

April 2021

SUFFERING, GROANING & REDEMPTION

"... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:21

On a recent Tuesday morning devotion, I gave the above scripture to the women in the program and asked them if they understood what it meant. They had an idea so we launched into a discussion about Romans 8:18-23. In Romans 8 the apostle Paul used the word groan a total of three times and tells us that both the creation and the children of God are groaning while we wait for our redemption. Groaning can be defined as a deep inward response to suffering. So, why are we suffering? Because of the corruption that curses us as the result of the original disobedience and rebellion of mankind.

I asked the ladies to look around them and share examples of corruption in the meditation garden where we were meeting. They saw dead trees, plants, leaves and lots of weeds and then went on to

mention tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms and other catastrophes of nature. But, alas! We are not going to focus on the groaning; we have redemption coming. Both mankind and the creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption as we *"eagerly await for the adoption, the redemption of our body"* (vs 23).

This groaning and laboring is universal like birth pangs (vs 22). It hurts, but oh the joy when the delivery is complete! That is what we and the creation look forward to—the redemption from all the suffering into His glorious liberty. Paul goes on to say that *"nothing will separate us from the love of Christ (vs 35)*. No tribulation, no distress, no persecution, no famine, no nakedness, no peril, no sword.

So, while we wait for this redemption, we continue to take

care of this fallen creation and our fallen bodies. Then Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 3 that God *"has put eternity in our hearts"* (vs 11) and *"that every man should eat, drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God"* (vs 13).

That's why I can enjoy working outdoors and the ladies that help me can see purpose in what we're doing.

In our fallen world, the labor will never stop but Jesus says, *"Look up, your redemption is drawing near"*.

Luke 21:28

In His grace,

Sue Sargent
Groundskeeper



Prayer from our Founder, Donna Robart

Among the Psalms from the Bible is a prayer from Moses, the man of God:

Psalm 90: 1-2, 16-17 "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Let Your work appear to Your servants, and

Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands."

Dear Heavenly Father and Creator of this whole universe, hear our prayers, we pray. In Your Son's name, Amen and amen.

Peace & healing found...



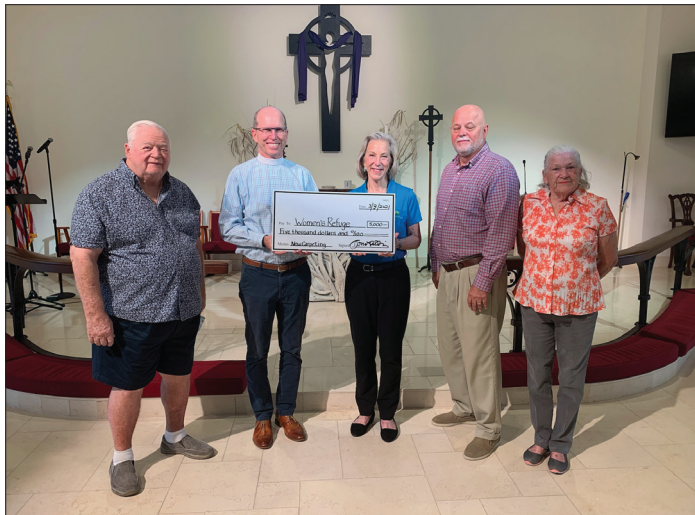
When I came to the Refuge, I was completely broken. I was emotionally unstable and very hurt.

After two weeks, I found peace and healing, and I was able to forgive my husband.

But most importantly, I was able to re-establish my identity in Christ.

- Jenny, 2-week resident.

Thank you St. Paul's Church



Women's Refuge proudly announces that we recently received a \$5,000 grant award from St. Paul's Church to fund the replacement of our 20-year-old carpeting in our resident's bedrooms.

This much needed remodeling will make a significant impact on our clients mental health. New carpeting will make the rooms feel more calming, comforting, and intimate. A nice and comfortable room it is the safe haven our residents need to help alleviate stress and have a strong positive impact on their spiritual healing.

Thank you to St. Paul's Church for the generous gift!



WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH

Virtual

SPRING BIKE RIDE CHALLENGE

Commit to making a difference by riding with us this spring. Go the distance! Choose between 1 to 500 miles and register today! Visit WomensRefugeVB.org and click on our events page. Proceeds provide help, hope and lifelong healing into the lives of hurting women and their families.



April 1-30

All participants automatically enter a chance to win raffles and prizes!
WomensRefugevb.org



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