



"Your people will rebuild what has long been in ruins, building again on the old foundations. You will be known as the people who rebuilt the walls, who restored the ruined houses." - Isaiah 58:12

Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2020

Much Ado About Nothing Much!

Well, what is happening right now is certainly quite serious and in no way resembles a comedy! Anarchy, division, pandemics, political unrest, wars and rumors of war, famines, poverty, and massive fires destroying acres of land and multitudes of homes are a good reason for the body of Messiah, all over the world, to fall on our knees in repentance. Modern events, at least those happening in our country, seem to concur with the book of Judges where, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6, Judges 21:25) Though the solution to these challenges seems to be very complex, the simplicity of the gospel story can outshine these dark and grim shadows with threads of hope in the midst of despair.



In times like these stories of Ruth, Rahab, Daniel, Nehemiah, and the greatest story ever told - the resurrection of Jesus the Righteous One - could fill us with faith and swallow up the doubts that leave us with anxiety and a sense of fatalism. So why do we turn elsewhere? Why do we spend hours on YouTube and Facebook, engaging in arguments and debates that trigger our brains and leave us with hyperactive "fight or flight" responses? During the political unrest in Israel during the time of Jesus' entrance into this world, there could not be more reason for His people to doubt deliverance. I can just imagine the anxiety and fears that many of God's people faced in that dark season. I think we can learn a thing or two from some obscure individuals who fought the battles of their time on their knees and by drawing closer to the promises of their God. The second chapter of Luke gives us a brief but stunning account of these individuals and their enduring faith in God's ability to perform in the midst of doubtful circumstances.

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts..." Luke 2:25-27

This man was devout, waiting for Israel's deliverance through the appearance of the long awaited Messiah! How could he possibly know that he would converge with the dedication of Jesus in the temple except by the leading of the Spirit?

"There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem." Luke 2:36-38

Another coincidence or divine appointment? I don't know about you but if Jesus tarries, I want to be like old lady Anna, fasting, praying, and awaiting His soon return with full assurance that what He promised He would do!

This is the pattern I want to follow when disasters escalate and darkness seems to be winning. I want my knees to be blistered from falling on them. I want my stomach to be growling from fasting and though my physical eyes might be dimming, I want my spiritual eyes to be vibrant and watchful, looking for that day and anticipating His coming.

In no way do I want to minimize the opportunities we have to be politically active or socially aware but it is best done through the inspiration of the One capable of leading His people to victory! Read the threads of redemption woven throughout the Biblical narratives of many heroes of the faith. Instead of being up in arms, drop to your knees! The impossible becomes possible when we believe.

A Peek into Our Current Happenings...

- Helina to facilitate groups and ministry opportunities have been on the forefront of our activities since March. We were so grateful to be able to conduct the grief seminar one week before the shutdown of churches, schools, and many businesses. There are still reports coming in about the effect of the seminar, and healing and hope that took place.
- Our newest endeavor is a monthly meeting entitled, **"Did Curiosity Really Kill the Cat?"** A group of high school, college, and graduate students are gathering to ask hard questions. Our land seems to be dividing on so many issues: our heart is to create a venue where doubts, fears, and questions can be brought to the table and discussed. Please pray for the Lord to be present in these meetings and for those who are truly seeking to find answers!
- We are using this time to acquire training in the field of mental health coaching. Fortified Marriages Ministries and AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors) have provided an affordable opportunity to extend our education in this area. Other volunteers of JCM have been able to get on board and receive this opportunity as well. There is no time to waste. As we see the effects of the pandemic and rioting, we also see marital conflicts and anxiety and depression increasing.
- We have been unable to conduct outreach to the rehabs we service due to COVID. Please pray for the residents of WellSpring Therapy Center and Val Vista Center.

Children: Our Heritage

We have done some in person classes at Freedom House as well as zoom visitations. We will continue our third series of classes to the residents as well as participants of Hope for Addiction. Liz Beck revised our workbook and did a fantastic job. We will have that up and available on our website shortly. They report some lasting changes in the women's ability to implement effective Biblical parenting strategies. This is reportedly assisting them in developing deeper bonds as they make purposeful investments in these little hearts. A deeper bond means a greater sense of value in themselves and their children. That alone can enhance their ability to make better decisions that will protect their future and the future of their children. We emphasize the three P's of parenting: protect, provide and prepare. Kelley has helped tremendously with this area of outreach. Brvonn and Tracy have also offered assistance. Their expertise and availability has been a great blessing. Kelley is soon to do another round of classes at her home church. If you are interested in the series, "Children: Our Heritage" please visit the website at: <http://jesuscared4u.org/parenting2.aspx>. We will make the new workbook available as soon as possible. Also available is a very comprehensive facilitator's guide. All are available free of charge. For more information on how to conduct this series in your church contact: Doreen @ (480) 831-1737.



