

Grail Centennial Activity Report

– On COVID 19

March 6 2021

Opening of the activity

Dilma Alves Rodrigues—ILT

Happiness! Good morning with joy! Good afternoon! Good evening, to each and every one of you, Grail sisters.

It is really with great joy and an unspeakable feeling that we as ILT, Maria Carlos, Mary Heidkamp and I, Dilma Alves, welcome you all to this first gathering that starts the reflective, celebratory and commemorative activities of the Jubilee Year of the Grail, on this historic day, March 6, 2021.

We are here, in this virtual room, recognizing our 100 years of history, when the world groans with the pain and consequences of the pandemic and thousands of families mourn their dead and cry out for vaccines. Vaccines that are still a reality, only for a small portion of the world population.

Therefore, more than ever, the question that accompanied us in these 100 years of history is present in our hearts - What is the cause of all the suffering in the world?

We are witnessing this suffering, suffering from our pains and the pains of humanity, but we remain strong, determined, with a look of faith and hope for the future ahead. After all, our journey has spanned a century of history and we are embracing the dawn of a new century!

That's why...

Blessed are all the women of the Grail, together here, at this moment and all those who are in other places around the world, for sure, connected with us.

Blessed are all the women of the Grail who preceded us on this 100-year journey! We are here honoring their legacy!

Blessed are all of us, who today, begin a virtuous circle of celebration of our lives in the Grail!

Blessed are all the women who make up the International Centennial Team for offering us this path of reflection and celebration for the year 2021!

Chair of the Jubilee Celebrations Committee

Cristina dos Anjos: Cristina presented the program over the next months, with the topic of Spirituality on April 10 and 24. We are starting today with the pandemic. We will then be developing a vision for the future in the next 100 years.

Sally Timmel: The aim of this session is to be in solidarity with each other in this moment. We will start with a meditation, and then short sharing from each country on the pandemic.



Meditation—

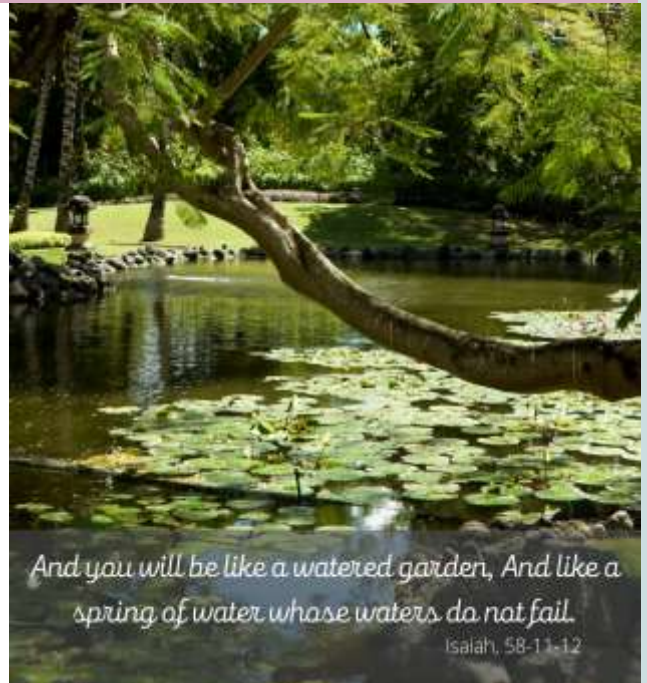
Reading from the book of ISAIAH message of 58 – 11 to 12

Denise Milice:

Reading from the book of ISAIAH message of 58 – 11 to 12

“And God will guide you continually
And satisfy your desire in scorched places
And make your bones strong;
And you shall be like a watered garden,
Like a spring of water,
Whose waters do not fail.

And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
You shall raise up the foundations of many genera-
tions;
You shall be called the repairer of the breach,
The restorer of street to dwell in.”



Each country then shared their situation on Covid-19

[**Note.** Not all the numbers will be in this report. If you want updated information you can google Coronavirus update that lists all countries.]

