

Jesus was constantly on the move traveling from one place to the next. Having sent the Apostles out to build up the church, we are not surprised to see Peter doing the same. Peter goes from place-to-place preaching Christ crucified. In the name of Jesus, Peter is a man of many miracles:

- Approaching a man crippled from birth, Peter prays: “In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk” (Acts 3:6).
- Approaching a man confined to his bed for 8 years, Peter prays: “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed” (9: 34).
- Approaching a disciple who had died, Peter prays, “Tabitha, rise up” (9:40). Then, “He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive” (9:41).

The combination of bold preaching and astounding miracles have a dramatic impact. The church flourishes. Many convert from the Jewish faith, and many more Gentiles become Christians. The number of Christians grows by leaps and bounds.

Peter did not take credit for the good he did, but humbly recognized, any good he accomplished was only possible through Jesus. I am reminded of my years in North Pole with Deacon Walt. On more than one occasion, his health was restored through the healing hands of skilled physicians. One doctor in particular was a man of great faith. He recognized that he was merely an instrument of God’s healing and any good he accomplished elicited praise and thanksgiving to God.

During my years in Nome, I encountered an elderly woman named Marie from southern California. Whenever she wrote a letter, she would put “J.M.J.” at the top of the page. In grade school, the Sisters had taught her to always ask for help from Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The inscription “J.M.J.” was Marie’s acknowledgement, that whatever one accomplishes, it is through the grace of God, with the help of Mary his Blessed Mother, and Joseph her chaste spouse.

There is great peace in knowing that we live and breathe by the grace of God. And let us not overlook the great trust that Jesus places in us. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, Jesus sends us to carry on that mission. “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21).