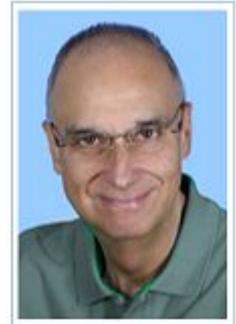


A Moving Experience

By Santiago Lange



Several years ago, while still single, I moved into a new and smaller apartment. Moves, as many have experienced, can be quite straining and challenging. Change does not come easily and the physical burden involved can be frustrating. It takes effort and the willingness "to pay the price". But, new things can also be a source of joy and I was certainly grateful for my new home.

My move reminded me of our calling and Christian journey. In a sense, on a spiritual plane, God has also called us out of our „old homes“. We are to leave the old self behind and become a new man as we move into a transformed lifestyle in Christ.

This "move" does not always come very easily. Occasionally, the carnality in us misses the "old home". We get comfortable with our past, we like the familiarity of our surroundings. As I was packing and transporting cartons to my new place I was amazed by the amount of junk that had somehow piled up over the years. By way of analogy, when God calls us, we become acutely aware of our weaknesses and personal sins. In our „spiritual basement“ we are confronted with our character flaws. But, there is hope. In Christ we find forgiveness, we find grace, we find rest. The process of moving can really test our attitudes. There is positive excitement but we also sometimes experience impatience and even anger. Things do not turn exactly out as we plan.

It's not much different for the new man or woman in Christ. Although we are in union with Christ, we also painfully realize our human shortcomings and frailties. It isn't always a smooth sailing. As the apostle John reminded Christians in the first century: "**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1. John 1:8)**". The wonderful message is that our heavenly Father still loves us in spite of our imperfections and the Holy Spirit is willing and ready to continue shaping and molding us. We are not simply left on our own in our struggles, we have a reliable and trustworthy "mover".

The Lord's Supper reminds us of our personal calling and journey. We don't want to dwell endlessly in the past, but it is not wrong for us to be aware of the "old home" that God has called us out from. Abraham, who is called the „Father of the Faithful“, had to move out of his old home, out of his past. In obedience he looked forward to a better future. Leaving the old man behind we have become new creatures. The Lord's Supper reminds us of our spiritual journey, of our Savior's return, and of our eternal home. When we reach our final destination, we will find no spiritual junk piled up somewhere. This home will be flawless, it will be perfectly beautiful.

Peter Drucker, a leading management expert, once stated that it takes ten times more energy to cause change than to manage the status quo. I suppose that our individual and collective spiritual journey would tend to underscore that thought. In some ways change is not a logical, but an emotional and spiritual process. As Christians we can learn to celebrate change as we grow in our calling to serve God. The new is better than the old. We need to remain focused on our new spiritual identity and on our mission. Our address, after all, is a heavenly one.

Let's strive in the Father, in the Son and in the Spirit to live up to our calling, yielding ourselves humbly and willingly into God's safe hands as we become who we already are positionally and in union with Christ. □