

What I Learned Through Our Vacation During the Corona Virus

By Sophy Churches

I had great plans for myself. Of course I did not know how long this home vacation was going to last.

Personally, I am enjoying it. I love my home. I have everything: a full refrigerator, freezer, even a large package of toilet paper and kitchen towels, enough clothes for cold weather and warm weather and, as it turned out, I did need them both, although sometimes I was doubtful if winter is ever going to stop this year. I made my dog and cat extremely happy with my continual presence at home.

My plans were to tidy up my mess that is the result of three years of living here. It is worse than before, nothing came out of these plans. Still, I was busy all the time here. I found out new things about myself, as to what I really like and enjoy doing. It was a new revelation of self discovery that I never expected to give myself. I do not like tidying. I do not like cleaning. But I found out other things I like very much.

After breakfast, as I did not have classes, doctors, friends, clubs, etc. to go to, I always started picking at books or magazines or old leaflets and catalogs and any printed matter that I have at home on shelves, cupboards, stacks in boxes – everywhere. I am a “picky” and compulsive reader of words. I think I had a notion of that before because I always read every advertised matter on the street, including street names, instructions, sales and everything printed. I even pick up papers on the street that are flying around. If printed, I read them. So this reading madness lasts until I get dressed and take the dog out for a walk. Thank goodness, we could do that.

My walking has become slow, lackadaisical, looking at the trees, birds, movement of squirrels, rabbits and coyotes. I enjoy every moment and observe my surroundings. My walk with the dog lasts a good hour, sometimes, I was frozen stiff by time I got back. As I do not get the *Denver Post* now, I pick up all the magazines and free papers, like the *Aurora Sentinel*. I read every word, and try to learn from them.

Then there is the television. At first, there was the news continually (some stations only have Coronavirus news). I was shocked and frightened about the speed and severity of the pandemic spreading. The number of dead people. I was overwhelmed with the news about the situation in hospitals and lack of supplies and suffering of the population. It was just enough to suffer with the disease in families, but on top of it how so many people lost their jobs and have no income, having to rely only on the slow arrival of the unemployment money. Here I was in my comfortable warm home, and thousands and thousands of people had to leave their homes for non-payment. I was contemplating taking a family in. I have done that before, but that is another story. The situation broke my heart. I had headaches and chest pains from upsetting myself from the news.

We are coming towards the end of this very hard situation, and I am so full of sympathy towards the ones who suffered. I must redeem the life of these people who suffered. By this I

will be redeemed also.