April 6, 2023

Dear colleagues,

As we welcome spring and approach Easter Sunday, I am filled with great hope and joy. Cherry trees are blossoming in Atlanta, and flowers are blooming all around. People are gathering together once again for meetings and traveling for events. Although I may have been on too many airplanes recently, it has been wonderful to see in person the transformative impact of Habitat's work around the world.

Sometimes, it may seem difficult to find hope, as the world is faced with ongoing war, senseless shootings and economic uncertainty. There are lots of things we cannot control, but we can control how we respond – and our best response is to share God's love with others.

All around the world, we are following our mission to bring hope by putting God's love into action, from committing to replacing 100,000 dirt floors with concrete so children can have safe places to play in Latin America and the Caribbean to supporting Ukrainian refugees in Poland and other neighboring countries. Habitat is using innovative, climate-friendly building techniques in Kenya; partnering with a media company to create content relevant to low-income homebuilders in the Philippines; and advocating for affordable housing in the United States and globally.

I am grateful for everyone who has come together to support our mission. In the Book of Matthew, Jesus says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." As I spend time reflecting on our impact during this Holy Week, I often think of President Carter. His dedication to our work and helping others continues to inspire me, and I wanted to share some thoughts about his life of service in my Easter video message.

As we celebrate Easter, may you be filled with the hope that is found in the resurrection of Jesus. Enjoy this special time with your family and friends, and please take a moment to reflect on the beauty of God's creation and soak in His abundant love so that we can be a vessel to others.

Blessings,

Jonathan T.M. Reckford