

G-d Adventure Sabbatical: Video – I LOVE NY! (#5 in Series)

Hi all! Today's post is a video. Click on the picture below and it will play. Check out the word on the truck behind me as it passes by (I didn't even see it until I watched the video later that day).

I love it when the Lord sends me a personal message to show me He's pleased I'm not letting anything steal my joy on this trip! Sorry the video is a bit jumpy. It's the first time I've used my phone to make a video.

I'll do a better job of holding it steady the next time I create one. Blessings and favor to you! Have a great rest of your day!

~Kris

Feel free to comment as I blog (as long as it's relevant to what I'm writing...no spam or sales pitches, please). I may not be able to answer all of your comments, but know I appreciate your taking the time to participate in my adventure through submitting them.

G-d Adventure Sabbatical: 1st Day on the Road :) (#4 in Series)

[To start from the beginning, click here: [G-d Adventure Sabbatical – Preparing to Leave](#) – additional posts in this series are at the bottom]

Looking back, last week was a flurry of activity and a variety of emotions as I packed up everything I owned to determine what I needed to bring with me on my adventure with the Lord and what I could leave behind in storage. Not knowing the time frame I'd be gone was a bit of a challenge to ensure I had enough clothes and other "stuff" I might need.

My car is a Toyota Corolla. I spent a lot of time staring at it trying to figure out the best way to organize everything in the small trunk, the floor of the front passenger seat, and on one side of the back seat just in case I had to lay down the other front bucket seat to sleep in my car on a night I had no place to stay. Thankfully my previous history of numerous moves and my Tetris packing skills gave me the edge I needed to pack it up, move a few things around, reconsider a few things to leave behind, and finally lock up the storage unit before heading to house sit for a friend for 2 days before I left on my adventure.

Then the morning of 7/22/Sun I got in my car at 7 AM – both excited about the adventure and curious as to what I would experience over the next few weeks...or months. My odometer



read 232,188 and I wondered what it would read when I got back. One thing I knew was that my 18 year-old car would certainly get a workout!



Six hours later Raleigh, NC was my first stop to visit with an old college friend and his wife (Greg & Beth). We haven't seen each other in 5 years, and had a great time swapping stories, catching each other up on our

lives, and making each other laugh at the things we had learned along the way. After a fantastic meal and more fun conversation it was time to head out for my next stop in Chapel Hill, NC to see my Aunt and Uncle (it's been about 3 years since I've seen either of them). It was a great reunion and I went to bed peacefully thankful for the wonderful relationships I have been blessed to have in my life.

As I look out the window of my Aunt's home, I am very aware that my landscape is going to change daily throughout this adventure. Almost every day I'm going to go to bed in a different place and wake up to a new horizon with only partial knowledge of what's coming next.

What I do know is that Tuesday I am heading to PA to see a friend, Wednesday I'm speaking at a Celebrate Recovery meeting

in central PA, Thursday I'm seeing my nephew with a possible CR testimony that night, and Friday yet another Celebrate Recovery in north NJ. Saturday I have a high school event and then a visit with a high school friend on Sunday. The following week...??? – only the Lord knows and I trust He'll show me where to go next when I need to know it.

I can clearly see how this last year of healing and recovery, along with learning how to surrender on a deeper level – living life “one day at a time” – has been preparing me for this trip. Had I not learned those lessons, I would not have been capable of stepping out into the unknown on this adventure with confidence and courage.

I still occasionally look up at the sky and tell the Lord, “this is the craziest thing you've ever asked me to do.” I know He's laughing in a fatherly way at me because He designed this trip to stretch me to my limits to prepare me for the next season of my life...just like any mentor would do for a student who wanted to break-thru to the next level.

Thanks to all of you who have texted, emailed or FB'd me to let me know you are praying for me and sending me well wishes. I truly appreciate you and am thankful for your intercession on my behalf as I travel.

