



From one heart—
To another heart



Winter 2015 Comforting others with the comfort we receive from the God of all comfort

Musings—The Voice

On Monday evening, November 16, 2015, on the NBCTV program “The Voice,” contestant Jordan Smith accompanied himself on piano and sang powerfully and beautifully the magnificent hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. Amazing that Jordan did not choose a more expected pop, rock, country, or indie presentation. More amazing is the date—three days following the horrendous attack on Paris citizens. “The Voice” coaches commented on Jordan’s timely reminder of hope in a dark world, and the audience responded with loud clapping and cheers. Most amazing is the hymn itself (below)!

A greater Voice has spoken through His Son Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. In earlier times God spoke through His prophets, but at the appointed time, He spoke through His Son, a Son He proclaimed as His beloved, instructing us to listen to Him (Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 17:5).



He is the Voice we follow—we are like the sheep on the hills of Bethlehem, gone astray, going our own way (Isaiah 53:6). But now we have a Shepherd, and we hear His Voice and follow Him (John 10:14-16).

My prayer this season is that we will hear Him calling us to repentance, true joy, and the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

Have a blessed Christmas! Glory to God in the Highest!

God
is Faithful

Blessings—Giving Thanks



The Gifts At Christmastime each year *Grandma's Comfort* gives out over 500 Christmas gifts (2015: 664). A small portion of these gifts goes to Samaritan's Purse international shoebox outreach. We don't know where those boxes go, of course, so imagine our surprise when we received a “thank-you” e-mail from a young boy in Uganda:

Dear Grandma's comfort, Geoffrey Negyo says, Greetings to you in the name of LORD Jesus Christ. I count it a blessing that God has given me. A little about me. I am Negyo Geoffrey, 12 years of age and Christian by faith. I live with my parents in Uganda, Eastern Region, in a town called Bugiri. It was early this morning that my mom went with me to Mawanga Church of God for East Africa Uganda, for a Samaritan Purse distribution. I was so lucky that my name was among the children registered. Little did I know that I would get a shoe box. I love Jesus Christ so much. When we were told to open the shoe box I found a letter from Grandma's comfort. I read it. I was filled with joy and happiness. I knelt down and thanked God.

My Uncle is called Sam Kifuko. He loves Jesus Christ too. Soon I will send you my photo. Thank you for loving me and thinking about me BECAUSE, John 3:16. I love you in Jesus name. I can't wait to hear from you. God bless you. Negyo Geoffrey



Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Thomas O. Chisholm (text) William M. Runyan (music)



The Givers Shoeboxes, Christmas gifts, comfort and welcome bags, layettes—whatever type of gift is prepared at GC, the volunteers and donors are always blessed by the doing and giving.

Every week we read some of the many thank-you notes that are sent back to us to keep us aware of our true focus—people in need of comfort and joy and hope, in need of knowing that others truly care for them. Spending time at GC is always a fun and uplifting experience as we pray together for the people who will receive the gifts and for each other, and as we work together selecting just the right items and wrapping them in attractive gift bags—gifts we would give our own children or friends.

Some of the givers are donors—those that make so many delightful handcrafted items. They all report what a joy it is to be making items for others. And many donors buy items for GC gifts—obviously those are the people who love to shop!

Blessed abundantly, we give thanks to our Lord who supplies all our needs according to His riches in Glory!



Starting the Second Decade—Comforting the Homeless

From the numerous thank-you notes that come in to *GC* (below), we are assured that we are doing God's will in this world, working through many agencies to reach the homeless with practical and encouraging gift bags. As you can see by the increase in gift bags and Christmas gifts given (above), *GC* continues to grow. This past fall we began to deliver gift bags to those we had not served before. One really cool story:

	2013	2014	2015	% 2-yr. change
Gift Bags	2094	2356	2551	21.82
Christmas	416	650	664	56.62
Handcrafts Received	2820	2680	1955 est.	-30.67

A local outreach organization to the homeless gave a huge number of socks to Pregnancy Services—sharing the extras beyond their own needs. Pregnancy Services, in turn, could not use the larger sizes and donated them to *GC*! Now, we had never come across this agency, even though we had done quite a bit of research on homeless shelters! One of the *GC* volunteers recognized the director's name from her previous profession and called him. So, to go 360 degrees, this year *Grandma's Comfort* has added another 80+ Christmas bags to its list for this outreach organization. What a great way to begin the second decade.

Thank You Notes—from Grateful Recipients

Dear friends, Thank you for the wonderful Birthday card & gift! I am 65 years old and at the City Rescue Program for substance abuse. The socks, body wash & scrubby were a very thoughtful & welcome gift. I am using the bag to carry my Bible & everything to church & am reading the devotion book every day & have started the 60 day program for completing the New Testament. What a blessing. Thank you again! Love in Christ.

Dear Friends at Grandma's Comfort, What an awesome name for your group as your welcome bag made me feel "comforted" as well as welcomed & loved. The items in my bag were needed and much appreciated as well as the bag itself. I carry it every day! Also the knitted bag makes me think of my granny & my heart warms—she knitted many things for me.

Hi Grandma's Comfort, I would like to thank you for my gift bag & all the great items inside. My favorite color is pink & so was my bag. I would also like to thank you for the spirituality pamphlets included inside. I will be sure to read them & go online once I leave the Glass House. May God Bless.

Thank You

At this Christmas season, and as we begin the next decade of outreach service and ministry, the Board would like to thank all who read our newsletters and e-mails, as well as the many donors, handcrafters, volunteers, and agency staff members who distribute *GC* gift bags. May you be richly blessed in Jesus Christ as we celebrate His coming to earth to be our Savior!

To read more notes, see the website at:
[www.grandmascomfort.org/Thank You Notes](http://www.grandmascomfort.org/Thank%20You%20Notes).



Thank you so much for providing the gifts! It really raised my spirits, not just because of the materials provided, but because of the thought that is put into it. Please keep providing this service for people who are in need and may be suffering. Your efforts are truly God's works.

It was a blessing and a very nice gift. Thank you for thinking of me; it shows me that there is still good in people in the world, and God works through all of us, even me, God's new servant.



Letters from Diane

Every other month Diane mails a letter to those who donated during the previous two months. So that others can read the letter as well, we also send it to the e-mail list. If you would like to receive Diane's letters, please send your e-mail address to: grandmas.comfort@yahoo.com.



Current Needs

New Items:

- **Financial support to purchase items:**
- **Send a check to address below or use PayPal via our website at www.grandmascomfort.org**

Winter items:

- **Scarves, hats, gloves/mittens—purchased or handcrafted**
- **Winter socks, slipper-socks**

Gift items:

- **Jewelry—purchased or handcrafted**
- **Dressy scarves**
- **Wallets—men or women**
- **Manicure sets, nail clippers**
- **Bath & body sets**
- **Toys & crafts, small**
- **Stuffed animals, beanie babies**
- **Blankets—such as fleece**
- **Handcrafted items—all kinds**

Toiletries:

- **Lotion—regular or travel size**
- **Shower gel—regular or travel size**
- **Kleenex—pocket size**
- **Soap**
- **Toothbrushes & toothpaste**
- **Shampoo, travel or regular size**
- **Cough drops**
- **Band-aids**

Contact Us We'd love to hear from you! Feel free to tell your friends about the ministry of *Grandma's Comfort*.

Pay Pal: It is now possible to give cash donations to *Grandma's Comfort* through PayPal!

E-Newsletter: Besides print version, the newsletter is posted on our website.

WWW www.grandmascomfort.org has a contact form. Please write to us.

Grandma's Comfort is a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization and is licensed by the State of Michigan.

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