

WAITING..... by Lorelei Pepe

No one likes to wait, including me. We have become so impatient in this fast paced, techno world we live in with all our devices – cell phones, I-pads, computers, etc...we can get instant access to the whole world. But yet, if my computer takes longer than a few minutes to turn on, I am irritated. What happened to me and everyone else? After all, I grew up in a world with none of these things, when life was simpler and in some ways easier. I miss the good old days, and guess I am showing my age!

And now with the Coronavirus the whole world has learned to stop and wait. We are forced to isolate in our homes. Maybe this is a time to pause, reflect, change and adapt to a different world. Some wait patiently and many are struggling.

I wait for answers when I pray – sometimes nothing but silence and other times I receive an answer in an unexpected way! Waiting has made my faith stronger and I hope that the same thing is happening for others, even though I do have my moments and days of despair too. It is during these times I open my Bible and look to God for hope and strength.

When we read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:25** we find two people who waited their entire lives to witness the coming of the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. They were Simeon and Anna. It was revealed to Simeon (who was a devout priest) by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw Baby Jesus. This was his lifelong wish. When Jesus' parents brought baby Jesus to the temple, according to the Jewish tradition, Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed Him. He said He would be the **“light of the world.”**

Then there was Anna, a widow of about 84 years old, also a devout woman of faith. She served God her whole life, praying, fasting and worshipping. Her wish was fulfilled too by seeing baby Jesus and gave thanks and her blessings. They both proved their tremendous faith by waiting their entire lives!

I had my real test of patience and learning to wait on August 24, 1992. This was the night that Hurricane Andrew blew into South Florida and became one of the worst hurricanes in history. I was living alone in my condo in Miami. I was fairly new to the area so I had no idea or expectations about how bad this would be.

In those days, we had very little notice. I did not realize what to think until I went to the supermarket to stock up on water, batteries, and food. Others went to Home Depot to get wood to seal their windows and whatever else needed. Everything flew off the shelves in hours! I was very perplexed as I originally was going to the Keys with my friends. They called and told me to prepare for the worst.

Going thru Hurricane Andrew was a nightmare and the horror of it still remains with me to this day, almost 28 years later. It was so destructive and tore through the communities, ripping everything apart. The aftermath was almost as bad as we lost power and I had to learn how to survive in August in the worst heat and humidity for weeks on end. Also, water and ice were scarce and we took sponge baths in the lake. I was isolated and alone and camped out in my apartment, fearing the looting that might occur if I left.

I had a partial roof, so I lived in the back part of the condo, but when it rained I had to bail out the water with a bucket in the front of the place. I had many, many obstacles to overcome and was in a flood of tears daily and then I would get angry. After a few weeks I learned to be patient and wait. I would talk to God, my daily and only companion. He helped me wait on lines for ice and water, and for the military troops to come and bring food and relief. The damage was insurmountable and unexplainable. It felt like a war zone. I wrote in my journal every day and wrote 22 pages that I have not been able to read until now. The pain and anguish would just flood back in my mind.

Well, it took a year for recovery and life was almost restored, but it changed me. And now at this point in time I am waiting again.

It reminds me of how the world waited for Jesus, who became my Friend, Confidant, Savior and Protector during those terrible times. He was the greatest possibility thinker of all time. I tried to remember that when I felt so defeated and lost. He transformed me and my life and I can only pray and hope and trust that He will continue to keep molding me and shaping me to become more like Him! I am very blessed and grateful and know He is always, always there.

Psalm 37:9

“For those who wait on the Lord shall inherit the earth.”

Psalm 37:7

“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”