EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS
Epiphany 2
Reflection Title: King's Gifts

First Reading ~   1 Samuel: 3:1-10, 19

Now young Samuel was in the service of God under Eli. In those days, the voice of God was rarely heard — visions were not widespread. One night, Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping in his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.
Then God called to Samuel.
Samuel answered, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli saying, "You called. Here I am!"
Eli said, "I didn't call you. Now go back to sleep." He went back to sleep.
A second time, God called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli.
"Here I am!" Samuel said, "You called me."
Eli repeated, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep."
At that time Samuel had not yet encountered God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him.
God called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said once more, "Here I am. You called me."
Then Eli realized that God was calling the boy.
So he said to Samuel, "Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called, say, 'Speak, God, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to sleep.
And God called, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel replied, "Speak, God, for I am listening."

As Samuel grew, God was with him. None of Samuel's words remained unfulfilled. From Dan to Beersheba, all Israel recognized that Samuel was a prophet of God.

Second Reading ~ adapted from Caroline Myss

We are not meant to stay wounded. We are supposed to move through our tragedies and challenges and to help each other move through the many painful episodes of our lives. By remaining stuck in the power of our wounds, we block our own transformation. We overlook the greater gifts inherent in our wounds — the strength to overcome them and the lessons that we are meant to receive through them. Wounds are the means through which we enter the hearts of other people. They are meant to teach us to become more compassionate and wise.