

Joy—John 20



Etching by **Stephen Reed** [www.stephenreedartist.com]
Words by **Naomi Reed** [INF Ambassador]

We don't get to joy easily. And we shouldn't. There is a pause. The first time our family watched the 'Jesus' film, it was back in 2001. Our eldest son was six years old at the time, and we watched it on Good Friday. I remember that we were sitting in our lounge room, and we were all drawn into the images of Jesus' life and his words, and his love for his people, and his ministry. It was so powerful. And then, when it was all over, our six-year-old said, "It's amazing that Jesus knew everything that was coming and he still did it."

I agree. Jesus still did it. He didn't run away, or hide, or call 10,000 angels. He could have, but he didn't. He bore the agony of the cross, and the separation from his father. He cried out in desolation... but he bore it. His shoulders heaved, his lungs gasped for air... but he stayed there. Jesus knew everything that was coming, and he still did it.

The only thing that makes sense to me is that Jesus knew what was coming next. He knew that after the sun turned black, and the earth trembled, and the curtain ripped, and the mourners cried themselves to sleep, there would be a day – a very quiet morning, while it was still dark... and on that quiet morning, the stone that covered the tomb would be moved away, and Mary Magdalene and the disciples would run inside, and fall on the ground... because inside that tomb there would be nothing at all – just strips of linen, lying on the ground, and an empty head piece.

Thank you for joining us at INF as we have journeyed together through the Gospel of John, in the lead up to Easter. We hope that you have been blessed by the reflections and etchings. The International Nepal Fellowship is an interdenominational Christian mission that has been serving the physical and spiritual needs of Nepali people for over 65 years. We continue to value your prayerful and financial partnership, as we serve together. Our current needs and projects include

To see more of Naomi Reed's writing, go to www.NaomiReed.Info

To see more of Stephen Reed's artwork, go to www.stephenreedartist.com

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The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. And on that early Sunday morning he appeared in front of Mary, just standing there, alive, calling her by name and sending her and the other disciples out to tell everyone... because death had been defeated forever, for all time.

For us.

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen, and he still did it – for us, so that we might believe – and so that we might love him, and follow him, and trust him, and work and sing and praise, in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and throughout every mountainous district in Nepal, and Europe, and Australia, and to the ends of the earth... until Jesus comes again, when he will make all things new.

Won't that be wonderful?

For us at INF, we thank you for partnering with us. We thank you for responding with us to the hope of the Easter message, and for your commitment to bringing light and life to the neediest and most disadvantaged people in Nepal. As a worldwide family, we say thank you.

"... and these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." [John 20:31]