

Hug~In~A~Mug

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For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2: 8 KJV):

Greetings dear prayer warriors of my faith family!

I took a drive a year ago, late evening, out to a fine winery owned by my former Elder & his wife, on the promise of a starry sky. There were some heavy things going on in my life, and I just needed to get close to God and His universe.

{in-fin-i-tes-i-mal} There it was, in the starry sky, just laid out for me as far as my eyes could see. You see, the word, *infinitesimal* itself translates to mean: immeasurable, extremely small, minute, and microscopic...like the stars in this vast sky, or grains of sand upon the shore.

In the same breath, do you know there are 7,487 promises made by God in our Bible to humankind? Try counting that out in grains of sand in a jar! Which is **why the King James** translation, this first snowy day of November, after I plowed through ALL the many Bible translations I source; the KJV, in its simplicity... just warms our hearts and comforts us.

By Grace...this gift of God, is one of the most tangible PROMISES from Him, a loving father. We have the comfort of having memorized it, I am sure by now, throughout our lifetime. It is the finest "one-liner" to share with others, witnessing your faith 'in a nutshell,' when such an opportunity arises to others. I wear my "On Eagle's Wings" District Convention, Isaiah 40:31 fleece jacket, and more than once have I gotten a tap on the shoulder in the check-out stand, a stranger's smile and a bright face. "Me too, lady!" What assurance. Promises and blessings may be infinitesimal too.

Folks, Halloween is truly my least favorite "holiday;" I agonized over the many trips to the door and had perhaps three dozen trick-or-treaters in the space of two hours before I turned off my porch light and retired last night.

Therefore, Sunday's sermon and Reformation celebration, including an 18-voice choir, resounding brass quintet, and kettle drums... got me all pumped up, focused, and so thrilled to be a believer and a Lutheran... reflecting on the efforts of Martin Luther and his upheaval, when he boldly posted his ninety-five theses up on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg.

One can only imagine then, living back in the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation, begun in 1517 by this humble monk, when eyes were turned to peace, forgiveness, Grace by Faith Alone, the foundation of our faith. As sons and daughters of the very Promise to Abraham, we all have the opportunity and legacy to spread the word, hold to those promises, be aware of opportunities, and pray ceaselessly without end: for the very misery worldwide, inequities within our borders, and cling close to hearts, hearth, and home, blessed by the strength of: our Congregations, families, overworked Pastors, and the looming vacancies created; lastly, that our very Synod will remain strong.....in the footsteps of Luther, printed on those infinitesimal grains of sand upon our shores.

Sola Gratia, Fide, Christus, Deo Gloria, & Sola Scriptura

Grace~Faith~Christ Alone~Glory & Scripture

Sincerely, Patricia A. Reck, Website HUG in a MUG Author

