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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...In him was life, and that life was the light of all men. The light shines in the darkness cannot overcome it." John 1:1-5

I think I have shared before that this is one of my favorite Christmas passages. This has been a year of darkness for many people: loss of jobs, loss of "normal" educational experiences, working from home rather than with co-workers, loss of participation in church service, lack of social time and activities with others. I find hope that the darkness cannot overcome Christ, the light of the world.

One source of light for me has been Jubilee Project. As an essential service, Jubilee Project was allowed to remain open from the beginning of the pandemic. I have been able to come to work every day, and to work with either full staff of two full time employees and two workers through the senior program, or just two full time employees. Our offices are far enough apart so that we can maintain social distancing, and we clean all surfaces that visitors touch when they come in for food or to sign up for Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions.

Another source of light has been the opportunity to share about my ministry and Jubilee Project either virtually or in person for supporting churches. If you missed these opportunities, you can find me and Jubilee on the following websites: 1) Fairview UMC, Maryville, TN at the Central campus 8:30 & 11:00 worship services on 10/18/2020, 2) Trinity UMC, Jersey Shore, PA on Facebook for the November 22, 2020 worship service, and 3) Meet the Missionaries with Global Ministries at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7323146> on page 6. It has been wonderful to itinerate using modern technology!

I experienced personal darkness this fall when my mother passed away on October 29<sup>th</sup> and my father passed on December 5<sup>th</sup>. They were close in life, and my family should not have been surprised that they would be close in death. I am thankful that Mom no longer suffers from COPD, and that Dad did not have the devastating affects from pancreatic cancer that had been detected in his body.

Co-workers and friends from Virginia and Tennessee have been lights in this darkness. I have greatly appreciated the prayers and cards received from far and near. The community of Church and Community Workers and Deaconesses and Home Missioners has supported me throughout this time.

In the midst of this crazy year, I was able to accomplish one of my goals of biking the C&O Canal Trail with my brother and with daughter Jessica as operations manager. We camped in the C&O campsites, and biked over 30 miles each day. Although brother Tim said that the scenery did not change much, we enjoyed riding beside the Potomac River on six

beautiful fall days. I also had the opportunity to spend time with friends in Virginia and from Pennsylvania and appreciated seeing and catching up with them. Jessica and I have been able to spend some breaks from work together and went hiking over her Spring Break and camping and kayaking for her birthday in August.

Thank you for your support of my ministry through the Advance. Your gifts have enabled me to continue my ministry of leading Jubilee Project, and have supported missionaries around the world. Your support is essential to the work of Global Ministries, and we appreciate the generosity of your gift. Thank you for sharing in my ministry during the time of celebration.

My prayer for the New Year is that we will find ways to live in peace and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. I know that you and your church are finding those ways to reach out to others in your community and around the world. May we find the peace of Christ in our lives and share that with all with whom we come in contact.

Grace to you, and peace,  
*Lisa Nichols*  
Church and Community Worker



Tim crossing at White's Ferry



Lisa at the halfway mark of the C&O Canal



Camping and hiking near Harford, TN