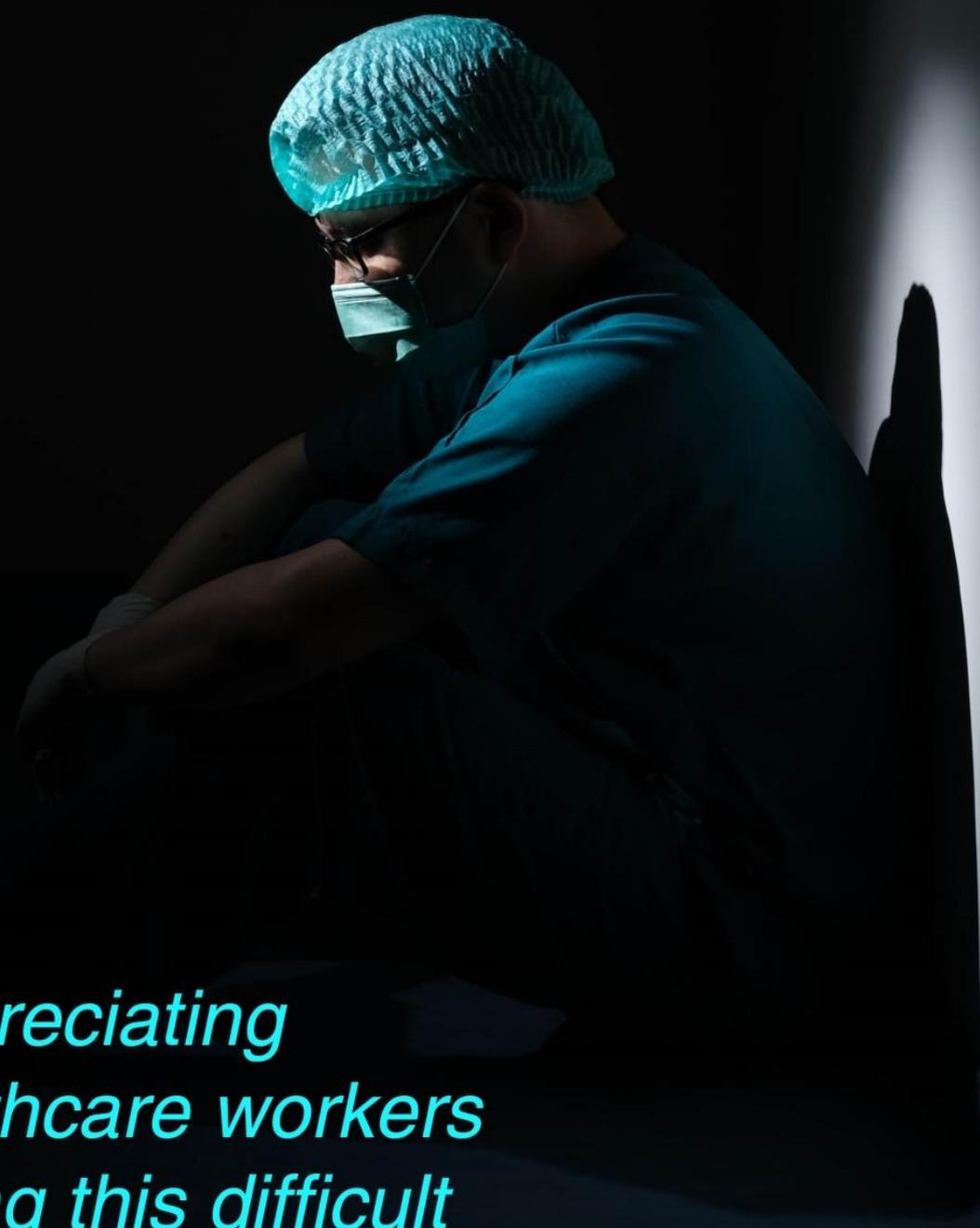


Healthcare Sunday

17 October 2021



*“Appreciating
healthcare workers
during this difficult
season”*

An initiative by the Christian Healthcare Alliance

Dear Friends, We are living in a challenging time, a time in which we are not able to predict the future. These are also exciting times of many medical breakthroughs but a period of so many medical uncertainties. A lot of people focus on science as the only means to survival, while others rely on their faith alone to overcome this devastating pandemic. Many of us had close bonds with people who died of Covid-19 or were severely affected by the virus. In times like these, we reflect on the meaning of life.

