

## **Beam Me Up, Scotty** written by Dr. June Anonson

### **Scripture:**

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.        Isaiah 40: 28-31

### **Reflection**

Have you ever been in a situation where you just needed a pair of wings....anything, you just needed to get out of the situation...."beam me up Scotty" as Spock would say from Star Trek?

In May of this year I was asked to go to support Canada's "Hot Spot" with the highest number of Covid-19 cases per capita...the Epicenter, Ground O here in our very backyard. Well 6 hours north that is, La Loche Saskatchewan.

Some of my family had many hesitations, concerns, fears and reservations. Some of them were worried that I would be placing myself at risk by being infected with the virus, or going to a community that might have more crime or be a dangerous environment. I had volunteered with a bus load of our Senior Nursing students a decade before with H1N1 and some people in the North remembered our presence. It was an honour to be asked to come back to help, however, as an individual now in the "high risk group" I wondered about the safety and the wisdom of such a decision. Would I be a help or hinderance? Volunteering was not foreign to my family nor I and part of what God calls each of us to do is "be brave be bold", trust in Him, step out in faith. And so I went, with some tears from those who loved me the most and were fearful for me, but mostly prayers of well wishes and support. I felt called, it was "the right thing to do". I had heard terrible things about LaLoche, that it was a hurting community with serious mental health/addiction issues, had been for decades and I was told "if the gangs don't get you, the virus will" ...not a positive note to leave on.

The first two days were very difficult. The number of cases were multiplying quicker than anticipated. Many people in the community were fearful and confused about what was happening with Covid-19 and why their community was being impacted so greatly. Some people asked if it was possible that we the volunteers could have brought the virus. Others suspected that it had started in another province and was brought to their community by migrant workers, people trying to work hard and improve the lives of their families. This was

considered the most accurate supposition and created antagonism toward the people who had inadvertently possibly infected the community.

There were a number of us volunteering who arrived without any knowledge of what was expected of us and how we could best support the people. We didn't know how to help turn around the impact of the virus to those around us. There was some chaos and confusion, with many trying their best to bring order to a time of fear and disorder. I called my husband after the 2nd 12hr shift and I said "what was I thinking, I should never have agreed to come here". I wondered if I was the right person with the right skill set to help during such a difficult and crazy time. Was I too old? Even though I have had years of great experience was it the right experience, could I make a difference? Was my energy level going to be enough? Did I have enough patience to tolerate/support some of the misguided and well-meaning people that were contributing to the chaos? Did I know enough about infectious diseases/transmission to be helpful? Would the local people really want or need our support? So many of the volunteers meant well but there can't be 20 bosses, everyone can't be the leader, was I fine to turn a "blind eye" and just keep my head to the ground being a worker bee?

A prayer team of family and friends began in earnest and by the next morning it was like God had "turned a light switch on". It was night and day, I "found" or should I say 2 other prayer warriors were brought to me no doubt by the direction of the Holy Spirit. None of us knew each other from before, but somehow because of His love, we just "knew each other" and from that day forward we began praying like never before; for the situation, the team, the community and its past generations, the people of La Loche. And the LIGHT remained on.

As I look back at the situation it will always stand out as one of the highlights of my career. Thank you, Lord, for these opportunities and helping make our lights burn bright wherever You plant us.

God is good all the time and for me Isaiah 40 vs 31 came alive once again!

**Prayer: Heavenly Father help us to Be Brave, Be Bold wherever you plant us. Help us to let Your light shine in whatever we do, wherever we go, whoever you place in our path. May we "rise up on wings like eagles" through Your love, support and guidance. Help us to seek You at all times; through the good and bad, and to recognize the kindred spirits you place in our path to help us on our journey and mission of faith. We ask all these things in Your Son's name, amen.**