

Devotion written by Alaina Asebes

“A Hug long overdue “

Before COVID-19, Sunday's were the best days (and don't get me wrong Sunday's are still pretty awesome). All the girls would be getting up and getting ready. We would be arguing over who got the shower next and who was in line for the hair straightener. I'd be yelling around the house asking if anyone had seen my left heel and to please help me find it. The hectic morning would level out with us arriving to church and settling into “the Asebes pew” where all the Asebes girls and the boyfriends would fill an entire pew. After listening to an amazing service my family would stand in the foyer and figure out what to do for the day. Some of us want to go out to eat, others want to go to moms' house and have her homemade tacos. Heidi seemed to always be the peacekeeper because she always found a way to do what everyone wanted to do. Usually we would end up back at our house and everyone would be there goofing off and eating till we were ready to bust. This completely stopped once the pandemic began. Although being quarantined with all my family, there was one part of the Asebes puzzle missing. It was Heidi and Amos. Heidi is an RN, the hardest field to be in at this time. Her floor became the COVID floor, meaning she and Amos were no longer allowed to come over and play frisbee or lay around and watch movies. When she and Amos came over, we had to set their food outside to eat and we weren't allowed to interact. We couldn't even give a simple hug goodbye. Every night I knew my mom

was praying for her and asking God to protect her. As was I. Every day Heidi would make sure to let the family Snapchat group that she was okay and that there weren't any COVIDs. Every single Sunday that passed, we missed a family get together at the house. For two months we couldn't be around my loving sister and brother-in-law. It was hard to do because of how close our family is. We decided to take a boat trip one day to beach fork and invited all the family to go. When Heidi and Amos got there, she informed us that it she was told it was okay to be around us. I was like "oh my gosh. Are you serious!???" And believe me I didn't let another second go by before hugging her so tight. Before COVID I took my wonderful family that God gave me for granted. I never thought I would have to miss out on one of my siblings' hugs. I'm thankful and blessed for the family I have been given. I didn't understand why God wanted to put Heidi in such a situation but after that reassuring hug, I quit questioning Him and learned to trust His ways even if they come by trials and tribulations.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.