



Celebrating with Gratitude!

2020 - A year like no other!

It has been a little over 6-months since the coronavirus started to directly impact all of our lives (and all aspects of our lives.) So much has happened and so much has changed in that short time; in many ways, it feels like years and not simply months have passed. It is a time where I have been forced to trust in God like never before - moment by moment. It has been a time where the media has been constantly propagating fear, worse case scenarios, uncertainty, and hatred. To say the news has been "negative" is an understatement. **What an opportunity for us to be salt and light!** A chance for us to love people well and to share the truth and hope that we have in Jesus. The world is floundering and we get to practically and tangibly demonstrate our faith and live out the love of Christ.

Celebrating 20 years of ministry and partnership in 2020!

September 5, 2000 was a Tuesday, the day after Labor Day. At 9 p.m. my family saw me to the gate (that was still allowed at that point), I boarded a plane with two suitcases (and my cat), and I departed for Hungary. **That was 20-years ago!** Had I birthed a child on that day they would be an adult out on their own today and "all grown up". Had I bought a car on that day it would have broken down and I would have replaced it years ago. But shifting into full-time vocational ministry had no such natural progression (or endpoint). It wasn't like climbing the corporate ladder or working toward a raise or a bonus, it wasn't predictable, it wasn't linear, it was good, it was hard, it was humbling. Even after 20-years, I've never felt comfortable calling myself "a missionary". To be honest I never felt that I was "good enough" to be a missionary. **BUT**, I am so grateful that God doesn't depend upon my feelings or my view of myself. God equips us and uses what we give to Him. I fully surrendered and consecrated my life to His purposes 20-years ago and I continue to do so today.

20-years ago I was pretty naive and clueless. I didn't have any idea what living overseas was going to be like. I had no aptitude to learn Hungarian. I was better at tasks and problem solving than I was at building relationships. I was lonely and depressed at times. **Yet God in His grace and in His mercy has used me.** He has taught me, grown me, challenged me, and totally brought me to the end of my understanding and my abilities (Proverbs 3:5-6) - which is a good thing. I know very few specifics of the impact my work has had on people's lives and expanding His Kingdom - but I know in my heart that my work has borne fruit. Over the past 20-years, I have supported hundreds of ministry leaders. I've created systems and processes to make ministry work easier. I moved to Budapest with the call to "use my gifts and skills and training to facilitate and enable the ministry of others." God has allowed me to do this well, and I am grateful.

Many reading this email have given generously and prayed regularly for me through this journey. I have never lacked anything thanks to your faithfulness. You are my partner. You are my hero. You have stood beside me through thick and thin. You have given sacrificially. You have not given up on me when I've been poor at communicating (or late in sending out a thank you card;). Some have read all 126 of these updates. I could not make it through without you.

There is much I could update you on about life and ministry and the things God has been teaching me over the past 6-months, but I am going to leave that to another email. Today I just want to pause and thank God for His faithfulness. ***Thank you from the bottom of my heart!***

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

*Love and Blessings,
Jill*

p.s. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. 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.)

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