

Akua Hele Me'oe
Debby Woods

In His presence there is, indeed, joy beyond measure. And ... there are angels ... ALL around.

Twelve hours before Laurie and I left for a conference, I was on the phone with the pastor of the church. I was in my car and headed to the post office to get my passport. "Do you believe in angels, pastor?" He replied that he did. "I just studied the message about the angel that told Gideon 'The Lord is with you.' I'm going to pray that if it's His will, He will send an angel to encourage and remind you that He is with you."

I got off the phone and went into the post office. As I stood in line, I sensed that people were not happy about waiting. I began to pray for everyone around. "Lord, I pray You would bless the workers and those in line around me." Years ago the Lord counseled me that a creative antidote for impatience while waiting in line is to pray for those around you.

As I was waiting I noticed an elderly lady enter who was physically disabled and moving very slowly. Her neck was twisted and stiff, she had to walk with a cane and there was a woman helping her. I began to pray, "Lord, I pray that you would be with this elderly woman and I ask that people would be sweet to her even if they are feeling that she would hurry up."

It was now my turn at the counter. After about five minutes of gathering the information I needed, I turned to leave and the elderly lady I had taken note of was slowly moving by me. I paused to let her get ahead of me. As I was leaving the postal worker said, "Next." A man behind me explained, "That elderly lady going out the door was ahead of me but she's just leaving." I realized that after all of the effort it took her just to get into the building, that she never did any business. As she started to leave, I noticed the same lady holding the door for her. I began, again, to thank the Lord that this elderly lady had someone to help her. At that second the woman holding the door looked at me and, almost rudely, said, "You're going to help her out the next door aren't you?" "Yes, ma'am," I replied. "I would count it my privilege to help her." As we headed out this elderly lady began to say things like, "You are the light. You are kind. I hope that when you are older that someone will be as kind to you as you have been to me." "It's my privilege," I said. "I think we should all be kind to one another. Don't you?" "Yes," she said. "You are a Christian." "Yes ma'am I am a Christian and I count this a real privilege. I bless you in the name of the Lord, I bless you."

She walked towards the steep hillside where all the cars were parked. "Can I help you to your car?" She turned and with great strength and authority said, "No, you may not." I asked, "Oh, are you sure? I'll be more than glad to! Please let me help you to your car?" "No, I'm fine. I am perfectly fine." "Alright," I said. "God bless you."

I turned to leave and with my back to her I heard her mumble. I turned around and she was standing there speaking to me. "What did you say?" I asked. She repeated it. "Akua Hele Me'oe." "What?" I said. "I used to have a Hawaiian companion that would say that to me when I was leaving on a trip and it means, 'As you go, the Lord go with you.'"

Instantly I reflected on my conversation with the pastor ... "I'm going to pray that God will send an angel to encourage you that 'the Lord is with you.'" I reflected on this woman who had captured my attention the moment she walked into the post office, where she did NO EARTHLY BUSINESS, and simply uttered a phrase that in English means, "THE LORD IS WITH YOU." My eyes filled with tears and I asked her her name. "My name is Grace," she said. The church that I was traveling to in twelve hours was called Grace Church. I cried for 3 hours.

I don't know that I met an angel named Grace that day. I do know that my encounter with her was truly angelic. It was no "ordinary" moment and I personally don't need any earthly proof of its extraordinary penetration into my heart. Hebrews says we are going to entertain angels unaware. I believe God and I believe His word.

Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?" God wants to do a new thing in all of our lives. It is true that in His presence we have joy beyond measure. And He longs for us to know that at His feet peace of mind can, indeed, still be found. He wants you to know that today. He is an ever-present friend that is ready and able to send "someone" who, just at the right moment, will say ... "Akua Hele Me'oe" as a reminder.

"I'm doing a new thing in the land." All that remains is ... "Will you be aware of it?"