

MARCH  
TWENTY:14

# menig's



**L**onging. There is something about longing that is unnerving. It can be unsettling. There is a desire for change, but an uncertainty about what will happen. There is an aching for something *more*. There is a discontent that in some ways must be gripped in order to keep moving forward.

Longing seems to be connected to waiting. But, waiting can seem so passive...so...wimpy.

I end up in places of longing, when I've grown tired...weary. Maybe even injured and I find that hope dims.

I can end up waiting for God to do something. Hoping He will. Not realizing He already is. I may even pray Isaiah 40:31, "*They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not grow tired.*" God brings us all to places of holy discontent to move us forward.

As uncomfortable as waiting can be, it is not passive. *The waiting I'm describing causes us to listen.* To hear where God is calling us. To dream of what can be. And dreams take time.

I think longing is necessary to moving forward in any spiritual journey.

I've been studying Moses' time in the desert with the Hebrew people. A journey of 40 years. Man! they must have longed for change. Aching for something different and better than Egypt, yet *wrestling with going back because it was safe, secure and known.* Way less risky than a 'Promised Land'.

I've been chewing on these ideas because we work with students who have so many hopes, unspoken longings, and desires for change. They want to change the world, or at least change *their* world.

Unfortunately, they can end up settling for less because the Promised Land...a place where they are known, loved and transformed...seems unreal. They settle for 'safe'.

I have no idea where you may be on your journey.... But, I pray that you create space to listen. To dream. To choose that next step that is in front of you. It may seem unsettling, but I know that God is stirring longing into your life.

– Please pray for the hundreds of students who are applying for summer mission trips! Pray that God would meet them in their uncertainties.

– Please know that we are praying that you would find renewed strength, renewed faith and renewed vision.

– Thank you for your commitment to partner with us in ministry. It is such a privilege to help people experience the 'full and abundant life' described in John 10:10.

With much love,

Kyle, Wendy, MALIA  
CARTER + AVERY



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