

Winds of Change —Wednesday, June 18



Wake Up Call

As I lay in a hospital a year and half ago, I did not know that I was in immediate danger of death. I was not expected to recover, but I did miraculously. This was a great wake-up call for me. It is later than you think!

I had always considered life and consciousness to be a precious gift of God, but I had taken it for granted. There would always be plenty of time to prepare for the future. But I would learn that this was not necessarily so. I thought of myself as the fool in the parable in Luke 12:20, to whom God said, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you!"

May we be open to God's plans for the future, while we still have the opportunity to act. We come this way only once, and we do not know when the door of opportunity might be closed.

Bill Oyler

Winds of Change—Monday, June 30

Benediction

When I realized that my prayers are becoming too frivolous or self-absorbed I find them becoming a little more "God centered" if I read this:

Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths and superficial relationships.
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people.
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears.
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war.
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their path into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness,
to believe that you can make a difference in the world.
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done.
To bring justice and kindness to all our children
and the poor. Amen.

Anne Hesselroth