The Apostle Paul also experienced challenging times and he refers to his own experience with God, intending to console and comfort the congregation in Corinth. The church in Corinth was weak and struggled with their Christian faith and lifestyle because of their many adversaries. They had to deal with conflicts and moral issues between them and their fellow men. In 2nd Corinthians 4:7-11, Paul refers to the supreme message of salvation in Jesus Christ which has been entrusted by God to frail and fallible human beings – perishable containers with priceless content. God in His power dwells in believers! Paul reminds us that though we may sometimes be at the end of the rope, we are never at the end of hope – God will never abandon us! We can perhaps identify with what he wrote to the struggling young believers when he said *“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don’t know why things happen as they do, but we don’t give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us.”*

We recollect the same situation when the frightened disciples hid behind locked doors John 20:19. They feared for their lives and then suddenly Jesus stood among them, giving comfort, promising the Holy Spirit and then sending them into the world to reconcile people with Himself as the only true God. They were also sent into a boiling pot of uncertainty and hardship but with the indwelling of the living Christ through His Spirit, they succeeded.

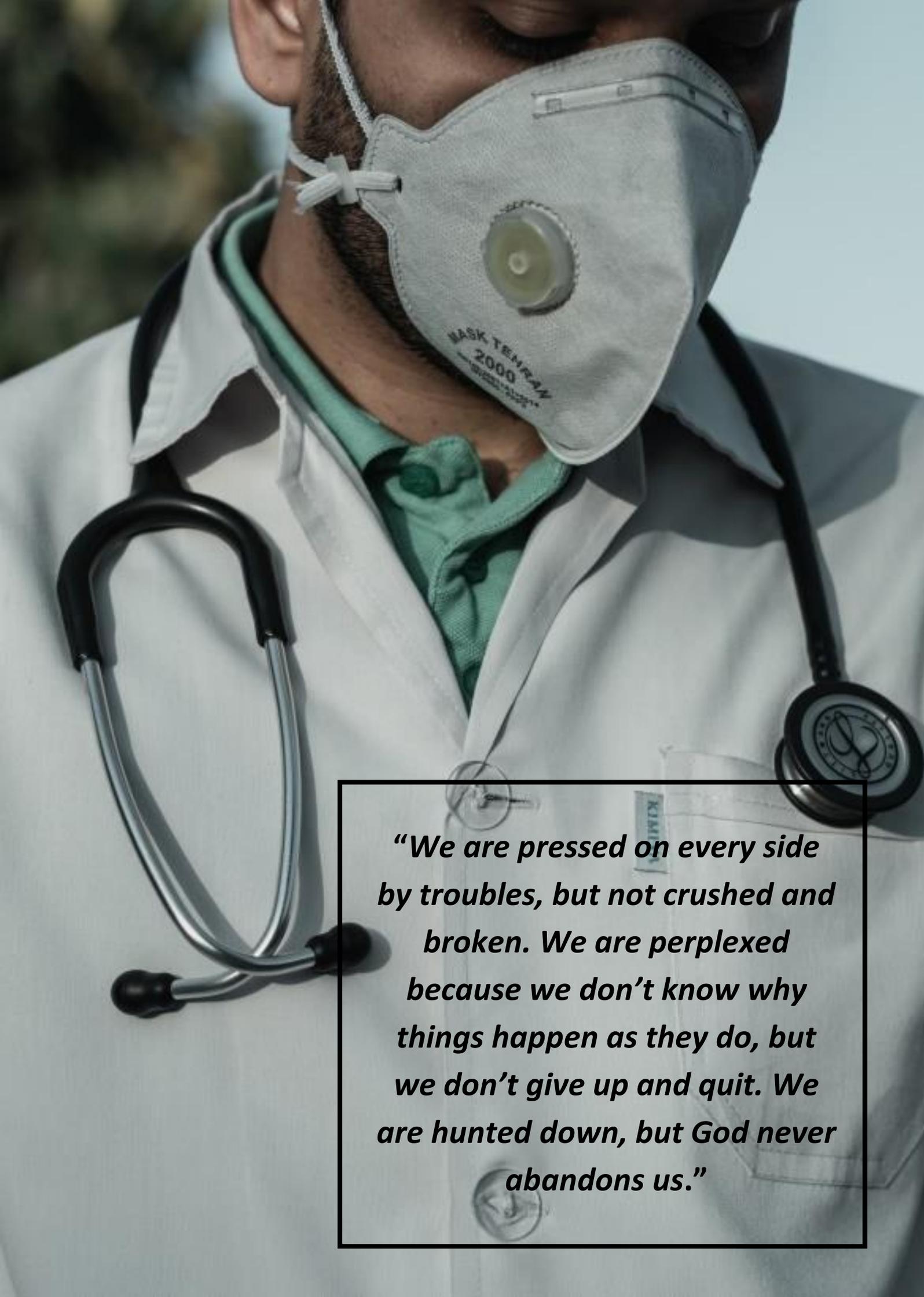
What does this mean to our healthcare staff, particularly those who care for patients suffering from Covid? They too live and work in challenging times of uncertainty and many fear they will be infected or infect their loved ones.

