

Saturday - March 13

Great is his faithfulness; his loving-kindness begins afresh each day.

Lamentations 3:23 (TLB)

Many of us look back on our lives and realize that there were certain times (weeks, months or even years) that were very challenging. I often wondered how those without a deep faith get through those difficult times.

In 1998 I experienced such a time. My husband was planning to retire at the end of the year and we both realized that our lives would undergo some changes. We talked about our retirement and looked forward to spending time on the coast of Maine, which is my happy place. Then life took on a detour. My athletic father suffered two heart attacks on his way home from a Board Meeting. My mother was in frail health so my dad's rehab became my everyday routine. I was grateful to be able to help but our retirement trip was postponed.

A month later my daughter's husband left her with two small children and we stepped in to offer child care. The trip to Maine was again postponed. Suddenly our lives were in chaos. I had always relied on my faith but never so much as during that tumultuous time. Instead of a tranquil home with just the two of us, we suddenly had a two year old and a five year old scheduling our every moment. Being a nurse was never my calling but I managed to tend to elderly parents and tried to make time for special moments with them as well. One Sunday I slipped away to attend church which I had been unable to attend regularly. The congregation stood to sing one of my favorite hymns and I found myself tearful as I realized that God had never left my side during these months, but rather had been holding my hand as well. His faithfulness gave me the hope and strength I needed. All I had needed His hand had provided...And eventually he brought me to Maine.

Nancy

Prayer: Comforting God, thank you for never leaving our side even though we are not aware of your presence. Help us to look for you in everything around us. And to know that we can trust you even in the most difficult circumstances of our lives. Amen.