

March 2014

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.” (Song of Songs 2:11-12 NIV)

What, you say. Winter?? Rains?? It’s been too hot to wear a sweater all winter, and the “rain drop” appears to be gone. I know I am not the only one looking with furrowed brow at the brown, dry hills which we know is a precursor of fire season...it’s obvious it will be early this year, and we need to be careful. Very careful. All the signs warn us that one careless act will result in the loss of life and property. Still it happens that billowing smoke arises and sirens sound all from a tiny spark that results from a casual flick of a match.

This morning I was reading Jesus’ teaching in Mathew, chapter 24 concerning signs of the “last days.” I look around and see everything happening not just here in our beloved U.S., but on a global scale. We have war, famine, persecution, illness, catastrophic occurrences, oppressive governments, tribulation and the loss of natural affection and respect. The interesting observation I made while reading is that Jesus spoke a LOT about our spiritual perspective and cautioned that even though life would get tough, His people need to guard against complacency and malaise.

There is no place for hopelessness when God has prepared the way by telling me what to expect. Because of the signs described in detail, I can be prepared, ready and faithful. Just as I know a change of season is coming by the bird population and the color of leaves, I can understand world events from God’s plan for redemption. Because of the largesse of God to share with me, I can know that one bad season does not an eternity make. I’m glad. Aren’t you? A good thought to keep in mind when you read the newspaper is that what we see is that God’s Word stands forever. The end of life in this world is just the beginning of eternity for those who are in Christ. Look up!

I can’t think of a more hopeful time than the weeks leading up to Easter, because there is nothing else that demonstrates the love of God more clearly than the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Regardless of the chaos in our world, there is peace and joy in the hearts of those who choose to focus on His life. Together, we continue to share the hope here in this ministry and with those God brings to us who are frightened by what they see. This is news worth singing about.

At this time, we are little more than a month out from The Day of Golf Fundraising event on **April 28**. If you would still like to play, we'll do our best to bring you up to speed. Call Jim Coles right away @ 805-471-2214. Jim will be happy to give you all the information you need to be a successful participant.

We will have the 2014 Walk for Life sponsor sheets available for you by April 1. I'll be sending them out with monthly letters or folks will be able to download them from our website or Facebook page. This year the event will be simple and straightforward. We've learned that with all the walks, runs and marathons in the community it's hard to compete for people's attention. However, there are those who look forward to the chance to make a statement in our community through the actual walk, and it gives people an opportunity to come down and tour our facility. We never want to miss an chance to meet and welcome visitors. We'll be here to greet the participants with cold water, and we'll walk with our banners along Hospitality Lane. This year we won't have prizes or games. We will concentrate our efforts on walking and showing our guests the facility. Please call me if you have questions about this event on **Saturday, May 31st from 10 AM to NOON**.

We are already working on the 2014 Annual Fall Gala scheduled for **Friday, October 24**. I've arranged for Carol Everett, author of *Blood Money* to speak to us on that evening about her experience going from an abortion clinic CEO to an outspoken, effective advocate for life. Now, is a good time to mark the date (**October 24, 2014**) on your calendar and begin to speak to those you'd like to introduce to your favorite local ministry. As always, we will ensure the night will be a special evening you and your guests will enjoy and remember.

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen!" (Hebrews 13:20-21)

We have HOPE! His name is JESUS!

Happy Spring!

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director