I promise to listen and let the Bible fall open. My eyes rest upon the words, “[We] had observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” At the top of the left-hand column of the page, the Journey of the Magi. I listen, and this is what comes. For you. And, I think, for me, too.

Only a few words to capture a long and arduous journey. I wonder what lay hidden behind the scant phrase. What compelled them to follow a flash of light in the sky? When the cost became too great, when the clouds thickened around them, were they tempted to give up? What were the signs that urged them to keep believing in, following, that elusive streak in the sky? What was it like, not
knowing when or how the journey might end?

Did they realize the moment they knelt before him that he had been with them, guiding them, all along? Did they know that the hard journey itself had brought them riches the moment they gazed into his face? This journey that had brought them to his humble manger.

Many of you know that I am a cancer survivor. And, many of you know how, for me, that time of multiple surgeries and chemotherapy is filled with memories of abundant grace. How I felt God’s presence viscerally in the midst of the unknowing, confusion, and fear. Moments of God’s presence like flashes of light streaking across a dark sky to lead me forward. To assure me that all would be well.

As the years pass, these flashes of starlight burn brighter in my memory, even as the memories of uncertainty, confusion and fear fade. The memories of darkness becoming nothing more than a backdrop to the shining light that guided me, that guides me still.

Until now. Now, those dark moments when I was afraid, when I did not know what the future held, or if there would be a future at all, are resurfacing. Visceral memories I had almost forgotten, rising up, catching in my throat.

Then the pages fall open. The Journey of the Magi. A flash of starlight.

A flash of light to remind me that in this darkness, this time of loss and confusion that is COVID-19, there are, and shall continue to be, flashes of starlight in the sky that shall guide my way. Moments that will streak across a dark night to remind me that God is with me. Reminding me that when the clouds thicken, and I am unsure of the future, there will come a day when I will kneel before his humble manger to give thanks to the One who had been there with me on the journey all along. Reassuring me that the journey itself brought me riches, because it led me to him.

Assuring me that in the years that shall follow, the streaks of starlight will burn brighter. The fear and confusion will fade into the distant past. Leaving only the timeless memories of his grace, his love, his faithfulness.

So, it is my prayer for you as you navigate your own journey through these difficult and tumultuous times, that you find yourself lifting your face to watch for the brilliant flashes of starlight that shall illumine your darkest of nights. For surely, they shall be there.

And, my prayer for you is that one day, as the years pass, these brilliant flashes of starlight will burn brighter in your memory, even as the memories of uncertainty, confusion, and fear fade. Leaving nothing but gratitude for his grace, love, and faithfulness.

Ever and always all to God’s honor, glory, and praise.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. They who have always been ‘flashes of starlight’ for us, assuring us of God’s presence in a moment. And, let us pray that we might return to them soon.

Forward to a Friend
Our devotional is offered monthly. Look for the next one on August 7. Take a look at all of our devotionals here.

Copyright © 2020 Faith In Practice, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Faith In Practice
7500 Beechnut St Ste 208
Houston, TX  77074-4310
Add us to your address book

Want to make a life-changing gift? You can donate now online.

Thank you for subscribing to this Monthly Devotional. You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
Faith In Practice · 7500 Beechnut St. Suite 208 · Houston, TX 77074 · USA