



"Proclaiming
the praises of Him
who called us out of darkness
into His wonderful light"

1 Peter 2:9



DEAR BELOVED FRIENDS,

As we begin the last quarter of this unforgettable year 2020, I think on the many events that have happened in the whole world but also in each of us individually. At this time last year, we were making plans for reaching more nations with the Gospel and the heart of God for human life.

The coronavirus hit all the world with a death threat. Although I grieve the loss of lives because of this disease, I also grieve the loss of freedom. Life took a sudden shift, and nothing was normal as we were used to. In September hurricane Sally hit our area with rage. It was a scary, horrible experience. It filled me with fear and anxiety. However, comfort came from the Lord, knowing and believing that no matter what happens around us, God never changes. He is still good, and He is still very present in our every moment, even when we don't see evidence of His work.

A verse that has been in my mind these days is Hebrews 12:2 that reads, "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Our Lord Jesus looked above His suffering, humiliation, and pain, and focused on the joy set before Him. What joy? I have pondered about what joy? Yes, the joy of going back to the Father. However, I also realize that His joy was to see you and me saved and secure, free of the slavery to sin. His joy was to present us holy and without stain before the Father. His joy was to call us friends, children of God, beloved, accepted. As I write these words, I pray that you and I will embrace this truth: we were the focus of His joy. Now He is seated at the right hand of the Father, in authority but also in intercession for us. In view of that, we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Heb. 12:2a).

Although international ministry has diminished because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have continued planting seeds among friends and contacts in Latin America. I am in an attitude of prayer asking the Lord to show me the way and to open opportunities for next year. In the quietness of my home, I have been seeking the Lord for a fresh and renewed vision for what He wants to do through me. In my last prayer letter, I mentioned working on a website. The Lord has impressed in my heart a name for the ministry: Oasis & Rivers Ministries: Rest, Restore, Renew, and Release.

Even though this is a work in process, the name reflects the walk of the disciple and the one who disciples. It does not matter our role, we all need an oasis, a place of rest, quiet, and reflection to stop and adjust our compass under God's guidance. I found that the meaning of oasis is "a dwelling place."

Times at the oasis renew vision, physical, emotional, and spiritual strength that then overflows like a river. Rivers move forward, quench thirst, support and sustain life, and produce growth.

"Through retreats, conferences, intercessory prayer, and unconditional friendship, Oasis & Rivers Ministries seek to provide rest, restore, renew, and release disciples into the harvest fields."

I request your prayers as these ideas develop and take deeper roots. At times I find myself in the oasis. However, I fight my desire to run and be in the river. Continually I am reminded of my personal need of intimacy with God, to be patient in the waiting and attentive to His leading.

Another idea that has been in development is what I have called "the small talks project." Developing small conversations about topics related to motherhood, ex. Breastfeeding. Topics of the sanctity of human life, ex. When life begins; and others. I am seeking to videotape these conversations to make it available online, in Spanish and English.

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Here are some quick snapshots from the field.

This is my friend Daniela. She lives in Antofagasta, Chile, and works with the Chilean Baptist convention. She and I have been working toward the opening of the Protege Prenatal Center. Building a firm foundation of prayer along with organizational procedures are necessary for the ministry.

While we work together, Daniela and the board of Protege were touched by the needs of many immigrants from Venezuela. These people have fled the country trying to give their families a better future. However, they have found themselves alone and with no resources, situations that have forced them to live in the streets.

It is a challenge for Protege to help them all. They have a house where they can host six families. They have asked for our prayers so that they are wise in selecting the families that will come to the shelter. Their priority is to assist families with children; however, the Chilean authorities have made them aware of the use of children for human trafficking and labor abuse. Their discernment in this process is crucial.

In a recent update, Daniela told me of how gratifying this process has been although there have been difficult situations that she has had to deal with such as conflict between families, COVID, and isolation procedures. She says it has been a learning experience. Please continue to pray for them. And in all, that they will hear the Good News and their lives will be transformed for eternity.

Friends in Bolivia continue to work, reaching out to abortion-minded clients. The pandemic has opened opportunities to facilitate two online abortion recovery groups. Although online is not the best fit for this area of ministry, they don't want to miss this God-given opportunity to bring the Word of God and His heart of forgiveness and restoration to these people.

During this time of isolation, I have found out how important it is to reach out to friends and be open with my own needs. By doing so, I have also learned of their needs which has given us opportunities to minister to one another by sharing time together, talking, praying, making sure we are here for each other. This seems to be a small thing, but these times have been encouraging both ways.



Prayer Requests:

1. For the ongoing development of content for the Oasis & Rivers Ministries' website.
2. For the "small talks" project. That all the details of putting them together come to fruition.
3. For friends and partners overseas. That they will continue to see the outpouring of blessing from the Lord as they are faithful to their callings.
4. For open opportunities and clear direction from the Lord for next year.

As I close this letter, I pray for God's abundant grace over you and your families. "Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge" (Psalm 91:3-4).

**With love always,
Catalina Tate**

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