

February 2024



Well...my 2023 Christmas letter shifted to a New Year's letter...that shifted to a Valentine's letter... that at this point I'm now calling a "just because" letter! But the delay has been for a wonderful reason. I have been waiting for final details to come together for something exciting happening in 2024 that I wanted to be sure you knew about! So... before I recap things from 2023, let me share with you about what I'm leaping into *in just a few weeks*. It is a leap year after all! ☺

The big news is that after a seven year "pause", I am finally returning overseas! It is only a three-week trip from **March 17th-April 7th**, but the time will be split between two nations: **Vietnam and Indonesia**. My trip will start and end **with my dear friends John and Cindy McKinney** (mckinneyinternational.org) who have been serving in Hanoi, Vietnam for the past eight years. It sounds like there will be potential opportunities for me in connection with the Bible school they oversee, a rehab center they run groups at weekly, and the ex-pat church they lead, among other things. In addition, they will be hosting two RHEMA School of World Missions students for their internships while I am there. RSWM is where Cindy and I first met, and it will be a joy to be a small part of equipping this "next generation" of world-changers in their callings!



Nested in the middle of my time in Vietnam, I will be making a brand-new connection with a ministry in Indonesia called Compassion First. **Compassion First provides end-to-end, personalized care to those rescued from or at risk of sex trafficking and exploitation in Indonesia.** They currently offer three after-care homes providing residential and community-based care for Indonesian girls under 18 who have been legally rescued from sex trafficking and have suffered from multiple sexual

traumas. I encourage you to visit their website to learn more about them: www.compassionfirst.org. **I will be spending three days with the staff and residents at "Sarah's House" ☺ located in North Sulawesi.** In speaking with the Operations Director earlier this month, there may be some ongoing collaboration able to happen in the future, as well, but this trip is a first step...and I know in my heart it was orchestrated by the Lord.

Interestingly, God specifically put on my heart to be in Indonesia for my birthday this year... **my 50th birthday!** His leading was with the sense that in being there and experiencing what they do to come alongside these girls that it will give me further clarity about some things just ahead in my own life and ministry with Him. I go with expectancy...already experiencing **the Lord's intent to restore much to me in life and ministry as I start this "Jubilee" year with Him.** (The picture is from last year. ☺)



Know, too, that although I will be overseas, I still plan to have a virtual **"Birthday Open House Celebration" on Zoom** for my birthday! I'm tentatively scheduling it for **Tuesday, March 26th from 7:30-9:00pm CST**. It will be a "come and go" event, so just plan to pop in online for a few minutes to say hello. It will be fun to see who's on at the same time from different places around the world. **If you want to get the Zoom link info, let me know by text or e-mail...BEFORE March 16th!**



But enough about 2024! **There's so much to say about 2023, too!** There were wonderful opportunities to spend time with family and friends for special "milestone" birthdays and various reconnections—each one with a purpose. **I became a great-aunt** in 2023, as well, when Maizy Rowen Noelle was born!

Also, last year I shared about how the Lord had asked me to plant myself in order to root and ground, which led to my getting my first apartment since 2006! **Having a place to call my own has been a wonderful gift to me.** Not only that, but having a place to come home to has proven to be a healthy provision for me as I start traveling more again in the States and now overseas. God sees ahead and provides!

Last February, ***I also connected with a new local church home in Washington: Marysville Foursquare (m4church.com)***. I've been able to build community through connecting with LifeGroups, Tuesday Morning Prayer, their "Unveiled" Women's Ministry, and of course their Sunday morning and special services. They invited me to attend the ***Foursquare Missions Camp in Montana*** last July, too. I also had the joy of speaking to their ***Senior Fire*** group for their Valentine's Luncheon this month. I've made some wonderful new friends, and the staff and others have been a great encouragement to me. Pastor Aaron was even key in helping me make connection with Compassion First in Indonesia as he is a part of their Board of Directors.



In May 2023, ***I began my 17th year of serving alongside Rev. Gary and Connie Crowl (gcinternational.org)***. There have been numerous seasons with them in a variety of places, and it has been a joy and privilege. Although I remain involved in a variety of administrative things for their ministry, a key focus for me right now is coordinating things for their ***FLP Chinese translation work (flpchinese.com)***. We had over 10,000 downloads of resources from the website in 2023. In addition, in 2023 we launched a project to begin turning all of our books into audiobooks. ***In the first two months of 2024 alone, we've had over 5,000 views at youtube.com/@flpchineseconnetheagin***. The Crowls were able to visit me in Washington in 2023, too. This photo is with another ministry couple from the area. I am grateful to be part of what the Crowls are doing for the Kingdom of God!

May 2023 also marked ***10 years since I graduated with my Human and Family Services Bachelor's, and 15 years since I graduated from RHEMA School of World Missions!*** As an RSWM class, we had not reconnected since that time, so I helped to coordinate a virtual reunion via Zoom in June. Although not everyone could join, eleven people called in from ***six different time zones!*** It was wonderful to catch up as well as to reminisce. In 2023 I also ***completed a Certificate in Transformational Ministry at the Margins*** through Tierra Nueva Ministries and ***finished two more courses toward my Master's in Clinical Counseling: Grief and Loss Counseling, and Marriage and Family Counseling.*** Preparation time is never wasted, and God will work all these things together for His good purposes!



I have also been so grateful for every opportunity to minister in 2023. ***I've continued partnering with Cindy McKinney for her monthly virtual REST gatherings (restinme.org)***. In December, I shared on being Anchored in Hope—especially the Hope of Christ's return! ***I was also able to join Cindy for a REST retreat weekend hosted by Crossroad Church in Quincy, IL in June.*** Pastor Rita Sloan and her church family went above and beyond in making the weekend a safe harbor for all the women who came, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit directed our times together in some powerful and unplanned ways. I shared on being wrapped in the secret place... where God is calling each of us, afresh, to come out into the deep with Him and to stay anchored in Him--regardless of the wind and waves raging around us.

Then, in October, I felt like I was ***personally*** being called further into the deep! ***I was asked to be the keynote speaker for a women's retreat in Pennsylvania hosted by Moving Communities to Christ Church.*** It was the first time I'd shared a series of messages like that over three days...and with a church I hadn't had prior relationship with...but it was a wonderful opportunity for growth and a beautiful new connection for me. Jean Watson (***jeanwatson.com***), who gave a special concert for my Dad's 80th birthday, actually recommended me to this church. The theme was "Rooted", and the flow and supply from all 60+ women in attendance was what made the weekend so impactful! Sadly though, I didn't take a single photo! My hope is to return, though!



Then, in December, ***I had a final opportunity at Door of Life Church pastored by Ed & Julie House in Wisconsin (dooroflife.org)***. I consider Door of Life to be my church home, so to be asked to share at their ***God Encounter's Women's event in December*** was both a joy and honor. I spoke about the Advent of Christ Coming Again...and the Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love we can live in and out of as a result. ***Samples of many of these messages and other resources can be found at pro-visioninternational.com/streaming-audio.*** All of these opportunities have stirred in me all the more that ministry like this is part of His heartbeat and calling for me, and I am expectant for more opportunities in 2024. I pray that 2024 is full of wonderful opportunities for you, as well, and that God's Hope, Joy, Peace and Love will be His markers on your year! As we purpose to love Him and love others, and to follow as He leads, we can trust Him with every outcome...and find true rest in Him. Grateful for you...