



DAILY MOMENTS

WITH PASTOR STEVE

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DAY ONE HUNDRED-SIXTY-NINE: "The Long Call"

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...

Philippians 1:9-10

Today at conference. What can I say? Some days at conference are like going to a dentist. Why do I say that? Because last night I was enjoying some Peanut M&M's and broke a tooth. This morning we called the desk here at the Terrace and had them recommend a dentist. It so happens that the father of the manager on duty is a dentist in Waynesville. We called him. He couldn't see us but recommended a dentist by the name of Gillespie, who made a way to fit me in around two this afternoon - while I was not on stage. I must say they were very, very nice. Filled my tooth. Didn't charge for the x-ray. I didn't feel the needle but I did feel the kindness. If you are ever in Waynesville and need a dentist go see Dr. Gillespie on Haywood Street.

Yesterday I felt a great sense of pride concerning four people who walked on the stage. The persons being ordained this year as elder and deacons were being introduced and asked to come to the stage for recognition. Four of those people were very special to me. When I was in the Greensboro district I was on the District Committee on Ministry. One year as a member. Four years as the registrar and three years as the chairperson. During that time we interviewed a lot of people seeking to interpret and answer their call to ministry. Two of these people went through the course of studies school at Duke, which takes eight years. They were serving churches at the same time. One young man worked a job, served a church, and went to college and then to seminary at Hood. He is an amazing young man. You should have seen his smile yesterday. Finally, there was this man who was married to the daughter of the senior minister at the Parish we first served in Murphy. He was a lay person serving senior citizens at West Market St. UMC and answered the call to ministry, quit his job and went to Seminary at Duke.

I had the honor and privilege of assisting and encouraging these folks through the long haul of their candidacy into ministry. Yesterday, I quietly said amen, Lord Jesus. Amen. It has not been easy for them. It would have been much easier to quit and just drop the whole thing... but these people of God hung in there through the long, long years of study and trial and doubt. Saturday the bishop will lay his hand on their head and say on behalf of the Church: "Take thou authority to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ." What a journey! What a day! What a God!

Dear Lord, help us to know you keep on calling and encouraging till we hear and do something about the call you have upon our lives. Help us to be like these people and not take the easy road but the road that requires all that we have in order to be all that you call us to be. Empower us to become the disciples we are to become. Amen.

Steve Martin