



January 11, 2021

Dear Ministry Partner,

Like you, I have grown weary of the first sentence of every item of correspondence or conversation beginning with “due to the COVID-19 pandemic...” or “when things get back to normal.” I have to admit, I’ve written my share of those letters, and here I am writing about it again.

How can something like this rush to the top of our list of issues so quickly? How can a few germs impact industry, travel, economies and relationships at such a wide level? How can a virus be both life-threatening and non-threatening at the same time? How can one bitter pill cause so much anxiety, death, loneliness, mental health issues, and destruction?

Add to that, our country is split almost 50/50 politically, and social media has brought out the very worst in so many, further dividing us as a nation and even the Body of Christ.

Could I dare say that no one has escaped the awful debris left by the ongoing storm? Yet we know that God is not in a state of panic; His plan has not changed; He will not allow more than we can bear; His promises are just as true today as they ever were. Ultimately, we must believe that all of this mess will ultimately and eventually be used by God to accomplish His purposes! And what is that? That the whole world will be exposed to His great glory; that all nations will hear the Good News that Jesus can save. May I humbly suggest that we train our tongues to be silent on some things and speak loudly on others? What will bring His smile?

Generosity; kindness; grace; obedience; faith; courage...

On behalf of all the NICS and Oasis teams that serve around the world, I thank you for being a part of our prayer and support teams. Have a blessed and joyful 2021 and find yourself ***“in whatsoever state you’re in, to be content.” Phil. 4:11***

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Hale".

Joe Hale
NICS Founder/President