

In the Interim...

While We Are Making Other Plans

Gary Freeman tells about a young woman who went to college and just hated it. Yet she told herself, "If I can just get out of college, get married, and have children, I will be able to enjoy life."

So she went to classes, did the work, and finally graduated from college. Then she got married and settled down and discovered that children are a lot of work. So she told herself, "If I can just get these kids raised, then I will be able to relax and really enjoy life."

However, about the time the kids were entering college, her husband said, "We do not have enough money to send our kids to college; you need to get a job." She did not want to, but since she needed to, she went to work. She did not enjoy it, but she told herself, "When the kids get out of college and the bills are paid, I can quit work and really enjoy life."

Finally, the last child graduated from college, and bills were paid. So she walked into her employer's office and said, "I quit." But he said, "Oh, you do not want to quit now. If you stay just another 5 years, you will have a pension for the rest of your life." She thought, "I do not want to work another 5 years, but that is a lot of money. I really cannot turn down the opportunity." So she worked for another 5 years.

Finally, she and her husband retired at the same time. They sold their home and bought a little retirement cottage. Then they sat on the porch swing, looked at the family album, and dreamed about the good old days.

There is a plaque in our house that says, "Life is what happens while you are making other plans." That is so true.

Another year has come and gone. A new year stretches before us. Twelve months from now, we will tear off the December page of our calendars and marvel at all we experienced but also how fast the year passed. It is so easy to miss the blessings God has for us each day if we are always looking to the next thing. This year, may we treasure each day, living fully the moments in whatever tasks we face.

"So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." Psalm 90:12

Wanda Neely