

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”

NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”

Inspirational Ministries Written and published by Mary Mayko

31423 Ann’s Choice Way Warminster, PA 18974. Email: mmako1968@msn.com

Website: www.momentswithmary.org

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“TESTED BY FIRE!”

1 Peter 1:6-7 ASB “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Fiery trials! How we hate them! Yet it seems they are a part of every Believers’ life at various times and places in our lives! For the past two or three years in my life, it seems the fires have been getting “**hotter**” with each trial! Families and friends tell me of many “**hard to understand**” as well as “**hard to endure**” testing of their faith.

Unwanted changes, such as death of loved ones, serious illnesses, or other difficult situations flood our lives in these fiery trials. **In the midst of all this, we need to remind** ourselves as well as each other, that the **LORD had promised He will NEVER leave nor forsake us!** [Heb 13:5b] The above scripture tells us our fiery trials produce a proof of our faith more precious than gold! Amazing that it takes the hard times and places in our lives to prove to ourselves as well as others that our faith is truly real!

Some of you may wonder what happened to the “**regular**” bi-monthly Newsletters I have written for the past 16 years. Rocky [my husband] and I had planned to retire from active ministry at our church after serving there for well over 30 years. We sold our home and were in the process of preparing to move to a Retirement Community, when Rocky had to have open heart surgery. After it was very evident the surgery had not resolved his heart problems, the doctors decided to place a Pacemaker in him so he could live!

Rocky had a 95% blockage in his heart, and the surgeon said it was a miracle he was still alive! Had Rocky not been in the hospital and under Doctors’ care, he could have possibly died during the moving process! The preparation for the move was now all on me, but would have been tragic if I had had to plan a funeral also! **Fiery trial for me and for Rocky?** Absolutely! My faith was severely tested, yet each time I needed some one or some thing during Rocky’s hospital stay, God provided it!

What is normally a 2-3 day stay in hospital after heart surgery became two weeks, plus two more weeks at Rehab! During this time, family and friends rallied to help me in many ways that reminded me of God’s Promise to never leave nor forsake me! I depended on others to pray and intercede for both of us! I could sense God’s presence and knew He was using the power of the prayers of others in our behalf. We both are ever so grateful for those of you who carried the burdens of intercession! **Thanks! Bless you!**

Life has been very busy since we moved to Ann's Choice. Rocky has been under Home Care for the past month, so we are thankful for the changes that have eased our responsibilities both in ministries and upkeep of a private home. Life is much simpler here!

While we both still desire to serve our LORD, it has to be **His way and His timing!** Exactly what that means at this point, we are not sure. I know I will continue writing as long as I am able to do so! The Website will continue through Jan 2009. Those of you with computers will be able to access the website at: www.momentwithmary.org. I am looking forward to the future, and feel the LORD will use some of the past experiences of my **"fiery trials"** for His glory!

When I moved into my new place, I looked out the windows at the hills in the distance. Immediately, **Psalm 121** came to my mind and felt at perfect peace! **"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."** I was "home" and I knew everything was going to be all right! Praise the LORD!

May God's richest blessings rest upon each of you! I can be reached at my new mailing address or my email. Hope to hear from you! Love you in Christ!

Mary Mayko
31423 Ann's Choice Way
Warminster, PA 18974

Email: mmako1960@msn.com