

Sisters and Brothers,

I always enjoy reading the greetings our Grand Officers have provided during this time that we are all separated from each other. I am glad we have had Facebook, our website and Zoom to keep us somewhat connected. I have enjoyed attending the Watch Parties that Debi Huffman has so graciously put together for us so we can participate in the joy of sharing music. How I appreciate the hard work that has gone into creating these opportunities –THANK YOU to those who have shared their skill sets to put all these things in place for us. I am really looking forward to our March and April Zoom meetings and I hope you are too.

Another opportunity that Zoom has provided for me is the chance to share in a Bible Study with women from across our United States – and even one from Nigeria! We have been studying Genesis for the last several months and just last week were studying Genesis Chapters 30 & 31. When we discussed the Mizpah Benediction shared when the covenant was made between Jacob and Laban I couldn't help but think how much I missed sharing this in person with each of you at the end of a meeting.

This isolation has afforded us the opportunity to participate in some things we might not have done otherwise – and though I try to look at the bright side, I would much rather be able to share OES in person with my sisters and brothers. I have cleaned out closets, I did paint the garage, I let my hair grow a little longer and I even finished some puzzles! I have probably gained some weight – but I refuse to get on the scale to confirm. But, I also realized that being isolated up here in my beautiful mountain home was just too much alone time for me. After much thought and prayer, I have decided to sell my house and move to be closer to my daughter and her family so I can be a bigger part of their lives. So, in May I am moving to Hobbs. I've already told Tami that she can put me to work for Chili Day!

I am excited to see our number of cases going down – but my heart hurts for those who are currently battling Covid (praying for you Anthony) and for those we have lost. I hope we continue to see good news and that we will be able to have Grand Chapter – or at least some form of Grand Chapter in October. Until then, we keep “Zooming” and sharing our FB messages.

Shirley Crawford
Grand Chaplain

