

# Unfoldings

An eLetter from Ralph and Jennifer Ennis



## UNTAMED NURTURE

Tigers are seldom seen as tame, except when they are nurturing their young. Then the care and gentleness required to develop their young is apparent to all.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. James 3:7-10

As we seek to tame our tongues around family, friends and those we disagree with (even politicians and bosses), consider the power of words to impact the heart. What kind words of praise do you remember from years ago spoken by a parent, teacher, coach or friend? What words "full of deadly poison" do you recall? Which words speak loudest?

Put yourself in the above image. Does "ordinary" nature invite you toward the sacred works of God in your life? How might God want to tame you while still leaving you in the wild?

Personally, we find that God is "untamable" by our efforts—He is wild! And yet He nurtures our souls across the myriad of poison words that rattle in our heads. We just need to continually choose who to listen to and engage with. And we find that only through the nurturing power of the Holy Spirit can our own tongues be tamed.

As life unfolds for you today, how might the above passage encourage you to walk with God? Is God calling you to be tame or wild or both? How toxic have your words been this week? Take time in silence with God to ask Him about His agenda for you today and the taming of tongues.

Consider sharing this passage and image with someone you love and care for. How might you invite him or her to experience the untamed nurture of God?