I'll continue to update you on my adventure every few days to let you know how things are going. Until then, blessings to you and don't forget to keep your eyes open for all the amazing things the Lord is doing around you too! :)

[*****FUN CHALLENGE** – Guess what my mileage will be when I return home (put your odometer reading guess in the comments below)! The person who comes closest to that number will receive a 1-hour coaching meeting with me focusing on whatever life area is most important to you. Here's a link to an E-book I wrote a few years ago to give you an overview of potential life areas to consider: [Living Your Life On Purpose](#)

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- #1: [Preparing to Leave](#)
- #2: [Jehovah Jireh Reigns](#)
- #3: [Couch Surfing Plans](#)

Next Post in Series: (#5) [I Love NY!](#) —>

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G-d Adventure Sabbatical – Couch Surfing Plans :) (#3 in Series)

[To start from the beginning, click here: [G-d Adventure Sabbatical – Preparing to Leave](#) – additional posts in this series are listed at the end]

<<— In case you missed it... [Previous Post: Jehovah Jireh Reigns!](#)

I remember a few weeks ago, before I had made the decision to go on an adventure with the Lord, that one of my big hesitations was the inconvenience of having to live out of my car and sleep in a different place night after night.



The Lord loves me too much to allow me to stay in a mindset that wasn't serving me well, so it didn't take too long for Him to convict me of my "comfort and convenience" idol (idol may sound like an odd reference. But if you think about it, anything we value more than the Lord and anything that prevents us from following the Lord's will for our lives is essentially a modern day idol...even our feelings can be idols if they get in the way). Here's how that conviction happened...

...For days I had been wrestling with the Lord, trying to wrap my head around His "crazy" road trip request and really hoping I had totally misheard His invitation. After all, He knows I rarely ever sleep through the night because I'm such a light sleeper...especially when I'm on a coach out in the open rather

than in a spare bedroom with the illusion of being in my own space. Just thinking about having to spend an unknown amount of weeks bouncing from couch to couch or potentially sleeping in my car from time to time was not appealing to me. Not only that, but with my unstable financial situation, how would I pay for meals on the trip? PB&J (Peanut Butter & Jelly for those of you who don't know that acronym) between stops for weeks wasn't exciting either.

One morning as I was going through emails, a video from Bethel Church in CA caught my eye titled, Shifting Spiritual Atmospheres with Dawna DeSilva. I knew the moment I saw it that the Lord wanted me to watch it. It was fantastic and chock full of great information, then right near the end **the Lord lovingly sucker-punched me**. I don't exactly remember what Dawna said, but the message was basically this (in my words): "What are you holding tightly to in your life that could be an obstacle to what the Lord wants for your life?"

Man!!!! The Lord knows how to accurately shoot a truth arrow straight into my heart!

That was probably the first moment I knew this trip was going to happen, even though I wasn't ready to accept it just yet. As soon as that question resonated with my heart and soul, my eyes started tearing. I immediately repented at valuing comfort and convenience more than the Lord, asked Him to forgive me, and requested His help to lay those desires down as I considered accepting his "adventure" invitation. It took a few days to process through my feelings before peace around considering the trip showed up more consistently...and of course later the confirmations kept coming until I finally said YES!

Fast-forward to this week and it's been so fun sharing my upcoming adventure with friends and family, and making plans to "couch surf" as I travel throughout the US. One of the best conversations I had via text was with Becca, one of my NY

Youth For Christ (YFC) kids from 1987. I unofficially adopted her and her brother Ray at the same time their Mom adopted me as a member of their family when I was running a YFC club at their home.

I was 20 at the time, Becca was 13 and I think Ray was 12. The first memory they have of me is setting up a flag football game with all the YFC kids and playfully running Ray over to get to the goal line (or at least that's how I remember it). He couldn't believe a girl beat him and I just laughed because most people have always looked at me and immediately underestimated my determination and inner strength to accomplish whatever I set out to do. Ray, Becca and I became fast friends and "family"...and we've stayed in touch all these years. The same goes for my IN kids from my YFC days when I was Director of the ministry there.

