



Monday Matters

January 28, 2013

Do The Next Thing

Linda J. Nelson

Have you had the experience of feeling as if you've got far too many burdens to bear, far too many people to take care of, far too many things on your list to do? You just can't possibly do it, and you get in a panic and all you want to do is sit down and collapse in a pile and feel sorry for yourself.

Elisabeth Elliot waited for years to marry only to have her missionary husband killed while on the mission field in Ecuador. She has described her feelings of bewilderment and numbness after his death. She could not grasp what would be the next thing for her to do. She did stay on the mission field and moved forward trusting in God to sustain her through the most challenging of times.



She had to make decisions about things she knew she had to do. She looked around her hut and knew the next thing she needed to do was wash dishes and

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Sail On
The Imperials

Quote of the Week

"When you are troubled and worried and sick at heart and your plans are upset and your world falls apart, remember God's ready and waiting to share the burden you find much too heavy to bear. So with faith, Let Go and Let GOD lead your way into a brighter and less troubled day!"

~Helen Steiner Rice~

The Nelson Family

clothes. But decisions to do the next thing became more complicated and even beyond her ability and expertise. Frustrating moments filled with fear became her portion, but as time went by her trust in her loving God deepened.

As a widow and single parent she moved forward and did the next thing. She enlisted help to clean off the path to the much needed airstrip where mission planes landed. She helped equip two men her husband had been mentoring to continue their church in the jungle. She had medical work to maintain. She even had to figure out how to run the diesel motor. She learned many lessons of trusting in God, and she learned to do the next thing. She referenced this old but encouraging poem for inspiration in her darkest of times called "Do the Next Thing" (author unknown).

From an old English parsonage,
Down by the sea,
There came in the twilight,
A message to me;
Its quaint Saxon legend,
Deeply engraven,
Hath, as it seems to me,
Teaching from Heaven.
And on through the hours
The quiet words ring
Like a low inspiration-
DO THE NEXT THING.

Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt, hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment,
Let down from Heaven,
Time, opportunity,
Guidance, are given.
Fear not tomorrows,
Child of the King,
Trust them with Jesus,
DO THE NEXT THING.

Do it immediately;
Do it with prayer;
Do it reliantly, casting all care;
Do it with reverence,
Tracing His Hand,
Who placed it before thee with
Earnest command.
Stayed on Omnipotence,



Anthony, Kristin, Leif, Juliana, Soren,
Mia, Evangeline

The Nelson's are missionaries
to the natives in Alaska.

Read about

"What Joy"

NelsonNews.org

Monday Matters

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"Pasture Politics"

by Linda J. Nelson

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Safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all resulting,
DO THE NEXT THING.

Looking to Jesus, ever serener,
(Working or suffering)
Be thy demeanor,
In His dear presence,
The rest of His calm,
The light of His countenance
Be thy psalm,
Strong in His faithfulness,
Praise and sing,
Then, as He beckons thee,
DO THE NEXT THING.

Elisabeth took the moments handed her and did the next thing. Her purpose was to do it immediately, to do it with prayer, to do it reliantly, casting all care, to do it with reverence while tracing His hand and all the while staying safely beneath His wings.

**"Direct my footsteps according to Your Word."
Psalm 119:133**