

SPRING 2021

# HOLIDAY ADVENTURES



## A Covenant Prayer by John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what you wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt  
Let me be employed by thee, or laid aside for thee,  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering,  
exalted for thee, or brought low for thee;  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed  
God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Thou art mine and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen



## A TIME TO LOOK UP, LOOK BACK, LOOK IN, LOOK AHEAD

***"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 139:23-24***

After 33 years of ministry, I was encouraged to take a sabbatical. It had been a particularly difficult stretch in ministry, and personally as well. Mary-Faith's brain cancer, surgery, and radiation treatment took an emotional toll on our family. Coming into 2020, I needed a break to regroup. As I began to make plans for a sabbatical in the summer of 2020, covid-19 forced us to rethink the timing of my break. Already running near empty emotionally, leading through a global crisis depleted me even more. Coming into 2021, Jennifer told me, "Doug, you just need to go to Costa Rica for a month and be

alone with God!" I knew I needed to regroup, but I didn't think she was serious about a month in Costa Rica. But during a time of prayer and fasting, God made it clear. He had spoken through my wife, and I needed to listen to her.

Our missionary friends in Costa Rica, Mark & Karen Edwards, graciously offered to host me, even offering their mountain cabin in a cloud forest as a place for me to retreat and be alone with God. What a gift the cabin was! I had 15 days in the mountains, alone with God, reading, praying, listening, hiking, and resting. God met me in the mountains in a powerful way, speaking to my heart and

restoring my soul I can't wait to take Jen to the cabin in 2022!





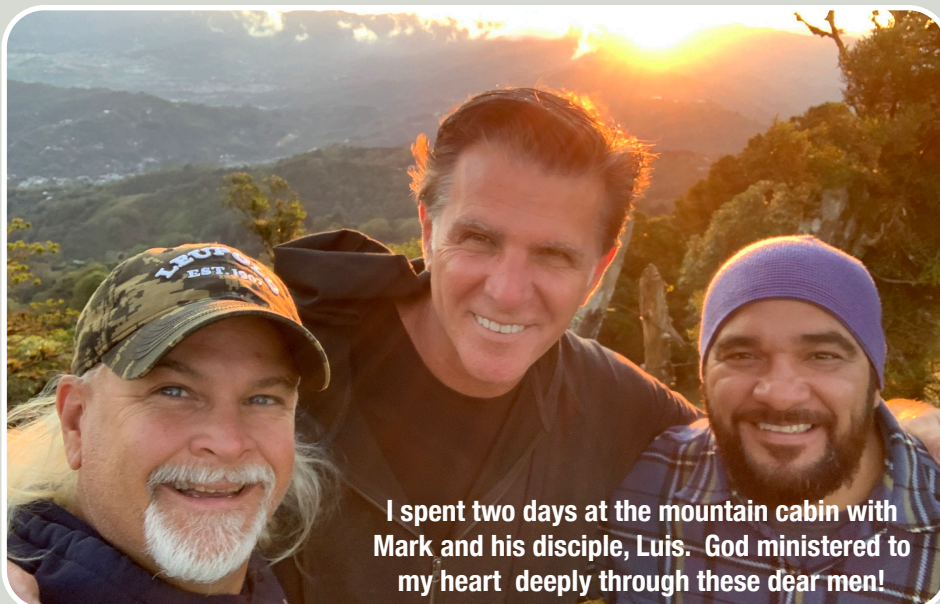
I read or listened to about a dozen books during my sabbatical, but the first book I read was *Rees Howells: Intercessor*, an old biography I'd originally read over thirty years ago as I was just beginning my ministry journey. Chapter 5 details Rees Howells' full surrender to God, five days of wrestling with God at a cabin in the mountains where he lost 7 pounds while learning the meaning of completely dying to self. God was speaking. I was listening. As I wrestled through what it means to live *the crucified life*, the Spirit led me to meditate on Romans 6-8. Romans 6 outlines the reality of the crucified life, while Romans 7 tells of the struggle to live that life. Romans 8 then gives the secret. The key to living the crucified life is first to live *the resurrected life*, living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

In the Upper Room at Sonlife Latin America's leadership campus, I found a copy of another old book whose title intrigued me: *The Christ Life for Your Life* by FB Meyer. It was a short book, a quick read. But Meyer spoke the exact words the Spirit had been speaking to me about self.

*"You have not therefore got to worry about the death side; think about the life side. Do not live looking at the corpse, but live looking at the Holy Ghost, and as you trust Him for every movement, you breathe in the Holy Ghost moment by moment as you breathe in air, in the depth of your heart He will drive you away from the flesh, the self, the world, the devil. Insensibly, unconsciously, exquisitely, He will bring you into life. And the more you live on the life side, the more, without knowing much of it, you will live on the death side; for while you are engrossed with the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost in the depths of your being is carrying the sentence of death deeper, deeper, deeper down, and things are being mortified of which you once had no conception."*

I returned home from Costa Rica restored and renewed. God spoke clearly about my heart, about our marriage, and about how we will journey together however God chooses to lead us. John Wesley's covenant prayer has become our daily prayer of full devotion and consecration.

Serving Christ together, Doug and Jennifer



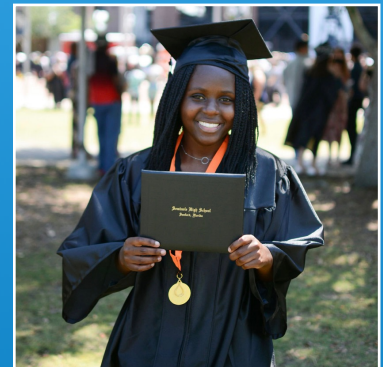
I spent two days at the mountain cabin with Mark and his disciple, Luis. God ministered to my heart deeply through these dear men!

## OUR GRADS



### Jaclyn Graduates from LIU

Jaclyn graduated with a BFA in Musical Theater. She plans on moving to Manhattan this Summer to pursue her dream of acting, either on stage or film.



### Mary-Faith Graduates from SHS

We're so proud of Mary-Faith for her commitment to graduating with her class after a junior year marked by brain cancer surgery and radiation treatments.

**SO PROUD OF OUR GIRLS!!!**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR FAMILY AND MINISTRY!**