

The Everyday Trials of Life- by Lorelei Pepe

It had been a difficult week for me. First on Monday, I ran into a roadblock on my way to my acupuncture appointment. As it turned out, right in front of the office they were digging up the street to put in new gas lines. So, as I approached the street I saw the roadblock and flashing lights of the police cars blocking the road! “Oh no”, I thought here we go again. I have to detour and this never ends up well. Even after 2 years of living here, I still have a hard time navigating the streets, as some are one-way, dead ends and for some reason I end up in circles. So, I decided I would just go down the closest side street and park, however all spots were taken except for one at the end of the street, but I would be touching some yellow lines.

I figured that would be okay, but before I could fully park, a policeman came over and said, “hey lady! You can’t park there!” So I asked him what he suggested and he said to go back to the blockade and tell the cops there you needed to get through the roadblock. I asked him if I did a U-turn would he ticket me, and he just shook his head and smiled. I explained I was a nervous new driver to Jersey and he became empathetic to me. In fact he started a conversation but I politely told him I did not want to be any later that I was already! So, in fact the officer did let me through and I arrived barely in time for my appointment. I was flustered, but thankfully when it was time to return home they let me through again. Relief was not the word!

So, on Tuesday, I prayed all day as my nephew Tommy who has had epilepsy for almost 10 years, was finally having brain surgery to help with his constant seizures. At 44, he was a father of 4 and had not worked in years due to this disability. So, I also prayed for his faithful wife Melissa who became the matriarch of the family as he was limited in his responsibilities. He was in ICU for 2 nights but survived and at the time of this writing was a week in the hospital. Only God knows the outcome, but it is worrisome. All I can do is pray!

On Wednesday I went to the dentist to have him check on my recently extracted tooth. I had suffered with it for months and was relieved when he took it out, but it was still sore and healing slowly. Luckily no infection and he was glad I took such good care. However, when we started to discuss the price of implants I nearly fainted. My spirits faded quickly and gloom set. He said “see you in 2 months” and we will talk then. Well, at least I had time to figure out how I would pay for this, as my insurance only covered the extraction. Somehow, I thought, God will provide, He always does which is really true.

By Thursday I was a bit emotionally drained but still did my morning Bible devotionals. They always help me start the day right. I told God I was a bit weary and would like a pleasant day, but if not so, please be with me!

So, I set out in my car to do errands, the bank and my favorite store which is in my budget, Dollar Tree! I had a gift card and I was happy. But when I got in the car, it did not feel right, and as I drove along River Drive the right tire went flat, and the tire light came on.

Luckily a gas station was within a short distance and I drove in to get air, I thought. The attendant came over as I needed help in putting air in. He just shook his head and told me that would not help, and pointed to the large nail! He then spoke in some foreign language to another fellow in the repair shop and motioned for me to drive it up to one of the bays. "Oh No" I moaned to myself. I hope the tire is Not ruined! This had happened to me in Miami and I needed a new one. I also had purchased 4 new tires less than 2 years ago. This was all running through my head as I waited. However, the repair guy showed me the huge nail and said the puncture did not go all the way through." Praise the Lord", I said and figured the \$20.00 I had to pay was worth it rather than paying over a \$100 for a new tire!

Even though this was upsetting, it all ended well, as I know God helped me find the right station and people to help in a short amount of time. I was amazed that it was not a big deal. Later on, when I reflected on it, I could not stop thinking of that huge nail that was pulled out of the tire. Just for a brief moment, it made me think of Jesus, who was hung on a cross with hands and feet nailed to the cross. I could not possibly know the excruciating pain he felt when those spikes went through them, and it made me shudder! I also realized why he died for me. My sins were nailed to the cross that day. Jesus has forgiven my sins, being a believer and wiped them out. We are all dead in sin but alive in Christ. It is hard to believe He sacrificed Himself for me so I could be saved.

I realize every day I wake up I am given a clean slate. Another day, to serve Him faithfully, to read His words in the Bible and to have a relationship with Him. And through all the days of trials and tribulations, He is there. All I have to do is call out to Him and talk to Him. He hears my prayers to never let go of me and I will walk by faith even when I cannot see. I give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His promises remain with me forever and He will not fail me!

Micah7:7

**Therefore, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation. My
GOD will hear me!**