

# LADIES MINISTRY

My travel schedule the past few months has been somewhat hectic to say the least. There have been a few weeks that I have flown home slept in my own bed only to be back on a plane traveling to another city in less than 12 hours. I have found myself saying several times the past couple of months "I'm not 30 anymore" as I juggle my schedule to be where I need to be. A couple of weeks ago I was flying to Little Rock, the day before I realized that the car and hotel was not on my outlook calendar. I did not panic as I thought in the shuffling of my schedule I must have failed to check "add to calendar". When I realized they were not on my calendar because I had not made them. then I began to panic. Not because I feared that I could not get a car or hotel but the very fact that how could I have not booked these? Long story short, I ended up driving as there were no rental cars and there was no room at inn. YIKES. So, I thought. "while my favorite hotel is full, I will book a room very close to my customer's office which is in a small remote town." YIKES no room at that inn either! I found a hotel 27 miles away, and thought 'No big deal, it will take me about 35 minutes to get there...' Imagine my surprise when I put in the address the night before and it said 57 minutes! So, the next morning I gave myself the 57 minutes, thinking that I would be early. put the address in to MapQuest. 57 minutes. I began my journey on roads such as Tiger's Pass, Floral Road. and quickly realized that my "detour" was a blessing beyond my wildest imagination. Getting out of town without traffic left me thinking "Hmm." about 3 miles out I began hitting curve signs with speed limits less than school zones. At the end of each curve I was driving into a postcard picture of fall foliage! After the second curve, I marveled that I had shared with someone just a few weeks earlier that due to my schedule this year I had missed the fall foliage in Arkansas.

Yesterday I "stumbled" on a book by Tony Evans titled Detours. As I was purchasing the book, I found myself thinking, had I not experienced a recent detour would I have been drawn to this book. On the back cover it is stated "God works through detours to bring about blessing". Many of the examples in the book are taken from the life of Joseph. (Imagine that :))

As we enter the Christmas season many of us will experience some sort of detour. My prayer for each of you is through the unexpected detour(s), you will see God's Hand and realize that there is a blessing around the curve! As we gather with family and friends, may we share with one another all that God has done in our lives. Encouraging each other in our faith or towards faith is the greatest gift we can give others and by doing so God is glorified!

Would love to hear your stories of God's detours!

Cindy Soliday