



*Jana Kaye*

I like the idea of travel. Before I married John, I had traveled to France and Canada and in the United States. John had lived and traveled throughout the U.S., England, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Iran, China, Japan, and more. We often talk about traveling with our sons, Johnny and Andrew. However, we've had a few mishaps along the way. God has changed my perspective of travel through our faith community at Newberg Friends Church and his Word.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance” (James 1:2). Believing God uses all experiences to teach us about himself and his purposes, I ponder our travel trials and consider our place in his world. For now, as I stay close to my home in Newberg, Oregon, I thank him for trials and persevere on this journey of life with him.

*BIBLE READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Proverbs 22:6*

We sat up in our seats all night, since there wasn't money for a berth, but I didn't care. I'd never ridden on a train before. I brought only the doll I had received as a Christmas present and played with her in my seat as we traveled to Montana to visit my maternal grandparents.

Through the vestibules, we entered the dining car. I sat up at the counter and told the man in the white apron I'd like pancakes. My dad said, "No pancakes; we're just visiting." The man laughed, and I felt embarrassed. But the train was warm and cozy, and for our return trip to Seattle, Grandma had packed her fried chicken and green-glass salt-and-pepper shakers shaped like Coke bottles.

A few years later, my dad felt called to Bible college in Indiana, so we drove through several states as we moved from the Northwest. Along the way, we stayed in inexpensive motel rooms with kitchenettes where mom prepared our meals. We didn't spend a lot of money on dine-in or carryout food.

I didn't know it then, but through my parents' sacrifices and examples, God shaped my thoughts and expectations regarding travel: do so simply, frugally, and purposefully. We didn't take extravagant vacations around the world. We traveled to see family and friends or to move to another place, according to the will of God.

*SONG: Teach Me Your Ways*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, thank you for the training in childhood that prepares us to live as your child, according to your will. Please continue to teach us to use your provision according to your divine calling.*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: Matthew 28:16-20*

My family did not travel around the world, but God brought the world into my life. As a child, I remember attending special services when missionaries came to our church and talked about their work outside America. They set up tables filled with artifacts from foreign countries: bowls crafted from gourds, weapons carved from bone or wood, clothes sewn from bright-colored fabrics. Often the missionaries wore some of the clothing.

They presented slide shows of places I never expected to see, complete with maps showing where the country existed in relation to America. We saw pictures of their foreign homes and churches. Their houses sometimes looked like huts with thatched roofs and sometimes like tiny shacks. We also saw pictures of people who had few material comforts and needed assistance and training in basic life skills.

The missionaries talked about how important it was to speak the people's languages, not only so they could get to know them, but more importantly, so they could share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Often they sang or spoke the foreign words they had learned.

I loved when missionaries visited, bringing life from another part of the world into my church in America. Both the missionaries and the people they talked of seemed mysterious and wonderful. God was at work in my young heart and mind, teaching me about the world he created and about the work of the people he sent into it.

*SONG: Every Tribe and Nation*

*PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Father, thank you for sending people out into your world and bringing them back to teach others of your work among the nations.*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: Proverbs 16:9; Jeremiah 29: 11-13*

On September 11, 1992, flying toward Honolulu with plans to continue to Kauai, John and I heard our pilot announce a hurricane blustering toward the islands. We had quite a trip planned: seven nights in beachfront lodging with pool, shopping, eating—quite a contrast to the type of travel I had done with my parents as a child. Our pilot continued toward the islands, so we resumed our reading and anticipated the week ahead.

When we landed in Honolulu, we learned Hurricane (or tropical storm?) Iniki had hit Kauai. Actual damage to all the islands was unknown. Authorities cancelled all outbound flights and restricted us from leaving the airport until further notice.

We waited more than eight hours, feeling hungry and weary from traveling. All airport restaurants had closed, vending machines stood empty, and people slept on inactive baggage carousels. Finally, the National Guard brought in army rations and authorities released us. Not knowing the condition of the islands, the next day we returned to the mainland and received a full refund for our trip.

Years later in church, I listened to a couple refer to their mission trip as “significant travel” and felt God speak directly to me. I thought about that failed trip, the only self-indulgent one John and I had ever planned. Our travel plans had not been simple, frugal, and purposeful, like the trips of my childhood. We planned our ways, but God directed our steps. I began to pray and ask God what “significant travel” plans he had for us.

