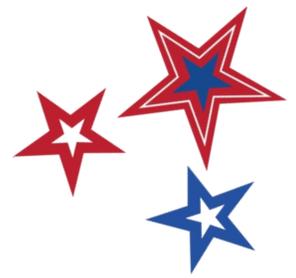


Rest From the Unrest



I think I'm officially caught up on sleep from the drive home from Cheyenne as we wrapped up our 5th Plus Generation Mission Trip a little over a week ago. There's nothing like crisp mountain air and a 17-hour drive to help you clear your head and let the Holy Spirit reveal some things to you! I've been feeling so off balance these last few months. Spiritually and emotionally more than physically. I don't know about you, but it seems like so many of my core beliefs and practices are being challenged by society these days that more than ever I catch myself wondering, "Am I the crazy person here?" As an example, I hear so many talk about what a horrible, racist, sexist, and uncaring country that America is, and it has caused me to question, "Is it really?" And while I will readily admit that the United States has had its issues in the past, and we probably have not fully corrected some of them, on the whole, we have made tremendous strides in both areas of racial and gender equality.

The United States, along with our allies, are the reason many countries in the world live in a free society and are not being ruled by a communist dictatorship. The religious freedom that our forefathers fought and died for is now wanting to be changed to "freedom FROM religion. I'm just waiting for the Bible to be protested against as a "hate book"! The worst part is that lately I've felt pretty helpless to do anything about this campaign against my core beliefs.

But here is where the Holy Spirit helped me to get re-centered, and reminded me of the hope that I have through Christ. I was reminded that the lawlessness and mindless protesting we see in our society is rebellion. Rebellion against the rule of order, the structure that God put in place to make society operate the most effectively, the institution of the family, with a husband and wife living and working together, producing children who will continue to carry their beliefs and traditions into the next generation. But mostly, the lawlessness and rebellion we see is against God, and the idea that there is a supreme creator who establishes an order and put into place the best ways for people to love and work together.

But I've taken it all so personally, because these are my beliefs, that I adopted long ago through trusting in Jesus, and have seen proven true throughout my lifetime, that are now under attack, and being twisted and perverted to fit a group narrative. And I've been watching it play out daily on the news and social media, which surely doesn't help! Being the human being that I am, it hurts, and I get angry, especially when the attacks come from people that I love, whom I thought knew better. The Holy Spirit also reminded me that we are recovering from a pandemic, with people being forced to lock down and shelter in place, and having the government tell them what to do, on a daily basis. People have been rebelling against government control for as long as governments have existed; sometimes for good reason! As Ecclesiastes says, our current period of unrest is "nothing new under the sun!" God knows and sees, not just what is happening in America, but around the world. There is much more to this conflict than just the United States. What I am to do is to trust God, love all people (even the rebellious ones) and carry my banner high for Christ. It is just so hard to know what works best, then watch people purposely choose not to do it. Probably like He sees me sometimes!



Wyoming 2021 Mission Trip