

Impatiently Waiting



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

Waiting is not my favorite. I seem OK on the outside, but on the inside . . . my heart races, I look at the clock, and then I sometimes act too quickly.

We were out of town recently, staying at one of those hotels where they have ROBUST cof-

fee, which I LOVE, and one of those fancy waffle makers that I SUPER LOVE. I couldn't wait to go to bed, so I could get UP!

The next morning I hurried down to the breakfast area and saw the magnifico waffle maker across the way. Was that angel music I heard?

I squirted the magic waffle mix out of the magical waffle mix dispenser into one of the small designated cups. This was going to be an AWESOME, PERFECT way to start the day!

I grabbed the handle of the waffle maker, which was at an odd angle, I thought. I yanked open the machine and realized . . . I HAD TORN SOMEONE ELSE'S WAFFLE INTO SHREDS! I closed it uber fast hoping no one had seen.

Suddenly, the owner of the now-torn waffle appeared. He had seen it all-dad gum it. I stammered, "I messed up your

waffle." "Yep," he said with irritation. (So much emotion in those three letters!) I began to blather on about how sorry I was that I hadn't seen it but should have realized something was different because the handle had been at a different angle and I was so sorry-again- and then raced away to sit with my beloved who had seen none of it. Whew! I wanted to kick myself really hard for being impatient but was afraid of spilling the magic waffle mix I still held in my hand.

At the table, I tried to whisper/screach through clenched teeth about the waffle fiasco. "What?!" my beloved asked over the newspaper, a bit confused. As I quietly retold the whole story, out of the corner of my eye, I saw the torn-waffle owner walking toward me! DO PEOPLE GET VIOLENT OVER STUFF LIKE THIS?! I wondered loudly to myself.

Shoot! HE WAS SITTING AT THE TABLE NEXT TO US! We were inches away! Mortified, I announced in a regular voice, "This is the man whose waffle I destroyed." "Hello," my beloved said and nodded.

Not knowing what to say, yet not being able to shut my mouth, I shakily joked to the torn-waffle owner, "When I make my waffle, you can go and mess it up." He smiled weakly. His wife looked at me with judgement in her eyes.

I was still embarrassed, horrified even, but as soon as the coast was clear, I trotted right up to the waffle maker, standing guard until my waffle was done.

Every day we wait for little and big things. Are you a patient or impatient waiter? Right now in your life what are you waiting for most? Isaiah 40:31 reminds us, "Those who wait upon the LORD will renew

their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint". If we wait upon the Lord...that's when we will be renewed, and that's when we will know it was Him working-not us!

So many times in the past, I stopped waiting and jumped too soon, too quickly, only to look back and see how God had been working all along, putting perfectly shaped pieces of my life together. I just couldn't see it at the time.

This week I read on Pinterest, "To us, waiting is wasting. To God, waiting is working."

God can be trusted. His timing is perfect and He always wants the best for us! If we can be willing to wait . . . until His plan is ready and totally right for us, it will be wonderful-just like a delicious waffle. If we rush His timing, hurry His plan, we can end up a hot mess!

It's easy to love the guy who just won the lottery jackpot



America's Heartland
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I couldn't help but laugh at the following letter someone passed along the other day.

Dear Jimmy,

No words could ever express the great unhappi-

ness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you. I love you. I love you.

Yours forever,
Marie.

P.S. And congratulations on winning the state lottery.

The postscript on that letter, no doubt, leaves us all suspicious of whether that young lady truly loves the young man, or whether she just wants in on the jackpot. It creates doubt in all our minds.

Well, I'm glad that the Lord leaves no doubt about his love for us. I was thinking the other day about the many ways he shows his love. My daughter and I were walking through a beautiful park, talking about that very thing when

we were struck by how God has revealed his love for us in the world that he created.

Did you ever consider that he could have made just one little brown bird? But he didn't stop there. He made birds of every color. Some are multicolored. He made them of every size and shape. Why? He did it for our enjoyment, because he loves us.

He could have made only one flower, but instead he colored all nature with flowers of extraordinary colors. And he did that for our enjoyment, because he loves us.

