Recently, I had the luxury of solitude, space and silence. For some time the word “hope” has been jumping out at me in my prayer, reading and thinking. … Like so many words that need images to describe the experience, this one struck like trying to explain God.

I read a quote from Nelson Henderon that I could sit with just holding the image, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” So much deeper than hoping it doesn’t rain. …

Not seeing results now called me to look at the pain experienced in our world today and there were other images: child throwing starfish back into the ocean one at a time; Jesus not fixing all of the problems of his time; Francis and Pope Francis’ call to bring compassion where there is indifference, love where there is hate, community where there is division and all one person at a time.

The love energy that is like a current that Jesus radiated and shared … the fire of the Spirit that never quits even when there seems to be no results … but Jesus did weep and did give his life … so the planting, watering, healing, forgiving, accepting and letting go that hope calls us to brings me gratitude and a challenge. Where does HOPE lead you?

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