

The Long Walk

A young girl in Africa gave her teacher a Christmas gift. It was a beautiful seashell. "Where did you get this?" the teacher asked.

The child told her that such shells were found only on a certain faraway beach.

The teacher was deeply touched, because she knew the girl had walked many miles to find the shell. "You shouldn't have traveled so far just to find a gift for me," she said.

The girl smiled and replied, "The long walk is part of the gift."

There are many gifts that come from "a long walk:"

- The gift of freedom – tours of duty by our service men and women in Iraq, Afghanistan and the far corners of the world.
- The gift of life – nine months of carrying a baby.
- The gift of hope – the unrelenting expectation of fulfillment.
- The gift of faith – a belief and trust in and loyalty to God, no matter what the circumstances that may confront us.
- The gift of love – an unselfish concern that freely accepts another in devotion and seeks his or her good.
- The gift of service – a commitment to helping with the needs of others. For Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home associates, the long walk is an everyday gift.

But in each instance, the value of the gift is priceless.

May God bless you on your long walk today.

--Beecher Hunter