COVID-19 Nursing

E.B. Lucky

omma, where are we going?" The five-year old's black-haired mother looked down into the tension that had invaded her daughter's big eyes.

"I don't know, honey", she replied. It was her best answer with the desert sun beating down on the harried Israelites as they fearfully trudged through the Egyptian sands in exhaustion.

Some nurses during COVID-19 have felt like they have walked this same ancient path out of Egypt. It has been months of exhaustion and fear trudging through the shifting sands of healthcare while the Coronavirus burns across their heads and shoulders toward their hearts. Some say, "What else is new?" After caring for the ill others feel like Job being tested by God. A few may see it as a highway billboard predicting Armageddon.

Anxiety is off the charts. The Unknown answers questions. What is "safe care?" Will I bring it home—on my scrubs? Is THIS why I'm a nurse putting my life on the line for strangers?

PPE is our badge of hard work. We live alone for weeks because we may bring our work home with us. There's the roller coaster of hopes raised then quickly dropped. Ventilators! Increased suicides! After all we sacrifice for patients—they die!

Does death mean we failed? Hell no!

Find solace through prayer, faith/support groups, and books. Science is God's tool for healing—and hope. Nurses personify love amid COVID-19 ... leading people through their deserts.

E.B. Lucky, B.S., M.Div. C.E., LPN is a nurse in the Duke University Healthcare System