When to Walk Away...

The media and mockers of those who adhere to a Biblical worldview seem to challenge the people of God on how well we embrace the sinner and how we respond to their sinful choices. Rarely are we judged for how well we let go and walk away, yet Jesus had countless encounters with those He had to rebuke and many difficult confrontations with hardened and stubborn hearts. Author and international speaker, Gary Thomas gives compelling accounts of individuals influenced and burdened under the yoke of toxic people. The church is so set on proving how well we love, we don't always correctly discern those who can hinder our ability to find the Timothys and invest in souls that are sold out for Jesus. The pressure of those who oppose our views can speak louder than the voice of the Spirit. We shudder to think that others are not ready for the responsibility of being a disciple so we twist and even eliminate the hard sayings so as not to offend. Though not the norm, toxic people are a reality in our day and age and it is important that we understand how harmful they can be to the kingdom. The book of Jude was devoted to warning against toxicity among the people of God. We will be starting the series, **"When to Walk Away"** via zoom in the coming weeks ahead.

When to Take a Break...

Along with walking away from toxic people, believers sometimes feel guilty taking breaks. Though we have no plans of retirement and never shirk our responsibilities as ambassadors of God, taking breaks are a wonderful way to reset our priorities and hear from heaven!



Last year we attempted a getaway only to find ourselves traveling from the West Coast to the East Coast as fast as we could to rescue my mom whose health was failing rapidly and brought her to an emergency hospital visit. After a long year of settling her into a new residence close by family in Arizona, and the escalation of COVID in our state, we thought it was a great time to embark on our journey. We began our time with all of our family members (26) meeting in Montana. What a beautiful sight to have all 16 of our grands running free and enjoying the fresh air of Montana. It was a joy to spend a few days with our daughters and son in laws. Each one seemed to have a special contribution to the family get together: helping one another to rein the children in, getting dinners together, finding places to stay, and organizing family games and outings. What a beautiful reprieve! We spent hours on the road after that moving towards Utah and Colorado and finding beautiful places to camp. We met several special families, prayed for the nation with complete strangers who had a heart to see revival, sowed seeds of love, and left Bibles and painted rocks in different places along the way. It was a lovely time indeed. Thank you to those of you who prayed for our excursion, offered suggestions, and blessed us with special foods (cookies and muffins).



Half the Crew in Big Fork, Montana

When to Press in...

Counseling continues to be the main outreach of our ministry these days. We are grateful that the Lord has given us the opportunity to walk individuals, marriages, and families through difficult times to the other side. It has been a challenging season for many. It is a time to find solid ground and enthusiastically pursue the Kingdom of God. People are being tried and tested in many ways. Thanks to faithful supporters we have been able to counsel many as well as refer others suffering with trauma to professional counselors who have expertise in areas that we are not equipped to address. We continue to network with ministries whose hearts are set on living out the counsel of Jesus in word and deed, helping the broken, giving hope to the hopeless, offering practical and spiritual assistance, and being a community that provides support for the least of these.

When to Say Goodbye...

