

June 2008—Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

“Each day God surrounds me with new challenges to cause me to grow.” I wrote this in my devotional journal just a few days before traveling to Washington, DC to see our son-in-law Dan receive the General Douglas McArthur Leadership Award. Dan and Debby are moving back to the States this summer, so Bill and I decided to bring Hunter and Sydney home with us and let Dan and Debby go back alone to Germany, better able to focus on their move.

Dan and Debby drove us to the airport with what we thought was plenty of time to make our flight. But apparently driving 35 miles in under 2 hours was to be our “new challenge.” As we crawled through the heavy DC traffic, I called the airline and found out there was a later flight—but it would cost over \$2000 to change all of our tickets. We decided to wait until we got to the airport because it was possible the traffic would lighten up, and we could still make it. However, that was before we ran out of gas...

The GPS showed a gas station .03 miles away. Since Dan is a runner, he took off for the fuel. I told Hunter, “If Grandma was sleeping, this would be a nightmare.” He responded, “If you were sleeping, this wouldn’t be happening.” To make a long story short – we missed our flight and were put on standby (at no extra cost). We made the next flight with one seat to spare, connected through Detroit, and finally made it home just after midnight.

So it was a tense day. And here’s my shocking confession: anxiety tried to rear its ugly head. On a day like that, it’s all too easy to dwell on the “if only” scenarios. Of course I had a choice: I could allow my circumstances to rob me of the joy I had just experienced with my family and the excitement of having my grandkids with me; or I could recognize God’s grace and “roll with the punches” (one of Art Cunningham’s favorite admonitions).

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:13).

I was tempted to worry; but knew I had to make a decision that was not based on my feelings or circumstances, but on my knowledge of God—and His way of escape.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I have to go play with my grandkids.

—Terri