

Today is June 1st, 2023. It's a new month, a new job for me, about to start two months without my grandsons under my roof. The death of my last sibling marked a new beginning as well. I am left standing here at a pivotal place in my life. I turned sixty years old just over a week ago. Assuming I have no major ailments pop up or I don't get hit by a bus, I figure I have a good twenty-five to thirty years left on this earth. Unless Jesus comes before then, which would not surprise me one bit, and I would welcome the sight.

I realized I have a chance to begin again, make better choices, choose my friends more wisely, and choose to have no fear. The unknown is a fearful thing, and I have been facing many unknowns these past few months. I'm still a little afraid of the outcome in specific areas, but truthfully, I say I'm afraid for lack of a better description. God has been my guide throughout these seasons of change, and he has not let me down one single time. Granted, I don't understand everything, but I happily place those questions into my 'why' box that I wrote about in an earlier blog.

I am still pursuing having the remaining stories within my *Meet Lisa Jo* series published, and I'm in the middle of another book, a challenging work in progress. I believe I'm meant to write, and I'll just have to let God lead where he will. In talking about beginnings, I started writing this blog in April of 2021. I can't believe I've already passed the two-year mark. My friends ask me how I am able to share very personal aspects of my life here, but I figure people who are hurting need to know they are not alone. The most difficult struggle at this point in my life is feeling alone, and it hurts.

Not only is LisaJo.org a way for me to share my thoughts and encourage others, but I see it as a way to plant seeds. Jesus tells us about planting seeds in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV):

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

If I can plant a few seeds with my words, then I am honored to do this. I love to receive feedback from those who read my blogs, but what I look forward to the most is to see where these seeds are being planted. My website makes it possible for me to view the countries represented by those who have read my blog. I get so excited when I see a new country pop up. This list below includes the locations that have viewed my blog since January of this year, up until yesterday, May 31, 2023. The newest addition being Pakistan! And look! Seeds are even being planted in China.

Countries	Views
 United States	723
 China	30
 Ireland	28
 Canada	15
 Singapore	5
 Venezuela	4
 Australia	3
 Pakistan	2
 Nigeria	2
 Germany	2

I realize these are small numbers compared to many other popular sites or by famous bloggers, but I give God every one of these seeds to move hearts, tear down walls, give comfort to someone who may feel desperately alone. If you ever read something on my site that you think will bless someone else, please share it. You never know what God can do with just a few words.

I'm looking forward to my new beginnings and planting more seeds. Yes, a little fearful, but a healthy fear, a human fear. I know God has my life and he most definitely has my heart. It is my greatest wish that you will find rest with him. And remember, you are never alone.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo