

Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren Are a Gift from God

I have returned from Colorado. My visit was wonderful for those of you who are wondering. My Granddaughter and Grandson in law seemed happy to see me and genuinely a little sad to see me go. They spoiled me something awful. My Great Grandchildren, two of them, were happy to reacquaint themselves with the great grandma they had not seen for two years except on zoom. Ethan even quoted something I had said to them on zoom a while back. We went to the Zoo and the Arboretum on Saturday and Sunday in Denver. Because of the Altitude change I would be undergoing the Doctor thought it best if I stayed at a lower altitude and then go on the next day to their home which is at a higher altitude and of course, hydrate. I did what I was told, and my Granddaughter made sure I did, and we all spent two days in Denver, a lower altitude (2000 feet) than Colorado Springs where they live. We had a wonderful day at the zoo and a good day at the arboretum (it's a lot more fun looking at an animal than a plant when you're five and three years old). They took turns pushing Great Grandma around in a wheelchair at the Zoo and Arboretum and then we went to their house for the next 5 days. I was able to teach them "Knock, Knock jokes" and other obnoxious stuff until Ethan proclaimed me funny. Then we began the "Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road" jokes. These were inspired by a book of jokes I bought them. At the end they were making up their own jokes and making Great Grandma laugh. God has given us many gifts and I enjoyed so many of them on this trip. I once again had little arms hugging me and wanting to show me anything and everything. Being with my Granddaughter and recalling her as a baby and young child. Being in a place where it is like seeing God's handiwork in the beauty of the snow-capped mountains and how low the clouds can look at higher elevations and how beautiful Colorado is and added to this was the joy in the laughter of a child and their daring as they race on their scooters and bikes, how watching them at Ballet and Tae Kwan Do can make you feel so happy and proud, how their laughter at your corny jokes can make you laugh too, how their smiles can light up a room, playing word games and bubble drop on my Kindle with them, how the hugs from a granddaughter can bring back the memories of when she was little and now you see her as a Mother. The pure happiness of being with those we love, and we experience the joy they bring into our lives. The plane rides were nice but changing planes in Chicago is always a challenge. This time our first plane was late on leaving Flint and I missed my connection, but my luggage didn't and went on to Denver without me. I am still wondering how my luggage arrived in time to make the flight and I didn't. Luckily another flight was scheduled, and I was put on that one and arrived a couple of hours later than planned. Coming back the same thing happened except I was put on the late flight when it finally arrived and had the good fortune to be seated next to an English gentleman coming to Michigan for a memorial service and we had a great conversation. Despite the glitches my trip was wonderful and filled with the blessings that only God can give. The warmth and joy of family, the love expressed in laughing together, the joy in watching a child and how this warms your heart, and you smile and say, "Thank you God for the blessings you have given me and the years you have given me to enjoy them." God is good!

Ephesians 3:16-21 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is a work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen

Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and for all the days we are given. Be with those who are suffering through illness or grief, be with them and may they know the comfort only you can bring. Be with us as we reach out to the hungry and the homeless, those who suffer especially the children Lord, may we offer them sustenance and comfort and may what we do for them be but a reflection of what you have done for each of us. Be without Pastor, bless his ministry, keep him safe and be with his family. Be with those who are seeking to be closer to you may they find you waiting. Be with our church as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus the Christ. Be with our country may we be more united and kinder to each other. Be with our staff and leaders guide and protect them. Be with our families Lord, may the love we have shown in our relationships and the kindness we show each other. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

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