woman who became my contact person with the building company, called me frequently, and came out to the house one or two more times to take measurements for additional work.

In the end, they created a family room and bedroom in our basement, and fully furnished them for us. They remodeled my entire kitchen and our little half-bathroom, provided all new carpet and flooring for most of the house, painted two complete floors of the house, and replaced our patio door, which had been in bad shape. They also provided all new appliances!

DEBRA L. BUTTERFIELD

Since receiving that huge blessing, I no longer doubt God's hand of provision. When we face financial difficulties, I simply pray and wait, then I sit back and watch God work and praise Him for His goodness and blessings.

When you are faced with challenges in your life, remember God is there. Remain faithful in prayer, then wait, and you will see God's hand of provision in His timing.