

Traveling Companion: Mothers to be

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One day, she discovers the secret, deep within the inner recesses of her being. Her emotions are mixed. On the one hand, she is happy; on the other hand, she is scared. She is happy in her new discovery, a discovery of hope and promises. She is scared of the awesome responsibility she is about to embrace.

A check up with the doctor. What she had known all along, is really true. Now, she knows for certain. A new life is beginning to pulsate within her. With one ear, she hears all the caveats from her doctor. Eat right. Live healthy. Don't smoke. Don't drink. Take good care of yourself.

This is her secret. She is not ready to share it with anyone or everyone. She wants to savor each moment of it. Soon enough, people will get to know about the secret from the shape of her ever-extending tummy.

She steals as many quiet moments as she can to savor the great secret which is entrusted to her. She feels both proud and humbled; excited and nervous; scared and blessed; happy and sad; special and profoundly grateful.

She lies awake at night, thinking and praying. She has her own thoughts, along with their questions, hopes, dreams and even, fears.

Of course, her secret comes with its own price. There are bouts of morning sickness that turns her life and body into its own tailspins. Still, she struggles on, hoping for better days and more restful nights.

She lies in bed praying her own thoughts. "O God. I know you have blessed me with this special secret, this special gift. I feel honored that you chose me to be a co-creator with you. So often, I feel so unworthy and yet so humbled by this special charge. I pray that you will watch over me in the time ahead and, especially, watch over my very special gift. I hope and pray that I will be a worthy mother, showering it with love, affection and example. Most of all, Lord, I ask that my gift be not only special but healthy. I know that I have to do my part to make that happen also. Keep me close to you and to my gift."

Sometimes, she daydreams about her gift. Can she imagine it; its shape, complexion, its identifying uniqueness. What kind of world will welcome him? What difference will he make in this world? Will the world be better off because he will be born? How will people react to his arrival?

Still there are doctor visits; checks on general health – all part of the journey of a secret coming to fruition. She wants to make sure she is doing the right things; after all, she wants to make sure that her charge will be a healthy one.

Then, one night, it happens. She feels a kick. Now, there is no doubt. A living, breathing new life is making their own statement within the inner walls of her womb. When she feels it, her excitement level rises. A different kind of communication now follows as she inches forward to some special day in the future.

She dreams about that special day; plans for that special day and anticipates that special day; hoping and praying that it will be a safe and healthy one.

By now, everyone knows her secret. Her body can no longer hide the secret. People come and fuss over her; hope all will be well for her and pray that her delivery will be blessed by God.

Soon, it is time for her to travel to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Both have been blessed by God with very special secrets. They share their joy and it is so profound that Elizabeth's secret dances for joy in her womb.

Both realize they are blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of their wombs.