

GOD IN THE TIME OF COVID

Last year it was difficult at times to see the hand of God in events. In December He showed me His love and power, even in tough circumstances.

On December 5 I left for a SCUBA trip to Dominica. As part of the island's COVID protocol, I had taken a PCR test two days earlier, with a negative result. Dominica is my favorite diving spot in the Caribbean. On my three previous visits, I had felt that I was praying the entire time I was under water. When I arrived, I was given a rapid antibody test. This test indicated that I might have been exposed to COVID, so I had to quarantine for three days. Needless to say, I was upset, both at the prospect of missing three days of diving and also at the possibility that I had contracted COVID.

Here is where God stepped in. The theme of my Advent meditation that week was Peace. The readings and prayers that Art Pini sent out seemed to be about Peace. God was saying, "Relax, this is a bad deal, but I've got you. Take this time to understand my peace." On December 8 I was released from quarantine and allowed to join my group for two days of spectacular,

peaceful, rejuvenating diving.

Then two days after Christmas I went to Bimini. Bimini is renowned for its sharks, and it didn't disappoint. Again, I was reminded of God's power and also of His love.

Twice we dove where hammerhead sharks are fed to draw them in. I had no idea how big and powerful these animals are. To be within inches of them is truly an awe-inspiring experience. I also was able to go in a cage with bull sharks on the outside.

In addition to the sharks, we dove on beautiful reefs. These had large schools of colorful fish and tiny shrimp and little fish. How wonderful to contemplate the variety of God's creation, from a jawfish that was two inches long to the huge hammerhead. God was gracious to show me His power and His love, even in the midst of the COVID pandemic.

