

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **Genesis 12:1-5 NIV**

When one thinks or imagines what retirement is like, many different kinds of associations come to mind; travel, slow down, free time, perhaps spending time with grandchildren. One association that probably doesn’t come up all that frequently, or perhaps at all is, start a brand new life in a land or people you know nothing about.

Yet here is Abram, respected by all around him, at age 75 taking his wife and going to a land that God tells him to go to, a land Abram knows nothing about. If we didn’t know the “rest of the story”, it would all sound a little bit crazy. You almost wonder what his relatives said, when he announced what he was going to do. I can just hear it now, “Poor old Uncle Abram, he’s finally lost it after his lifetime of hard work. Poor Aunt Sarai, she’s a saint to go with him and put up with this!”

Because we know the “rest of the story”, Abram’s actions put into motion God’s plan for humankind leading to Jesus. What’s even more interesting that when Abram finally arrived at the spot he was told to go to, the only “Land” he wound up getting was a burial plot he purchased from one of the local kings.

Yet he took a risk and believed God. His great faith and example is part of the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions.

Would you and I do what Abram did? If we were honest, probably not.

But there may be a time when God requires bigger measure of faith and commitment of us that we’ve ever experienced before.

Each time over a number of years, I’ve discerned God’s leading, even when there wasn’t too much “proof” backing it up, I’ve experienced personal and spiritual growth through the process. The blessing I received at the end of the leading were always well worth the “challenges” along the way (even when the ‘challenges’ didn’t feel so good at the time).

We are God’s children. God has something out there for each of us. May we have faith to trust when that “something” seems to be out of our ‘comfort zone’.

Pr. John Van Haneghan.