

OUT OF THE FISHES MOUTH – SPRING 2018

It has been an unseasonably warm winter in Vancouver. So much so many bulbs sent out their shoots last week. Little buds began to show on the tips of many trees. The conditions seemed right and the genetic “optimism” prompted the plants to take a risk. Unfortunately last night it began to snow and this morning these little buds and shoots had a cold awakening. With today’s warming they may survive but if the Arctic front strengthens they may become stunted or die.



We have heard some inspirational stories of Olympic athletes who have overcome colossal odds to compete at Pyeongchang let alone stand on the podium. One such story actually tracks the odds of success for a Canadian Paralympian. (<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/canadian-paralympian-inspires-in-emotional-super-bowl-ad-1.3789793>)

The Christian life involves such risks. We are called to grow and we are called to make ourselves vulnerable at times. Christian organizations are facing censure because of their convictions about certain moral issues. (Trinity Western University) Many Christian parents feel like their fundamental rights are being taken away by the state through the educational system. (SOGI curriculum)

Added to this there are the day to day battles that we face with relational conflicts, health concerns, financial pressures and parenting challenges. In the midst of the trials there is the battle for faith being waged in our souls. Where is God when I am facing challenges, loss, loneliness and anxiety?

A dear friend of mine has faced many such challenges. One son continues to struggle with addiction and due to my friend’s choice to follow Jesus, she has been subjected to much verbal abuse from members of her former religion. People have spit on her, blamed her son’s troubles on her choice to become a Christian and said many unkind things about her. At times she is in tears but still recalls the promises of God from the Bible and chooses to grow and blossom. I am proud of her.

Another overcomer is the son of our Iraqi friends. His kidney functions declined dramatically over the past three years but he and his family persevered through uncertainty and the daily challenges of peritoneal dialysis. Two weeks ago he received a donor kidney and now begins the long road back to regained strength. Currently he has to take 40 pills every day. ☺

I leave you with the following as an encouragement to bloom where you are planted.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrew 12:1-3

Praise and Prayer:

- 1). Feb. 22 Catherine organized a workshop for many other community daycare staff on the dramatic increase Vancouver is experiencing in the area of child sex trafficking.
- 2). Jonathan is facing a lot of fatigue and looking for medical answers.
- 3). Mark is seeking to retool his approach to Multicultural training and mentorship in order to increase its effectiveness for making disciples who make disciples.
- 4). Please pray for Laura and Lloyd and girls as this is the time when James was to have been born.