

My Advent of Reflection in the last two months of recovering from a fall has been inspirational to me.

Being confined to bed rest for three weeks, you – "my church family" – fed me wonderful food and sent beautiful messages by cards and phone calls. You also visited me and lifted my spirit many times and most of all, prayed for me often. Your goodness has overwhelmed me with joy and peace that I would not have felt if my accident had not happened.

My humble thanks to all of you and our precious "Pastor Mark" for his words of encouragement and caring visits. Also, to Valerie, my very best pal, who never stops caring, loving and giving to me after so many years we have shared. Last, but not least, my loving husband, who has cared for me unconditionally along with our precious children and grandchildren.

It's usually through our hard times, the unexpected and not-according-to-plan times, that we experience God in more intimate ways. Our confidence is not rooted in circumstances, it is in knowing that our times are in His hands.

God has heard my prayers and yours and taught me patience that I never had.

Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born ... and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

What better gift can we receive at Christmas? This gift of Christ never grows old, never fades, never wears away to threads, but remains in our hearts forever!

*Prayer:*

*Thank you, God, for the most important gift we will ever receive, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to always remember the story in our hearts and minds to show others who might not know. Most of all, we praise you for Your love, grace and mercy throughout our life in all situations. Thank you for our church family and church as we strive to serve you more. These thoughts I pray in Your Son's name. AMEN.*