



Dear YOM Family, Friends, and Partners,

I pray you are living a life of faith today. The rewards are out of this world, although the faithful are often given a glimpse of heaven through blessings and favor right here on earth.

In my devotional time this morning I was reading in Genesis 40. It depicts a time when Egypt's Pharaoh(king) had been offended by his cupbearer and his chief baker. That was not all that unusual, as most kings or pharaohs that were murdered in those days were murdered by poisoning! Sounds like he at least had his suspicions about these two men. And they were thrown into a dungeon.....with Joseph. Joseph was in the dungeon because of a false accusation cooked up by Potiphar's wife. You probably remember parts of the story. Remember too that Joseph had eleven brothers. They despised him because of the dreams Joseph had and ill-advisedly shared with his family. And he was their father's favorite. (There is at least one sermon in that regarding what not to do as a father! Oh, and one regarding the weeds of jealousy.) Some of the brothers wanted to kill him. But they ended up just throwing him in a deep hole...to die. While Joseph was in that hole a band of Ishmaelites came along. One of Joseph's affectionate brothers had an idea and said, "...Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed! And Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt.

Back to Genesis 40. Joseph's life seemed to have been derailed again. In this instance he spent two years in prison. Prisons in those days were horrific; nasty, cold, dark. But Joseph had an attitude. A good one. The Bible does not record anything that indicates Joseph thought his situation was hopeless. He did the right thing too. Joseph was in a difficult place. But even in prison his attitude and diligence were apparent. He was given some tasks. He performed them with excellence and without complaining. Before Joseph got out of prison, he was prison administrator! This brief snippet of Joseph's life was not the first or the last time Joseph's life trajectory appeared to be derailed.

What is my point? Great question. If you have been in quarantine, what has been your attitude? Hopelessness? Anger? Fear? Anxious? Rebellious? Praise? Perhaps a combination of those attitudes and others. COVID-19 has made the world an uncomfortable place. We have all reacted to it. Rightly so. And not all reaction has been what we would have hoped. I am not scolding anyone here.

Quarantine, imprisonment, rejection, disowning, always bring out the **good**, the **bad**, and the **ugly**. And these types of events as well as these types of responses are as old as the Garden of Eden. And as new as today.

I want in many ways to be like Noah, Moses, Joseph, Jesus, Paul, and numerous others in the Old and New Testaments. There are some present-day people too that when given a lemon, you guessed it, they make lemonade.

Oh, I am trying, and I confess that it is taking effort, and **I am not battling 1,000**. But I think I am learning. Not at first though. I was like: “Quarantine!” “Stay at home!?” “Wear a mask!?” “Wear gloves!?” “Don’t go to church!?” “Do Life Group via Zoom!?” And on and on.

Wait! After 10 weeks, am I beginning to get used to this, at least sort of? Are they (government) making their move to Pavlov’s dog us toward a whole different normal? (That is just me.) **I prayed:** God, I want to stand for You and Your Word, for certain. But I want to do that better than I have. Help me see this pandemic, and more importantly, people, through your eyes. Amen.” I believe I can do that. You too. If you want.

I prayed: “God, How can I be a light in this pandemic situation? No more just looking out for number one (me). I want to take the focus off me. The life You have called me to is a life of loving and serving. I want to love others as I love myself. Help me think of others before I think of myself. I will endeavor to be cautious insofar as avoiding this virus, and I know there is a level of risk. And I know that history reveals that it has been Christians that bring hope in times like this COVID-19. God, I am not Joseph or any of those guys. It is me. I just ask you to help me be a hope deliverer in this God. Amen.”



Yucatan Outreach Ministries has plans **August 15-22, 2020**, to have mission teams in Tulum, MX as well as in the Mayan Villages of Ek Balam and Hondzonot. In Tulum we will be placing signs Tulum. In Hondzonot the team will witness and pray and minister be the second year in a row we have had this wonderful opportunity to present Jesus to this once forgotten village. In Ek Balam, a village with which we have had a ministry partnership for close to ten years, the priority will be continuing construction on House of Light. This is such a vital ministry for this village. It is an

already active Christian outreach sharing the gospel and meeting daily needs for food, clothing, Bible study, and virtually any kind of need that arises. Our team is so excited for this mission. We meet on Sunday, May 31, for the first time since the quarantine began in Texas. The entire team is made up of people that call Coryell Community Church their church home. Sweet. We know and love each team member.

Would you pray for our team? Regularly as well as during the mission, Aug 15-22. We are a little behind the curve in preparation because we have been discouraged from meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have received music, choreography, and craft instructions/needs, which we will distribute and begin to learn on May 31. We believe God will be glorified and lives, young and old will be changed; some for entrance into the Kingdom. I am certain the lives of everyone that goes will change too.

This team and this trip are not without issue. The “lockdown” in Mexico is slowly beginning to be lifted. PTL. While it was scheduled to slowly open beginning June 1, that date has been pushed back to an unspecified date in June. Of course, as in most places, a spike in the Coronavirus cases could cause other date adjustments. So, like never before for us, this is a step of faith as we prepare, pray, purchase airline tickets, pray, purchase building materials and VBS supplies. Please come alongside us and cover this mission trip and these missionaries in prayer. Thank you so much.

We are hearing a lot about heroes these days.

Rightly so. I will add Scott and Annette Gahn, Jorge and Lidia, and Ishar and Debi to that list as heroes. These are Yucatan Outreach Ministries missionaries that live and serve on the field in Mexico. Life is a challenge there. Debbie and I served there for three years. While we loved the people as well as the beauty of those specific parts of Mexico, it has its challenges. Safety is always a concern. Family back in the states too. Government overreach is not uncommon. Isolation can take its toll. These folks are heroes of the faith.



We at Yucatan Outreach Ministries recognize that our donor partners are living through this pandemic as are we. You have been faithful through this and your donations have not waned. **We daily give thanks to God for you.** And thank you from the depths of our heart. It is amazingly encouraging to know that we can pay the missionaries and provide for some of their ministry endeavors. God is good. And so are our faithful donors. Gracias.

We will need some funds on the **construction side** of things in Ek Balam. If God would touch your heart about that as you read this, be encouraged. Every dollar helps.

For His Kingdom,



Terry and Debbie

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