

Greeting to all fellow travelers on this Faith Journey,

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 3:13 (TLB) – Larger reading: Philippians 3:1-14

“No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead”

STORY:

In a broadcast during World War II, King George VI quoted the following lines from “The Gate of the Year” by M. Louise Haskins: “And I said to the man who stood at the gate to the year: ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

OBSERVATION:

Trying to move forward while looking in the rearview mirror is never a good idea. Trying to live in the present while being swallowed up by regret is a terrible burden to carry. Trying to make sense out of this world while being consumed by decisions made in the past will only destroy the future.

Living in the present and moving forward into the future is a real challenge ... at least it is for me, that’s why the quote from Philippians is especially meaningful to me on this Faith Journey. Why? Because, I’m one who is constantly evaluating and regretting the decisions made all the way back to my early teenage years. I wish I could live by the philosophy of life of my youngest daughter ... *“Forget about it. What is done is done. All that stuff is in the past. You cannot do anything about it so why dwell on it? Get on with your life!”*

But those memories ... painful memories ... still haunt me ... those are the things that go “bump in the night”. They linger as they swirl and dance in the deepest recesses of the mind. Upon waking the discovery is made that they are still there. Throughout the day they reemerge when they are least expected. Maybe this has been your experience as well. Don’t we, on many occasions, feel like Terry in the movie, “On the Water Front” when he says, “... I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody ...” Each of us should take great solace in that Mother Teresa, of all people, had some of the same struggles.

How do you handle your inner demons? What solutions have you found? How do you move on? What works for you? Keep those words quoted above: *“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead”* ever before you and then press on as you travel this Faith Journey.

QUOTE:

“There, but for me, go I” - A New Yorker cartoon (it is framed and has hung in my office since the beginning of my ministry ... it is a constant reminder to get out of the way and allow God to do his good work in me.

PRAYER:

Help me to forgive myself. Reveal to me that you have forgiven me. Set before me a new course filled with new possibilities. I am yours use me as you wish.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim
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Hint: The sermon for this next week is, “Opps!”

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