

January 5th, 2022

Did you notice that? 2022 is here. Will this year be everything you wished 2021 would be? I hear people complaining that 2021 was more of a replay of 2020, not the brave new world they wanted. They wanted a world where fear did not rule lives. COVID would be conquered, the government would step in and solve all our problems. We would finally have world peace, and your mother-in-law would finally get you something other than an ugly sweater for Christmas. The dream Christmas, no assembly required! Batteries Included! One size really does fit all, and in your favorite color too! OMG, best year ever!

Sorry, 2021 was not a Hallmark movie. The batteries were included; but they were dead. It was assembled till the delivery person dropped it. One size did fit all until the washer got ahold of it, and now the color is a shade of Halibut. I would have to say 2021 was just another average year. People lived, loved, cried, prayed, laughed, went on trips, stayed home, and died. Some call it a good year, some will say it was bad, but that is every year.

I started 2022 with COVID, past my test on January 1, 2022. Happy New Year. I am happy about it; I can cross it off the list now! One thing done! Don't worry, I feel fine. Karen offered to make me soup, but I can never tell what she will put in it. Tina is taking loving care of me and forcing me to isolate. I did get out for a walk today, about three miles. I did not see anyone but did scare a few geese out of the pond.

The Great Donna Miller brought over a care package of home-made cornbread, DVD's that she enjoyed, masks, and of course treats. The first movie we watched was The Blue Butterfly. It is the story of a 10-year-old boy with a brain tumor that has 3-4 months to live. His dream was to catch a magical Blue Butterfly that is supposed to have mystical powers. He asks a man who has seen the home of the butterfly and gets him to agree to help him. The man is not great with kids and is quickly getting frustrated and angry with the young man. Frustrated by not finding the elusive butterfly he shouts at the boy 'Don't you ever get mad? You have a brain tumor, you're going to die, it is ok to get mad!'

He was right, if anyone had a reason to get mad, it is a 10-year-old with a terminal brain tumor. Mad at God, the man that cannot find the butterfly, the rain, the bugs biting, his mom, and himself. His answer when asked? 'I guess I am just not

the 'Get Mad' type.' While searching for the butterfly, he learned it was not the butterfly that had the mystic power, it was everything about the journey to find the butterfly. He had found what he was looking for without needing a net. I will not ruin the story for you, you will need to ask Donna for the movie!

What can we learn a lot from this young man; the journey and search is the reward. If you stop searching for the elusive butterfly you might find the real point of the story, it is everyone you meet along the way. It is all the experiences you have; it is the rain, the sleet, the snow, the wind (wait, that is the mail carrier), the sunshine, the paved or broken roads. It is the search.

Isn't that what Jesus is telling us? Jesus is the Blue Butterfly. He has what you need, enjoy the journey of discovery. Stop looking for the world to fulfill you, you know it is not in the material world, but in the search for a relationship with Jesus.

Duane Gilson