

Keeping Watch, by Cindy Moore

Then Jesus... said, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Last month my friend, Lisa, and I attended The Awareness Conference on Mental Health and Suicide. Throughout the conference there was one common theme: Connection and Community. David Woods Bartley, one of the speakers said, "Connection is the vehicle that allows me every single day to keep moving forward...nothing good happens in isolation." Because social media it seems like we are very connected, but it is not the same as a real life person to person relationship where we can see, hear,



touch, and sense the other person's presence. We need each other. We all need safe spaces where we can open up about what we are going through with someone we trust. Even Jesus, in His darkest hour, asked His three closest friends, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." What did Jesus need? Their presence and support.

2019

So many times this past year when I was over-whelmed with the pain of grief, friends reached out to me with a text, phone call or card letting me know they were thinking about or praying for us. Something as simple as, "Thinking of you...keep your chin up!" tells me I am not alone. A friend is keeping watch with me.

Never underestimate the power of a word in season or the power of your presence. When someone is on your mind and you feel the "nudge" to reach out, just do it. You will never know the impact you can have on their day.

"Keeping watch" can be a shoulder to cry on, an ear on the other end of the phone or our presence as we pray with someone. "Keeping watch" tells another person we care and they are important. Connection creates hope and hope saves lives.

In the book of Acts we see that "the believers were together and had everything in common." They

They shared their lives with each other. Love thrives in community and communities are places of belonging.

It is important to find places of connection - in families, the local church and meaningful friendships are great places to start. We are not meant to carry the joys and pain of life by ourselves. Relationship helps us realize we are not journeying alone. I encourage you to reach out. Reach out to find a community if you don't already have one and reach out to someone who needs to belong to one.

Carry each other's burdens and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Ensenada Update

One of the things I have learned about doing missions is you need to be very flexible with scheduling. Sometimes things go exactly as planned and other times things seem to go completely in the opposite direction. Either way I have learned that God is always in control even when things don't go as we plan them.

The day we planned on being in the schools, the teachers were on strike so every schools was cancelled. We really wanted to share with the students, but God opened other doors. We were able to go into men's and women's recovery homes and detention centers. The power of God showed up.

The men are fighting to get their life back from addictions. We were able to encourage them, minister the Word of God, laugh with them, cry and pray with them. Our team was amazing as everybody did their part. The women's home is for women who have been trafficked, come out of prostitution and struggle with addictions. They feel the world has little to offer them and that life has little to offer them. There were many tears as we encouraged them to stay in the fight, prayed and ministered to them. About 70-100 gave their lives to Christ.

We passed out thousands of flyers for the main night event. Many people came out and many also gave their lives to Christ. Thank you Cindy and Donnie Moore Ministries for all of your support. And thank you to everyone who supported and prayed for our time in Mexico!

Terry Douglas, Unseen Youth Desiree Hagan, Compass Ministries

