

HOWe THINGS ARE...

October 2003

Hello! How are you?

Some people make lists as a regular part of their lives; they actually add things they've already done to their to-do list just so they can have the pleasure and satisfaction of crossing things off their to-do list. That would be me. In the same vein, I also like rules, not all rules, just the rules I create. For instance, I have a rule that I can't make lists in my journal --- this saves my journal from becoming a collection of to-do lists. Luckily (for me, not necessarily for you), the no-list rule doesn't extend to newsletters...

List of random and possibly pointless things I wanted to tell you...

#1 My new work analogy: One of my coworkers shared this analogy: "Before you joined Wycliffe, you had a job and at your job, you were juggling six, seven, twenty balls. People (your boss, your clients, coworkers) kept trying to convince you (or force you) to add more balls and you were already barely keeping the ones you had from dropping. That isn't how your job is now. Here we have a big crate with thousands of balls in it. All the balls get thrown into the air and if you catch one, everybody cheers."

#2 Hurricane: Some people asked how the hurricane was. I didn't actually experience any hurricane-related adventure --- Waxhaw wasn't in Isabel's path. Power stayed on; we got a little wind and rain. I'm happy --- no desire to experience any sort of natural disaster first hand if I can possibly help it.

#3 My spider: a spider has taken up residence in the side mirror of my car. So far, she's been to Charlotte with me once, traveling at 55mph on the highway. I really don't want a spider in my mirror. I knocked her off the other day at work. The next day, she managed to re-find my mirror (or maybe it's a different spider --- but she looks the same as the first one). It's a lesson in persistence... or stupidity... some kind of lesson at any rate.

#4 Peer pressure: On my list of cool things about my job is the positive peer pressure aspect. It only occurred to me last week. If you know someone is liable to ask you questions like, "So what are you studying in your personal quiet time?", "What did you get out of the sermon at your church yesterday?"... while you could perceive the questions as snobby and "holier-than-thou"-ish... it provides motivation to be ready with answers to questions you'd like to be ready to answer anyway.

#5 My thing I learned this month: In my journal where I'm not allowed to write lists, I was thinking about my view of God. I thought that obedience was about being willing to do the scary thing that God asks. I was trying to evaluate my level of willingness by asking this question: "Right now, what scary thing is God calling me to do?". Here's the answer: "Give up control." It's not a specific action like "quit your job and move to another country". It's control. Don't act like you have it. Don't pretend God is silent.

Stuff you could pray about...

- **Praise God** for how well work has been going. I had been feeling discouraged --- not just about what I wasn't getting done, but about trying to operate in an organizational structure I didn't understand and therefore, felt sure was hopelessly flawed. As it turns out, it is possible to have something that works **EVEN IF I don't quite understand it.** Hard to believe, I know...
- **Pray** that I don't forget... what I know to be true, why I'm here in the first place, or what's important because what's urgent gets in the way.
- **Pray** for an event we're having Oct 4: "Wings to the World". It's an open house deal at the center in Waxhaw celebrating Mission Aviation. Pray for good weather. Pray for people who come who God may call to missions.

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