Fea Not!

Happy Spring My Dear Friend!

When I last wrote to you in December our world was very different than it is now just three months later. In my December letter I ended with the line: *I would appreciate your prayers for January - it is going to be a crazy busy month ... and a trip to serve in Asia again with the special needs infants (for two weeks leaving January 21).* I included my January travel almost as an afterthought but God knew I was going to need your prayers more than I could have ever imagined.

I had planned to write to you with specific prayer requests before I left Minneapolis on Tuesday, January 21 (but didn’t get it done), then I was going to write you once I got over jet-lag and settled in (which never happened), and then... I could go on and on. I had gone to assist and care for some special kids and provide the workers with a week away so they could be with their families over the Lunar New Year (the biggest holiday in Asia). Yes, I was in China two months ago at the start of the COVID-19, coronavirus pandemic we are now experiencing in the US and around the world. At that point, there were no
lockdowns, quarantines, travel bans, except in Wuhan (several hundred miles away), as the magnitude of the coronavirus was just being discovered. I wasn’t worried or even concerned about the virus, but as we received more and more news, we did get concerned about the possibility of being quarantined far, far away from home. After less than 3-days in Asia, I was on the phone booking new tickets home to Minnesota. The travel home took 36+ hours, and we arrived back home on Tuesday, January 28 - exactly a week after we had departed. I was at peace but very very tired.

Okay, so what was the point, God? Why did I fly for two days to Asia to be there for four days and travel two days home?? I really don't love flying, Asian airline food, middle-seats, and 12-hour flights that much. While I didn't hear an audible answer from God, I’ve discovered a few things. First, I made a new friend with my traveling companion Joann. I think we take friendship for granted sometimes and it is always a blessing to find a new friend. Second, I was able to see and connect with four other friends during my short time away. Third, I honestly think I was being prepared for the storm we are now facing in the US. I was not afraid in January and I quite honestly am not afraid today. Don’t get me wrong, the virus is real and the virus is harmful. We need to be wise and discerning, wash our hands, follow the instructions of our leaders, wash our hands, social distance, wash our hands, slow down and spend some time at home alone. But our God is greater than any virus and He still reigns above it all!

On March 3, I was challenged in a sermon to "fast from fear". So today I am on day 21 of my fast from fear. I continue to choose daily not to fear. I am more confident and convinced than ever that as daughters and sons of God that we are not to fear. I've included a handful of verses at the bottom of this letter, with two verses below that have been my go-to verses. I haven't done any study on this, but I'm pretty sure that God has given us commands not to fear. I've found that spending time in worship is a great antidote to fear. Some of my favorites songs right now are Reign Above It All (Hannah and Paul McClure), The Father's House (Cory Asbury), The Blessing (Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes, Elevation), Ain't No Grave (Bethel Music), Peace (Hillsong), Waymaker (Leeland), New Wine (Hillsong), and No Longer Slaves (Bethel Music). The words and music ground me, they calm me, they quiet my mind and refocus my brain. I will continue to stand in a place of PEACE, not fear!
"For God will never give you the spirit of fear, but the Holy Spirit who gives you mighty power, love, and self-control."
2 Timothy 1:7 TPT

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment."
1 John 4:18 NKJV

My fall project "Bless 100" has taken a while to figure out, coordinate and execute on; however, I'm learning that God's timing is perfect. I think God had me raise the funds last November to be able to bless and encourage families this spring. So many in our community are dealing with fear, isolation, economic uncertainty, and job loss, and I plan to use your generous gifts to let people know that they are not alone, that there is hope, and that they are loved.

Praying God's safety, peace, protection, and health for you and your family!
Love and Blessings,
Jill

p.s. Thank for your faithful support and prayers. I'm grateful to share that about half of my 2020 budget shortfall has been provided. If you would like to sow into my work and what God is doing through my ministry please consider a 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.)

* "So we will never fear even if every structure of support were to crumble away. We will not fear even when the earth quakes and shakes..." Psalms 46:2 TPT
* "Listen to my testimony: I cried to God in my distress and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears! Psalms 34:4 TPT
* "Then my fears will dissolve into limitless joy; my whole being will overflow with gladness because of your mighty deliverance." Psalms 35:9 TPT
* "Lord, even when your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, for you already have! You remain close to me and lead me through it all the way. Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for you are near... So why would I fear the future? For your goodness and love pursue me all the days of my life." Psalms 23:4, 6 TPT
• "Refuse to worry about tomorrow..." Matthew 6:34 TPT
• "But Jesus reprimanded them, "Why are you gripped with fear? Where is your faith." Matthew 8:26 TPT
• "But Jesus refused to listen to what they were told and said to the Jewish official, "Don't yield to fear. All you need to do is to keep on believing." Mark 5:36 TPT
• "But the angel reassured her, saying, "Do not yield to your fear, Mary, for the Lord has found delight in you..." Luke 1:65 TPT
• "Do not yield to your fear, Simon Peter..." Luke 5:9 TPT
• "Why would you be so frightened? Don't let doubt or fear enter your hearts, for I AM!" Luke 24:38 TPT
• "Don't worry or surrender to your fear. For you've believed in God, now trust and believe in me also." John 14:1 TPT
• "I leave the gift of peace with you--my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts--instead, be courageous." John 14:27 TPT
• "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption." Romans 8:15 NASB