



Dear Friends,

What do I say when people are beginning to recover from the floods of 2021 only to experience the same thing and lose their belongings once again? I am lost for words, and it isn't words they are wanting, they are wanting to tell their stories.

I've spent 4 days at Wiseman's Ferry and watched the waters rise. I've listened to stories of what happens when the floods come, and the residents are without power. One thing I hadn't realised that without electricity the pumps don't work, and they don't have fresh water to drink. It reminds me of a saying that apparently is misquoted: "Water, water everywhere, **nor any drop to drink** Meaning: Despite being surrounded by something, you cannot benefit from it. Background: This saying was coined by Poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1798). It is often misquoted as "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink" I've seen so much water and yet people still need fresh water to drink.

So many stories, and yet people come into the Evacuation Centre saying there are others worse off than they are, but they are still in need of accommodation, food and comfort. I'm currently at Richmond and people are still coming in, each with their own story, their concerns often for their stock left back on their farms. One gentleman said he opened the cages of his poultry, and they flew into trees where they would be safe. There are many other stories and maybe one day I'll have a chance to talk about them. I ask myself, Why am I here? Why am I doing this? And the answer is always the same, Jesus reached out to those in trouble, those on the margins of society, he reached out with compassion and he has asked me to do the same.

"Here I am Lord" is one song that speaks to me of compassion and service. St. Teresa of Avila wrote a prayer in the 1500s which is still relevant today.

*"Christ has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the
compassion of Christ
looks out upon the world,
ours are the feet with which he
goes about doing good,
ours are the hands with which he
blesses his people."
—St. Teresa of Avila*



[Here I Am, Lord Lyrics - Bing video](#)

Here I Am Lord

I the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars and night
I will make the darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord
If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

I've included just the first verse and chorus, may the words speak to your heart as they did to mine. This is the reason I do what I do.

My prayer is that you will be aware that the God of Love and Compassion is with you always. Amen

Love and Blessings,

Lyn

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