

February 2024 Catch Up with Delores Fields



C & E Ministries is Up and Running

The *Comfort & Encouragement Ministries* office is now operational! An extra room adjacent to the entrance of my home serves as the new ministry headquarters. I have a new laptop and a new computer program which allows my secretary, Bonita, the ministry CPA, Gregg Lindsey, and myself to access information simultaneously. The remote procedure has proven to be successful and allows C & E Ministries to flow seamlessly forward. Both Bonita and Gregg have been super coaches in helping me learn new computer skills. Though in three different locations, technology enables us to efficiently take care of Kingdom business. Thank you for your prayers, patience, and continued support during this adjustment period! You are deeply appreciated!



Networking and Relationship Building

I've been thrilled with the many one-on-one ministry opportunities that seem to come my way daily. These include prayer opportunities with service providers, mutual friends putting me in contact with someone here, meeting pastors of several churches, and many phone conversations. I've met a lady who wants to help me start my women's luncheons this Spring. A neighbor even invited me to stay for dinner the first time I met her! God's hand and presence faithfully guides me as I adjust to this new location and personalize my home and office. Please continue to pray for me to be led by His Spirit as I wait for His will to unfold and as I further prepare my spirit through the study of God's Word and intimate prayer fellowship with Him. Know also, you are continually in my prayers.

Blessings!

Delores Fields

My garage was overflowing with boxes packed with household goods. Cabinets were empty; walls were bare. In three days, furniture would be shrink-wrapped and loaded onto a moving van. I would close on the sale of my house in Corpus Christi, TX.

On the last Sunday before my 700-mile move, my church family lovingly laid hands on me and prayed for a smooth and successful trip to relocate in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Returning to my seat, a fellow-believer said to me, *“Delores, your trip will be smooth, but there will be some potholes. Remember, they will be small potholes and God will fill them for you.”* Several times in the next few days these words were a great source of encouragement.

I had to remain extremely focused between January 10 and January 12. In the framework of 72 hours, I would close the sale of one house, drive to Arkansas, close on the purchase of another house, and move in. I was excited but also a little nervous.

On the day before closing on my Corpus Christi house, the first pothole appeared with an early morning phone call from my brother-in-law, Mark, in Oklahoma City. He had graciously offered to fly to Corpus Christi and drive the moving van to Fort Smith. The plan was for him to pick up the 26-foot truck in Corpus Christi at 9:30 a.m., but bad weather pushed his estimated arrival time to noon. Professional movers were scheduled to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to start the loading process. I had only a short time to call in another person to bring the moving van to my house. But God turned this event into only a small bump. After three or four phone calls and kindness from the truck company, I was able to arrange for the big yellow van to be delivered to my address before the loading crew arrived. God had smoothed over “pothole” #1.

Pothole #2 was discovered the next morning. Mark parked the locked truck at the home of James’s sister, Becky, and her husband, John, where we spent the night. As I was getting ready for the 8:30 a.m. house closing, I heard Mark and Becky talking very seriously about something. Coming downstairs, they told me the lock on the truck had been removed. Would I come to check inside to see if anything was missing? Thankfully, everything was there. We’ll never know the details, but God stationed his warring angels around that truck protecting all my earthly possessions from danger and loss!



Lord, Not Today!



**My Amazing Family!
Weather Didn't Stop Them!**

I'll briefly share one more pothole story. I was now in Arkansas, culminating six weeks of packing, docu-signing, and expressing farewells. On move-in day I awoke to a beautiful surprise—snow! At any other time, this would have been a thrilling, fun-filled occasion. But today there were concerns. Could this turn into another pothole? What about the condition of the roads? Will Mark be able to drive the huge vehicle on icy roads? Then my next thought was, *“It’s going to be okay. God is with us.”* And, sure enough, the situation was only minor. With only a light covering of snow, roads were soon dry, and by noon seven of my wonderful relatives, some who drove from out of town in the snow, gathered at my new place and began offloading boxes and furniture. My thoughtful Heavenly Father who makes rough places smooth, had provided information, strength, and help at just the right time. His guidance and protection were

obvious in every detail!

How about your life? Are there some unexpected “potholes” (trials) on your faith journey? The apostle James gives us some wise advice in his letter: *“My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can!”* (James 1:2 TPT).



In my moments of fear, I like to quote a verse found in Isaiah 41:13: *“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘Do not fear; I will help you.’”* Admittedly, in the last two months I quoted these words to myself several times. When I recited God’s powerful Word, within seconds my fear dissipated. I learned to see life’s trials as they really are —only small potholes on an otherwise smooth roadway taking me to a closer relationship with my loving Heavenly Father!

You, my friend, can do the same! God will help you turn pesky potholes into occasions with purpose!

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