I have sat down at least ten times today to write what I had hoped would be an authentic reflection for you. A unique interpretation of scripture that might offer an acknowledgement of the pain and confusion. An acknowledgement that would then lead to an offering of hope and comfort, as only scripture can.

I have stared at the blank page and prayed for some insight to share. I have waited for the words. But all that comes is sadness. Sadness welling and washing over me. Sadness that deepens each time I sit before this blank page. And, then, as the stormy day settles into still night, I know I am not alone.

Pure love. Pure compassion. The One who fully and completely enters into my sadness, our sadness. Who sits beside us as our hearts physically ache. As we despair in a pain so deep words cannot contain it. The One who in these moments gently turns my heart toward Julia Esquivel.
“When it is necessary to drink so much pain, when a river of anguish drowns us, when we have wept many tears and they flow like rivers from our sad eyes, only then does the deep hidden sigh of our neighbor become our own.”

Julia Esquivel, Poet Laureate – Guatemala

So, as I sit in the sorrow, I ask myself, how can I hold onto this sadness a bit longer so that when I return to Guatemala, I might understand a little bit better. So that I might extend my hand a little farther. So that I might not withdraw it so quickly. That I might sit with him, with her, awhile longer. So that in those moments, I might hear the sigh and wonder: Is it hers, or is it mine?

This time of sadness, of pain, must bear fruit. It must.

Through him and in him, it shall. It shall.

But for now, it is enough to sit in the sadness as he quietly holds my sorrow and patiently leads my heart toward his true compassion.

May it be so for us all.

And through this, my hope is that you will join me in trusting that even in this, the Lord of love and compassion shall bring forth new life in you. New life through you. So that together our sighs might intermingle as one. Bound together as one in his compassion, in his love, in his peace.

All to God’s glory, honor, and praise.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

Forward to a Friend

Our devotional will now be offered monthly. Look for the next one on June 5.

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