Merry Christmas My Friend!

It’s Tuesday morning, I’m sitting here in my living room in front of my fireplace with the Christmas lights on. I so wish I was sitting across from you chatting with you in person over a cup of coffee. I’ve been struck this season by the depth of some of the lyrics in the traditional Christmas carols. *O Holy Night* is one of my favorites right now. Two lines, in particular, have stirred me. The first is “*In His name, all oppression shall cease*” and the second is “*He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.*”

“In His name, all oppression shall cease” Have you noticed that we live in a broken world and that there is a lot of oppression? Life is hard and we all are
either struggling with something or someone close to us is. Oppression, sickness, and struggle are not God’s plan for us. God is a good Father and this Christmas I am declaring, contending for, and praying that **ALL OPPRESSION shall CEASE!** Specifically for me, that means praying in Jesus’s name for complete healing and that cancer be gone for my friends’ grandson Jameson and my friend Barbara.

“**He appeared, and the soul felt its worth**” My friend shared this revelation: "In His presence - the place of encounter - our Spirit rises up.... every lesser thought falls away when He **appears**... this line is transformational. **Worthiness, identity...** When I first came to know the Lord in a deeper way, identity and worthiness were hurdles. Now VICTORIES! Jesus started moving in my life by teaching my soul to feel/know its worth. He paid the price! So I pray this Christmas for those who need to hear they are worthy of His birth, life, and victory on the cross! **I pray the lost may be found ~ that those who have not yet seen, will encounter Emmanuel. He truly IS with us! May Jesus appear this Christmas in a sweet, special and divine way to those in need of a Savior. Yes, we all... need... a Savior! And we praise our Lord who is so faithful. Each time He appears. Every encounter. We are forever changed...”

Christmas is just a week away and 2019 is drawing to a close. There is so much I’d like to share with you about all that is happening. I feel like I’m growing, I’m learning, I’m blessing, and I’m living more fully than ever before. I’m so grateful for the prayers and support I’ve gotten from so many.

Since I last wrote:
I was blessed to travel to India in June. It was a different type of trip, one that is very hard to put into words. Beautiful country, beautiful people, but challenging environment. I can’t share details but please be praying for the country and our brothers and sisters there - security and safety are daily issues.

I’ve been laying the foundations for a chaplaincy program at the local YMCA. Bringing Christ’s presence back into this organization and sharing the hope and love of God. Right now the biggest need is for more chaplains - we need a team to love the people at The Y well.

I have met with a number of the ministry leaders that I support this fall. God is at work around the world, but I am more convinced than ever that every ministry I work with needs additional assistance, prayers, and encouragement. Praying with each person I meet with has been the biggest blessing to both them and to me.

I had the joy of meeting with many of my supporters in Illinois and Indiana at the end of October. Such a blessing to be able to see and thank so many of my ministry partners who have been with me for 20 years!
In my work, I touch and serve many ministries and I juggle many needs and expectations. Much of my work is done in an office and is computer-based; however, at times I feel I need to do something to have more direct influence and impact on peoples’ lives. To this end, in November I embarked on a Facebook fundraising project named, “Bless 100”. My goal was to sponsor 100 struggling families in Minneapolis at $20 each to be able to provide them with a cartload of new needed items that will bless, encourage, and let them know that they are loved by God and not alone. Through the generosity of about 25 donors, that goal was met. In 2020 I will be working with a number of nonprofits to identify and bless those 100 families. So grateful to the many that are allowing me to multiply the blessings and personally touch and bless many. I will share some stories (and hopefully photos) of the blessing process in 2020.

Looking into 2020 and what God is calling and leading me to do, I’ve realized that my funding has declined over the years (and I’ve not been good at inviting people to partner with my work;). Going into 2020 I am short about $425 per month, or $5000 (to cover health insurance). If you would like to sow into my work and what God is doing through my ministry please consider a special year-end gift or joining my monthly support team. The easiest way to give is online at www.globalhz.org/globalcapacities/donate (other giving options are listed on that page as well.)

I would appreciate your prayers for January - it is going to be crazy busy month
with about 1000 year-end donation letters to do, dozens of 1099s and W-2s to create, and a trip to serve in Asia again with the special needs infants (for two weeks leaving January 21:).

*Have a blessed Christmas celebrating the gift of Jesus!*

*Love and Blessings,*

*Jill*