

Precious Pilgrim,

I am at an "Oasis" in the desert. It's morning. I've turned my chair to the window - drinking my coffee - reading my scripture - talking to the Lord - listening. I guess you can tell in my world there's a lot of "getting up and going" in my life. I thank the Dear Lord for that. I thank the Dear Lord for the privilege of getting to see so many wonderful sights in His world - of getting beds turned down by the "mint fairy" who leaves her treasure of two candies - of getting little baskets from the hotel bunny with goodies of soap, shampoo, needle and thread.

It took some getting used to, of dropping in and out and around and about, every other week - for you see, I'm a "nester." I like digging in - my flannel nightgown with socks - my dog sleeping at the foot of my bed - my routine morning walk with my friend, Madeleine - my routine church - my routine choir - my routine everything. I am a creature of habit and I thrive in the routineness of it all. I've learned to stop saying to sell "poor pitiful Lucy - I've got to go on another trip" - for it doesn't work. Most people want to go. They want to get out of their nests for a breather and I understand that - it's just that I get out of breath sometimes.

So what do I do? I turn my chair to the window. Wherever we go, one of the first things I do is to stake a claim on a spot for my nesting ground - my centering spot - where I can be quiet with the Lord and absorb His routineness.

It's 8:30 AM in LaQuinta, California. My window nest is built right at the front door. I'm sitting in my hotel-provided white robe with my brown plastic raincoat used as a lap robe.

Now back to the oasis in the desert. You have never seen such beauty. I'm looking at green grass, bougainvillea and palm trees - against a backdrop of the blue sky and desert mountains. It's the two sharply different worlds juxtaposed to each other that makes the beauty so intense - so unreal - so screaming out at each other - "Look at me." -- "No, you look at me!"

My reading for this morning was about Esau and Jacob. Genesis 25:29-34. Esau sold Jacob his birthright. He was hungry, starving - wanted immediate relief - immediate gratification. "I want what I want now." So he sold his birthright. He jumped from his desert of hunger to his lentil soup oasis - but it was just a mirage. He settled for second best or less. How often do we do this? How often, when we are in our "desert" state of mind, do we settle for a "mirage" for relief?

There is only one true "Oasis" - no palm trees - but a cross for shelter - and that is sufficient. II Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Now that's an Oasis!

*Your sister in Christ,
Lucy*