

Colleen's Contemplations – April 2010

Questions and answers, aren't they supposed to go together? Do they ever really? I've had an almost constant headache for going on 5 weeks now. With medications of all kinds I've had a few moments here and there without pain, but for the most part, it's always there. Maybe once we get the pain to go away we'll be able to figure out what caused it. Maybe. Maybe we'll never know.

Life doesn't have a lot of certainty. There aren't any guarantees or warranties. "You get what you get and you don't throw a fit."--they say in kindergarten. I don't handle uncertainty well. I like to know exactly how much money is in the account and which bills come out when. I like to know that my children are safe and where they are supposed to be. I like to know that there are plenty of things to eat in the fridge even if most of them are considered yucky by the 10 and under crowd. I like knowing the answers, even if the answers aren't great.

I'm very blessed. I have a lot of good things in my life. Not everyone does. Many do not know the things I listed above. Many have pains and illnesses that come with uncertainties greater than a headache.

Last week I had a CT scan done; it was disproportionately scary for the 5 minutes of actual activity. I was scared from the moment it was suggested until 26 hours later when my Dr called to say the results were fine. Uncertainty combined with waiting. I guess I'm writing about this because it has served to remind me how rare and precious any certainties at all are. We aren't guaranteed life liberty or happiness, not really. Even faith isn't easy, despite the certainty you can have. There are still plenty of questions. And questions without ready answers are hard to sit with. Uncertainty, it messes with your head and your health and your spirit. But it's a very real part of life. I pray we get all the answers we're looking for, the patience to wait when we need to, and the faith to accept the answers.

Colleen Woerner
WNC Vice President & Store Manager