

Closing of Chapter 2023

Good Morning, Sisters

I think it is safe to say that we have completed our trip to Bountiful. The characters and place of the Movie version may differ; however, the underneath of the Story plot may be similar. Poor Carrie Watts was somewhat imprisoned by hen-pecked son Ludie and her domineering daughter-in-law Jessie May. You might say that this was her local community. They were reluctant to let her go first because of her health and second because of the financial burden. She longed to go home. Her memories were in that place. She wanted to see it one more time. Carrie in her feistiness worked around her constraints and escaped to the bus station so that she could fulfill this nagging and persistent need to see the home of her childhood.

Our trip to Bountiful took on a similar plot but in a whole different setting. We longed for something new...and in that longing we felt the need to Listen. Listen to our God, listen to one another, and listen to God's people. We longed to come home to ourselves and to whom our God calls us to be. It is a powerful journey that unlike Carrie we did not need to escape from our local community....no we were encouraged by our local community to take the trip because all of us long to come home. While some in your local community were not able to take the trip with you/us. They have the same longing, and they will be able to journey to Bountiful because you are going to show them that as daunting as it may seem, they too can go to Bountiful, and you will go with them. They will see that dwelling in possibilities together makes the trip easier and you will help them to pack lightly because they will not need the suitcase of fear. You will explain that on the bus you discovered and experienced wonderful conversations and you can't wait for them to do the same. The most exciting part of all of this is that Chapter 2023 has allocated precious resources for every IHM Local community to charter their own bus. And that we are free to go immediately.

At the end of the movie version, Carrie, her son Ludie and her daughter-in-law Jessie May commit to live in peace with one another. Carrie's wish has been fulfilled. This is different for us as well. While living in peace with one another, we commit to going to Bountiful more often because our Bountiful is ever new.

What Carrie lacked in her quest was support and encouragement that the trip was possible. She was thwarted because she had to work around all the obstacles alone. As of today, we will never have to ever go to Bountiful alone. You see, we belong to a Sisterhood and one of Our Sisters is named Mary.

Her immaculate Heart gives us courage and since 1845 she has been saying to us. "Its alright"...I will be taking care of the Sisters, Servants now. And ever since 1845 we knew that God had sent her. She was a strong-constant, and she had a mother's heart and here she was to free us from the very chains that bind us. With Sisterhood perhaps the trip to Bountiful looks like this. (PLAY CLIP)

As amazing Grace starts:

Sisters, I invite you to come forward and grab on to the solace of Mary's heart and receive a heart from your Sisters.

After all hearts have been distributed Sisters if you ever grow weary You only have to touch her heart again and again and reach out to touch the heart of your Sisters .