

Diana Coello's Testimony

I want to take advantage of this opportunity I have to give glory to God, who can do so much more than what we ask for or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). God has showed me these words so many times and in so many different ways in my life.

I have been a disciple of Jesus for 24 years. I am originally from San Pedro Sula, where God gave me the honor of being the first woman to be baptized in the International Church of Christ in that city.

I have been living in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, for 10 years now, where I serve as a missionary with my beloved and wonderful husband and my two beautiful daughters, Sofia who is 15 years old and is a disciple, and Alessandra who is 12 years old.

My life has been an adventure. I have been a disciple for more than half of my life and in that time I have faced many struggles, with the help of Christ.

For over 7 years, I have been living with a special battle since I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called Systematic Lupus Erythematosus.

This diagnosis gave my life a very big emotional, physical, and spiritual turn. After a very painful crisis, without knowing what I was truly facing, I went through times of fear, sadness, discouragement and pain. I found myself lying in bed without being able to get up to do simple and daily tasks like showering or provide for my family. I was no longer able to function well enough to do my job in the best way. I experienced a great challenge that brought out the worst and the best of me.

Many people think that lupus is a disgrace, but I see it as an opportunity to change, an opportunity to cross the bridge and find myself with a better version of myself.

This situation taught me to value who I am more, the blessings that God gives me, and the little things in life that I used to take for granted. I have learned to enjoy every day: to understand that today is the day to live, hug, love, and enjoy because I don't know if I will be able to do it tomorrow.

I have had to learn to take care of myself, give myself time to rest, spoil myself, and learn to live at peace with myself and with everyone around me.

I live with gratitude to God because in the midst of intense pain, extreme fear, anxiety, and sadness God has always shown me that the only thing I need is Him.

<But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.> 2 Corinthians 12:9

I still suffer, but now I have faith, to be compassionate, and to appreciate the life that I have without taking anything for granted and living with gratitude for everything.

With love in Christ,

DIANA COELLO

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