

Dove meeting 2nd April- 'I am a child of God'

I began writing this Sunday 22nd March & come last Friday 20th the doors to all Catholic churches closed with no gatherings over 100 allowed- no Masses & now no Dove. So, I've spent the weekend regrouping & thinking about what's happening & the way fwd. I do know that I was born for such a time as this even though I can't quite figure it all for now .

I'm immune challenged & 70 so self- isolating, thus the new way this is being presented. Things are changing by the minute- we've just cancelled 2 out of three flights for this year one was for Emotionally free inner healing leadership & the other was to Vancouver where our son wife & 2 small grand children live. It's just been announced that schools close Wednesday & I'm sure you'll all be able to relate to similar things in your own lives.

So far over the weekend Bill & I went to Saturday vigil Mass new styles- in our lounge praying along with our parish priest who was celebrating Mass for our parish community, on his own in our church at the same time. We followed the order of the Mass & received Jesus spiritually at communion time. I did the same Sunday morning at 9am on line with Bishop Steve. Then Caris intercessors kicked in praying tog. Around the world with videos, song, scripture, rosaries & chaplets.

Through it all I came across Luke 8 24 'The disciples woke Jesus up shouting-'Master, master we're going to drown'-so Jesus rebuked the wind & raging waves- the storm stopped & all was CALM.'

If you're fearful at the moment well fear is not from the Lord – 2 Timothy 1, 7 says 'I did not give you a spirit of fear but the spirit of power, love & self- control. Call on the name of Jesus He's much bigger than all of this & declare this word out 'I did not give you a spirit of fear but of power & love & sound mind. Amen.

Am I fearful? Yes, I have been a bit but I know the answer is in Jesus who calms the storm & the privilege of knowing who I am in Him & the privilege of faith -I AM A CHILD OF GOD! And this is the topic I was given by Dove for April before we even knew about corona. I think of the song 'Who you say I am' by Brooke Fraser.

Who the Son sets free will be free indeed, I'm a child of God Yes I am- in my Father's house there's a place for me, I'm a child of God yes I am... I am chosen not forsaken, I am who you say I am- You are for me not against me, I am who say I am, I am who You say I am. Sing it out, roar it out- praise diminishes fear!

And how do I really, really, know that I'm

A child of God – well this year our Dove team chose the scripture from psalm 119 verse 105 'Your word Lord is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path' with the theme- Lord we put our hope & trust in Your word.

How prophetic is that for this time we're in now! The word of God is one of the ways God speaks to us confirmed in John 1 v1 'In the beginning was the word, the word was with God & the word was God.

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God is the word & He TELLS us who we are in Him. Romans 8 14 'We are sons & daughters of God' verse 16 says 'we are children of God' These are now words.

My name is Christine- I carry the name of Christ- Christ means anointed & my name means follower of Christ. Amen! My middle name is Marie the Irish form of Mary & my mother's name. Mary means incense. Incense going up as a sweet offering to God. I am blessed in my names alone. Do I know I'm a child of God- absolutely- He knew my parents were going to give me these names in fact He would have planted the seed.

Listen to this in psalm 139- 'Before you were born I knew you, I knit you together in your mothers womb, for so many marvels I thank you- a wonder am I and all Your works are wonders' – that's you!

Ephesians 2 9&10 I am God's work of art- you are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus for the good works which God has already designated to make up your way of life.

Ephesians 1v4 'Chosen in Christ before the world was made. Chosen for this time- so we ask ourselves; how can I help with all that's going on, I'm isolating! The word of God, prayer, song & sharing the love by regular contact with family, friends & neighbours. Love being our greatest gift- these are our weapons.

By right of our baptism we are sealed through the sacrament as 'a child of God' God's stamp on us- Ephesians 1 13-14 'You have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the promise who is the pledge of our inheritance for the freedom of the people whom God has taken as His own, for the praise of His glory.'

The pledge of our inheritance...! My inheritance is the generational blessing that's been passed on through my family, the Irish side particularly, for generations & back to Abraham. Galatians 3 28&29 tells us 'Every one of you that has been baptised has been clothed in Christ...& simply by being clothed in Christ you are that progeny of Abraham, the heirs named in the promise.'

And in Genesis 12 3 we read, about Abraham.....'all clans on earth will bless themselves by you.'

I am protected- you are protected – psalm 91 tells us v1 we are hidden in Him, v6 you need not fear the plague that stalks in the darkness, v10 no plague\no corona virus will come near your home, v11 I have angels around you to guard you wherever you go. Amen.

I am so loved – you are so loved. John 3 16

'For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son Jesus.....'

Jeremiah 31 3 'I love you with an everlasting love & I shall maintain my faithful love for you,' then this great promise for the time we're in- 'I shall build you once more, yes you will be rebuilt.'

For our every need there's a promise- I belong – not just to a blood family where I am loved but also to a church family- let's roar these promises out & declare them, lets sing the praises of God. Let's acknowledge Jesus as King. Bill & I did this for our city from the high place of Mt. Pirongia as part of a worldwide initiative last week. Let's cry out for mercy, lets embrace technology as a way fwd. [and I never thought I'd be saying that] & while we're stuck at home- lets be grateful for home. Let's overflow in gratitude for all we have been given. Let's pray blessing, wholeness & health over our

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families, our churches, our cities- those we're called to pray for, let's call the prodigals to God, let's not be stopped by fear but surge fwd. as children of God – He has lots for us to do as children of God.

2 Chronicles 7 14- If my people humble themselves & pray & seek my presence & turn from their wicked ways- I will listen from heaven & forgive their sins & restore their country.

The chaplet of mercy-perfect! Chaplet means a crown of beads – corona means crown. Let's call an end to this virus & cry out for mercy giving Jesus back His crown- declaring Him king over all of this- reign king Jesus reign. He gives us authority to work in His name.

So with this work He has for us to do let's re consecrate ourselves- pray along with me the sinner's prayer-repeat after me line by line-

Lord Jesus I come before you just as I am. I am sorry for my sins, I repent of my sins, please forgive me. In Your name I forgive all others for what they have done against me. I renounce satan, the evil spirits & all their works.

I give you my entire self, Lord Jesus, now & forever. I invite You into my life Jesus & I accept You as my Lord, God & Saviour. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body soul & spirit.

Come Lord Jesus, cover me with Your precious blood & fill me with your Holy Spirit- I love You Lord Jesus, I thank You Lord Jesus, I shall follow You every day of my life. Amen.

Close your eyes now, look upon Jesus & be still as I sing psalm 139 over you; soak in it as a child of God, an heir of His promises; let the words go deep, this is Jesus to you-

Song 'Know you are loved.....