## "Everyone is either a missionary or a mission field. If you have never opened your heart to the Lord Jesus, you are a mission field." corrieten Boom

Hello Friend!

It's been almost a year since I have seen my students in person, but their need for connection and mentorship has not changed. Recently I had a call with Milly. She wanted to be a part of a Bible Study and was looking for a place to share her questions about God. In our conversation she said something like this, "I have lost sight of God and feel frustrated because I don't know my purpose." I could hear a deep struggle in her voice and even a fight just trying to survive with the situations around her. I encouraged her, "God made you, He cares for you, and He has not forgotten you. In fact, He can not forget you. You are so important to Him. He hasn't lost sight of you and He wants to show Himself to you." Milly and I have been meeting virtually and seeking God together both in the Word and in prayer to help reestablish this young believer in her faith. It is encouraging to see her take initiative in reading her Bible and bring lots of questions from what she reads.

Coming up Feb 26-27 there is an ENC Student Conference which happens annually around this time. Typically it's a group of around 200-300 students from neighboring states coming together. This year the conference will not be in person. Instead, it will virtually bring together over 1,000 students from across the nation. In my conversations with students I hear the reoccurring theme of a lack of hope. My prayer for the students attending this conference is that as they hear the speakers share of the hope we have in God as our Father and in the work that Jesus did for us on the cross, that they will be ignited with faith in God and hope for their future. I look forward to see how God uses this moment to shape the lives of these young people.

One such student is a freshman named Jen. She is a believer who feels a lot of pressure from the culture around her. She wants to pursue God and even share with her peers about her love for him, however her peers find that her beliefs and standards are "weird". She is hungry for God, but often feels she's the only one on her campus with a desire to live for God. During the pandemic it is particularly difficult to connect students with each other. They, like everyone else, long for human connection and face to face interactions. This moment at the conference will be pivotal for her and my other students attending to see they are not alone and that there is a larger spiritual community of which they can be a part.

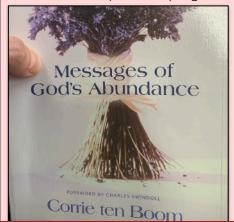
Thank you for your prayers for my work during this difficult season. Please let me know how I can pray for you.

With Love and Blessings,



## Melanie Otarola

Global Impact Resources Account #138 P.O. Box 3012 Greenville, NC 27836



A great book I'm reading

## **Prayer Points**

- Milly and Jen
- Student Conference February 26-27
- Hope for students feeling hopelessness



Last Year's ENC Conference

