Things don't always go according to plan...

Zach had several of these moments this week. He came into our motor home with Joy and said "Mom, Joy is getting a rash on her body. Have you ever seen something like this?" He lifted up her shirt and I said "yes, actually...it looks exactly like Chicken Pox!"

Joy broke out in Chicken Pox the next day as we were leaving Alaska. It was certainly unexpected and changed the trip home for all of our families. Zach and Belsy were great and looked at the unexpected situation with gratitude. Joy had only a mild case with only a slight fever. Since we were driving she spent most of the time sleeping and looking out the window. There were several places along the way that Joy had to stay in the motor home and Belsy missed small things but she was just grateful that Joy was feeling okay.

Then on the drive home we wanted to stop at Sheep Mountain. It is an amazing place that has Bighorn sheep high on the mountain. With a spotting scope you can watch them move across the mountain and watch the little ones frolic. They are beautiful animals. Anyway, when we arrived a heavy fog had moved in just covering the top of the mountain so we couldn't see the sheep. We couldn't stay and wait for it to move on.

Ray was disappointed for me that I couldn't see the sheep. He knows how much I enjoy watching them, however it was so beautiful just seeing the trees mile after mile. I was just happy to be here!





We drove long hours to get to Edmonton early so the kids could play a bit before the New Stash. Zach was having an issue with his motorhome and realized two of his tires needed to be replaced. It took time he wasn't planning on. While we were getting our laundry done and food ready for the next couple of days, Zach's time was spent at a tire repair shop. When it was time for the kids to play, his family was not ready.

Although not expecting to lose several hours during the day Zach was patient. He was still smiling even after several hours of getting the tire fixed. He felt grateful when others stepped in to help out with their laundry and food so there was time for Iron to play with the other kids. Just simple things to be grateful for during a stressful minute.

Cheyenne had one of these moments the other day at home. Clarity got into her pantry while Cheyenne was getting ready for the day and knocked a quart bottle of fruit off the shelf. She heard the glass brake. Cheyenne got to Clarity and picked her up out of the broken glass, peaches and peach juice that was all over the carpet floor.

I was thinking we never seem to plan for these kinds of mishaps in our day, yet they actually happen quite frequently. Cheyenne was so patient and smiling while she cleaned it up, a full half hour she was not expecting. Cheyenne could have felt upset, or annoyed that her day is starting with a mess. She could be angry, or she could have chosen, like she did, that she could count her blessings instead. Clarity did not get hurt. Having a bottle of peaches in your pantry actually means you have a pantry of extra food! AND Clarity has an extra change of clothes.

Although we had several unforeseen things happen, we also had unforeseen little perfect moments like enjoying a small wildlife exhibit in Teslin...





I have been thinking about being patient. Traveling with a large family requires patience on everyone's part. Lots of unforeseen things come up. I wonder if all the unforeseen things are meant to give us the opportunity to practice patience. Patience is a virtue that we all need. The scriptures talk of patience in all things. In Paul's counsel to the saints he says;

## **New Testament**

Romans 12:12

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

## **New Testament**

1 Thessalonians 5:14

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

The scriptures suggest that if we are not patient, we are contentious. I am pondering that...

## **New Testament**

Romans 2:6-9

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds;

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil...

It is interesting how our response to something often determines how others receive it, so this makes sense to me. Being patient with a person or situation that could bring frustration and anger, can in fact bring peace and calmness in an unforeseen situation.

Our Savior is the best example of patience. He responded with patience. He was patient with his apostles, He was patient with the multitudes of people who did not understand who He is, patient as people pressed Him and wanted Him to heal them, He was patient in His sufferings during His crucifixion. He is patient with me.

The New Stash only had a couple of unforeseen moments...lol. Everyone was patient!

I saw a bear with cubs on the side of the road. We pulled over to take a few pictures. The mama bear seemed calm, right up to when she wasn't and "flexed or postured" at me. She was not patient and certainly CONTENTIOUS! Lol...I thought she was beautiful!



With love, Leslie

A few pictures of the trip home... We had a fun unexpected stop at the Hogle Zoo in Utah.













