We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

*As we hear from one more missionary this month, please continue in prayer for these gracious women who have shared what Jesus is teaching them as the serve Him around the world. Today Katy Beth Searls shares insight from the hardships of one missionary's life.*

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# *Captured by Pirates!*

Marie Monsen, missionary to Asia, found herself taken by pirates when her boat headed to T-- was overtaken! As the pirates were intimidating the passengers, the Lord clearly said to Marie, "*Fear thou not, Marie; for I am with thee; be not dismayed Marie for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee, Marie; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of righteousness.*" (Isaiah 41:10) She wrote that her response was, "I will obey, Lord, I will not be afraid."

When I read this, it struck me. Is fear a choice? Sometimes yes. Sometimes it is the response that comes when danger is present and is a right response, but we have a choice with what we do with that fear—I do not have to fear! I don't have to live in this fear. God is with me. When it comes to sharing Jesus, the choice to go forward and not be afraid is our choice.

Marie chose to look up, to trust, to believe that God was with her, and He was!!! She was on that pirate held boat for 43 days not as a captive of the pirates but as she said, "Put there by God Himself!" She wrote to friends...I have been delivered from all fear. God keeps His promises. The God of the promises is a living God and He has hidden me in the secret of His presence from all their strife of tongues.

She was able to witness to all 243 passengers and the crew of pirates, as well as the squadron of soldiers who eventually retook the ship and set them free. After the adventure was over, she said, “I was sorry for not more time with them to try to win them for Jesus.”

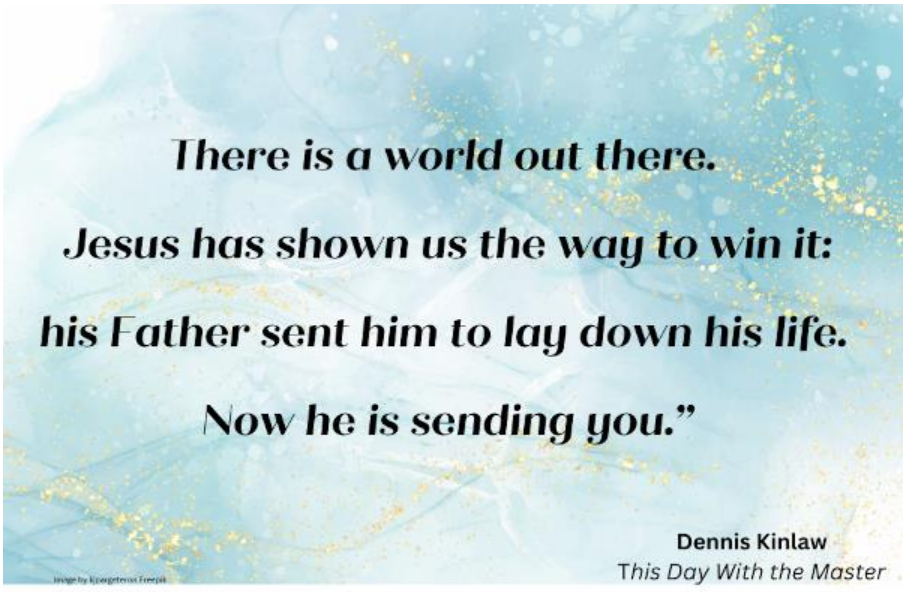
Her God is our God. The same God that fills the missionary, helping them to share Jesus and serve in difficult, unfamiliar places, is the same God that lives in us as we are surrender and give all of ourselves for all Him.

Jesus—help us CHOOSE to not live in fear.
Jesus—we CHOOSE to see YOU work in the spheres You place us—because You love these ones You have put us with; You are drawing them to Yourself and giving us the joy and opportunity to share You with them

Marie Monsen (1878-1962)

*The Lord Himself goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Don’t be afraid; Don’t be dismayed.* Deut. 31:8

Cheer up when you are afraid, God is near. Marie said she just looked up and said, “I will not be afraid.”

Like Marie, we can look up and say, can say "I will not be afraid, for Jesus, *You are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.* Psalm 3:1-3

Read her story: *A Present Help*