

Week 50
344/21

Transforming Daily
“... about three months ...”
Luke 1:56

Why is this verse tucked away in the midst of miraculous events? I'm not really sure except to say that it gives further disclosure to the big picture. On the other hand, isn't it just like God to use practical everyday “stuff” to accomplish and describe His marvelous works and ways? Mary stays long enough to assist Elizabeth with the birth of John the Baptist. All the while she is growing with child, just about three months. Perhaps just about the time she would start showing of her own pregnancy?

Mary goes back to her “house,” and the rest of the story unfolds between her and Joseph. Soon thereafter, another trip to Judah, this time to Bethlehem, and Jesus was born. The trip was over 100 miles. Today at speeds of 70-80mph on interstates and highways the trip would be less than or right at an hour, but they were on foot. Their best speed would have been 3-8mph, and keep in mind Mary was pregnant. Further, she had mountains, hills, valleys, the desert and bodies of water to negotiate, and in some areas, unfriendly lands.

The 21st century Christian has trouble crossing the living room to share Christ, or perhaps to walk next door or across the street. The work place has become a dmz for spiritual warfare as has our schools, recreational fields and stores. We have allowed ourselves to be painted into a corner in fear of what might happen if we open our mouths about the greatest story and only hope for mankind – the birth of Jesus Christ. Fewer and fewer people dare mention the phrase “Merry Christmas” in fear of losing their jobs or offending the “rights” of others, yet Christians, charged with intolerance, are the ones forced to tolerate the disassembling of our country's founding beliefs. As the nation goes, so go the people, and as the people go, so goes the nation.

How far are you willing to travel for the cause of Christ? How much time do you spend on matters of Christ? Would you be willing to visit a family member or friend for the cause of Christ, let's say, for as long as about three months?