

**VIEWS
FROM THE
WATER'S
EDGE**

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A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

PATRICIA VAN GORDER

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Views From The Waters Edge

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DEDICATION

To my loving husband, Larry. His continual quiet expressions of love have encouraged me. His involvement with everyday obligations and household chores allowed me the time to be in the scriptures and writing. Most of all, he shares in my love of God, a partnering that binds us together as husband and wife and best friends, “a cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart” Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NASB). It includes God.

To my mother. She doesn't talk about patience and endurance; her life reflects these and many more qualities of her strong Christian faith. Her grace and wisdom have influenced me and all those who love her in the trials and uncertainties of life.

To my precious children, grandchildren, and those to come, who gave birth to the inspiration for this book.

INTRODUCTION

The Blue Pacific is awesomely beautiful and powerfully inviting. Everyone from the beach dweller to the occasional visitor is welcomed to her shores. The ocean is possessed by all yet owned by none.

Here, God's Word has come alive for me. I seek His lessons in the vibrant life of the sea and its surrounding environment. Rarely have I come away from time at the beach without some newfound inspiration. It is on these shores that I am content to reflect on people, events, and things that have influenced my life.

It is impossible for me to capture with a pen the sights and sounds of the mighty Pacific, but I have certainly enjoyed the exercise. These are some views from where I live: at the water's edge.

I will sing of the loving kindness of the LORD forever; to all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.

Psalm 89:1 (NASB)

JANUARY 1

WRITE-ERASE

So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (NASB)

In school I looked forward to my time at the blackboard. If it was Monday and I was called upon first, there were long pieces of white chalk, clean erasers, and a coal black board. As the week wore on, we were down to stubby pieces of chalk, dusty erasers, and a smeared black and white board.

New Year's Day reminds me of Monday, new chalk, clean erasers, and an unused blackboard. It is a brand-new year; we can write what we want!

In Deuteronomy chapters 1 through 4, Moses recalls what God had done for His people and the mistakes they had made since leaving Egypt. They continually disobeyed God. What should have been an eleven-day journey had taken forty years. It seems they were slow learners.

But in today's reading, he is telling them they can learn from their mistakes, keep the commandments, and live long on the land the Lord was giving to them.

We too can look ahead with anticipation and hope. We don't need to let past mistakes influence the future. We can begin writing with new chalk. It's Monday!

Lord, thank You for a new year in which I can write and erase.

JANUARY 2

RESOLVE

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NASB)

Resolution is the buzz word at the start of a new year. Each one is made with a determination that this year will be different. We begin with resolve; but the battle is difficult, and after a while we find our resistance wears down. We give in to old habits.

Nehemiah is the picture of resolve. He set out to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Even though he held a position of influence and trust with the Persian King Artaxerxes, he left the security of job and home to accomplish the task. He faced ridicule, slander, and threats from enemies.

But Nehemiah was determined, and in just fifty-two days the walls were completed. A seemingly impossible task was accomplished because Nehemiah relied on God.

We live in a world immersed in the pursuit of pleasure and self-satisfaction. Our resolve can seem almost impossible when we consider the roadblocks. But resolutions don't work without God's grace. We are inadequate to cope. He is our adequacy. Like Nehemiah, we can rely on Him.

Plan to trust in Him for your willingness to follow through on New Year's resolutions.

Lord, I can do nothing without You. Please help me.

JANUARY 3

I WAIT

Psalm 37:4-11

Dear Father,

I will delight myself in You, humbled by Your promise that You will give me the desires of my heart.

I will commit my way to You and trust in You; knowing You will do it.

You will bring forth my righteousness as the light, and justice will be served.

I rest in You, Father, and wait patiently.

I don't fret about one who prospers, or one who is wicked.

I am not angry or concerned about the evil around me for I know they will cease.

Yes, I wait on You, knowing that all of us who trust in You shall inherit the earth.

I wait Father, knowing I will be delighted in Your abundance.

I wait.

JANUARY 4

FOLLOW ME

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, 'Follow Me!' And he arose, and followed Him.

Matthew 9:9 (NASB)

How did Jesus decide whom He would call to follow Him for the three years of His earthly ministry? Some were fishermen; most of them uneducated. Matthew was a Jew and held a lucrative position as a tax collector for the Romans. Most collectors overcharged and received a commission from the taxes they collected. They kept the profits. This was no small matter to the Jews. They hated collectors, such as Matthew, for robbing them and for siding with the Romans against their own people.

Matthew was cheating his fellow Jews. Why did Jesus call him? And how amazing that when He did, Matthew quit what he was doing and accompanied Jesus. He left a life to which he could never return to pursue an unknown future. All with the words “Follow Me.”

He called Matthew, and He changed him. He calls us. “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7 *NASB*).

I want to follow You, Jesus.

JANUARY 5

INTERCEDE

Do not cease to cry to the Lord our God for us.

1 Samuel 7:8 (*NASB*)

The holidays are over. Decorations are coming down and being stored away for another year.

But what are you going to do with those Christmas cards you received? I have a basket in which I put Christmas season correspondence. Each day I draw out a card or letter and pray for that person and/or family.

The apostle James tells us that the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. It is said that James spent so much time on his knees in prayer that they became hard and calloused like those of a camel.