



*Marjorie Hayes is a second-generation pharmacist and a native of Florida who received her PharmD degree from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 2001. Marjorie was inspired to pursue pharmacy by her beloved late Mom who fought her way through pharmacy school in the early eighties at the University of Florida with four kids! Marjorie has been an employee of Walgreens Pharmacy since she was a teenager. She started with Walgreens as a pharmacy technician and has since worked as a pharmacy intern, graduate intern, floater pharmacist, staff pharmacist, and pharmacy manager. Shortly after graduating pharmacy school, Marjorie had a personal crisis that led her into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. She has been a member of Starkey Road Baptist Church in Seminole, FL since 2014 and has served in the AWANA ministry for the duration of that time.*

*Marjorie got her first opportunity to serve the Lord on a medical missions trip in 2008. She went to the Dominican Republic with SCORE international and was forever changed by her experiences there. Several short-term medical missions trips followed, with her most recent trip with a GHO team to Ghana, West Africa. Marjorie knows firsthand how the Lord can use times of dire need to draw hearts to Himself for salvation, and she believes that is the heartbeat of medical missions.*

## Out of Egypt

By Teri Miller

We started our journey at 2 AM with only the light of the stars and a few occasional flashlights to illuminate the path. The sound of camels snorting and feet shuffling could be heard all around. Ascending what is believed to be present day Mount Sinai, I felt aligned to stepping into the pages of the Bible. I imagined Moses making the slow arduous journey in leather sandals, in order to speak to a most holy God — a God that came down to the mountain top—possibly this very mountain top. The weight of that reality gently seeped into my consciousness as the climb continued. Grinding out the last 600 vertical feet using my hands (and crawling when necessary) was well worth it to watch the sun come up over the horizon and to gaze through the haze. I wondered what it must've been like for Moses to have a real encounter with God Himself. Words can't describe that unforgettable moment.

What started as a planned trip to Israel and a step of faith as I pushed through the "what ifs" and uncertainties in life, turned into a four-year test of perseverance, faith, encouragement from others, and God's steady and

stable presence. In February 2020, I turned in my down payment and decided to venture out to Israel with approximately forty members of my church family. My community began to open my eyes to hope and God's provision through many new and inspiring acquaintances. Before the trip could become a reality later that fall, COVID changed the plan... not just for one year, but for two. The next opportunity to experience the land my Savior walked was in 2023; however, I was working in a new, full-time faculty position which would not allow me to travel abroad for two weeks. In 2024, the Israeli travel agency who had been graciously holding my place required a final decision; but in God's perfect plan, the destination for this original adventurous band of image bearers had changed from Israel—to Egypt. I hadn't ever considered going to Egypt, but my love for seeing God's creation and my proclivity toward new opportunities compelled me to join the adventure. Unbeknownst to me, Egypt, Mt. Sinai, and the stops in

between were part of God's affirming pathway for my journey of faith.

As the Israelites were leaving Egypt, not knowing where their final destination would be and trusting the "doors" God opened, God took them through some of the most unlikely places and allowed them a sphere of influence and a future they never would've had





without the knowledge of what is around the next corner? God is the only One who knows when we are ready. He knows our thoughts, and He knows our ways. When we have compassion with our own humanness and trust in God and His goodness, then we are going to get to the “promised land” He has for us. We may be limping, and it may not be within our own

if they had stayed in captivity. Oh, how comforting to know that God himself, the ultimate Protector, kept vigil to bring them out of Egypt. Some may have perceived a certain death sentence at the edge of the sea... or alternatively, a return to misery in Egypt. But God showed up in His great power and not only destroyed the source of their misery but brought great miraculous deliverance. When God brings freedom, know that He has something for you—something bigger than you could ever imagine or hope for. When God says, “Go,” whether it’s leaving Egypt or going into Canaan, or even to Nineveh, He can be trusted—even if the rest of the world doesn’t understand. God has done this time and time again in the lives of the people whose stories we read about in His Word.

God sees us when we’re empty-handed, brokenhearted, when we want to cry... and He wants us to bring it all to Him. God didn’t reveal the plan to the Israelites every step of the way, and He doesn’t reveal the plan to us either. Perceived or real setbacks we face in life could be the setups for God to show up in profound ways. God is merciful and is so in tune with our weaknesses, which we often overlook. He understands our human emotions. He doesn’t work against our obedience. God did not lead the Israelites through hostile Philistine country—even though that was the shortest route. God knew if they faced war and overwhelming hardship, they could change their mind and return to their bondage. How many times does obedience mean one step forward,

time and expectations. It’s unlikely that the Israelites could have written their story in advance, knowing how long they would be in bondage, as well as when they would be led to freedom.

Take heart, dear friend. Tears, trials, and trauma will not deter God from leading you to your final destination. When we open our hands to receive what God so freely wants to give us, we give joy a door to enter. Have you ever tried to receive a gift with your fist? When we hold on so tightly to what we know and love here on this earth, then we can’t grasp God’s blessings that float past our clenched hands. Our God is a Giver. He will never stop meeting our needs even when we find ourselves on a different road than where we always anticipated we would be. Learning to open our hands, our heart, our spirit, and our mind are essential to keeping our faith and hope in a creative God who will bless others along our journey because of where we walked. When we learn to hold on loosely to people and things of this world, then we’re available to be utilized in new ways with new opportunities for Kingdom impact.

Relief is immediate; freedom is a process. It took 10 plagues for God to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. It took 40 years of wandering for God to convince His people to let Pharaoh go. Unlike the Israelites, many of us will never know the torture of being owned by another person with no legal remedy. But we can all rest in the comfort that God sees us

wherever we are. He wants us to trust His goodness to walk through the seas that He parts for us and to move forward according to His plan.



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*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”  
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*