



Courage & Encouragement....

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"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you...meditate on it day and night" (Joshua 1:7a &8b).

Greetings precious Sisters & Brothers in Christ.

Psalm 31:24 tells us: *Let your heart take COURAGE...* Well, I have been teaching a "The Write Stuff" senior writing class in Bend these past six weeks. Their very first assignment was to "Share a story of a moment in your life that changed the entire direction!" As most of you know by now, this late in cool October HUG reflects a moment when my entire life, as I saw it that day, changed with my annual EKG late August. I flunked; I have a severe murmur and a severely worn-out aortic valve!

And I have been looking at life from a whole new perspective ever since, believe me...smothered in the peace that passes understanding, humbled in my thoughts and limited activity, and healing with and under His Promises.

I mustered **COURAGE** from the depth of my size 11 shoes to simply accept the doctor's diagnosis. I am blessed by the medical world's latest titanium technology to qualify for a non-invasive surgery. AND I have slumbered in the outpourings of Encouragement from my entire faith family coast-to-coast; cards, flowers, phone calls. And the bottom line is: I pray: "He must not be done with me quite yet!"

Luke tells us in Acts 23:11 where the Lord stands with Paul in a moment of danger and proclaims: **"Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."** *That is our roadmap from each day forward; and I feel privileged to witness to my caregivers my joy and confidence in their hands & skills, and my faith in what my God has in store for me...*

At our Fall BoD gathering in Roseburg mid-September, Pres. Carol's theme continues to be built ***on each of us using our talents and gifts.*** To that end, there were numerous new appointments to fill up a sundry of Committees, new faces, new young folk, and much energy and enthusiasm following our very successful Convention in June. What good news that is, as we now Rally in the Fall and share guest speakers, devotions, and social gatherings to re-acquaint ourselves with friends and new faces and new energies that have come on board, and the challenges ahead.

I loved it in Deuteronomy 31:6 where Moses challenges Joshua: "Be strong and courageous; do not fear nor be in dread of them...." For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not: leave you, forsake you, and He goes before you. {From thence comes my Courage and Encouragement.} Moses' description of God's perfect love encourages us here, surpassing almost a parental love of His people, to trust the divine goodness, fear the wrath, and receive the Law as a balance between the two.

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul goes to great length to encourage people, to urge, admonish, help, be patient with, rejoice always and pray without ceasing; giving thanks in all circumstances. So, I take the liberty to close with his Benediction: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times, in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Pat Reck, Servant HUG Author