



December 2024 Update

Contemplating the Quotidian

Recently, I've been unpacking boxes, organizing closet space and washing dishes. All to settle in with friends so I can delve into job-hunting in Tacoma, WA. It's made me think of Brother Lawrence and how he pondered spiritual truths in a monastery ... while peeling potatoes over a kitchen sink. This 17th century friar, like us, needed reminders of how the "set-apart-ness" of God is mixed up in everyday life.

**"We have been set apart as holy because Yeshua Christ did what God wanted [H]im to do by sacrificing [H]is body once and for all."
—Hebrews 10:10 NOG**

Over thirty years ago, Kathleen Norris penned *The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy & "Women's Work"*. In it, she writes: "It is a quotidian mystery that dailiness can lead to such despair and yet also be at the core of our salvation. We express this every time we utter the Lord's Prayer." *Quotidian* is defined as "of or occurring every day ... especially when mundane". Think: *routine, ordinary* or *commonplace*.



Each (Extra)ordinary Day

Routine can lend to thinking of life as *less* important: *Brush my teeth, comb my hair, shower. (Yawn.) Repeat.* But, can't the ordinary also draw us *into* the Holy? *God's mercies are new every morning. The hairs on my head are numbered by my Creator! I'm fearfully and wonderfully made.* Whatever our personal struggles, we can cast our cares upon God today. Are we dealing with a long-term problem or a short-term pain? Talk to our God now ... Who is **for** us, **not against** us!

**"Bless the Lord! The God of our salvation supports us day after day! Selah"
—Psalm 68:19 CEB**

In the wilderness, God told the Israelites to gather manna *each day*—except on the Sabbath, when the Lord provided twice as much the day before. (Those who tried to glean on the Sabbath found rotten provision that morning.) After God's temple was established, the Israelites were tasked with *daily* sacrifices to God—part of "the holy gifts and offerings for sin that make peace with God for Israel" (Neh 10:33). In Matthew's gospel, he recalls Jesus teaching the disciples to pray: "Abba in Heaven, ... give us *each day* that day's bread—no more, no less—and forgive us what we owe to You ..." (Matt 6:9-12).

Navigating Uncertainty

Whether visiting the grocery store or library, the post office or petrol station, I need a map to navigate the unfamiliar streets! Still, I've made it regularly to Sacred Path Fellowship (SPF), a NAIM ministry in Tacoma. This band of many Native believers gathers Saturday mornings to worship and share a potluck meal. And though the rainy weather causes me to pause, I made it to an early Thanksgiving meal with 100+ others at New Hope Nazarene church in Lakewood (a southern suburb)! Now I know Jeannie and Rico and Paula. And I was part of the cleanup team!

"Enjoy prosperity while you can, but when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. Remember that nothing is certain in this life."

—Ecclesiastes 7:14 NLT



As I settle in WA, there are ordinary tasks to complete: getting a driver's license, SUV insurance & new health plan, for instance. The good news (even when I get lost or run late)? A fresh routine draws my focus to God. The One who is unfailingly faithful. Who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Who doesn't lie or change His character or attributes. It also makes me appreciate my family and old friends—whose familiar voices are just a phone call away!

God with Us (Every Day)

For many, the Thanksgiving & Christmas seasons are marked by tradition. Putting together Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse or gifts for Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree. Holding hands in prayer before eating turkey and cheering on the home-town football team or playing card games. Watching a favorite movie, like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* or *The Star*. Putting up & decorating the Christmas tree or driving around neighborhoods bedecked with lights!

"So do not worry about tomorrow. Let tomorrow worry about itself.

Living faithfully is a large enough task for today."

—Matthew 6:34 VOICE



Let's enjoy God's gifts ... the daily and the seasonal! And live faithfully with Immanuel in every ordinary task. Because loving God and others brings meaning to each moment—in all seasons. A year-end gift is a beautiful way to include Native peoples! Especially those who are displaced or without family. To share the Good News that Yeshua Jesus is the Lamb of God—our perfect sin offering! And that the LORD is our true and lasting Home! Aho!

Praises and Prayer Requests

MOVING PRAISE! Polson Movement helped me pack & move items to storage and load the moving truck! Carol & Chet McVay flew to MT and helped me clean my rental! **REQUEST** Please ask the Holy Spirit for creative energy to unpack.

MINISTRY & JOB PRAISE! SPF in Tacoma helped me unload the rental truck and is welcoming me into Native ministry here! I'm helping on the tech & worship teams. **REQUEST** Please ask the LORD for clarity & joy in well-suited work!

HEALTH & HOUSING PRAISE! Nancy Lee, NAIM staff in Tacoma, suggested a chiropractor. I've had X-rays and two curative adjustments! **REQUEST** Please ask our Ezer [Helper] for the best long-term housing for me (& Addie)!

Tara

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