

THE WAITING

We were getting a bit impatient in the hospital room, mom and I. They had said mom would be taken down for the surgery on her back by that time that morning, and, having waited a few weeks for this procedure to be done, we were on the edge of our seats. We should have known they would be late...and that God had a blessing for us in the waiting.

After so many weeks in the hospital, one gets to know most of the nurses and techs on the floor as they rotate through their shifts. As "Tam" came in to check mom's blood pressure, we played on with the usual small talk before she started asking mom some get-to-know-you questions. "Have you always lived here?" she asked mom. Then she turned that same question to me. And that's when things got interesting.

"I lived in Belgium for four years," I replied. "Really? What were you doing there?" "I was a missionary." That led to a few deeper questions about what I did in that capacity, which, given how she was asking her questions, I answered a tad generically. Shame on me. Because Tam then said quietly, "I am growing in the Lord, too."

How does the conversation go from where you have lived to where your heart is so quickly? God sent Tam to us in those moments because we desperately needed to be encouraged. But we needed to do some encouraging, too, which turned into a great blessing. Tam's daughter had just moved to another big city, and was struggling with some heavy personal things. Tam hadn't heard from her in a while, and felt the strain on their relationship.

Tam was positive God was working in her own life, and shared a story about how she knew it was Him. It was beautiful to hear because I could see and feel it was the same God showing her His love in the same way (through different circumstances) that He shows me.

I saw Tam a few days later at the other end of the hall from mom's room. She gave me a big hug and said that she had wanted to tell me something. The afternoon after we had talked, her daughter had sent her a few texts, and had ended by sending a heart (<3). She knew that offering from her daughter had been as a result of our prayers that morning.

While we were sitting there anxiously waiting on flawed human timing, God provided mom and Tam and me a beautiful, encouraging appointment in His perfect timing. Have you seen God in the life of anyone around you lately? Have you been willing to look for Him? Be encouraged to trust the Lord in all things, and to seek and find him both in the moments you mean to, and in the moments of waiting.



THE SHORTFALL, THE ABUNDANCE

I had already spent the yarn budget for the month, and was looking at the shelves that were almost empty again. The ladies we work with at the retirement centers have been quite prolific, and go through yarn as quickly as it lands on our shelves... which is so awesome because they give us so many incredibly beautiful hats and scarves made out of this yarn that we are then so excited to give to those in need. Anyway, I was feeling a tad heavy, wondering how we were going to provide yarn for them the next few weeks. I had barely gotten out of my car for that Tuesday morning knitting group, when I saw one of the ladies waiting outside for me. "Don't bring any yarn in today... someone has made a donation and given us some!" I walked in expecting a small bag or two, but there before me in the activity room were no less than five garbage bags stuffed full of lovely yarn of all kinds! My mouth dropped open, and all I could say was "oh my goodness!" over and over. I hadn't said a word about the low stockpile of yarn we had to anyone. But I had prayed that God would help us get the yarn we needed, and He did. Abundantly. Friends, God knows what we need even before we ask him. And when we do ask him, he provides in such amazing ways. Can't wait to see what the ladies make out of all this, and how God uses it to bless others!



MY LITTLE HELPER

It is a very fun blessing to be able to take my daughter Aveline with me to the knitting circles each week. She has lots of "Grandmas" there who love her, and she brings such joy to them and others who stop by. She even gets to serve as a model for some of the beautiful hats that the ladies make... even if they are a tad too big!



*I am still confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.*

Psalm 27:13-14

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www.theencouragementproject.org
678 360 1592

stephanie@theencouragementproject.org
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA ~ 30009