The reason my conversation with Becca was so great was because the Lord used her to remind me, once again, He goes before me to prepare my way. I totally forgot she started a non-profit years ago called "Dirty Kid Couch-surfing Coalition" to assist homeless and transient youth in finding shelter, transportation and friendship as well as a bridge home as they travel across the US. Becca reminded me that she had connections all across the country and said to let her know if I needed a place to stay so she could check her database for a reputable home who would consider hosting me even though I'm not homeless.

How cool is that? **30 years ago I was taking care of her and now she's taking care of me!** I love how the Lord arranges things like that to bless me. As I've shared my adventure with my other "kids," they are all thrilled to see me and have offered their homes to hang out for a few days before continuing my adventure.

As of today, I have a few planned stops with people I know. But most of my trip is uncertain – I have no idea where I'll

be staying or what situations I may run into. Yet I trust the Lord will provide a safe place every night regardless of whether it's on a couch, in a spare room, or even in my car.

Not to mention, as I find Celebrate Recovery Meetings along my route who who have openings for testimony speakers, my hope is that they would consider hosting me for a night along my travels (so if you happen to know if any CR groups in PA, NY, NJ, OH, and IN, feel free to introduce them to me by sending them the link for the [first blog post](#) in this series, and have them email me to arrange to give my testimony so I can live out my 12th step on a regular basis).

One thing I am certain of....the Lord would never have invited me on this adventure if He wasn't setting me up for something really amazing in this next season of my life – both personally and professionally. And **when the Lord calls someone into a higher position of authority and responsibility in His kingdom, the preparation challenges are generally more difficult than normal** (David fled for his life many times and lived in caves for years before he became King; Moses was exiled to the desert for 40 years before he saw the burning bush; Abigail had to live with an awful man for decades before the Lord opened up an opportunity for her to serve David which then led to her becoming his wife and moving to the palace; Esther was taken away from her people and had to spend a year waiting to see if the King would choose her as his Queen...and on and on).

I know my adventure is the equipping and sanctification period for the spiritual mantles He's going to give me and the new anointing that's coming. This entire trip is designed to deepen my faith and develop a deeper intimacy with Him. I also recognize the trip won't always be smooth and am guessing that the Lord is going to allow the enemy to set up some difficult challenges for me along the way to refine my character and give me opportunities to use the spiritual gifts and natural skills I've developed throughout my life for my

own growth and His glory. Not really looking forward to that, but I know the Lord will always provide a way through it (Philippians 4:19 / Psalm 115:11-12) and I'll be better for it when I get to the other side.

Thanks to everyone who has been sending me prayers for my trip, and especially for all the people I haven't met yet who the Lord is preparing to take care of me every step of the way.

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G-d Adventure Sabbatical – Jehovah Jireh Reigns (#2 in Series)

<— [1st Post in this Series: Preparing to Leave](#) ..additional posts in this series are listed at the end of this post]



It's been just over a week since I made my decision to follow the Lord's leading to go on an adventure with Him (see previous post).

Since then it's been a whirlwind of activity arranging to store my motorcycle with a friend, coordinating mail and other things with my Dad, alerting friends and family of estimated timelines for when I may be in their area so I can stop by, and finally mentally reviewing all of my stuff to determine what I need to bring with me and what I can live without.

It suddenly occurred to me the other day that my 18 year-old car would need to be serviced to make sure it was safe to travel across the country for an unspecified amount of time. With money being tight, I knew it was going to be interesting to cover that cost along with the other bills coming due in the next 2 weeks. But I also know the Lord invited me on this trip, which meant that I could trust He was going before me to prepare whatever I needed when I needed it (Ps 139:5 New Living Translation). And yesterday those provisions began....

The first thing I did was go online to see what auto service centers were around me and checked for coupons...within 15 minutes I found a "Summer Roadtrip Check-up" Special for only \$14.95 which included a 23-point safety checklist among other things. I couldn't pass that up so I dropped my car off and took a walk until it was done.

