

December 2019

Dear Ministry Friend,

FAITH IS GRITTY

Would you sit with us for just a small moment today and let us tell you something that God has been speaking with us about.

Trust us when we tell you it's a unique "twist" on the Christmas story. However, it's not a twist that diminishes its impact in any way, but rather enhances the picture of it all to an even far greater scale, calling for more worship and not less.



You see, the power, might and majesty, along with wisdom of *a plan*, The Plan, carried out to *Perfection* is yet in operation unto a firm and known conclusion. So that initiation of Christ's Story – having been written for us – begins to be an even bigger page-turner with *the arrival* of the Savior …right? …my answer would be no.

If we don't "feel" the tension in the story of all those who existed on God's path prior to that of Joseph and Mary – also very much part of The Plan, **as human beings**...how can we hope to really grab hold of the EVERYTHING Christ is for us as we reflect more fully on His Story celebrated at this time of year?

Let me say this, I doubt very seriously Mary, nor Joseph, for that matter, woke up THAT DAY – the very "day" of their initial *news* about the Savior and said - ...today is going to be <u>especially</u> hard. Today is going to test us to the very "wall" of our understandings... and press us still further beyond that boundary – the one we'd call FAITH.

You see, faith, isn't something sweet and tender, nor simply soft and eventful marking just one specific day. Faith is ongoing. Faith is painful. Faith is staring "our reality" in the face and saying to it – "You are not speaking truth to me. I choose to surrender --- my EVERYTHING – to the unseen – to what I now know to be the reason for my existence." And, Faith is living like that ...every day.

Mary and Joseph said yes to The Plan.



Mary and Joseph did not get to choose what was beyond their "yeses" in the moment. But like you and like me -- They would live out the highest-highs of faith, along with the lowest-lows and yes, press beyond their "walls" time after time after time.

Faith isn't something you can lightly wrap up and put a pretty bow on it and call it a day. Faith is war. Faith is daily. **Faith is gritty!** Yes Faith is as gritty as it gets. People in the ongoing *Faith Story* both lived and died to uphold its eternal truths and there are more still, in this day, who are choosing to do the same.

We need your generous help <u>prior to</u> **Christmas**. We need your prayers. We've put our all on the line to take the Gospel to Israel, the Middle East and to Africa. But without your strong, sincere prayers – even in the midst of your personal festivities — these radio stations that speak Words of Hope will have to be shut off.

CHRISTMAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, most people have never heard Christmas music or even understand the meaning of the season. Can you imagine hearing and understanding the profound message of Christmas for the first time? Oh Come All ye Faithful, Away in a Manger, Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, We Three Kings, and Silent Night, all presented beautifully in Arabic.

Our VOICE OF HOPE radio stations for Africa and Latin America are also fully engaged in the Christmas message as carols of Hope are presented and the message of Hope is proclaimed!

Please pray and support the VOICE OF HOPE and its impact into Israel, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America!

- John and Heather

This is not a ploy. This is our gritty reality. We believe, by FAITH, our *gritty faith*, God wants the VOICE OF HOPE to remain on the air delivering God's word at this strategic hour on earth.

Please stand with us by praying about what God would have you to send to keep these voices strong and clear issuing His call of faith and of trust and hope in the Savior!

In His service,

John and Heather Otis Tayloe

President and Founders

Please Support VOICE OF HOPE Voiceofhope.com

