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In Harm's Way: A View From The Epicenter Of Liberia's Ebola Crisis



Synopsis

When long-time American missionary Nancy Sheppard volunteered to work with her friend Nancy Writebol in ELWA Hospital's Ebola ward, she did not know what to expect. Night after night she worked, suiting up and disinfecting the medical personnel and helping wherever needed. While it was difficult, she recognized she was witnessing something extraordinary. Author Nancy Sheppard writes, "What am I seeing here? I asked myself. It was invisible to all but me. This dying woman was perhaps the most untouchable person in the world and yet Dr. Brantly was touching her. And he was not just touching her physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Who was I that I should be granted the privilege of witnessing this? It was somehow both utterly tragic and supremely glorious." When, despite following protocols to the best of their abilities, Nancy Writebol and Dr. Kent Brantly were diagnosed with Ebola, she knew how they would suffer as they fought this deadly disease. But, "In Harm's Way" is more than a book about ELWA Hospital's Ebola ward, it is the story of Liberia itself. Told in the sympathetic voice of one who cares for the country and her people, Nancy explains the multiple societal and cultural factors that have exacerbated the Ebola crisis in her adopted home. Warm and human, this book takes you into Liberia's epicenter of the war against Ebola. You will not emerge the same.

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Customer Reviews

Very interesting first-person story of the Ebola crisis in Africa in 2012. Also, some good history on how the virus spread, as those tasked with keeping it contained, learned how not to do that. I learned a lot. And, I'm thankful for all of those people who worked so quickly and diligently to stop the spread and selflessly put themselves in danger to care for the victims. It was a huge task that required a lot of courage.

In her book, Nancy Sheppard, seasoned missionary to Liberia's people, shares her heart and insider's perspective on the Ebola crisis in West Africa. With a heart for all she serves and all who serve with her in Liberia, Nancy ties together Liberia's beginnings, more recent past, and harrowing present. Her intimate understanding of the country's culture, infrastructure and people prepared the author's thorough examination of Ebola's appearance and impact on Liberia. I enjoyed Nancy's detailed descriptions of the daunting work of medical missions. Readers will recognize some of Nancy's co-laborers from recent headlines, and understand with greater clarity, the purpose that drives their selfless endeavors.

It is so helpful to understand how Ebola affected the people of Liberia and the love and commitment of those who willingly stepped in to harm's way to be the hands, feet and mouth of Jesus to those whose lives were severely threatened by this terrible disease. This book gives encouragement to anyone who wishes to be Jesus to those they serve. Thank you Nancy Sheppard for your example and for encouraging me through your written words.

If you want to know what it was like for the people involved with the recent Ebola outbreak, this is the book for you. The author was already in Liberia when the first cases were diagnosed, and she volunteered to help in the Ebola clinic. She paints a picture of the Ebola ward and the people that worked there. As a long-term resident of Liberia, Nancy Sheppard understands and explains many of the practices and beliefs that made the epidemic difficult to stop. With the beautiful photographs included, this is an excellent book for those interested in the country and people of Liberia, the Ebola epidemic, or a study of "what happens when" a disaster happens.

Nancy Sheppard has written about Ebola in a knowledgeable and heartfelt manner. Having served with Nancy Writebol and Dr. Brantley at the beginning of the outbreak, she had first-hand experience with this epidemic. Nancy writes with passion about those who have ministered/doctored under terrible conditions because of their love for God and love for the African people. She also explains the cultural reasons as to why and how the disease spread. I learned much about Ebola and the missionaries who were willing to sacrifice all for the Africans they loved. I would highly recommend this book to all.

This incredible book is the author's first hand account of working in Liberia during the Ebola crisis. She vividly describes the perfect storm that allowed this deadly virus to spread so quickly and shares how God has worked through this tragedy to show the world his glory.

I was privileged to stay in the home of the author and her husband in Liberia for three and a half weeks. The compassion she showed to the people around her is the same compassion she showed in the Ebola ward. God's grace radiates out of her life. Christ shines through her. Praise God for people who put their lives on the line to serve Him and others.

I just read this whole book today! It is a wonderful testimony to the grace of God, the power of prayer and the serious need for continued prayer for western Africa. Who knows whether Nancy was in this place at the time she was so God could use her gift of writing to share this story with the world!

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