

FROM THE DESK OF MARY SHARON . . .

### ***The call you've been waiting for***

by Mary Sharon Moore

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"Don't miss that next call!" the cellular service ad said. Fear of missing that next call is a big reason why cell phones are everywhere. I mean, what if I miss a call?

What if? Well, that's why someone invented voicemail. Check your messages.

But that ubiquitous and overused cell phone could be one obstacle to the really important call coming through: God's calling. "Too much chatter," God could say; "the line is always busy. I'll call someone else instead." But God doesn't say that. No, God leaves messages, just like the rest of us. We get them when we check in.

And we do check in, especially when life is not going as planned. We check in with God. That's the hidden grace of painful circumstances: God's messages are there, waiting just for us.

How often I hear of the friend or family member who suffers a heart attack, a stroke, at age 57, 48, 32. "I suddenly had to ask myself," people say, "What am I doing with my life?"

Well, we might be doing mindless things like dithering away minutes, hours, days, years, being anywhere but here, preoccupied and never truly present to the One who is eternally present to us.

There's no way around it: A noisy, overstimulated life is an obstacle to receiving God's calling. Vocationally, God doesn't work magic, and neither can we. Either we open up the lines, or God will. One way or the other, God's calling will get through. God's purposes for your life ultimately will not be thwarted.

Get the message?

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