

***CRIBB<S>NOTE – June 7, 2009***

This is an incredibly exciting time to be engaged in events that are changing the world. We are witnessing the exposure of practices and policies that have shaped our worldview and created scenarios of human suffering. Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century presents unprecedented opportunities on a more even playing field. We are hearing the voices of peoples in faraway lands. There are new ways of knowing what is taking place around us.

The news is not always pleasant, but it comes so we can determine what course in history we will take. We are offered a chance to put our faith into practice. We can see how the principles of good human behavior can make a more positive difference. At the same time, we cannot deny the devastating impact that greed, selfishness, idolatry, and narrow-mindedness have had on our nation and the world.

So, here we are in this moment of critical shifts and changes. Many of us never believed things could be so very different; yet, we are part of a magnificent transfer of power, influence, and prestige.

For many, the transitions are too uncomfortable to bear. The idea that once subjugated peoples are rising in stature and taking control of their destinies is beyond belief. There is no turning back. Liberation and the struggle for new ideals have moved past old schemes that elevated certain power structures over the will of God's humble people. A new day has come and change cannot be stopped.

“This is a day God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

Everyone is given gifts to share in the ancient movement toward recognizing the will of God. This is our time to honor Christ's call for all people to love one another. The changes going on will bring strangers and neighbors together without fear. The interdependence that defines our human family makes it necessary for communities and nations to work cooperatively to achieve the high calling of peace with justice. Competition and combat must give way to collaboration. People of faith must see the world through new lenses and take our place in working with our sisters and brothers nearby and in distant lands.

There is no road map available to us, but we have ancient principles based on Sacred Texts to inform how we are to treat human beings in our care of Creation and our love for one another. This is truly a grand moment in which we have been given all the resources we need to make life on earth a good and pleasant journey. This is why Jesus came into the world so we will know what is expected of us and what we are capable of doing when we submit ourselves before God.

Thus, we are required to confess our mistakes and name them so we will have power over them. We must repent with a commitment never to make the same mistakes again. We have to resist temptations to ignore warning signs. We must submit our lives to God. We must love neighbors and strangers as we love ourselves. Once we step into God's plan for us, we will discover the overwhelming joy of God's love. We will know the power of grace through “the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit.” This is a Pentecost moment. Receive it without fear, shame, or apology.