



GIVING LIFE, BRINGING HOPE TO ORPHANS IN HONDURAS

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REFLECTIONS . . .

This missal began as a reflection, changed to a letter to my kids, and morphed into the newsletter for April. This is our month to celebrate the death and resurrection of our beloved Son of Man and Son of God, Jesus Christ. This month and last, pushed the whole world into a pool, that we had no time to check for water, before falling. It is a war waged not by guns, bombs or missiles of destruction that we can run and hide from, but by an unseen enemy that is no respecter of persons or nations, no matter their color, creed, religion or form of government. Never in the history of the world has there been the potential for such destruction by the enemy. None, not individuals, or nations, will ever be the same. The following words came in the daily words of wisdom on my internet yesterday:

**“And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant
ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.”**

*~Kathleen O’Meara
‘And People Stayed Home,’ written in 1869,
after the Great Starvation in Ireland.*

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“Answering Compassion’s Call”

Work is going forward on Amy’s book, “Answering Compassion’s Call, The Story of Heart to Heart”. We have decided to release it on social media for free to whomever wants to read it, as soon as it gets the final touches. Oscar is translating it into Spanish and adding pictures. We will let you know where you can go to read it as soon as it is ready.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Pet 4:10

These words could be written when we are through this COVID-19 devastation. I heard one pundit say we will never get back to the pre COVID-19 normal. When the smoke clears, there will develop a new normal. What that looks like will depend on what we who survive this war, do with this chance.

Living in crisis over a long period of time has outcomes. For me, the first outcome was to draw me closer and closer to God. Two years ago, it caused me to admit I cannot do it all and to hire help for my Lyle’s care. It has caused me to focus my energy on others that I can help – namely my H2H kids, my students, and my staff. It has caused me to give up my privacy to all who help me, and recently, my already limited control over my life due to COVID-19, as I have been housebound since March 14th, with the exception of 3 emergency ambulance trips to the hospital in Puerto Cortes and San Pedro Sula as my beloved Lyle is slowly letting go of his life. I have felt the very real physical relief as each crisis is averted. With God, I have tried to stand strong physically and emotionally for everyone.

Since my Amy died, I have been only a thought away from tears, when I least expect it. Yesterday, I spent lots of time with Lyle, just holding hands, talking to him, watching movies with him. And last night the tears came and would not be stopped. I fell asleep sometime in the night and awoke this morning to more tears.

Watching anyone die is devastating, but when it is the love of your life, it is almost unbearable. With the serious onset of his dementia over 10 years ago, I have tried to keep my sense of humor in his actions, telling everyone that while this is difficult, we had, up to that time, 38 wonderful loved-filled years of marriage, and that this last road is only a small part of that. As we approach 48 years of marriage in June, I still believe it. My daily prayer concerning my Lyle was answered in 2008 when he rededicated his life to Jesus, and in 2009 when he was baptized in the Columbia River, as all the rest of our immediate family had been years before. His breathing is coming slower and slower, and I have prayed for God to let him go to sleep and awake in the arms of our Lord. But each day, he awakes, and my Angels of love, the women in my house, begin



the labor of love, caring for him, bathing him, feeding him, loving him, singing to him.

Our house of 28 saints are at home. (all our girls and our women who are San Pedro Sula students) We meet at 8 every morning for private and group devotions for the first hour of our day. We end the day the same, with an hour of worship, singing, reflection and prayer. Both are wonderful times of fellowship. We are all in the same Ark. No doves, no olive branches in sight. We float through the day with internet WhatsApp school lessons, chores, not enough exercise, sharing 3 meals and being thankful for each day, lovingly caring for each other.



Hardest is not being able to be with my children at the village. Hardest is not being with my students and staff each day. Hardest is being away from

my beloved family in the USA, blood and Heart to Heart. Hardest is knowing we are all in this same boat, and some do not have the spiritual paddles to stay afloat. Daily, Oscar is sending out devotions to all of us, and that helps so much. God is with us each step of the way and is surrounding us with His love, His warring Angels, His comfort, His wisdom.

Our literal “family” doctor, Suzy, cares medically and physically for Lyle, as do Eliny and several of my girls and his nurse of two years, Mayra, who has moved in with us. I thank God daily for all of them. I am thankful for the internet and electricity. We go through times, almost daily, without them and it makes me realize how awfully we depend on them. Being able to communicate with our kids, our families, our friends is so cherished.

God has provided and put in place His people, who, it wonderfully turns out, are our grown H2H children, to be His hands and feet to our children at the Village. When



the crisis hit Honduras all our young men living at Tulian moved to the village. Adonis, Nelson, Julio, Nahun, Nicholas, Juan Carlos, Elder and our mommies, care for, guide and educate our sons at the boy’s house, assisted by God’s faithful servant Miguel, who lives in Tegucigalpa and lends his leadership to our boys each day. Our adult daughter, Katherine, is leading

the charge at the girls’ house, along with our amazing mommies. Oscar, who is stuck in the US, is in touch with all of us daily, guiding, giving us his God-given wisdom and schedules to handle the daily challenges we are facing. Rick is managing all the business of running this ministry through our Clackamas H2H office, lending his wise counsel at every turn. We are blessed!!

