

The Single Perspective

Newsletter of the International Single People's Alliance (ISPA)
of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW)

The Legacy Continues: Pursuing Excellence

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Hope during Pandemic and Protests

by Evangelist Cherlyn Williams, ISPA President

Psalm 42:1 – 5 reads: “**As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance” (KJV).**



One may say, “I hope it doesn’t snow, but there are flakes falling” or “I hope you feel better”, but our sympathy doesn’t change the result of the illness or “I hope I get to sleep in, but I have a new born baby and young children”. These examples reflect the possibilities of unlikelihood. The phrase “dashed hopes” may give way to the realization that a situation is “beyond hope.” Even when we speak positively, hope can be a wavering light. We may mistakenly conclude that our hope in Christ is

as slippery as the icy snow we were hoping not to receive.

Yet, hope is our foundation of our faith. It is not the vaporous wish tainted by doubt that we employ as we blow out birthday candles. When the Apostles wrote about it, they spoke with confidence and assurance. Peter tells us we have a “lively hope” in 1 Peter 1:3: “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**”. Hebrews 6:19 describes hope in God as an “anchor”: “**Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...**” The Bible gives us hope in expectant certainty. Knowing Christ guarantees everything He has promised and purchased with His blood.

When Paul prayed for the church in the city of Ephesus, he wrote, “**The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; in order that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**” (Ephesians 1:18). That kind of hope is not an evaporating well-wish. It is an absolute hope that does not put us to shame. Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, we must set our hope on when Jesus Christ is

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During this time of pandemic and protests of the murder of George Floyd, life may seem hopeless. People are fearful. Their violent acts are faithless. As we live on this earth, we recognize the word hope, which is a commonly used word. With the best intentions in the world, we express pleasant intentions for ourselves and our loved ones into the air, not knowing whether we share love or spread contagion. We mean well, but we have no control over possible outcomes.

Editorials and Opinions

If you have any concerns or comments regarding articles or opinions expressed in the *Single Perspective*, please email them to singleperspective@yahoo.com and include the subject line of Letter to the Editor.

I Can't Wait to Get Back to Church!

By Sister Connie Green, *Single Perspective* Writer

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, most of our congregations have been unable to hold their usual in-person church services since mid-March. Our sanctuaries have largely remained empty for nearly three months, which is absolutely unprecedented! This has caused many saints to repeat the common refrain: "I can't wait to get to back to church!"

As part of the effort to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus, medical experts are instructing people everywhere to practice strict "social distancing", a term few of us had heard of prior to March of this year. The phrase is now a very familiar part of our daily vernacular.



In response, congregations have become quite creative and innovative in adapting to the inability to gather in our sanctuaries in the manner to which we are accustomed. We currently see an

abundance of online live streamed services, outdoor parking lot services, and teleconferenced services to fill the need for corporate worship. As a result, churches are actually able to reach a greater number of souls than we did before. Still, many can't wait for the day we can begin meeting together again inside our buildings as we have always done.

I must say I echo that sentiment. I, too, cannot wait to get back to church.

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The Single Perspective

The purpose of the *Single Perspective* newsletter is to inform and edify single saints. It is published bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October, December) during the first week of each of those months, Lord willing.

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ISPA's Upcoming Events

PAW Virtual Convention
July 29—August 1, 2020

ISPA Prayer Conference
March 26—28, 2021

Features

Saved, Single, and in the Midst of Covid-19

by Evangelist Rhonda J. Morries, BSN, MSN, CST

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus! This novel virus named Covid-19 was so labeled because it was first discovered in November 2019. Unfortunately, over 110,000 Americans have succumbed to this virus since its inception. You should continue to wear masks and be vigilant in minimizing contact with the world to avoid contracting the disease.

What is Covid-19?

This virus has the intelligence to invade the body and replicate itself, thereby destroying the lungs. It chokes the lungs to death. It squeezes out every normal cell, overpowers them, and kills them. It quickly invades and destroy good lungs, lung tissues and all the associated parts of the lungs that keep us alive, including the small but mighty parts of the lungs such as the trachea (windpipe) that conducts inhaled air into the lungs through bronchi and then into the bronchioles terminating into microscopic air sacs called alveoli.

The virus interrupts the excretion of carbon dioxide. A build up of dioxide that is not eliminated from the lungs causes lung death. Respiratory failure can occur quite rapidly and kill someone in a matter of minutes.

Covid-19 can be deadly if not treated or managed effectively. The virus has no medication that can treat it and there is no vaccine. The best option for Covid-19 patients who experience breathing difficulty is being put on ventilators that function as healthy lungs to eliminate toxins, remove carbon dioxide from the lungs, and bring oxygen into the lungs to help prevent them from deteriorating, which results in mortality.

Watching People Die

Being on the frontlines in any setting that has people who are suffering with Covid-19 reminds me of walking through a cemetery. Biblically speaking, it's like when the children of Israel were being led from Egypt. They got to the Red Sea. They were between a rock and a hard place. The Egyptian enemy was coming to kill them, but there was no way out but the Red Sea.

There have been many times the story of the Red Sea comes to mind. At times, I wish this virus could depart from those who suffer from Covid-19. My hope is that they would miraculously cross over and live but that is not often the case in reality. This pandemic virus has turned our entire world upside down and has



worn out the patience of some saints. I have worked in many settings in this pandemic: surgery, ER, medical surgical nursing, and PACU. However, there is nothing that can take the place of pronouncing a person dead or watching them struggle to fight for their lives, only to lose the battle.

