



HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

Dear Friend of the Shepherd,

April 1, 2021

I pray this letter finds you and your family safe and well. We seem to be walking through a terrible nightmare where our world is upside down from what we used to call “normal”. Daily I ask God to keep me focused on Him and not my circumstances. Daily I ask God to give me the strength to get up and rejoice that I have a job to go to, a job where I get the honor of serving people who may be without Jesus or who simply have lost all hope.

For me to be able, through the many generous gifts from the friends of this ministry, to offer these people hope and a life in Christ, I must stay in the Word and be quiet so that I can listen to His voice. It was a revelation to me how my Lord knew I needed to hear His instructions about what words I needed to place in this newsletter at 5:30 AM. Of course, He knew. He always knows.

I was awakened this morning thinking about my brother, who is in Concordia Rehab, under a 14-day quarantine. As this most sacred week begins, I hope to visit him and see for myself how he is doing. His life is turned upside down since his heart attack, and the heartache of my family is so evident because he is truly not who he used to be. There are no words to describe the pain we feel as we wait to see what God’s Perfect Will is. Our prayer is that he will not be in a facility where he will be taken care of the rest of his life, a place where he would not want to be. If you know my brother, you know this will not restore the joy and praised filled life that he shared with all his family, his friends and anyone else whose path intersected his. I thank God we recorded us singing when he was at the Agape Home. His favorite request was Jesus Loves Me and he remembered every word.

These early morning thoughts reminded me of our lambs and of all those friends of this ministry, many in need of receiving, and many in need of giving from their hearts of faith. I know that they are never lost. I know that each of us continually prays for the Light to shine so that we can be found. During these past few weeks, I have had many opportunities to share my faith during my own crisis. When I prayed with our lambs and with our friends, I could not hold back the tears because my heart is so heavy, not just for myself but for their needs too.

It was during these heartfelt prayers that His spirit was so powerful, we often cried together. We shared with each other how God, in His infinite wisdom, placed us together at that very moment because He knew we needed to share our worries with a good listener. How does He do this? He does this because He is God, because He is faithful to keep His promises and because He will never forsake us. One of my favorite scriptures is **Isaiah 40:31**

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Did you notice He said that those whose *HOPE is in Him* will find renewed strength? I had to ask myself the same question. Where is my hope for my family crisis and my hope for this world? I can

honestly say my HOPE is in my Lord Jesus Christ. He is my everything, but most of all, he is my Redeemer, my Savior and my Risen Lord who gave His life for me. He was sacrificed on a huge wooden Cross, and he suffered there endlessly for our sins. Then, on the third day after his death, He was resurrected. He did all of this so that we could have the “treasured gift”, the forgiveness of our sins. He did this **for us** so that each of His lambs could realize a personal relationship with Him and have the promised eternal life with Him when we leave this world behind, and then, walk with Him, hand in hand, in Heaven.

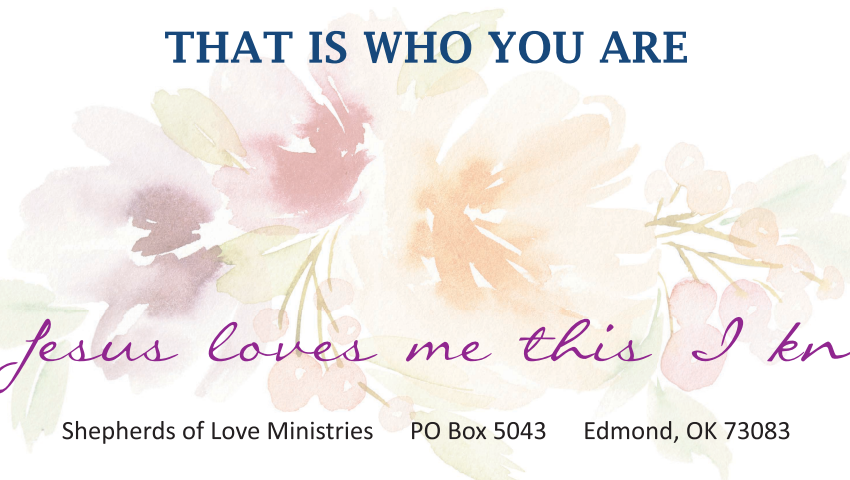
Oh, my friend of the Shepherd, please do not let one more day of your life go without running into the Father's arms, confess your sins, receive forgiveness, and let go of every thought that binds you to the ways of this world. You can have a joy and praise filled life while on this earth when you choose a life with Christ. Surrender your burdens this very minute to Him, for time is of the essence in His presence, and because nothing is beyond His Power. He is waiting for you.

He promises to give you Hope, to renew your strength, to give you the power to soar like an eagle, to run and not grow weary, and most of all, to not grow faint.

This Easter Season I pray you will pause and reflect on your life. What have you got to lose? Nothing! But you have everything to gain when you surrender to Jesus. ***What will you do with Jesus?***

His Shepherd Girl,
Teresa Rountree

JESUS IS MY
WAYMAKER
Miracle Worker
PROMISE KEEPER
Light in the Darkness
MY GOD
THAT IS WHO YOU ARE



† Jesus loves me this I know...