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We Need Good News

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Sometimes just being thankful during such turbulent times is really hard. We just need to look around at all the problems and pain in the world and wonder if there is any good news at all. I am convinced that God's abundant blessings are in the midst of the struggle, but I must confess that when bad news is front and center during the nightly broadcast, it is hard to see what good is being done in communities across the globe. All of a sudden when we least expect, good news abounds!

Thank you to CNN for instituting their Annual CNN Heroes Program. On Thanksgiving night last week, they aired the *"CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute."* This inspiring program recognizes unsung heroes in our midst. These heroes are not celebrities who make millions of dollars in the entertainment industry. They are not public figures with big names who lead huge organizations or serve in the halls of Congress or the White House. Instead, they are ordinary people who saw an unmet human need and decided to do something about it. Gathering others to help, these heroic leaders are changing the world for millions of others. Margaret Mead was right when she said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

While each hero has a distinct story to tell; the common thread among them is that he or she believes in the power of the human spirit. Each of them knows that the challenges we face are huge, but not insurmountable. Each of them knows that it takes dedication and faith to stay the course. Each of them knows that hope is alive in dire circumstances if others will step up and support the change that is needed. As each story was told, it was clear that good news abounds.

Anuradha Koirala was named the 2010 Hero of the Year for her relentless efforts to end human trafficking. She boldly condemns sex crimes against children, the majority of whom are girls. Declaring that "human

trafficking is a crime, a heinous crime, a shame to humanity," Ms. Koirala stands up to the powers and principalities of patriarchal systems that have continued to carry on sex slave trade for years.

She raids brothels and patrols the India-Nepal border in order to liberate girls who are being bought and sold. These girls are tortured, raped, and held in slavery to profit a sick and greedy system dependent on the destruction of human beings. Anuradha Koirala has disrupted this revolting marketplace and helped rescue more than 12,000 women and girls since 1993. She has been instrumental in transforming their lives filled with fear and despair into new hope surrounded by people who care about them.

Ms. Koirala's vision is to create a society free of trafficking for the sake of our daughters. She pleads with the world to respect our youth – the hope of the next generation. I admire her courageous leadership and faithful commitment to restoring a society that values its young people. This is Good News!

For more information on CNN's 2010 Heroes, go to www.cnn.com/Specials/cnn.heroes

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