However, the knowledge of God's everlasting presence and the promise of His power can enable them to persevere in the midst of the pandemic. Through Him, they can display the compassion of Christ.

Lessons to take out of their experience:

The apostles lived in challenging times, but never took their eyes off God or their commission. They did not know the future, but the past, Jesus' resurrection, ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This gave them the courage to face the uncertain realities to come. They knew that the omnipresent God was with them, and with His presence, they would overcome the obstacles. Our healthcare staff can be assured that the same God is with them.



“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don’t know why things happen as they do, but we don’t give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us.”

The times and circumstances may be different, but the power and care of God do not change. I remember a song sung many years ago, and maybe we must sing it again: *“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know, yes, I know, He holds the future, and life is worth a living, just, because He lives!”*

With such a mindset, our healthcare staff can reach out to others and care for them, because they are not inhibited by fears and uncertainties but filled with the possibilities there are in Christ. In Him, all that happens to us is working out for good and His love never fails. If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? (See Romans 8:28 & 31)

Let us all be bearers of God’s peace and kindness, the proclaimers of His mercy, love, forgiveness and compassion. Maybe we can relate with Esther for whom God had brought into a position “for such a time as this” Esth 4:14. May God’s Kingdom come through us. May His will be done because we realize our value as bearers of the truth of God’s love!

Greetings in Christ

Tertius Erasmus

CEO – Association of Christian Religious Practitioners
(ACRP)



***“The enemy cannot stand in the
midst of a praising people”***

~ Darlene Zschech

PRAISE THE LORD WITH US FOR:

1. All the hard work, care, and sacrifices of healthcare workers throughout the pandemic.
2. Improving trends in COVID infections, deaths, and strain on healthcare staff and the healthcare system.
3. Provision of sufficient vaccines and effective rollout to all who want it.
4. Increase of prayer, recognition, and support for frontline staff.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE THRONE ROOM OF GRACE:

1. That the Holy Spirit would protect, strengthen and give wisdom and perseverance to our healthcare workers in these difficult times.
2. The community, and especially the local church and church members, would expand its embrace, appreciation, and support for the work of the front line workers.
3. Ongoing enhancement of the caregiver support
4. Breakthroughs in overcoming vaccine hesitancy and reaching vaccination and immunity targets.
5. Significant improvement of the healthcare system including governance, administration, and facilities; expansion and training of staff especially nurses; and total patient care.
6. Christian healthcare staff would take ownership of their responsibility to be salt and light and have a dedicated place in each hospital for prayer and fellowship.

HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH BE INVOLVED IN HEALTHCARE SUNDAY?

Dedicate a Church Service or part thereof to Healthcare Sunday on **17 October 2021** by:

- Taking time to read the short devotional (see brochure)
- Praying for the items in this brochure.
- Inviting a Christian Healthcare Worker to share a testimony
- Reaching out to a nearby Hospital on that Sunday.
- Joining us for the **National Virtual prayer** initiative on **17 October 2021** at **16h00** book your space at thembi@hcfglobal.org or hcf@lantic.net



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