

Wednesday - March 18

And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Genesis 12:9 (NRSV)

...“I [God] know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message)

My spiritual journey began when I was seven. I said, “I want to be a preacher.” I don’t know why I said it and soon forgot about it, but like Abraham, my journey was “by stages.” As a teen I awoke one morning feeling that God Really Loved Me! I had become afraid God didn’t like me! So this was encouraging. Those events faded as I graduated and began work firing furnaces to keep Battelle Memorial Institute warm. I was active in my church’s youth group and helped start an Older Youth Young Adult Fellowship among the EUB churches in Columbus. Another “stage” of my journey came from my pastor. “David, there’s more to life than shoveling coal,” he said and began talking to me about ordained ministry and said I needed to get a college degree. He literally took me to Otterbein and helped me sign up. A week later the draft board told me I was going to Vietnam. God was testing my seriousness at that “stage” in my journey. I chose a college deferment, and from that point on my journey’s “stages” were a straight shot: college, seminary, ordination, four churches, retirement in 2003, and joining the staff of PUMC in 2005. Has your life’s journey had stages? Detours? Has God been involved?

Dave

Prayer: Loving and guiding Lord, Jeremiah says You have my best interests in mind, but sometimes I’m rather slow in accepting that. Unplug my ears and eyes. Reveal the next ‘stage’ of my journey and help me remain faithful to You. Amen.