

The Right Path

For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home who travel (and that would be many of us, since our centers are located in 28 states), the nation's interstate highway system enhances our ability to get to the desired locations with speed and relative ease. While automobile accidents or weather's impact in one form or another can shut down stretches of these roads, and raise the frustration level, most of the time the interstates serve us well.

Before the 1920s, the U.S. government had little involvement in interstate roads. Boosters selected a route over existing roads, chose a colorful name and formed an association to promote the trail and collect dues from towns and businesses along the way. By the mid-1920s, trail associations had named over 250 routes, including the Dixie Overland Highway (Savannah to San Diego) and the Yellowstone Trail (Boston to Seattle).

As the number of trails increased, they caused increasing problems. Many times, the trail associations routed trails through dues-paying cities instead of creating the shortest route for motorists. Many trails overlapped, causing confusion. In 1917, Wisconsin was the first state to adopt a uniform road-numbering system. In March 1925, the American Association of State Highway Officials began plans for a numbered highway system for the entire country.

Within a year after Dwight Eisenhower became President in 1953, he began to push for a system of interstate highways across the United States. His reasons were two-fold: (1) In the 1950s, America was frightened of a possible nuclear attack by the Soviet Union (people were even building bomb shelters at home), and it was thought that a modern interstate highway system could provide citizens with evacuation routes from the cities, and (2) such a network would also allow for the rapid movement of military equipment across the country. On June 29, 1956, the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 was signed and the interstates, as they came to be known, began to spread across the landscape.

There is a spiritual corollary. When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, en route to the Promised Land, God had showed them what road to follow. It was numbered one through 10. Moses had relayed the Ten Commandments and then urged the Israelites to stay on the path that God had commanded so they would live long and prosperous lives. Israel rebelled, but God promised to teach the Israelites how to live if they returned to Him. Whether they turned to the right or the left, they would hear a voice saying, "This is the way you should go" (Isaiah 30:21).

(more)

God's Word gives us clear-cut directions for what path in life to take. His Holy Spirit guides us and helps us stay on the right road. We may make mistakes that lead to temporary detours, but we have no excuse for getting lost.

--Beecher Hunter