As nurses, we are not to pronounce the patient dead or determine the time of death but the bottom-line reality is, we do. There is not enough manpower to be with people at their time of death. When we have exhausted all other factors, the patients die, and we note the times of death. Whenever, the doctors come (if they come), they usually ask us when the patient died so it can be reported and documented. Hopefully, doctors get to examine the body and confirm death has occurred, but it may not take place like a textbook or policy would prefer.

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As nurses, we are commanders-in-chief, caregivers, ministers, runners, constantly drawing blood and sending it to the lab, involved in codes, performing such lifesaving emergencies as performing CPR or rapid intubation, and completing ventilatory interventions to preserve life.



Covid-19 Toes/Photo courtesy of Dr. E. Jacobson

No Time to Cry

We are on the run because there are so many sick and afflicted people who are in crisis during the entire 10—12 hours on our shifts. We are hanging fluids, passing out food trays, hanging blood, and injecting medications ordered such as insulin, pain medication and emergency meds to keep people alive.

It is not for the faint of heart. There have been days when we coded 14 patients. We were going from one to another. As soon as one died, we were being called to do another, and yet another. There was no time to call family, no time to properly preserve the dead body with compassion or dignity and no time to cry. Saving lives is our passion and no matter how tired we become, it is our obsession.

In one hour, we had lost eight people who went from talking to us to being pronounced dead within 10—35 minutes. Yes, it is extremely challenging to those who already have medical conditions

and the elderly. However, there are people who have been living with chronic diseases for years and managing them, fighting against them and doing all they can to live. Many have beaten and kicked cancer to the curb, sent it back to hell from whence it came, only to be taken out by Covid-19 in less than 14 days and unfortunately, some in one day.

They Know They're Dying

There is nothing more devastating than to hold the hand of a person who is trying to catch his breath and/or taking his last breath. Patients squeeze so hard until our fingers go numb. It hurts but as healthcare workers, nurses and ministers, we bear that pain the majority of the time.

Sometimes, we just slip our fingers out of their hands, hold on to their wrists. and try to coach them in a gentle, calm voice. They are scared, fighting for their lives, but they know they are dying, we know they are dying, and we are stuck in the middle. They are grasping for air, crying, facing impending doom and we can only do so much for them.

Some patients start shaking, breathing heavily with eyes bulging and nostrils spread as far they can go. Some foam at the mouth. We see their chest moving so fast to try to help them breathe. Not everyone is lying down in the bed, embracing death peacefully.

Many, especially the younger ones, fight with all their might. Their eyes get big, their color changes to blue to purple and they thrash around, physically fighting the invisible deadly enemy until they collapse because there is no air or energy to continue the fight. Every organ starts to deteriorate and shut down like dominoes that fall. We see a massive amount of saliva, pus, urine, and feces, which are signs of total, rapid deterioration.

It can get ugly when their hearts give out first—then, we must perform CPR and for certain, intubation is implemented. Next, it's time to move on to another patient because the cycle starts again. Blessed are those who get a little more time and help to fight with life support machines!

The Struggle is Waning

It is really something to see someone fighting so strongly and hanging on to us with a tight grip, then we feel that grip lessening as minutes go by. The struggle is waning, and death is knocking at the door. Knock, knock, who is it? Jesus Christ of Nazareth, may I

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I Can't Wait to Get Back to Church!

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I can't wait to get back to the church and hear the organist hit the right key, listen to the praise team or choir sing my song, or hear my favorite minister to preach my soul happy! I can't wait for a minister to lay hands and pray me through to deliverance EVERY Sunday. No, I must fall on my face before God in earnest prayer, not just for myself and my family, but I must also stand in the gap on behalf of someone else. I must stand as a child of God to meet the spiritual challenges of these perilous times.

As chaotic as the world appears, we can be assured that God is still in control. Until He says otherwise, COVID-19 will be our new reality for a while. We do not know how long we must live with physical distancing and modified worship services.

Even as pastors and churches prayerfully consider when and how to return to our sanctuaries, it will not be as it was pre-COVID. In the meantime, our troubled and suffering world needs this chosen generation to proclaim the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9). The world needs to know of the hope we have in Christ Jesus. The world needs to see Christ in you, and Christ in me, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

With all that is going on in our country and in our world right

now, we cannot afford to simply wait until we get back to church. Instead, we must determine to BE the church and strive to live out the words of this song: "Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true. And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You."

Hope during Pandemic and Protests

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revealed at His coming as in 1 Peter 1:13: **“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”**.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus Christ transformed disappointment into **hope**. During difficult situations, we have this **hope** in Christ and are a people who bounce back, knowing that God is our Strength and Deliverer.

In pandemic and protesting times, stand firm on your faith! We can protest in peace while being focused on Who is in control.

Because He doesn't change, we can expect the unexpected and prepare to have our **hope** in Him revived.

Take the time to hear His voice and understand His will in your life. Remember, God is our strength. Have faith in God.

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come in and talk now? Who is the Holy Ghost speaking to now? This is the hardest and most grievous part because being ministers in the Lord, we have an accurate idea where most of the patients are going afterward. Time's up. Even on their death beds, patients will still refuse to come to Jesus. The relief this nurse received is this: the Apostle Paul grieved because he wanted to help get as many people saved as he could, but they rejected Jesus even in their darkest hour.

Now, even patients who are saved sometimes go through the fighting stage, but they learn to let go sooner and relax. I have seen some seasoned saints truly not fight at all. When they say they are ready, they really do mean that. Their death, from a believer's point of view, is beautiful. What? Beautiful? How is there beauty in death, Evangelist Nurse? There is nothing like a person in Christ who has peace with God and is ready to go to the Promised Land. His facial expression in death is different: he has that glow, that light. As Psalms 116:15 states: **“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”**