

"...and God knew."

Exodus 2:26b (ESV)

Journey Groups



Our Sept-November International Jornada still has 2 weeks until we finish up for this year. This group has been incredibly open with their stories in our group. My spirit soars when I see the Lord open a heart that has been closed and hidden by shame. Some of the stories are so horrendous and we are amazed at how children cope and survive their childhoods. Working through the trauma of their childhoods and finding hearts that understand their pain and fear has changed how these ladies see themselves and how they see Jesus working in their stories. Pray with us through these next few weeks, that Jesus would continue to show Himself to these ladies as He walks with them in their journeys.

Prayer Requests

- For more opportunities to share Jesus with the students in Nancy's English classes. Many students come from difficult home situations and feel alone & stressed.
- Nancy's mom has been settled into a nursing home in Mishawaka, IN. She went to the ER with heart problems this week. It appears that it is primarily a UTI and the antibiotics are helping. Pray for her health and pray for us (as we are so far away from Margaret) and Nancy's family as they handle situations as they pop up.
- Pray for our International Journey leadership, as we take a break when these groups end, and for our March International Journey. Pray now for the hearts that will be involved since the Lord already knows who will be coming and what are their needs.
- We are selling the Eau Claire house. Praise the Lord, we have had a constant source of income for us over the years of ministry to supplement our support but it is now too hard to administrate from afar. Once the renter has moved out, it will be put up for sale.



**"the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling
in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."
Matthew 4:16 (ESV)**

Christmas...what do you see in your mind when you see that word? Trees, lights, presents, a fire in the fireplace, or beautiful manger scenes?

I love the book of Matthew. Matthew was a Jew but an outsider - a tax collector for the Romans, who was scum to other Jews. Matthew wrote his gospel to highlight the outcasts and those who are living in darkness. Jesus was the ultimate outcast.

Beginning with his genealogy, Jesus was not a person that the average Hebrew would embrace. While coming from the line of David, he has a deceiver, a prostitute, a foreigner and an adulteress in his line. His own mother's virtue was under scrutiny by the culture for being pregnant and possibly unfaithful to her covenantal husband. Even the family had no room for Joe and his "loose" wife when they came to Bethlehem. They would have to make do with whatever shelter they could find.

His birth was celebrated by the lowest of the culture...the shepherds. He comes back to Israel from Egypt and moved into the area of Israel that would be considered the redneck area of the country. The influential people would never come from Galilee. He chose disciples who were rabbi rejects.

And He had the nerve to preach and heal foreigners and outcasts. He would talk to women. He would associate with lepers. He would associate with prostitutes, the sick and the deformed. And He had harsh words for the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Jesus came to bring Christmas to the forgotten, the rejected and the lonely. He calls us to minister to the outcasts. Lord, forgive us when we lose sight of Your heart for the outcast. Break our hearts for those who are living in hell and use our hands to touch them with Your love.

May our Christmas reflect your heart Jesus! Tom and Nancy Rach

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"For the Equipping of the Saints and the Strengthening of the Body of Christ" Eph 4:12