

Time to Move

By Jim Poppenhagen

“Delight thyself also in the LORD: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.”
(Psalm 37:4-5)

Although the Bible says in Psalm 46:10, *“Be still and know that I am God,”* there comes a time in most of our lives when we have to pick up and move - I mean to completely relocate to a new address. My wife, Marge, and I have moved many times, perhaps more than a dozen times over the years, and each time we prayed about it and felt the Lord's leading and blessing.

One such time was when I had recently graduated from Bible School and felt the Lord wanted me to relocate to a different place where I could serve Him, please Him, and do His will. As we waited on the Lord, Marge and I both felt that we should go north and possibly start a church in Cook, MN. So we contacted my brother, Glen, who lived in Babbit, and asked him if he could find a place there where we might move. Then we let my father-in-law know we were ready to move, so he came down with his truck, and we loaded it up with all our belongings.

“Where are we going?” he asked me once we were on the road.

“I don't know, yet,” I told him, “but I know the Lord will provide a place.” He thought that rather strange, to say the least, but we kept on driving north.

Upon arriving at Virginia, thirty miles south of Cook, I called my brother to see if he'd found a place for us to live as we were hoping to land somewhere when we arrived in town. He told me he had been in a restaurant the night before and heard someone say there was a vacant place that had just become available for rent. We decided to look into it, placed a call to the owner, and had the house held just for us. The owner met us and led us to a nice country place six miles south of Cook. It was perfect for our needs at the time, so we thanked the Lord and moved in immediately.

Despite God's providence with providing us a home, I still didn't know what the Lord wanted me to do in Cook. I only knew that He had opened the way for us to be there for now. I didn't have a job, so I soon went into Virginia to see a former boss of mine, who had also moved up there. He asked me if I had a job, and when I said no, he asked if I could come and work for him there at the hospital clinic. I accepted it at once as another answer to prayer. While we waited for the Lord's leading, we attended church in Virginia until I felt the Lord calling me to become a fulltime pastor in Beaver Bay, where we moved shortly thereafter.

Time and time again in our lives, Marge and I have learned *“to not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”* (Matthew 6:31-34). I encourage you to put your trust in God's provision, and I can say with the Apostle Paul that *“my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).