MAY EARS BE OPENED

*“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

John 14:15-17

Dear readers,

I just need to share with you how, in this world where the voices of people experiencing stigma, discrimination and persecution are too often not heard, how much I appreciate you—people who I feel I can call friends, because you are willing to listen and hear me.

For many years now, I have tried to be a voice for all those who suffer, not understood by the world, feeling they don’t fit in. And to tell the truth, I often find myself discouraged. I can’t understand why people don’t care more about their fellow human beings. It makes me sad beyond belief.

I pray that God will give me the words to reach out and to help acceptance, kindness and love grow in this world we live in. And this, especially among those who know Jesus and appreciate what he did for us. May they recognize what he did and do likewise.

Please pray for all who know what it is not to be heard, and for all those who want to help them.

I am reminded of something I wrote in 2016—a very tough time for me:

Jesus is always ready to listen, always ready to cheer us on, always ready to explore the world with us. Not only that. He fills us up with a presence that reveals His great love—a greater love than we could ever imagine. Love we can pass on to others.

When we draw near to Jesus, whatever tough tasks we are called to, whatever pain or sorrow we may suffer, whatever trials we may experience, He is alive and at our side. Even now His light shines in our dark places, revealing hope and a meaningful future.

He said: *“. . . surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20)

Thank God for his encouraging Word.

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