

## **“Amazing Grace in the Time of COVID-19” by Sandra Puckett**

*Sandra Puckett is a member of the Peace Writing Group. She wrote this in March 2020.*

We are living in the time of a major outbreak of a “novel” virus – COVID-19. Because it is a brand-new virus to humans, none of us has any antibodies to it, because it is a virus, there is no treatment except for the person’s body to fight and overcome it. In the beginning, I had talked with my daughter about it being more transmissible than the flu, but that it appeared to be not as dangerous as most folks had feared. I told her to prepare; get extra food/dog food etc, “just in case”. She said, “Oh mom, it’ll be fine.”

Then on a day that she was supposed to come over, she called and said that she couldn’t because the whole house had the flu. I asked her if she was sure that this is what it was. (I could almost hear her roll her eyes.) She went to work and called her boss and said, “Should I come to work? I might be infectious.” But they said, “Yeah, that is part of being a teacher.”

Everyone got better except my daughter’s husband. He is in his 40’s and has diabetes. He ended up in the hospital with double pneumonia from COVID-19. At the time, the hospital said that he wasn’t getting better, but that he wasn’t getting any worse, so that was good. He was in the hospital for a week, and then was sent home to finish healing.

All the family was tested, and all had the COVID-19. My daughter and her boys had already had it and recovered. While they were waiting for the test results, my daughter called the schools. This time they said, “No, Don’t come in!” Because of my daughter and her husband working in the school system, and because of the ages of the boys, there were four schools that were affected. Also, the younger boys before and after school program was affected as well. We are all so connected.

Now, the COVID-19 is exploding, and we have school shutdowns, church closers, work closers, and many other forms of “social distancing” to try to slow the virus down so our medical systems will not get overrun. (Which would lead to more deaths) We already have had so many deaths in the nursing home in Everett. My husband Bruce is in a nursing home, as are so many other loved ones.

Even my grief/anxiety counseling is shut down. When anxiety threatens to overcome me, I remind myself that God is still on the throne, and that Jesus is

walking beside me and all that I love. I am reassured by the new version of Amazing Grace that has a lovely chorus, “My chains are gone; I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy rains; unending love, Amazing grace.”

Amen. Come Lord Jesus. Please bring comfort, hope, and a deep sense of your presence to us all.