

*Precious Pilgrim,*

*Anticipation. An-ti-ci-pa-tion..., as the commercial sings, is what I'm feeling right now! I'm so excited! We just hung up a bird feeder right outside the kitchen window. It was a wonderful surprise gift from some dear friends. When we arrived at the lake, there it was with a big red bow.*

*Of course, I wanted it to be instantly hanging on a tree ready to go - but no. It took two days till it reached its final resting place. We had to get the pliers, read the instructions, screw the two screws in just right, and discuss the location. Why, this was a very big project, even though it did come completely assembled and ready to go. It just was a slow "go."*

*Now I wait for a bird. Any old bird will do. In fact, I'll accept one small squirrel, if need be. I just want some wild life enjoying my gift. Anticipation.*

*It reminds me of every Christmas growing up. I was the youngest of the three children in my family and the rule was that no one could go downstairs Christmas morning until everyone was up. It drove me crazy! My older siblings, I think, were born slow, sophisticated, and not curious. It would take me at least four or five "bedroom attacks" before I could even get them out of their beds, much less walking and robed. Why, it truly was exhausting! Anticipation.*

*You know, anticipation is a wonderful state - it's bottled joy about to pop! Our oldest son is soon to be married. And I'm*

*already anticipating grandchildren and what they'll call me... "Lulu," and what we'll play and dance and sing and...*

*And do you know what else? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is coming back - I mean talk about anticipation! I mean the "Lord of the Dance" is coming! That's why we can be people of joy!*

*Jesus says three times in the last chapter of Revelation, "I am coming quickly" - now that's something to anticipate!*

*Come on birds - come on, my Lord. I kneel with anticipation.*

*Your sister in Christ,*

*Lucy*