

Monday, December 20, 2004

Scripture Reading: Psalm 78:11

Text for Today: *They forgot what he had done, and the miracles that he had shown them.*

What a wonderful theme for this year's Advent Devotional Collection, "Expect a Miracle." This is the time of year when we celebrate the greatest miracle that we could ever hope to receive – the gift of the birth of our Savior, the Christ child, in a place and time that would be described as anything but spectacular. Yet through the years that have passed, that miracle continues to grow and to reach out to all people who are open to listen and to receive grace, hope, and love.

Occasionally today we hear of, read of, or know of someone who has actually been the beneficiary of a medical miracle that just was not supposed to be. More often we pray for miracles that just don't seem to work out the way for which we have prayed. Yet we have to keep the faith that our God loves each of us so much that things will work out even though it seems that they haven't.

For the first twenty seven years of my working life, I had the privilege of spending much of my time at work in the rural outdoors, selling, starting, and repairing farm equipment for those who witness and live the miracle of life every day. Whether it's the birth of tiny dormant seeds springing to life, the birth of farm animals or little pets, or the birth of all of nature, surely all life's cycles are evidence of the miracles of God's work, and it is good.

May each of us find time to be outdoors, close our eyes and pray, then open them, look around and witness the miracles of God's work that are all around us.

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for all the miracles that are before us if we will just look around. Amen.

Al Fagin