

Monday - March 14

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9 (NASB)

On a cold December morning, my mom and I had driven 40 minutes to the nearest mall to do some Christmas shopping. We had spent a few hours picking out gifts for some of my seven siblings. As we left the mall, the Illinois wind was blowing fiercely with the start of a winter storm. It was howling until we slammed our car doors shut, safely inside our station wagon. It was quiet. My mom put her keys into the ignition, the engine tried but it would not start. I was scared. What would we do? There were no cell phones to call dad and little money for car repairs. It was so cold out. My mom was not scared. She bowed her head and started praying out loud, "Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee" until she was finished with this favorite prayer. She tried the engine again, and it started! She smiled at me.

My mom has given me a faith foundation to build upon, where God is with us listening to our prayers.

Patty

Prayer: Lord, let us be strong and courageous when life is challenging. Amen.