



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

April is Sexual Violence Prevention Month, also called Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We have come a long way in the movement to bring *awareness* to the crimes of sexual violence. More and more survivors are coming forward, hungry for a world to listen and to believe. Hungry for healing. Yet we also see additional pain inflicted as stories are not believed and victims are blamed and shamed. This journey through the wilderness is hard and the desert can be risky and unsafe. But the grace and power of God that has prevailed in the past will do so again. We are asked to look ahead with hope in the words “I am about to do a new thing.”

A poem by author and survivor Regina Fowler in her book, *Will you be made whole* reads:

*I'll strengthen you even as you get old.
Don't you know every tear you cry,
I have them stored up in heaven in a bottle?
I want you to share the same joy as I,
so take my hand.
Let me lead the way, as my word is true.
I have a way of making all things brand new.*

Earlier in the book she talks about growing up in a physically, mentally, and emotionally abusive home. “I grew up looking for love in all the wrong places.” She shares how this led to drugs, crime and prostitution. She was lost and broken, with all hope gone. Someone told her about Jesus and she thought “Why not try Jesus?” She says over time Jesus put her heart back together and made her whole again. She goes on to say, “There is a cry for help in this world today but I’m here to say that you are loved, you are somebody, and God has a plan and purpose for your life. You can be healed and restored.”

God of hope and healing, you know our troubles and hear our cries. Bring hope to this broken world. Help us to lead the way for a new thing to spring forth, to work for justice, healing, and safety for all of your beloved children. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.