

## DESERT BLOOMS

June 2013

This month we are happy to share some thoughts from a mother and a sister of two of our special children. Celia wrote these two reflections as she worked through her grief in the months after her son, Martin, died last January.

### **Grief and Death**

Facing the corpse I had no one to blame. No sign, nothing to do, nothing was certain. There was no cure in sight. No one was saying what God was thinking. I was alone with Almighty God in his determined and unpredictable will. Those days were filled with the peculiar and suffocating frenzy of waiting. I cried a lot. I worried a lot. I asked many questions. I felt lost. I slept little and besides all this, God began to move me deeply. I started to be

honest, terribly honest. I do not like the idea of death. To me, death is a great intruder. I was angry with God for daring even to ask me to consider it. I asked questions for which I did not believe that God had answers or, if he had, he would not tell me. And when I asked those questions, something surprising happened to me: What was to be a confrontation became a relief. Far from being offended with my questions, God received them. God understood my pain and God transformed my limitation into unfailing strength. I don't know how it happened. I don't know much about that kind of grace. God did not respond. God just gave me his presence, nothing more, and God's grace was sufficient.

### **Faith**

Without faith it is impossible to please God. I know from experience that having this kind of faith means being active, not lamenting life, sitting and waiting for a change. It means to love, to believe in ourselves and to use the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to move forward. The truth seems simple, but living it is not so simple. As time passes I



have seen the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. I have had tough times: financially, physically, mentally and spiritually, but faith in God began a revolution in my life. Our enemy is the fear that blinds us to the truth, that embitters us with anger and that makes us powerless. However, with a renewed faith we are never alone. We recognize that in Christ we have everything we need to overcome any challenge that life brings. Perhaps countless times we have felt a tremor of the earth beneath our feet or the weight of life that crushes us. This happens to many people around the world today. It is one of the many ways in which the Holy Spirit speaks to us encouraging us to change.

### **An Angel In My House**

There was once a family full of love. It was a father, a mother, and a beautiful girl. But they felt that something was missing and they did not know what it was. One fine day they received the great news that a new member of the family was on the way. And although they did not know how special he would be, they waited for him with excitement. After months of waiting, a beautiful child was



born. Although they saw something different about him, they did not know what it was. Until one day a doctor told my parents that he had problems in the brain that makes him a special child. They told me that I ought to teach him to do things that are easy for me but for him are difficult. They also told me that I ought to love him very much and take good care of him. That does not worry me because I love him. But the most important is that God sent an angel to my house: my little brother Neftali.