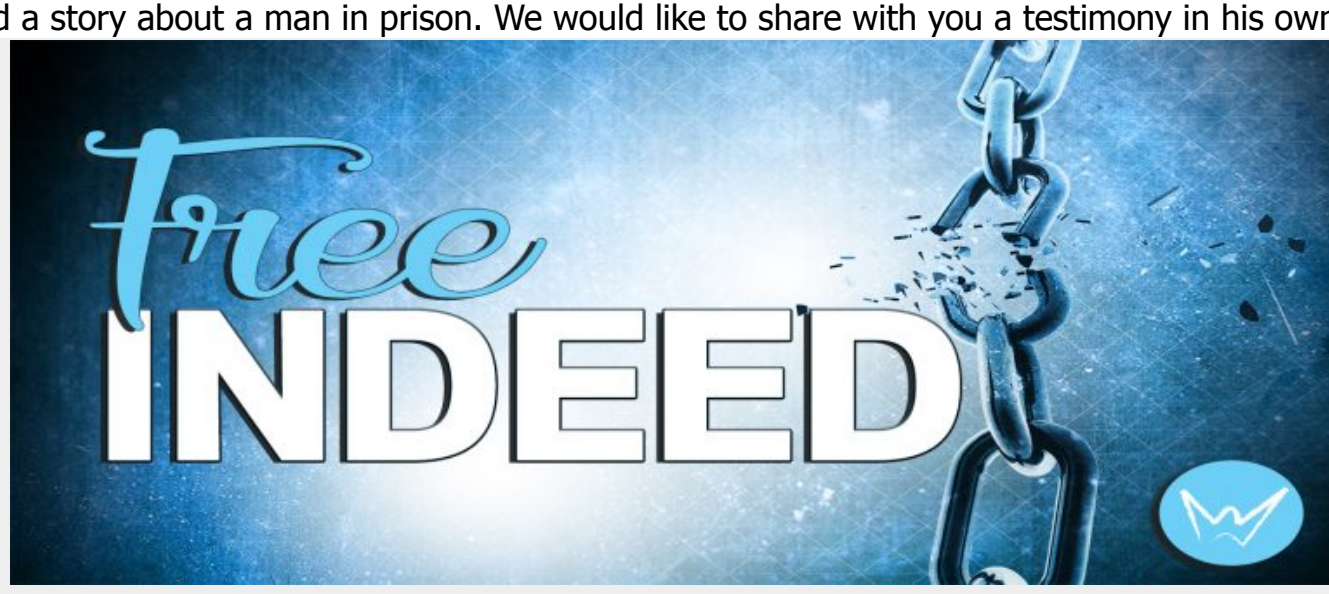
Diana, the nurse and seminary student that was with us for months took a position in a hospital that was experiencing a great fall out from increasing COVID patients. She bravely faced a very difficult season and will be back to start seminary again in the fall. We were missed her! We look forward to her return.

When to Welcome...

As Diana departed, Bella was welcomed! We are so grateful that this home can be a respite for others. Bella, from Elpis ministry, had to leave Bulgaria quickly due to COVID shutdowns. She boarded on the last flight out of Europe! She has been with us for the past several months. It has been life giving to our whole family to have her here! She has blessed us beyond belief and done what she does best: ministering to young lives and investing in hearts to show them their value in Him! We are confident that the next steps for Bella will be led by the Holy Spirit as she seeks His will for her future.

A Beautiful Testimony from Kiko...

In our last quarterly newsletter, we shared a story about a man in prison. We would like to share with you a testimony in his own words.



My name is Francisco. I was born in Havana, Cuba. As a child I dreamed big; as I grew older and lessons vanished, the responsibilities of adulthood became a reality in a communist and very poor country. I found myself hopeless, lost, and hungry for a better life. At the cost of losing my own life, I traveled across the Caribbean Sea on an inner tube floating for four days without drinking water or food. The fear was great but the hope was greater (read psalms 107:23-30). Touching this land, my dreams became nightmares. I was grasping for the wind and finally I took a hold of something which was the grip of the enemy. Blinded and filled with false promises I was led to commit robberies on drug dealers, and eventually involved in the taking of a person's life. I was given the price that goes along with this senseless, remorseful act (37 years). GOD had a plan for me, (Gen 3:17, Rom 8:20). After two years of being in prison, GOD revealed to me that my life was to begin. In the form of Jesus Cares Ministries, my help arrived!

As we communicated through letters, visits, and phone calls over 22 years, Jesus Cares ministered to me. My faith grew deeper and my relationship with Jesus got stronger. I'm no longer bound by my circumstances but Free by the blood of Jesus. Even though I'm in prison I'm free, PRAISE GOD!!! Subsequently, through J.C.M others in the prison system are being ministered to, and blessed with their guidance. May GOD continue to bless all of you! Read (Romans 10:14-15).

The purpose for this testimony is to convey to you that our LORD and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST came to seek and save the lost. Call to him. HE is alive and well and waiting for you.

Your brother in Christ, Francisco

You make these testimonies possible! Thank you for your support and love for this mission. The Word is going forth into many places as a result of your prayers and gifts. It sounds so trite but we are not sure about what the future holds but we are sure about who holds the future! Keep pressing in Saints! Stay on your knees, practice humility, honor one another, and watch and wait for His return. Most of all remember and tell others that....

Jesus Cares