



March 2008

Dear Friend,

Easter has more meaning for me this year. Last month D'Aun and I spent two weeks in Israel, visiting the sights that are the bedrock of our faith. We visited Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem and more. We saw where Jesus probably gave the Sermon on the Mount. We saw what was probably Peter's home, which (fittingly) was made of rock. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee, we had communion in the Upper Room, and we sang hymns in a small church beside the Pools of Bethesda. And we were not the only pilgrims – we saw fellow believers from Brazil, Poland, Nigeria, India and more. It truly is a big Church!

One of the most powerful moments came when we visited a Jerusalem garden that was much like where Jesus would have been crucified and buried. I have been a follower of Christ nearly my entire life, but it was still a spiritually powerful moment to realize that the tomb is truly empty! We had communion there, and I sensed the Holy Spirit in that moment. I felt the tug of the divine presence reminding me that I am a warrior for Christ, a part of the Church, a man who has been given much. As I stood I noticed a small tile in the garden pathway with the simple quote, "It is better to give than to receive." That is Paul quoting Jesus from Acts 20:35. It was a special moment that I will remember the rest of my life.

Yes, Easter has more meaning for me this year. On Sunday morning the images of Jerusalem and the empty tomb will be very real. My life is radically different because of my faith commitment, but that difference will be even more focused on the reason: our Lord lives!

Last month I wrote about Concepciona and how her life has changed because of the scholarship she has received through PathLight. It was a heart-warming story of how a simple scholarship can transform her life. But Concepciona's life is truly changed because of Christ.

PathLight acknowledges this as the core of our organization. Recognizing that our time, treasure and talents are to be used to glorify Christ drives all of us. We aim to help young people avoid conforming to this world and instead be transformed by the renewing of their minds, as Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2. That transformation begins when we fully realize what happened on Easter morning some 2000 years ago. Our spiritual journey, our intellectual pursuits, our values – indeed, our view of the world around us – is all filtered through the reality of a risen Christ.

It is an exciting ministry! One that I am even more enthusiastic about after our visit to Israel because I was reminded about the best part: the tomb is empty!

May you have a blessed and meaningful Easter!

Blessings,

Roy Goble