

Monday, March 22

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As many others have said, the year 2020 was one for the books. The year began with concerns about a new coronavirus spreading in other countries but as it quickly moved into the United States and began to move state to state, it was obvious this was a bigger deal than had been expected.

As an experienced Registered Nurse, I was always assured of a job no matter where I went so when I resigned in November 2019, I was certain I would have another job soon. However, that turned out not to be the case.

Initially concerned that a new position was not forthcoming, I began to pray for God to provide a job for me. As the virus worsened in healthcare, hospitals and clinics began to provide fewer services. Elective surgeries were canceled or put off until patients' symptoms required action. I knew nurses who were furloughed and some even lost their jobs. By March 2020, I could see I would not be getting a job anytime soon so I changed my prayers to asking God to provide safety and wellness to family and friends, plus to make me content in being at home with my husband and family. Happy to be home with them, I thrived and God provided for our needs. But evidently God wanted me to grow further as a Christian.

At the end of June, my husband caught the virus. He tried to manage his symptoms at home but finally had to be hospitalized and was there for 11 days. He spent a few nights in the ICU but otherwise did well and was discharged home July 15th, thrilled to be coming home. But as he prepared to step across the threshold from the garage into the house, he stopped and said, "I feel faint" then instantly died, falling into my arms. But God was with us that day and especially at that moment since my husband never had to suffer.

The experience changed me for the better, but I certainly did not learn that on my own. My life verse is Isaiah 26:3, "*You keep in perfect peace him whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you,*" and I have seen it repeatedly played out in my life. Another favorite verse is Psalm 119:16, "*I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*"

A few days after my husband died, I was finally offered a job; I had to turn it down at the time, but the job was waiting for me in August. Daily I find new reasons to be thankful for God's providence, including him bringing my family through the virus at the end of December.