

Walking the Dog

If you're like me and have a dog, you know you should walk them several times a day if you're able to. My Husky Willow and I average four or more trips a day, and we get in four to five miles per day, which is good for both of us. I suppose most of us have set patterns or routes we take every time we walk which is okay, but as they say, "variety is the spice of life," and I like to take Willow places we've never been before just to give her new experiences to explore.

Quite often we will come to an intersection and before I know it, Willow has laid down in the street, letting me know she wants to take the old familiar route we normally would take. Sometimes I'll let her have her way, but at other times I will encourage her forward, going past our familiar route, towards a new area she has not explored before.

In Isaiah 43:18-19 God says: "Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it" (NIV) I believe God wants to show us many new things in our lives this year, in our marriages, our families, and in our church, but if we insist on clinging to the our old ways, and our old patterns, nothing will ever change. Even in the best marriages and families there's room for improvement, and the same is true for any church!

Have you ever watched any of the home renovation shows, where the designers and contractors go into a home that is tired and run down, and sadly outdated, and in a matter of weeks or months they turn it into a beautiful, modern, updated and more functional home? Many of those homeowners thought what they had before the renovations was good enough, but afterwards, wondered why they waited so long to let go of the old and embrace the new!

I would encourage us this week - don't get stuck in a rut! Don't cling to the old ways and habits; don't stubbornly resist the new things God wants to do. Ask God to show you areas He wants to make "new and improved" in your life, then be willing to let go of the old ways and set off on a new adventure - you might be pleasantly surprised! Amen!