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Dear «Greeting»,

Do you ever feel like there are times in your life when God uses different people and different passages in the Bible to get a message across to you? Lately I've gotten that feeling. It started one night a couple of weeks ago at dinner with a friend. Rachel and I first met when she came to Wildwood as a student in 2003 and our friendship deepened when she returned the following summer to help us lead the project as a "student staff."

During dinner after I had shared some of the challenges and things I am trusting God with, Rachel said something about how great it is that I am facing these new challenges. She asked me, "When was the last time you were really living outside your comfort zone?" She went on to encourage me reminding me of the benefit of such dependence to our walk with God.

A few days later I was reading in I Peter 1 about faith. This is what Peter says, "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy."

Then Sunday a week ago I was walking with a friend along the ocean here in New Hampshire when my friend Lori shared from her experience how good it is to live so much by faith. When we do that our relationship with God goes so much deeper and we experience Him in ways we often wouldn't otherwise.

By this time I was beginning to get the message that God is doing a work in my life as I trust Him with the opportunities and challenges I am facing whether it is going to the French Consulate in Boston about my visa, raising needed support, learning a new language, feelings and emotions swinging one way then the other, or studying for my seminary course. The message isn't just "live by faith," but that He loves me and He is doing a work in my life as I am living by faith. He is reminding me of the scene "above the scene" of my life. Even now as I think about that I am grateful for His love and care for me. I am also encouraged to persevere through the harder days; you know it isn't comfortable living outside of my "comfort zone." ☺

Glad to be in His hands,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Liz', with a stylized flourish at the end.