Dear Friend,

You may know me. Or you may not. Either way, I am praying for you and have thought about you.

I'm not sure if this has been your experience, but this past year has been a rough one for me. I know I'm not the only one. Just in my own circle, there are many who are suffering. I have a friend who recently had a brain bleed and will never live unassisted again. Our own family member was just diagnosed with cancer. My Grandfather just passed away. I have a friend who recently lost her best friend to cancer. Others whose loved ones have died of Covid. And the list goes on and on. Drug addictions, death, loneliness, depression, wayward children, health problems, financial problems.....

None of those might be your story. But you still have a story. And part of your story probably has something that is painful or hard and needing prayer. If you are like me, you want someone to care about you, to be praying for you, and give you encouragement.

This past year I have received some notes/texts/cards that have been like water to a dry soul. And I know others need that same kind of encouragement. That is why I am writing this letter. I want to challenge us to send cards to those who need encouraged and need to hear about God's love and hope.

You might be thinking, *but I am the one who needs encouraged!* And I know, I understand. But God has this amazing way of using the discouraged to encourage someone else. And guess what happens? When you take the time to encourage someone else, even in the midst of your discouragement, you end up feeling encouraged!! Making a difference in someone else's life can be the very medicine you need right now.

There are a lot of us who need encouragement, so we must join forces! We can encourage more people if we work together. A funny thing about the word "encourage" is that "courage" is inside of it. I think it is because we need to have courage to en**courage** others. We need to be intentional, to take the time, and to go for it. I'm not asking for us to do a lot, but I am asking for us to do something.

Here's what to do:

- 1. Choose your own card to send to someone(s) you want to encourage. <u>Don't just sign your</u> <u>name...write something that will specifically encourage them and offer them hope.</u>
- 2. Include this letter in their card so they can pass it along to the next person they choose to encourage. (If you are sending cards to more than one person and want to print more copies, below is a website where this file is available to download, under the link "Card Ministry".)
- 3. **This is important: Pray over the recipient while you write their card!

It's time to have courage and do something! Join me as we encourage others...one card at a time.

May you be encouraged,

Christa Morris

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