

Traveling Mercies

This morning I waited in line in Sacramento to catch a flight to Colorado for a conference at OC headquarters. After waiting for almost three hours, it was announced over the loudspeaker that our flight would be delayed, which meant I could miss my connecting flight in Phoenix. So, I stood in line for an hour to try to find out what to do. I finally reached the counter and was told that I would miss my connecting flight and would have to take a flight a couple of hours later. I boarded the plane and took my seat in row 5.

Just before takeoff, the lady next to me asked if I would like to sit in first class. Apparently she had a seat in row 1, but wanted to sit with someone in row 5 and offered me her seat. Wow, I thought, I've never flown first class before! So here I am, sitting in seat 1A, a first in my life. A day that could have run so smoothly, didn't. A meeting that I was scheduled to attend was missed. And yet here I am enjoying space and comfort in seat 1A. As we landed in Phoenix, our plane spent a few minutes on the tarmac waiting for a very important plane to land. Air Force One rolled past our plane; I could see it outside of my window!

Life is full of surprises and sometimes it's hard to love the journey when you are in the middle of it.

I have to admit, I was nervous this morning when my alarm went off at 6 a.m. As Kyle drove me to the airport I confessed to him that I was nervous to travel alone. I am so used to traveling with him; in fact, I rely a lot on him when we travel. He always takes care of our tickets, passports, paperwork, and travel arrangements. I've come to enjoy not having to think about those things. So, even though I've traveled alone a number of times before, I was feeling some anxiety as I embarked on this trip.

Yesterday I told the girls that I would be going on a trip and wouldn't see them for five days. Elena immediately said, "Mommy, remember what I told you? You have to stay with me. You can't leave." And I remembered back to that conversation we had last summer after I had been gone for a few days. She had made it very clear to me that she doesn't want me to travel without her anymore. So, as I said goodbye my heart felt sad, because I know my decision is not what she would want.

I've really enjoyed traveling in the States during these three months. We've traveled to Texas, California, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. We are so appreciative of our families and all that they do for us, our sending church, Calvary Bible Church of Grass Valley, Calif., and how welcome we felt as we re-entered the fellowship of believers, and our friends and supporters who encouraged us everywhere we went and were willing to share their life with us. Thank you!

Please pray for traveling mercies as Kyle and I fly together on January 3 to the LATINA 2006 conference in Quito, Ecuador, where around 1,000 Latin American university students will be challenged to serve in God's Kingdom. We are leaving Mikayla and Elena with their grandparents in California. Pray for our daughters, for the time we are apart, that God will meet us in the middle and bring us together again. We will fly back to California to meet them on January 9 and then return to Guatemala on the 12th. Elena will be happy that we travel as a family. We will enjoy getting home.

Your fellow sojourner,

