

# *Bernadette Butler*

Bernadette Butler is a wife and mother of three children and two step-children. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, her home life was challenging. Later, she moved to Southern California, where she lived for thirty years. She later made Ohio her home.

Bernadette has lived an adventurous life. She went from computer data entry to serving two terms as a school board member, State of California Legislature Woman of the Year 1994, flight attendant, school crossing guard and finally, author. Her passion is writing poetry. She self-published in 2016 a collection of poems, "Words of Praise, Joy, and Love", expressing her relationship with God and all He has brought her through.

Her desire is to share her story about her journey with her son, who has autism. Her hope is to inspire and encourage parents and the children who have the disorder.

**We're glad to have Bernadette sharing her story  
with us this morning!**



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## *An Unexpected Journey*

*Bernadette Butler*

*"For we are God's workmanship, created  
in Christ Jesus to do good works, which  
God prepared in advance for us to do."*

*Ephesians 2:10*

**November 8, 2018**

# An Unexpected Journey

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the \_\_\_\_\_ in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ that prevails.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and \_\_\_\_\_ not on your own \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 18:6 In my \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_; I cried to my God for help. From his temple He heard my voice; my cry came before Him into his ears.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do \_\_\_\_\_ more than all we ask or \_\_\_\_\_, according to \_\_\_\_\_ that works within us.

My hope and prayer continues to be that Melvin's awareness will open but if my prayer is not as I may hope for, I am nonetheless, hopeful. Melvin has a loving spirit. He is loved by God, I love him, his sisters love him. He is surrounded with friends from his church family and caretakers who love him. I would not change anything if I had an opportunity. I look back and see God's footprints all around me. From the time of my challenging childhood to the challenges of living as an adult, one thing I know. I can not live my life without Jesus Christ. He is with me in all circumstances and He is teaching me to live in His peace. I thank Him for Melvin and all the ashes in my life that serve as a sweet savory of praises unto the Lord.

## Notes:

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## Ice Breaker:

If someone asked you to table your dreams and follow an idea they saw as a better way, would you follow?

## Discussion Questions:

1. What was the one thing in Bernadette's story that meant the most to you? Why?
2. Bernadette confronted many obstacles in her journey to find help for her son. What are some of the obstacles you have faced and how did you overcome those obstacles?
3. Do you believe that God can use everything in our lives for good? Do you have an example of a time you have seen this in your life?

### Discussion Guidelines

- \* Be courteous - def: Respectful and considerate of others
- \* Be positive - Avoid critical comments about people or other religions.
- \* Be sensitive - Don't talk too much - Don't talk too little!
- \* Be understanding - Listen without giving advice.

Blanks: plans, purpose; lean, understanding; distress, called to the Lord; immeasurably, imagine, His power