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March 2008

GraceNotes from Nancy Kay Grace

Productive Waiting

What did you do with your extra day—Friday, February 29?

Mine was spent waiting in Chicago's O'Hare airport while our flight was delayed and eventually cancelled. We were finally re-booked on a much later flight. The day consisted of seven hours waiting, moving from one gate to another, looking for seats in the crowded, noisy airport. Long lines were everywhere, at restaurants, coffee shops, and especially the re-booking kiosks.

Waiting. Overhearing cell phone conversations and watching people use lap tops and iPods. There were soldiers and sailors in uniform, waiting to go to their next duty assignment. Occasionally I'd be amused by a baby's laughter or annoyed by another's cry. Fortunately I had good book with me, which kept me occupied for much of the day. Sometimes I had brief conversation with the person sitting next to me.

The most interesting was a woman who was returning from two months in the warmth of Florida to the winter of Nebraska. Wearing capri pants and flip flops, she was unlike the rest of the people in winter coats.

In the course of our conversation, I learned she'd recovered from a brain injury accident—she had survived a parasailing fall eighteen months ago.

She briefly spoke of the month long coma and her lengthy rehabilitation, but concluded with saying, "I am blessed. I have a limp when I walk, but I am blessed."

I was amazed at God's grace that restored her with a positive attitude. I was glad I quit reading my book long enough to visit with her. Waiting became interesting.

Our gate changed again, and we had to move on. I wondered about her, if she found her different gate in the confusion of the crowded airport.

After we got settled at our new location, I went to see if she made it to her new gate.

From a distance, I spotted her capri pants. She had connected with another woman in new gate area.

Think about it. Each day we spend a lot of time waiting. Sometimes we wait in airports, at schools, in lines at a store, in a doctor's office, or for medical test results. My challenge to you is this: wherever you are waiting, can you open your eyes to God's grace and see his goodness? In doing so, impatient waiting will become *productive waiting*.

May the words from Psalm 27: 13-14 encourage you today:

"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Prayer request: This week I am traveling to Mississippi and Tennessee to speak at luncheons on Tuesday and Thursday. Please pray for safe travel, and for open hearts in those who hear the message. Thanks so much!

Sharing a Touch of His grace,
Nancy Kay Grace, speaker and writer
www.nancygrace.com

contributing author in:

Refined By Fire: Defining Moments of Phenomenal Women
Chicken Soup for the Soul: Celebrating Brothers and Sisters
The One-Year Life Verse Devotional

Need a speaker for an event in 2008?

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Sharing a touch of His grace,

Nancy Kay Grace
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Contributing author in these books:

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"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever." 2 Peter 3:18

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