When I returned they had a number of suggested service items, all of which weren't necessary at this time...except for the tires. They said the front 2 were bald and the back 2 weren't much better, suggesting a tire shop on the other side of town to get that taken care of. That certainly wasn't what I wanted to hear because that transaction would be way more money than I had to spend, but I trusted the Lord would figure it out and went back on my computer to look for more coupons and make calls to see what my options were.

After 30-minutes of making calls to various tire stores in the area, the lowest price I could find was \$310. I called up the Consultant I do work for to clarify the next paycheck date to juggle money accordingly, and he suggested I check into used tires since he's always had good experience purchasing them. He also suggested checking a different part of metro-Atlanta since the area I was in tended to be overpriced.

I googled used tire shops in that area, made a few calls, and the only one who answered the phone gave me a deal I couldn't pass up so I arranged to stop by first thing the next morning. As I went to bed I reminded the Lord that I trusted Him despite there being no realistic way to pay for tires and my upcoming bills, and asked Him to miraculously provide a way to make it all happen.

I arrived at the tire store early and hung out until they opened. The mechanic arrived, walked over to my car, took one look at my tires and with righteous anger said, "These don't need to be replaced...who told you that? Look at your treads, do they look bald to you?" I told him I've never been able to

tell bald from good, and then *he looked me straight in the eye and said he was not going to take my money for something I didn't need, unlike other shops who would take it just to make a buck.*

I thanked him profusely, told him the Lord would bless his integrity, and asked him to rotate the tires since I knew they needed that much done. After I paid I gave him for the rotation, I handed him a \$5 to buy a coffee or beer on me (I wish I had had a larger bill in my wallet, because I would've given him more to reward his honesty!).

My prayers were answered! Jehovah Jireh had definitely gone before me to lead me to the right mechanic in order to provide a miraculous turnaround as His testimony of continual provision in exchange for a heart and will surrendered to Him.

Did the Lord fix my tires overnight as I lay sleeping or did the first mechanic just make a mistake? Who cares!! All I know is that the Lord took care of it, and He can do that anyway He pleases! As I drove away from the tire shop you better believe the heavens heard me praising the Lord in a mighty way! :)

Whenever I surrender my finances and my future to the Lord, it gives Him the opportunity to bless me in ways I can't even imagine (Eph 3:20)...and I know the blessings will keep coming as long as I step out in faith each day from this point forward!

My car is now ready for the trip. All I have left to do is take my stuff to storage except for the items coming with me. Based on what happened today with the car, I know it's going to be an amazing adventure!

I look forward to having you along for the ride as you follow my blog entries throughout my adventure (sign up to receive new blog notifications below).

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My G-d Adventure Sabbatical – Preparing to Leave (#1 in Series)



[This is the first post in this series originally dated 7/22/18. The rest of the series was live until 12/31/18, and has now been incorporated into my book titled, **“Crazy” Might Be A Blessing In Disguise!**, which will be published in early 2019. All previous blog posts in this series except for this one and #27 are now password protected. To see a map of where the Adventure took me, click on the link at the end of this post. ENJOY! :)]

Two weeks ago in frustration I put down my checkbook and said sarcastically, “Lord, if you’re not going to provide enough money for rent next month I may as well put all my stuff in storage, pack up my car with only the bare essentials, and travel across the U.S. catching up with people I haven’t seen in a while.” I then put my checkbook away and went on with my day.

A few days later I was visiting with some friends and I mentioned what I said followed by, “If I did pack up my stuff, it would certainly be a G-d Adventure where I can practice being His hands and feet with people He places in my path, and I can offer to give my Celebrate Recovery Testimony in various locations along my travels.” The moment I finished that sentence I suddenly knew my flippant comment had suddenly become a divine opportunity to deepen my faith and my intimacy with the Lord through an extended road trip.