1. Angola:

Anaina Lourenço:

The situation up to yesterday is more than 21000 cases with 511 deaths. We think the situation is reasonable compared to other countries. We already had first vaccine campaign. We are expecting more than 6mil vaccinations covering a lot of the population with priority to essential workers and those at high risk. The negative impact has been the violation of human rights, like freedom of gathering, increase of poverty, violence against women and children, rise in cost of living, many companies closed their activities, rules to follow, state of emergency. **Grail: *Some impact on The Grail empowerment programs, raising awareness educating on how to deal with family challenges, we kept our meetings respecting the rules.***

2. Australia

Helen Jeffcoat

last year we started to feel the effect, closing of business, fear etc. with 909 deaths this last year. Our government is very proactive with border closing, school closing, large gathering prohibition, social distancing etc. Things are returning to normal but with anxiety, like students returning to school, numerous travel restrictions. There are signs of hope with immunization started and immunized by the end of the yea. Grail meetings were interrupted but are starting again.

3. Brasil

Arlete Almeida Alves:

A lot of suffering to everyone and always more impact on women. Many lives have been lost, poor economy and social issues, etc. In Brazil at this moment during this process we recognize we have a poor health system. One of the most terrible time in history for our health system. There were diverging opinions between the health system and the government. Minister of health was fired. The new health minister is from the military. The Government took a lot time to realize how powerful the virus was. Vaccinations have started.

4. Belgium-

Didine Petit.

It is up and down in rates of contagion with the poor worse off. Members of evangelical churches and other fundamentalist churches groups refuse to accept restrictions and vaccines. Brussels is doing fine with strict rules, no traveling and curfew from 10PM to 6AM. Isolation affects the wellbeing

of people. Grail impacted because our group has international women who cannot be with their relatives because of travel restrictions. Also isolation is a problem for women who suffer with mental issues.

5. Canada

Lorna Bowman:

Very big country geographically however we have only 5% of the world population. The situation depends on where you live in the country. Quebec has the highest number of cases and death rate... Islands have had the lowest rate... Canada has given priority to vaccinate the indigenous people and the vaccine has been purchased. People are for the most part are compliant and following the rules. The Grail only met by zoom or phone since last March. Many Grail people live in nursing homes very isolating.

6. Ecuador

Carolina Cajas:

Pandemic has impacted on Grail women and social justice women who work with indigenous people in Ecuador and are not able to work with them as before. All the usual problems: loss of jobs, more vulnerable are immigrants and refugees.



COTACACHI AND TOCTIUCO GARDENS OF LIFE

7. Italy -

Claudia Gras:

The Grail is doing fine. One person got COVID but in a mild way. We have ZOOM meetings. Italy was hit badly especially in the north at the beginning of the spread of the epidemics...we were second after China. The country affected economically and socially.

8. Kenya -

Sarah Mabanja:

We have received our first vaccines, though we are questioning many things about vaccine. It is given to health care workers first. The Grail has had no face-face meetings. We cannot visit the sick and old we cannot participate in Grail work. Some are helping their relatives and friends, though medication is very expensive.

9. Mexico

Alicia Jiménez Carmona:

In Mexico we have vaccines available for the elderly. Many Grail members had family members who died. We are in lockdown because of chronic illnesses and we cannot be in contact with our communities because we are not immunized. Our president says that we are going to improve but we don't see these signs, like there are not enough vaccines. It has affected the Grail because of fear of contagion. We are trying internet meetings but the lack of internet has not allowed us to visit them.

10. Mozambique

Felicidade Banze:

The first wave was in September. After New Year celebration numbers of cases went up 4 times which was terrible. Few first doses of vaccines have come. COVID has affected the Grail and our activities. All meetings were cancelled and we only managed to have some person to person meetings, then we had to stop because of social distancing rules. I had COVID along with 3 others from our 44 members. Some people in the Grail lost some relatives. We had to work from home which has increased our costs because of the high cost for internet. Women had even more work to do. No one lost their job. COVID has strengthened family relations. We have reorganized ourselves.

11. Netherlands

Mineke van Sloten:

She showed a chart. Almost 5% of the population has been vaccinated. There is vaccine greed: ordering more than needed at expenses of other countries...people rebel at times, great masses of people gathering together. 5 out of 20 Grail members were infected but recovered. Our economy suffers and the money given to big corporations and profit for on-line stores. Many Grail programs cancelled. No collective actions. Members are at home meeting via zoom.

