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A Different Kind of Winter

Matthew 28:20 *'... surely I am with you always ...'*

Joshua 1:9 *'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.'*

Genesis 28:15 *'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land ...'*

Friends,

Assurances of being in God's keeping! Not once. Not twice. Not three times as I have quoted, but there are many, many references to God's care and keeping in the Bible. We are not to be afraid, not to be discouraged for the Lord our God will be with us wherever we go. It doesn't matter if we are in warm southern climates or in the cold of winter in Ontario. He is with us.

February 14th, Peter Challen used a picture of two sets of sandals on a beach to show that God walked with us. It caused me to reflect on the different kind of winter we are experiencing this year. Covid 19 is the culprit that stole sunny skies, a warm climate and sandy beaches from many in 2021.

In place of walking on a sandy beach, Ken is pole walking on the road from our house to the Mill next door, as the snow is less deep there. I cross country ski across the snowy landscape of our field a few meters away from him. We do not hear the lapping of the waves on the shore as we walk this winter. Instead, there is the steady swish, swish of my skis on the snow and the tapping of the poles as we walk and ski together. We are still exercising as we have for many winters. God is still with us as we do so. He is still watching over us as He is with us always.

Instead of reading a book in the shade of an umbrella, beside a warm pool, we read our books in the warm sunlight that flows through our kitchen window as we enjoy our morning smoothie and coffee. Frozen fruit replaces the fresh fruit of most winters but it remains good.

We have traded the warmth of the southern sun for the warmth of friends ... zooming to church services, meetings and Bible Study; dropping off Letters of Hope and shorelines to those without technology; having loved ones shop for us; joining those we love through technology.

We continue to Face-time our grandchildren each Sunday as we would if we were in Mexico. The difference is we show them how much snow we have collected in the back yard rather than the view of the ocean or pool from our balcony. We discuss the snow gathered in clumps on the evergreen trees rather than the flowers or chameleon on the limbs of a tree in a warmer climate.

It is interesting as I look at the differences ... I see so many similarities as well. God remains with us, watching over us and has even promised to bring us back, but, back to where I wonder. Will it be back to Mexico next year for the winter? Will it be a return to life as it was before Covid 19?

Just as God cared for us previous years as we travelled; this year, God remained with us, in Greenway!

Praise be to God,

Ruth Ann Eagleson

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*