

Perks of the Job

I loved being a Registered Nurse. No matter where I worked, I found joy in the work I did. I worked in an OB-GYN office in the beginning, and I loved the fact that a lot of patients became friends. They would ask to speak with me when they called and then I was able to determine their needs and speak to the doctor on their behalf. They trusted me. One woman grew gladiolas and when they began to bloom, she would bring me a bouquet every week whether she had an appointment or not. The office would look so good with fresh flowers and every day I was reminded of her kindness. After I had children, I had to leave there, the doctor did not hire women with small children. I missed the patients but was happy to be a mom. Then I went to work at a small hospital where I could get hours that worked out with small children. There I enjoyed the challenge and joy found in hospital nursing once again. When I left there, I went to the Red Cross to work. The hours were good but varied depending on where we were assigned. We went to such a variety of places, schools, factories, businesses (even a pickle factory), and churches. Churches were my favorite. I often asked to see their sanctuary or in the Jewish and Middle Eastern churches their temples and synagogues. They were always so happy to oblige me and would show me where they worshipped. In temples there were places where your shoes had to be removed but I was fascinated with the Temples. In the synagogues a gentleman was showing me with great pride their place of worship with the Torah and the beautiful accompaniments. There was an interesting statue (not large but ornate), and I asked what that represented, and he told me it was the symbol for man. I asked him where was the one for woman and we both had a good laugh as he admitted there was none. I found people to be proud of their faith and anxious to share it, whether Jewish, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, or Sikh. I loved the ornate and beautiful sanctuaries of the Catholic Churches and the difference in the more modern and newer ones. I loved seeing the United Methodist Churches and connected with the coordinators knowing we had a special bond. In our Center in Oak Park, I was pleased to learn that the volunteers were Jewish and Protestant and Catholic and covered for each other on their holy days. No matter what church I went to I found joy in just taking a few minutes to sit in the Sanctuary, temple or synagogue and be alone with God. It brought me peace and a little respite from my day, and I would often leave a prayer with God. If you find yourself in need of time alone with God, remember our church is open from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 pm. I have often gone in and sat in the quiet stillness of our sanctuary and offered a prayer to God either on my behalf or others and in the quiet stillness of that sanctuary a closeness to God can be felt. It is a step away from the noise and busy activities of our daily lives. If you crave this in your life, God is waiting. He is there always, take it to the Lord in Prayer or just sit in silence and feel God's love surround you. * "It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart."

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus taught us how to pray.

Matthew 6:9-13 This then is how you should pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. Amen

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day and for all the blessings you have given us. Be with us in all things Lord and watch over us. Be with our church, may it be your church and may we do your work here at this time and in this place. Be without Pastor, bless his ministry and be with him and his family. Be with those who are sick and those that are undergoing hardships and troubles in our community. Be with those who are grieving, may they feel your comfort in their loss. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and inspire them. Be with our families, give them guidance and safety. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

**NIV Study Bible *Quote from Mahatma Gandhi