



The Aspen Grove

Go out west in the fall and you will see mountains covered with shimmering golden aspen trees. As you touch the delicately peeling white bark and marvel at the roof of living gold, you might not know that the trees around you are all connected by a single root system. The largest, heaviest and oldest living organism on the planet is an aspen grove named “Pando.” It covers 106 acres and grew from a single seed, thousands of years ago. It has only recently stopped growing, for a variety of reasons, one being fire suppression. While a fire might decimate the trees above ground, the root system remains intact. A chemical is then released from the roots that accelerates new seedlings. They thrive in the bright sunlight and crisp air of a mountainside burned clean.

Our Lord Jesus saw Himself as a seed, falling into the ground to die that many might find their new life in His resurrection! This Easter season we must not forget the single root system that connects us all to God and to each other. Hardship prepares the way for new growth. Let’s find encouragement and hope to endure from the aspen tree.

John 12: 23-24 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Elsbeth

- FRBC Missionary in South Korea

