

Excerpt from Crossing Over

The Beginning

It was another hot and muggy day and the fragrance from the spring flowers was exquisite; but the insanity in the air felt palatable to the young girl who lived in constant fear and torment.

"Why God?" Ellie cried. "Why is this happening again to my sister and me?" The problem was that she was not even sure if the God she had heard about was even real. Supposedly the priest that she had heard about, who was supposed to know God and about God was never around to help. She often cried out to God, but He seemed to be a distant thought in the 'campesinos' mind if he even existed at all. She had no idea of an outside world and it would be years later that she learned that the term 'campesinos' meant peasant. To her this torment that she lived under was 'normal' as it seemed that many of the folks she knew had similar stories or situations. The local police were deaf, blind or just totally indifferent to the cries of the 'campesinos'!

There seemed to be no rhyme or reason to the outbursts but here she came with the dreaded rope and whip. There was no escape and soon the rope was around her sister's neck and she was being drug across the rough floor while being beaten with the whip. The screams were terrible and you would have thought that the neighbors would have intervened, but not in this culture. The honor of the family was paramount and most were left alone to deal with their own families as they saw fit.

She was choking, struggling for air, clawing at the rope while trying to stand up to protect herself but it was no use. Every lash of the whip would leave a welt and often the splinters from the floor from being dug around by the neck would later fester and leave small scars after the infection cleared up. The beating and dragging would last till the bloodletting in her grandmother's heart was done!

Later Ellie would come to know and understand that while the enemy was trying to destroy her family that her heavenly Father had a plan for her and His hand was on her, even in the horror of those moments.

It would be years later till she knew any real peace and rest, in both body and mind; as the enemy of her soul was determined to claim her for his deeds and his 'dark kingdom'. But God our great redeemer through Jesus was going to set her free.