

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

April 28, 2020



On a trip in 2001, we planned to visit Boston but due to unforeseen circumstances, we took a detour through Concord, Mass. We stayed at Longfellow's Wayside Inn (above left), made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's book of poems, *Tales from a Wayside Inn*. One of the poems in that book is "Evangeline." My mother was named after that poem. On the right is the "Orchard House," home of Louisa May Alcott, author of the novel *Little Women*. We also were able to view the Old North Bridge where the Revolutionary War began in April, 1775. Often, when plans change there is disappointment, but sometimes change brings some unexpected joy. We were really glad to be able view these historic landmarks.

Change

“This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you...” Romans 15:22

One thing you can always count on is that things will change. Even the apostle Paul had plans that had to be adjusted. In Romans 15:22-29, he outlines his plans to visit Rome on his way to Spain. It didn't happen that way. He got to Rome, alright, but not the way he planned (see Acts 25-28). Things change; you might as well get used to it and make the best of it.

On Monday, September 10th, 2001, Christie and I flew into Providence, RI. I was scheduled to hold a meeting in Vermont, where Pat Minor lives (Pat is Nick Sadowy's sister). It was our first visit to New England, so we decided to arrive a couple days early so we could visit a few places in the area on our way to Vermont. On Tuesday morning, we were getting ready to leave the hotel to tour Providence and Newport and then drive to Boston, but before we left, we flipped on the TV to watch the weather report. It was about 9 AM in Rhode Island... and... well, you know.

That was *Tuesday, September 11th — 9/11*.

Like everyone else, we had no idea what was going on. We thought it was just a horrible accident. So, we finished dressing and headed out for the day. In our rental car, we turned on the radio just in time to hear Dan Rather describe the collapse of the second tower. As we sat in a restaurant in Newport, there was an eerie silence. No one knew what just happened yet but everyone was stunned, and a little scared.

Eventually, we heard the words "terrorist attack." Now, Christie and I were worried. Was this happening all over the United States? We were concerned about our family and members of the church in Sacramento. Our first grandchild, Lexi, was just 9 months old so naturally we were anxious to hear she was OK. We tried to call

several times but couldn't get through right away. Finally we did and were relieved to hear that everyone back there was OK.

Everything changed that day but the impact of the event was more like slow, increasingly larger tsunami rolling toward the shore than a strike of lightning setting a town on fire. In fact, when we got to Vermont, I met the preacher and he asked me to join him in a television broadcast that Friday (9/14). He asked me if I thought the attack in New York would still be on peoples' minds. I said, "Yeeaahh, I'm pretty sure people will still be thinking about it." Little did we know...

Life has changed dramatically after that one day in 2001. By the time we were scheduled to return home, flights had resumed but it was very different. On 9/10, we got on a plane in Sacramento, with no security lines and minimal identification requirements. Later, when we arrived at the small Providence airport to fly back home, there were police everywhere. They were using mirrors to check under cars, and vetting everyone as thoroughly as possible before letting us on the plane. Now, security lines, TSA, solid ID are all part of the flying experience.

Things happen in life, sometimes very quickly, and we adjust. It'll be interesting to see how we come out of this current event — what will change, what will remain the same? Regardless, we know can trust our Father, who does not waver:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” James 1:17

I prefer stability in life, but change is inevitable. We can rest easy, though, knowing that Jesus is *“the same yesterday and today and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8). In God we trust.