

The Longest Roads

Working for the Red Cross and covering five counties I have taken some long roads, usually because of very bad weather. I traveled from Port Huron following I94 when there were only two tracks available to tell me where the road was. Usually this would occur when I was alone. One time I got off on Gratiot reasoning that if I went off the road there would be homes nearby whereas on I94 I might be miles from anyone. One time we traveled to Marysville in an ice storm. There were 5 of us in the car. We stopped at least 4 times so I could call management to make sure we were still having a blood drive at the destination, which was the High School, and we were assured it was still happening. We arrived safely and set up and I received a phone call. It was management telling me that they had cancelled all drives, and we were to go home. So, we took down our set up and I explained to the coordinator what was happening, and we left. The streets were worse than when we arrived, and we went into a ditch on the way home. The Police stopped and called a tow truck for us and got us out of the ditch. Another time was when we were on our way to Traverse City and our Granddaughter and Grandson-in-law were following us. We came to Grayling and there was very light snow. As we drove away from Grayling the snow increased until we were in the middle of a full-fledged snowstorm. I was driving and there were times when I silently thanked God for the rumble strips in the middle of the road. The snowfall was so heavy that to turn around in a driveway was impossible. Near Frankfort I decided to follow 27 toward town so I would miss the high hills if I went straight. As I was following the road, I could not see the headlights of my Grandchildren behind me. I stopped and waited a minute and then turned around to find them. They had slid into a snow-covered ditch and a pickup truck had stopped. The driver thought I was trying to cut into his "business" and told me that this was his and I just as gruffly told him those were my grandchildren and he backed off. He pulled them out and we went on our way. We then traveled on and found a McDonalds still open, and we stopped in and rested and had a snack. We then traveled to the vacation home of my daughter and son-in-law with lousy roads but no further problems. We often come to long roads in our lifetimes. Undergoing 9 months of chemo seemed like a very long road to me. The fact that I had been told 3 months and then 6 months and then 9 months helped to make it seem endless. At the end of 9 months the doctor said 12 months would be better and I said no. If he had told me a year in the beginning, I might have accepted it but to have my hopes taken away every 3 months seemed unbearable plus I was becoming much sicker with each treatment. I was willing to trust it all to God finally and to accept whatever happened. It was a personal decision and not one I would recommend to everyone. I could not have gone through the 10 years my husband had Alzheimer's without the love and support of God working through family and friends. God heard my prayers on my darkest days and sent his angels here on earth to help me.

We take a lot of long roads in our lifetimes. People are sad and unhappy for many reasons such as family or jobs or depression and life is a long road. Sometimes we need to turnaround and have a redo, to fix what is wrong. God does not want us to live our lives with misery and unhappiness. We can find solutions through prayer and introspection. Prayer has gotten me through my darkest days and knowing that God is not far away has been my strength. We all have days of regret, days of grief, days of sadness and illness, God waits to help us, he wants us to turn to him with prayer and surrender.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you: I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of each day you have given us. May we use it to honor you. Be our strength for the day and our shield for the night. Be with those in our midst who hunger for food and those who hunger for your word, may we feed them and be with those who are ill and those who grieve may we show them your mercy. Be with our Pastor give him strength for his days and rest for his nights, be with our staff and leaders guide them and give them your words in their hearts. Be with our families, where there is anger and separation, may kindness and forgiveness be found, bring us closer to your word each day. May our church reflect your love and mercy in all we do. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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