Despite that inner revelation, I wrestled with G-d for a few

days about it. After all, I wasn't excited about giving up the room I was renting to essentially live out of my car plus "couch surfing" for an unspecified amount of time until the Lord turned around my financial situation. Not to mention, how would I pay the bills that have to be paid no matter what my life looks like at any given moment? Yes, I do have some income coming in each month with the side coaching and Project Management work I do for a consultant' I work with, but certainly not enough to cover everything. Realistically, it would be far more logical to put my company on hold and get a part-time job until things turned around.

The G-d Adventure seemed like a crazy idea in my situation....and yet the more I prayed over the next few days, I continually sensed the Lord telling me that this "crazy" opportunity would lay the foundation for all the blessings He planned on giving me in this next season of my life.

I would like to say when I sensed what He wanted from me that I automatically responded, "Yes, Lord, your will be done!" – but I didn't. Instead I said, "Really? Are you sure? Can I have some confirmation before I totally uproot my life again for the 4th time in 2 years.

Because the Lord knows my heart is surrendered to Him, within a week He lovingly provided three confirmations (all in one day) from various newsletters, devotions, and a women's conference I watched online. The first confirmation made me laugh out loud: In Todd White's newsletter the first sentence said: "...Summertime is a perfect time to go on God adventures with your family and friends..." (underline is my emphasis). How much more direct does the Lord have to be with me?

But I wasn't ready yet for His answer. Even after I received those 3 confirmations, I still resisted and asked for one more (remember Gideon, anyone??). I'm sure the Lord was humorously smiling at me and my desire for more certainty, and so He honored me yet again by providing another newsletter which

mentioned: “Take time and days, even seasons, to have days off and to go on a sabbatical trip with the Lord.”

It was pointless to avoid the truth any longer...I knew the Lord was giving me a choice to go on the adventure with Him rather than try to “fix” my situation my way. Since I know from multiple past experiences whenever He stops my financial flow for a period of time, it’s generally to get my attention to a) re-direct me, b) heal something inside of me, or c) stop me long enough to deal with something that needs to be dealt with before I can advance to whatever he has for me next – either way it’s always to set me up for something better.

I’ve already gone through plenty of healing over the last year (that’s how I got into Celebrate Recovery / CR) and through the healing process I dealt with a number of things that needed to be dealt with...so I’m guessing this trip is a re-direct to develop additional skills and spiritual gifts before he opens up whatever He has planned for me next. Because His way is much better than my way every time, I let my landlord know what I was up to and began to make preparations to head out later this month.

As I sit here writing this blog post, I’m both excited about all the amazing things that will happen since G-d invited me on this adventure with Him...and I’m also somewhat apprehensive about all the uncertainty of it. Objectively I know the Lord is Jehova Jireh, my Provider, and He will go before me to prepare my way (Deut 31:8). Because of that, I choose faith and partner with the spirit of joy as I prepare to leave – telling anxiety, worry and fear to BE GONE, in the name of Yeshua!! (Jesus’ Hebrew name) :)

Since I’ve had a number of people ask me to keep them updated on my trip (both for safety reasons as well as just good old-fashioned curiosity), I’m going to do my best to blog throughout the trip to share my adventure with you. If you want to be notified of those blog posts, sign up for the

notification at the bottom of this webpage.

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FYI – If you are interested in learning more about Celebrate Recovery, click here: <http://CelebrateRecovery.com> . Their weekly meetings and their 12-step study was truly a transformational experience in helping me process the deep wounds I've experienced from others over the course of my life. They have groups all over the US. So even if you are mildly curious, attend a weekly meeting to check it out in your area. (I also belong to Broken Chains, their motorcycle rider division – I've been riding since 2001)

Jan 1, 2019 note from Kris: Since July 2018 I have traveled over 12K miles (11K between July – Oct) and given my testimony to 23 CRs across the US so far. Click here to see a map of where I've been: [G-d Adventure Sabbatical Map](#). If you would like me to give my testimony at your CR, contact me at 404-551-3601 for my travel schedule.]

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