12. Papua New Guinea

Philmah:

Covid-19 affected everyone; no meetings and no reaching out to others for charity work. Lockdown lifted in November and we were able to meet for the feast days. Only 63 deaths so far... mixed feelings about the vaccination. The vaccines not yet in the country. The impact is like in all the countries. All Grail members are good. Impact of disease only in the capital City Port Moresby.

13. Philippines

Sandy Aristorenas De la Cruz:

92.7% recovery rate. Inoculations started with donation of vaccines from China. 70million people to be vaccinated this year only 32% want to be vaccinated fear of side effects. Grail families were affected: economic difficulties, unemployment and all the usual. Gatherings are on-hold with no meetings. Income has decreased for Grail women market vendors... we give support to indigenous group affected by polluted drinking water. increase in poverty and domestic violence and violence against girls. There is loss of jobs.

14. Portugal

Isabel Maria Marujo:

We suffered a third wave and we became the worst country in Europe. Numbers are decreasing at this time. We've being in lockdown since March last year. The minister of health is a woman who does press conferences with dignity and competence. One million vaccines have been given which has resulted into less deaths amongst the elderly people. Economic consequences is unemployment which mostly affects women...schools are closed, and children are in distance learning system. Some Grail members relatives had the disease, one death, Grail projects continued due to internet, zoom Grail meetings continued and also celebrations.

15. South Africa

Agatha Modise:

None of us had the infection but lives have been affected. Many Grail women lost relatives. One woman lost three family members in a week. Our country has less people affected now. Despite the challenges we have brought seven new women in our work, part of GLUNN team.

16. Sweden

Annika:

Sweden has a population of 10 million people with 13% of our population having been infected with Covid and this percentage is mostly old people. We have started the vaccine for elders and essential workers. As Grail, we no meetings in person but zoom... book discussion... very good to see each other...we are not in lockdown but we keep distances and work at home... lot of people feel lonely but not a lot of stress! more relaxed... we meet outdoors... Grail women have helped individual people. We seem to be acting more nice to each other .

17. Tanzania

Avelina Kimaryo:

Last year we had 509 cases, 83 recovered, 21 deaths. However a second wave has come with no clear information from the government about infection and death rates as well as the vaccination program. Impact to Grail: fear of contracting disease, no participation in meetings or apostolic meetings... loss of jobs... In the second wave, some members got the Covid but recovered. Restrictions to visit... We have programs for community awareness (in her specific location in Tanzania),

18. Uganda

Flavia Nakiyimba:

(She is on the Medical staff of Mushanga Health Unit. The first batch of the vaccines arrived in the country. Grail members lost their dear ones. We lost our bishop. There is a higher rate of girl pregnancy and an increase of all social issues. Grail Collective actions tried to reach out to families and communities with practical as well as other support. All is not dark: we have got some good experience from this. We are closer to each other, and there has been an improvement in technology that we use for working and meeting. We are grateful to God and one another.

20. USA -

Sharon Wood:

We have lost two Grail members due to virus. We have many ZOOM meetings. Vaccination is slow but progressing. People of color and poor and the disadvantaged have been affected more. All the other social issues mentioned are here as well. Students have suffered, health workers are suffering from burnout, and an increase in mental health issue effect due to isolation and social support is less. Best practices in San Jose Family Center in California with the Grail joining other community groups to educate and reach out to others. We are keeping all in our prayers.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTIVITIES FOR THE CENTENARY OF THE GRAIL MOVEMENT -
MARCH TO NOVEMBER 2021.

DATE	ACTIVITY
March 06th	Covid19's impact on women's lives.
April 10 th and April 24 th	Spirituality Dialogues
June 05 th and 12 th	Webinar on Leadership
July 17th	Forum with the candidates for the next ILT.
September 04 th and 11th	Reflecting with the Grail Networks
09/10 October 09th	The Grail in the future - Systematizing reflections and Building possibilities.
October 31th .	Celebration of the hundred years of the Grail in the World.

Please stay tuned to our next activities on April 10 and 24, **dialogues about the Grail Spirituality.**

More information will come soon. We wait for you!