



What insights did you get from your trip?

Violet and I just got back from a very long road trip. (I appreciate the questioner not referring to it as a “vacation.” 7000 miles in 17 days is definitely a “trip,” not a “vacation!”)

It seemed more like a bus tour with me as the bus driver. The goal of the tour was to visit Violet’s “out west” relatives: Her sister and brother-in-law, two sets of nephews, her great nephew, 3 sets of cousins, her step-father, and her aunt and uncle. All of them live various places in Washington, Oregon and California.

As you can imagine, over the course of 7000 miles (I couldn’t believe it when I looked at the odometer after we got home,) I came away with lots of observations and insights. I’ll share a number of them in the sermon on August 4, so go check that out if you want to hear more. But for this article, the main insight is summed up by a passage in Proverbs 16:9:

*“The heart of a man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.”*

This truly was a “bus tour” that God had designed for us to take. Violet and I had planned on going east to visit the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum near Cincinnati. But God re-directed our trip in the opposite direction just a month or so ago when Jay and Sarah Miller had a couple extra train tickets to Washington. I suggested that Violet take the train to go visit her relatives. But when she asked me to come along, that changed the mode of transportation to “How about I drive.” (Violet loves train travel. I’d rather have a root canal!)

Visiting Violet’s relatives was a great blessing. It not only served to help us re-connect with family we hadn’t seen in years, it was a real eye-opener to see how God has been at work accomplishing His plan to bring each of them closer to Him. Plus, it gave us new ideas about how to pray for all of them, as well as ways to stay connected and help them continue to grow in their faith across the miles.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net