*SONG: All That I Am*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, “all that I am, all that I do, all that I ever have, I offer now to you.”*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: Psalm 37:3-7*

“Hurry up! Don’t wait! Book your trip; these great deals won’t last forever!”

A few years ago, when John and I home schooled our boys, Johnny and Andrew, we wanted to include travel as part of their education. We decided to go back to Hawaii. It’s one of our United States, but offers a bit of “foreign” culture. I met with a travel agent who recommended a hotel near great snorkeling opportunities and tours of the U.S.S. Arizona and Polynesian Cultural Center complete with luau feast and show.

Of course to receive the special discounts and save lots of money, we had to book the trip months in advance and pay a non-refundable down payment. Wanting to be good stewards of God’s money, we jumped at the bargain. However, by the time our trip date neared, our boys no longer home schooled, and Johnny’s schedule included a commitment to act in “All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.”

The travel agent said we could change our trip dates, but that involved re-booking fees and an airfare increase of up to \$2000 for our four tickets. The bargain educational trip we couldn’t wait to book suddenly went from great deal to great expense! We chose to cut our losses and forfeit the non-refundable fees and our trip.

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him” (Psalm 37:7). This gentle reminder tells me waiting and seeking his plans always reveals the best deal!

*SONG: Those Who Wait Upon the Lord*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, please help me not be drawn into “good deals” but to wait for your leading throughout all of life’s travels.*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: Psalm 118:19-29*

Each day is a journey. Each day is a day the Lord has made. And each day I have a choice to journey through the gates the Lord opens for me or through those I open for myself. In the past, the gates I opened for myself led to frustration and failed travel plans. However, I am thankful for all that the Lord has taught me through them. I have learned to listen more carefully to him and to daily seek gates he opens.

Each day I pray that God will show me his ways, and he has been faithful to do so. Through a casual internet chat one day, the Lord revealed travel plans for our family: our older son, Johnny, traveled and lived in Rwanda, Africa for nine months, and we “traveled” with him through prayer and financial support. We experienced Rwanda as he shared stories of joyous mealtimes with his Rwandan host family, of conversations in Kinyarwanda, and of trials and successes teaching English to Rwandan students without training to be a teacher.

While we remain in Oregon, we’ve been blessed to “travel” to Kenya, Belize, Bolivia, Egypt, India, Papua New Guinea, and other places with missionaries and students the Lord has sent out. Even though we remain at home, these “trips” have been more satisfying to me than those we planned for ourselves.

*SONG: This Is the Day*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Thank you, Father, for the daily journeys you provide and the opportunities to support others as they follow you.*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:12-13*

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV). There is nothing like face-to-face communication with someone you love. When we learned God had called our older son to serve in Rwanda, Africa for nine months after finishing high school, I knew we would all miss seeing him on a daily basis. I was especially thankful for webcams on our computers and Skype, the program that enabled us to video chat.

Through Skype, we met his host family, heard their voices, their laughter. Also through Skype, I stood in my kitchen and listened to him and Andrew, our younger son, play their guitars together in the living room. As thankful as I was for this technology that figuratively brought him into our home while so far away, I looked forward to the day we would see each other face to face.

As I reflect on these words in 1 Corinthians, I think about the day we will see our heavenly Father face-to-face. We dimly see heaven and him through his Word, the Bible, but someday we will see him as clearly as he now sees us. I can only imagine how much our Father also looks forward to that day, even more than we do.

*SONG: Face to Face with Christ, My Savior*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Thank you, Lord, for your Word, the Bible, and the opportunity to see you in it until the day we see you face to face.*

—Jana Kaye

*BIBLE READING: Acts 1:1-8*

In this passage, Jesus tells the disciples, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about” (v. 4). Jesus has “significant travel plans” for his disciples, but first they must receive his gift. Without it, they will accomplish little or nothing. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (v. 8).

I have seen the power of the Holy Spirit through the missionaries God brought into my life as a child, and the missionaries God has allowed us to support as adults, and I have seen the richness of the experiences he offers. He has given me a greater desire to wait for his direction, knowing he will prepare the way and the work according to his will.

Maybe God plans to send me out sometime in the future. I know he will faithfully guide me according to his will. “When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13). Personally, I hope for Italy, but I’ve learned to let the Lord, his Holy Spirit, arrange my travels from now on!

*SONG: Lead Us, O Father*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, this is a big, beautiful world you have created, with many beautiful people in it. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who guides us and directs our significant travels according to your will.*

—Jana Kaye