



Food for Life and Hope

AUGUST 21, 2023

Heartbreak and Hope

Jake and I just returned from a short road trip. Jake had a plan and he did the seeking and searching for materials he would need to complete the plan. So, out we ventured to collect the items he had purchased. We experienced God's hand going before us and preparing the way. The hotel was across the street and in walking distance from where we were picking up and loading a large steel frame. One can't just park Jake's big trailer anywhere! A forklift rental place was just down the road and the owner gave us his time for less than the regular price. I could sense God confirming Jake's choices and rejoiced to see how God was pulling this idea together for him.

Then we received the message that a young woman had just lost her husband to a seemingly strange set of circumstances. This young couple (pictured below in the middle) pastor a church in the Dominican Republic and have a new two month old baby. Her husband fell from an avocado tree and died immediately.

"Father," I prayed, "Wow, why? Do I get to rejoice in your provision for us and wonder why that same protection didn't spread to this young pastor's life? Where was the protection we are sensing and feeling throughout our trip that doesn't seem to be the same for them? Why was he not protected from the fall? Father, we can't understand and don't understand."



L TO R - PASTOR JOSELITO, SARIBEL AND
PASTOR YOVANI RAMOS,
SUPERINTENDENT BANDELIS

As I pondered these thoughts, the answer became more clear. "Yes, you may praise me for my provision for you, for material things, while a sister in Christ suffers for her lost husband. Yes, I can and do work in both circumstances."

My prayer then became, "Help us to leave these big questions with you and somehow be okay with it."

I immediately put out this news on my Facebook feed so that my friends here could pray for this new widow and young son. I questioned afterward if I had said too much and made something so raw and personal for them a public thing. The feedback of prayer I have received for that post outweighs any concern because I know that my friends are holding this young widow and family up in prayer.

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Heartbreak and Hope cont'd

She will need it. She will need our prayers to lean in hard when she's tempted to turn away because she just doesn't understand. She will need all our prayers for the pain, anger and sadness that may overwhelm her. She will need to sense that her God and others are holding her up when she cannot do it herself. So, thanks, friends, for being faithful.

"FATHER, THANK YOU THAT WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND AND HAVE SOME BIG QUESTIONS, THESE ARE NEVER TOO BIG FOR YOU. WE LIFT, SARIBEL BEFORE YOUR THRONE TODAY SO THAT SHE MAY RECEIVE GRACE AND MERCY TO HELP HER IN HER TIME OF NEED. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN."

WRITTEN BY SHAWNA-LEE STUBBE

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO BRING CONTINUAL HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Pray ~ "Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." 1 Peter 5:9

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