

Voni's Musings

Suitcases - again?

October 29, 2002



*7 a.m.
Wednesday
morn
Riverside,
Florida*

at my desk . . .

The house is quiet. Phone hasn't yet begun ringing. Been working, and praying as I prepare to go to Brazil tomorrow afternoon. The suitcases are sitting in our guest bedroom, haunting me, waiting for me to complete packing them.

I'm trying to finish the "things to do" lists this morning.

The challenge I face is - more and more things are adding themselves on to those lists. Soon, I must turn my mind to the lists of the articles going into the suitcases! But, mentally not yet ready to do that. Why?

Facing that question I discover that - even though I know the reasons for this trip are from the Lord - it is very difficult to leave Joe. So many unknown things regarding his health. I just feel better if I'm around in case he needs me.

He is such a good man! He loves the Lord and is constantly in God's Word. A man of integrity, and has a wonderful sense of humor. (Three essential traits.) He is *also* strong-willed (is that another word for stubborn?), knows *what* he thinks and *why* (opiniated at times?) He loves me dearly (and how thankful to God I am for that!) and I drive him crazy at times (he just can't figure out my thinking.) His health is a constant challenge - and we thank God daily for the fact that he can keep going. Sound like a normal marriage relationship?

---However, at this moment I'm struggling with emotions ... with questions. This morning when I couldn't sleep I was questioning myself... and this question came into my mind.
WHO is my Lord?

Hmmm - that's easy! God is my Father and my God. Jesus Christ is my Lord. The Holy Spirit is within me to strengthen and guide me into all truth and to help me share the GOOD NEWS of walking in freedom in Christ Jesus. I know all that.

So - if this trip is His will, then why all this internal emotional struggle? All of these inner questions?

. . .one step further as I think this through.

- God's Word tells me that He is to be first in my life. (And what would I do if I were unable to go to His Word for counsel, guidance and strength when I face doubts and questions?)

- His Word also tells me the importance of my husband, of my relationship with him, and of my responsibilities in this relationship.

- His Word also teaches me about taking care of myself and my needs. (Interesting thought: when we serve God first, HE makes sure we take care of our own needs. That is part of serving Him. Hmmm... maybe I should write down my thoughts on that concept - later! Not now - for those suitcases are in there haunting me.)

What does all this mean with me traveling tomorrow, and . . . and . . . and???

Because my personality is that of an encourager, when I care for people I can too easily move into a role of putting too much responsibility on myself for them, creating a quiet and very strong inner stress. My husband, and at times others, become my first focus instead of God. I tend to forget that I am responsible before the Lord for only myself - no one else.

These are the two elements of my struggle. Responsibility towards my husband - and responsibility to God.

There are practical things we need to take care of in Brasil (it's been six months since we left), teachings I've been asked to do (all of this in Natal.) In Belo Horizonte (where I used to live) I'll have a meeting in reference to putting together the production of Kids' Praise 4 CD in Portuguese. (I've already produced Kids' Praise 1,2 and 3 in Portuguese. If you have small children and/or grandchildren and they've not yet learned about the Kids' Praise and Psalty series, you'e missing a very valuable tool!)

The production of Kids' Praise 4 CD has been one of my heart's desires for 15 years. The incredible thing is that the people I'm talking to in Belo Horizonte were - as children - part of the first Portuguese Kids' Praise CD's. They, and their children, are now highly involved in praise gatherings in Brasil. If this CD can be made with them, the Lord will be taking seeds planted many years ago in *their* lives, and bringing a new depth to the fruitfulness of those seeds!
Important things to pray about!



I will leave Joe for two weeks. Can I trust *the Lord* to take care of him? Even as I write that, I have to laugh at myself.

Therefore, what is the conclusion of all these ramblings?
To go back and read once again Proverb 3:5-6, obey those instructions! . . .

And to start packing!

*P..S. I went. God took very good care of Joe - and opened many doors in Brasil!
So thankful!*