

*CRIBB<S>NOTE - March 29, 2009*

What a wonderful, blessed time to be alive and involved in the challenges facing so many people. These are days in which there is no ambiguity about the need for people to come together and help each other. We are all in this together. Old notions of individualism must give way to cooperation and solidarity. Even governments realize they cannot 'go it alone' and survive. It always has been true, but current circumstances may be the obvious all the more real. Some of us may have tried to live as if we didn't need others, but the fact remains we really do need each other.

Sometimes it takes incredible episodes in our lives to help us focus on what is essential and necessary. We can easily be misled into believing nothing outside ourselves really matters. But, once we have experienced the uncomfortable reality of dependency, we very quickly understand the importance of working together. The quality of our being together is rooted in love, compassion, and forgiveness.

In our youth, our world view was quite limited. Although we may have had a great sense of knowing more than we had experienced, we really only glimpsed a small and narrow perspective of what lies beyond our vision and grasp. No doubt, we were self-confident and felt we could accomplish Herculean feats. Victories were reminders of our fantasized invincibility. Even disappointments did not halt our determination to conquer our world.

Of course, there were those times when we slipped into adolescent worries and placed a high degree of anxiety on ourselves over trivial things that seemed to have exploded into overwhelming impossibilities. But, we survived and got on with our lives. Our friends meant the world to us. Peer pressure was a guide that measured our worth in comparison to what others achieved. As adults, we put away our childish thoughts and ways.

In our relationships, we seek to assure the welfare of our partner. We place others ahead of us. We realize there is a miniscule distance between our lives as our hearts and minds are in-sync. We care deeply about those who share our love.

It is during these moments when events beyond our control have a way of distracting us. Now, is a good time to turn attention to God. We are reminded "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Divine affection will never be transferred from us. It is given fully, unconditionally, and freely. As we become aware of the infinite flow of God's love, we feel the depths of our humanity that is intertwined in the lives of people who surround us.

We know deep in our hearts God cares about us and has provided everything we need to get through these days. Let us use this special period to connect more closely with people who are struggling and need to feel our presence and support.