

## The Note

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9 ESV*

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV*

*There is hope for your future, declares the Lord. Jeremiah 31:17 ESV*

Peyton's career was floundering. Her boss gave her an ultimatum, to either improve her ratings or lose the column. When Peyton visited the site of an ocean airline crash she found a note, sealed in a zip-lock bag with cookie crumbs that had washed up along the shore with a scrap of fabric from one of the plane's life jackets. Peyton used her column to journal her search for the person who was to receive the note.

Have you ever found something precious and looked for the owner?

“I wonder if the people on the plane knew they were going to die.” Peyton wondered. After she read the note she realized that they did, because there was time to write the note. She asked herself, “What would I have said if I only had time for one last thought? What would I say to a loved one if I only had a few seconds to impart a last message?”

Who would you write to if you only had time for one last thought? What would you say?

Rev. Timothy's Sunday school children made ornaments to sell so that they could give money to the poor. He said, “It never ceases to amaze me that those who have so little themselves work so hard to give to those in need.” Timothy had a chance to go to a bigger, more successful congregation but he realized through his conversation with Peyton that he wanted to stay and help those who needed him the most.

Life is fragile and we must live each day as if it might be our last. How would you live your last day?

Peyton convinced Taylor Quist to contact her mother after years of estrangement. In her column Peyton said, “Today I met with a woman who has everything ... Yet, I had to wonder, is she happy?” While many people spend their lives working hard to acquire things, possessions rarely bring the happiness that we desire.

What do you desire? Are you looking for things to make you happy?

Peyton needed to face the loss of her husband and her own grief in order to let her writing become real. She had bottled up her own feelings because she was scared of them. It wasn't until she faced the pain of the past that she was able to release it. When she was able to work through her own grief, her writing became more real and people started reading her column again.

Do you have bottled up experiences from the past? Ask God to help you release them so you can heal.

“I feel like I was given the note for a reason. I feel like it gives everyone it touches a chance to fix their broken lives.” The Bible tells us that God has a plan for our lives. When we turn to Him for answers He will guide and direct us. All of the characters in the movie had been through difficult times, but because of the note and its message of forgiveness each of them was given a chance to begin again.

Is there someone you need to make peace with? Is there someone who needs your forgiveness?

*Dear Lord, thank You for the blessing of Your mercy. Help us to trust You and the plan that You have for our lives. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us so that we can live in peace. Give us joy in our hearts and in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*