

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:12-25

*Any concern that is too small to be turned into a prayer,
is too small to be made into a burden. —Corrie ten Boom*

We know that when God answers prayer, sometimes the answer is “Wait.” And, although it is true that many in the Bible died not “having received the promise,” we still cling to the expectation that an answer will someday arrive in our “spiritual” mailbox. We certainly hope it will not take as long as some mail we’ve heard about. Here’s an example:

A postcard mailed in 1940 and delivered one week in 2013 gives new meaning to the phrase “snail mail,” but also to the post office promise that the mail — come wind, rain or snow — must get through — eventually.

The card, addressed to Florence Marion, was finally delivered to her great-grandson, Alan Marion, 74 years late. Records show the postcard was mailed with a one cent stamp from Portland, Oregon, on February 20, 1940. The card arrived at the Butte Falls, Oregon, post office July 2013, and was uncovered by Sunny Bryant, a new USPS employee.

“I was overwhelmed with the job at that point, so to come across the postcard was just a shock,” said Bryant. “My first response was, ‘What am I supposed to do with this?’”

Bryant held onto the letter until later that summer when she overheard a member of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Charleen Brown, discussing her work at the post office. Sunny Bryant decided to approach Brown, and showed her the relic.

While it is true that sometimes we must wait for answers to prayer, this applies only to certain types of prayers, like intercessory prayers, which are time and content specific.

The miracle is that God answers our prayers before we ask and even as we are asking. Think of all the good things that happen to us and our loved ones that we take for granted. Think of all the positive blessings we receive in life. Why, we can scarcely keep track.

I call these prayer blessings. God knows what we need and saves us the trouble of asking!

— Timothy Merrill. For more on this story, go to: Sabrina Elfarra, “New meaning to snail mail as 1940 postcard finally arrives,” abcnews.go.com. April 17, 2014.

Prayer: O God, thank you for listening to me in our conversations together, and for speaking to me as well. After all, this is what prayer really is — a good conversation. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Barber Bentz*