This morning during devotions, God led me to 1 Kings 18-19. This is the story of the prophet Elijah and his triumph on Mount Carmel before all Israel, over the 450 prophets of Baal, and the 400 prophets of the grove, which ate at Jezebel’s table. And after this great victory for God, Elijah heard that Jezebel was after his life... and he ran. Nevertheless, God watched over him, protected him, fed him, sustained him 40 days and nights...and still running in fear, Elijah complained to God that his life was in danger. God responded, “ And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire, **a still small voice.** 1 Kings 19:11-12

Even then, he feared for his life and God sent him to Elisha, who ministered to him. In the end, God gave Elijah the great honor of rapturing into His Presence without the usual portal of death. Elisha watched all this and received Elijah’s mantle to carry on the work.

This so reminds me of the many triumphs God has led in my almost 77 years of life with my family, with our Heart to Heart Ministry family, that we are privileged to get to be part of. With each new challenge we run to Papa God to give us wisdom, comfort, love, protection, and NEVER has He turned His back on us.

Each generation of God’s people since Elijah, has passed on this mantle to the next, to continue the salvation of the world they inhabit through the Holy Spirit. And now, as the world may be facing the beginning of “the end of times”, we may be the last generation to receive this mantle.

Whether or not this is true, the commission is still the same to each of us who knows God, and hears that still small voice of the Holy Spirit call to us continually, every minute of every day – to seek the lost and offer the gift of eternal life through salvation to all the corners of the world, “that not one would be lost”.

Pray deeply for God to show you what that means for you, for your part in this act of love God began 6000 years ago. None of us is to rest. Now that the end goal is in sight, we are to strive even harder to finish the race. The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:1-8 said it well, " I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come (*mine* – and is now) when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to **all who have loved His appearing.** "

That's us. You are all so loved and daily prayed for!!

Father, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. As is Your habit, hold Your children in Your loving arms for strength, comfort, and wisdom for each and every challenge they are facing, and will face, in the days to come. Help us to stay so close to You that each thought, word and action would be Yours to all we minister to. Give us Your Holy Spirit and Your Grace to endure until our end,... or until Your coming. In the name of Your precious Son, Jesus Christ, and for His glory, Amen.

~ Mary

New Rules in Puerto Cortes

Here is our predicament in a nutshell. As are people all over the world, here in Honduras, we are confined to our homes. All my girls who attend university in San Pedro Sula are home. Quarantine in Honduras is severe. Martial Law and curfew have been enforced by the military for over two weeks now. No one is allowed to be outside their

home. If you are on the street for any reason, you will be arrested and do community service. Everything is shut down. Every business that is not a grocery store, bank, gas station, pharmacy or hospital is closed. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, no one is permitted to circulate. On Mondays, people with ID's ending in 1-3 may circulate, Wednesdays endings 4-6, and Fridays endings 7-9 and 0 may circulate. Monday, Wednesday and Friday the banks, supermarkets, gas stations and pharmacies may open, but from 6-9 am they serve only the elderly and handicapped. They also close early at 3 pm. Puerto Cortes only has three supermarkets for its whole population. Most people spend most of their day waiting in line at the bank or in the grocery store. When you get to the front of the line, you do not go into the store. You give them an order and they give you a ration of the items you have requested. There is now no public transportation, so everyone must walk, ride a bike, or have a car. Cars are only permitted to circulate with two people, the driver and a passenger. Both must have the correct numbers in their ID to circulate that day. Violators without the correct ID number or with too many passengers are arrested and their vehicles impounded for a month.

How Can You Help?

First of all, please pray. We're doing the work of the Lord and we need His guidance and provisions. Pray for the kids that they can continue to advance academically in the current environment; the schools are closed but we are sending assignments via WhatsApp out daily. Pray that the kids will not go stir crazy while restricted to being at home and that the House Moms can also experience joy in their labors. Please pray for the families who live at the garbage dump in El Chile as we are unable to get out to help them. Pray too for the members of our local community. As is the case for many people in the US, the stay at home orders have eliminated jobs due to the closure of many businesses. Unlike the US, there is no unemployment insurance available, no stimulus package provided by the government and no public transportation in operation. And, due to the travel restrictions the Pulperías (neighborhood stores) have empty shelves because they are unable to restock their shelves.

Thank you to all who have continued to support our kids monthly. I thank God for each of you!! The government has reopened the banks three days per week so we are now able to receive your donations and use the funds to purchase food for our kids.



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2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV)

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.”

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL US AT OFFICE@H2HCV.ORG OR CALL AT 503.427.0258 TO LET US KNOW.

When it comes to orphans we're not liberals or conservatives. We are radicals!

TO OUR HEART TO HEART COMMUNITY—THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER

Below is a list of upcoming teams who will be going to our Village to love our children and support the ministry.

If you are interested in going, please contact us at office@h2hcv.org. Join us!

2020

June 17-25 School Support, Gary Thacker

July 6-16 Maintenance, Bethel Church

Gift/Letter Dates

To get gifts & letters to our kids on time we need to receive them at our office by the following dates:

2nd Quarter **May 15, 2020**

3rd Quarter **July 15, 2020**

4th Quarter **October 1, 2020**

Christmas **October 1, 2020**

Thank you for supporting our kids.

Newsletter Feedback? Contact us—office@h2hcv.org

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