

Life

With Tracy and Debra



What do Conversations around the table and Martin Luther have in common?

See Table Talk Page 2



Life's Interruptions

"The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day." - C.S. Lewis, Letters of C.S. Lewis

November 8, 2022 was a difficult day for us. To describe it as an unwanted interruption is an understatement. On that day I (Tracy) was informed I was being released from my job due to "Pandemic related financial cutbacks." Two hours after sharing that news with Debra, we received a call from the owners of the home we were living in, letting us know that they were selling the house. *In a single day I lost my job and we lost our home.* We recognized the changes we were facing were clearly a divine interruption, but we have struggled, at times, with our heart response to what He is doing.

In his book, *Unlikely Nomads*, Terry Walling writes, "God does some of His most important work during times of interruptions." He goes on to say, "More than anything else, divine interruptions are about forming character, taking us deeper in our faith and dependence on God." [Continued on Page 2](#)

When you pray ...

"Living in alignment"

Like many of you, as we begin the New Year there are opportunities to consider and challenges to navigate. Our desire is to live in alignment with God's purposes and not resist the work He wants to accomplish in our lives.

- Pray that we can maintain a heart posture of leaning into what God wants to do in our lives.
- Pray for Tracy as he prepares to speak at a Men's Conference in Alexandria, MN January 26-28.
- Pray for Debra as she works on completing a Children's book, helping them thrive with Jesus.
- Pray for Tracy as he collaborates with Tory Bjorklund to create a new podcast called "Everyday Shepherds."


2023 Ministry Summary

As the ministry of Tracy and Debra concludes its first full year of service, we are grateful for all that God has accomplished and for the team of dear men and women who have financially partnered with us. You can read our 2023 Ministry Summary by going to www.TracyandDebra.com/2023-ministry-summary.



Interruptions continued from page 1


Because God loves us, as our Heavenly Father he is always at work molding and shaping our lives. Divine interruptions can be the result of our own foolish behaviors or they can be part of God's divine curriculum for making us more like Jesus. Either way, we can find comfort in knowing that all the events in our life aren't meaningless and random, but rather they are a sovereignly designed expression of God's love to accomplish his good purposes in each one of us.

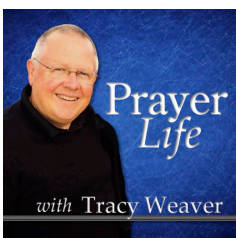
The Psalmist writes, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word" (Psalm 119:67). In other words, "Lord, I walk with you more intimately now because you *interrupted* my life." How is God interrupting your life? Is it through a health challenge, a strained relationship, a financial crisis, or an extended season of restlessness? God interrupts our lives to introduce change designed to help us grow. Embrace the interruption. Adopt a posture of surrender and begin leaning in to what God is seeking to accomplish in your life. 

The Reformer, Martin Luther (1483-1546), would invite students to enjoy fellowship and conversation around the dinner table.



Volume 54 of Luther's Works is a book entitled "Table Talk." Table Talk is a collection of Martin Luther's sayings around the dinner table at Luther's home, but also at other times and locations. The discussions ranged widely, from the intensely personal, through the political and pastoral, to theology and the Bible.

In the spirit of Luther's Table Talk, we invite you to join us at our "Zoom Table" the Second and Fourth Wednesday of each month beginning **February 28, 2024, 5p PT / 8pm ET**. Our desire is to provide a casual safe place to ask questions, probe issues, think deeply, talk about Jesus, and laugh a lot. Go to tracyanddebra.com/table-talk for information and the Zoom link. 



Join Tracy each day for 90-seconds. PrayerLife can be found on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and iHeart Radio, or go to TracyandDebra.com and click on the PrayerLife tab.



Zion Phillips
Student and Urban Minister
in New Hampshire

"After watching Tracy and Deb in both professional and personal environments, I can say without a doubt that nothing is ever just a "job" for them. They approach everything and everyone with the heart to give all they have, truly showcasing the humility that Jesus talked about when He said 'The greatest among you must be servants.' Not only are they some of the wisest and most visionary leaders I have ever encountered, but they match their vision with an equal amount of love and compassion for everyone around them. They make me want to know Jesus more, simply because I can see Him so clearly in them. I would not be the leader I am today without their influence and support in my life."

Your financial partnership enables us to invest in and develop next generation leaders like Zion. To give a tax-deductible donation today go to TracyandDebra.com/ministry-partners. Thank you!