



It Has Been Said by Doris Diener

"You are a high risk person," is not a welcome message, especially when it means to stay quarantined at home for months. "Because of your age and disease diagnosis, your body cannot fight COVID-19 or the meds to counteract it."

With so little known about the virus or its transmission, and in spite of my husband's diligent precautions, I have felt very vulnerable. He and I have carefully discussed the options for action in the event that I would contact it. We have felt the possible proximity of death and speculated how that path may look.

How does my belief affect my response to the current reality? COVID-19 has offered an invitation to discover if we really believe what we have professed to believe or if our Christian faith is only applicable in fair weather. This is the backdrop to the verse below.

(Published in "Rejoice!")

"How can we win?" is the question we ask,
When disease and violence break peaceful silence.
Win? An impossible task!

"Be ready to die," I heard someone say.
Being constantly ready holds our lives steady
Regardless what comes our way.

"Created in God's image," the Good Book says.
God gives us definition, provides purpose and a mission.
Can we submit to God's commission?

"Be ready to flex," it has often been said.
When we can be flexed, we can be at rest
For whatever comes next.

"Be anchored by trust." Though it challenges belief,
In a bad storm when the high waves form,
We find confounding relief.

"Don't be afraid," the Scriptures repeat.
When we've no fear, our perception is clear
To persevere, not retreat.

"Pride precedes downfall," is etched by my past.
Humble interdependency prescribes transcendancy;
With God and others, we triumph.

"Use your head and your heart," their balance is essential.
Learning and logic dispensing mixed with intuitive sensing
Releases Spirit-empowered potential.

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AUGUST 2020





Making Connections – Meet Jen Hagey

You may have run in to me in the hallway at Franconia Mennonite Church. I love my BFG, have served in the nursery, and I am partnered with my dear friend, Alda Kratz, through the Friendship and Care Ministry. I serve as the Recording Secretary for the Church Board, so you may have noticed my name at the bottom of the minutes. I have been married to Jesse for almost 19 years. We have a 14 year old son, Will, who keeps us busy! We also have two Miniature Dachshunds, Minnie and Dachsie, who bring endless joy and entertainment to our family!

Jesse and I work together in the family business, Transportation Services, Inc. and Hagey Coach and Tours. We have taken on more of a leadership role in the last few years since my father-in-law, Don, passed away. Jesse's mom and sister are also involved, as well as a team of great people who have worked there for many years. I have seen the Lord's hand at work in this business and am blessed to be part of a company that seeks to honor God in all that we do.

Life has been different for me since the pandemic began. First, I was suddenly in charge of supervising Will's school day. (I don't know how those moms with 3 or 4 kids do it!) Secondly, our office was shut down briefly and then we took turns coming in to minimize the number of people in the building at one time. We live on the same road as our business, so I have always seen buses drive past my house every day. It has been eerily quiet and a constant reminder that things have changed.

This time of a slower pace and modified schedule has been a blessing to our family. Jesse has been able to spend more quality time with Will, teaching him how to fix things. I have enjoyed our family bike rides. I value any time that I can connect with others, and I treasure personal interactions with friends and neighbors, wherever we meet. I really missed seeing everyone on Sunday mornings and was so glad when we started to gather again.

We usually have a garden, but this year with food shortages and uncertain work, coupled with lots of extra free time, we have really put forth a serious effort to nurture our garden. Will has been a big help, especially with cultivating and watering. I am busy picking and freezing string beans right now. I always feel close to God in my garden. I feel the stress of life melt away as I pull weeds or nurture my flowers and plants.

When I start my day each morning, I reflect on these verses from Lamentations: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." I am so thankful for that. I have experienced that promise time after time throughout my life, and especially during the past few months.





(Continued from page 1)

"Hind sight is best." You have experienced it too.
Looking back we know tough times help us grow—
Though never invited anew.

"God is present," we have been taught,
But when He doesn't offer ease or just what we please
Are we distraught?

These words we say that we believe
When we're in control; nothing's impeding our goal;
Whatever we want, we receive.

But when what we've built crumbles into pieces,
Have we just been naïve? We sit down to grieve
And our doubt increases.

Is unchallenged belief all I offer to God?
Might He want more than I've given before, or
To expose my façade?

"So be ready to die," I keep telling myself.
Regardless, I cannot lose even though I do not choose,
I'm a winner either way.

What's Happening for Women

Walk in the Park

This month we have two opportunities to walk and chat with friends from church!

Morning: Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 am

Evening: Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 7:00 pm

Where: Franconia Park (meet near the Pavilion at the Allentown Road entrance)

You are welcome to invite your daughters or friends. Wear walking shoes and bring a water bottle.

We hope to see you there!



MCC Project of the Month:
Bar soap (Dove for infant kits)

AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Morning Walk 7:30am	13	14	15
16	17	18 Evening Walk 7:00pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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