He could have made one little animal, but instead he made lots of animals of all varieties - both big and little, pretty and ugly, cuddly and not-so-cuddly - for our enjoyment, because he

loves us.

Nature proclaims the love the God. In fact, the Bible says everyone who has walked among God's creation has no excuse for not believing in him who made it.

"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - his power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

The world the Lord created for us is so very complex and yet functions in such an orderly way. My daughter and I walked a trail shaded by tall trees and bordered by thick bushes, all produc-

ing the oxygen people and animals and need to breath. Each time we breathed in that fresh oxygen, we exhaled carbon dioxide that the trees and bushes need to survive. God really knows what he's doing.

As I think on these things, I am amazed that so many people spend almost all their time indoors, watching TV or playing video games when they could be outdoors marveling at God's creation.

I love to see the wonder in children's eyes when they see lightning bugs flash in the darkness. How can they do that, considering they have no batteries or electrical outlets?

I love to see children with stethoscopes listening to heartbeats. They're amazed to learn that an electrical current sparks those heartbeats. How can that happen, considering hearts have no batteries or electrical outlets?

We all know that God powers the lightning bugs, and he powers the heartbeats, just as he powers all of creation. And he does that because he loves us.

We can have our doubts about whether Marie loves Jimmy, but we can be certain God loves us.

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Times Remembered
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These last weeks have been filled with joy and excitement, plus some pain and sickness. Last week I was suffering from a toothache. And the week before a 7-day virus. I had not experienced a toothache in several years, but, lo and behold, I had a good one.

I had gone to the dentist to replace a crown that had come off and I asked him to look at my lower left jaw tooth; it was loose. He checked it; and prescribed some antibiotics and that it might have a little infection. Later on that afternoon it started hurting; it got worse and worse with nearly unbearable pain. I called the dentist office and they told me to double up on Tylenol; I did, but nothing would stop it; so he prescribed a few pain pills, but I could still feel pain. So he called the oral surgeon in Richmond and they couldn't get me in 'till Monday.

What a painful week-

Joy and Pain

end; I walked the floor most of the time; and did a lot of praying. It hurt so badly. Finally, Monday morning came and I headed to the oral surgeon's office. The tooth had an abscess and was loose with a large cavity under the filling; it was a wisdom tooth that I thought was pulled years ago; it had to come out. At that time I didn't care if they took my head off, I just wanted the pain to stop. The tooth was no problem for him; it was out in a few minutes.

I came home and slept most of the afternoon since I hadn't slept in few days. When the numbness wore off it was pretty sore, but I'm doing fine and healing now.

Now for the JOY! Last Friday night, Calvary Baptist Church and the Glory Road singers hosted a concert to benefit the homeless in Estill County. A love offering was taken and it will be administered by the Kentucky River Foothills Office in accordance with the needs of the homeless.

Four groups from Estill County performed gospel singing and praising. The groups were: God's Family Connection, The Watson Family, The Smith Sisters and Glory Road.

All the groups contained all ages, young, and the very young such as 7, 8, and 10. There were two little girls that

could really flat down right sing; they were so awesome. One even played the mandolin. Two very young boys, maybe teenagers that sang with The Watson Family could play all the instruments, from the stand-up bass to the dobro. These families are so talented; and they start playing and singing at a very young age. God has truly blessed them with a tremendous amount of talent.

As most of you know the Smith Sisters, they have been singing in and around Estill County for years. They are totally stars; they should be on the Grand Ole Opry, I love hearing them sing. Wonderful people!

God's Family Connection had several in their group; I believe all were family and they were great also. Huby Fox plays the banjo for them and does a fabulous job; he works for Hardy Gas and is a familiar face around Estill County.

Bob did a tremendous amount of praying for this event for months. He continued to pray all summer and work hard, booking singers and planning. The Lord truly blessed this event to happen. Thank you Jesus!

On behalf of my husband, Bob . . . who organized this event, we want to thank everyone who participated in this worthy cause and most all . . . TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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