

Joyful in Hope – 35 – April 27, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:9

“This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.”

What a great day this has been so far! The signs of Spring are upon us. Sunshine. Warmer temperatures. Flowers blooming. Birds singing. Folks out walking. Children playing in the park – well, maybe we don't have all the signs of Spring just yet.

Still, even with everything that's going on, for today at least, it seems that the mood is lighter and there is hope in the air. It's amazing what a little sunshine will do for you. And how about a little “Sun” shine as well? How about today you express your gratitude to the Lord of heaven and earth for all your blessings, large and small?

Janine and I were walking yesterday, and we encountered one of our old Friend Speak partners. Dina lives next door to the church with her husband and two adult children. She was getting ready to walk her dog, and when we asked how she and her family were making it through the “stay at home” orders, Dina said that she was just getting over a three-week bout with covid19. She's been quarantined and miserable in their basement for three weeks. She said it was bad, but then she added that she was so thankful to God, because she knows there are many people who have it so much worse, even to the point of death, and others who have lost loved ones. She said, “I truly feel blessed.”

I needed that reminder that I, too, am truly blessed. I thank God for this day, and every day. *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are true every morning. Therefore I will hope in him.”*

Please keep the Eshaki's in your prayers. Heather's grandfather passed away this weekend for Covid19 complications. His funeral will be this Thursday.

Also, continued prayers for Phuong as she meets with her doctors this week.