



**Trail Guide – August 31, 2020:
God Makes a Way!**

From the September, 2020 issue of “Fast Company” magazine, comes this story. I remember hearing about Sickle cell disease in middle school. Thus I read with interest. This disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the U.S., affecting more than 100,000 Americans. It strikes 1 in 365 African-Americans. It affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body, causing the cells to take on a crescent, or sickle, shape. These deformed cells are rigid and break apart easily, which leads to anemia, organ damage, and bouts of severe pain. “Sickle cell is challenging because it’s such a protean disease,” says David A. Williams, senior vice president and chief scientific officer at Boston Children’s Hospital. The only effective treatment has been a bone marrow transplant, most often from a healthy sibling. But a novel gene therapy developed in Williams’s lab re-engineers a patient’s blood stem cells to increase production of so-called fetal hemoglobin, which is optimized for the low-oxygen environment of the womb and has potent anti-sickling characteristics. Amazing! The research of Dr. Williams and Dr. Erica Esrick, is truly a breakthrough for those suffering from Sickle cell disease. Our God who heals and delivers, and who makes “a way in the wilderness” often does so by implanting a dream, an idea, a determination in the hearts and minds of human beings, who then become the hands and feet of God’s healing work in the world.

Where do you see signs of God breaking through? Making a way in the wilderness? Causing streams to flow in the desert? Shining a light of hope and love into our darkness?

Mon, 08/31 – [Isaiah 41:10](#) – Wherever you are, whatever you are going through, God says, “I am with you.” So, what difference does that, should that, make in our lives and in our experience?

Tues, 09/01 – [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) – Most of us have heard the adage, “Misery loves company.” Why is that? Well, perhaps because, like this verse suggests, there is some comfort and encouragement in knowing that we are not alone in experience temptation, or trials, or testing. Others are going through the same thing or something similar. We can learn from one another, and who knows, you might just be that means of “escape” for someone else because of your willingness to share!

Wed, 09/02 – [Proverbs 16:3](#) – I don’t know if Drs. Williams and Esrick committed their work to the Lord; I do know that God has – and is – bringing good out of it. Their planning and their research are bearing fruit to the wellbeing of many others.

Thur, 09/03 – [Matthew 6:33](#) – When we seek God’s will instead of our own; what God wants instead of what we want; God’s will instead of our will; that God does amazing things. What has God done in your life as a result of you first seeking God’s will and God’s rule in your live?

Fri, 09/04 – [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) – Perhaps the greatest breakthrough of all, is the one where God breaks through our pride and self-sufficiency to forgive, save, and make new. What was this like for you? When and how did you first experiencing God breaking through to you?

Sat, 09/05 – [Proverbs 3:6](#) – We come back to this verse (and the preceding one) once again. This is truth worth remembering, memorizing, and sharing with others. Ask God to give you an opportunity to share this good news with someone else today!

Please share the stories of how God has made/is making a way for you – or the way(s) in which you are praying for God to make a way through – create a “breakthrough” – for the obstacles you are facing now. jim@leesburgumc.org. Looking forward to next Sunday!