

Sophy Churches

5/31/2020

## QUARANTINE

This was not my first quarantine in my life. This was the 4<sup>th</sup>. The first one was when I was born in a hospital cellar in Budapest. All hospitals and large apartment buildings had a cellar where they kept the coal and firewood, apartment buildings had fenced quarters where every tenant could keep what they wanted. These were 6 x 6 ft with a little gate to get in. My mother moved down the cellar with other tenants when the war started. Food, water, fresh air was scarce, the conditions were awful. Mother was moved to the hospital when I started being born. I was born on the first day of the air battle between the Germans and American planes. The city was on fire, houses bombed to crumbles. It was not a good time in Budapest. A few days after I was born, mother took me in a basket and carried me out of the hospital through a park. She met a lady who took me in her arms and away. It was all pre-arranged to save my life. Mother returned to her quarter in the cellar and probably cried her heart out. In a few weeks time, she got me back, she could not bear the situation without her new baby. The whole family survived.

The second time I was in quarantine, it was in 1956 in Budapest when the riots broke out against the Soviet dictatorship. There was no air battle but ground battle with the Hungarian army and the Soviet army. Tanks and cars and every movable vehicles were used for shooting at each other. The Budapest youth, girls and boys, men and women joined the Hungarian Army and fought against the Russian occupation. In the meanwhile we had to move down to our cellar because our house was in the battle line and the guns were shot above our house. The way we felt that guns were squealing above our heads and there was no way we could step out from the cellar for days. We had a radio, a few bottles of jam and some bedding. Mother, my sister and me and two men who worked in the house were there for 3-4 day. Actually we had some fun this way, nobody got hurt but we were careful not to go outside. The revolution was not to the advantage of the Hungarians unfortunately, thousands of young people died and the Russians reoccupied the country with their army and political regime.

The third time I was jailed in Denver, Colorado because I expressed my feelings to a policeman and said to him that he was a chauvinistic pig. This was in reply to his remark to me that "you foreigners don't know anything!" I was in jail for one day and one night. Actually, it was quite an experience. I ended up having to pay \$500.00 fine.

The fourth time was our recent pandemic of coronavirus. It was the most comfortable quarantine, in my own apartment, own bed, own kitchen – the food was plentiful and I was lucky because I got toilet paper just before the quarantine orders. It lasted long but it was quite an experience. I and my friends survived, even though over one million people got the virus. USA is a sad country now.

