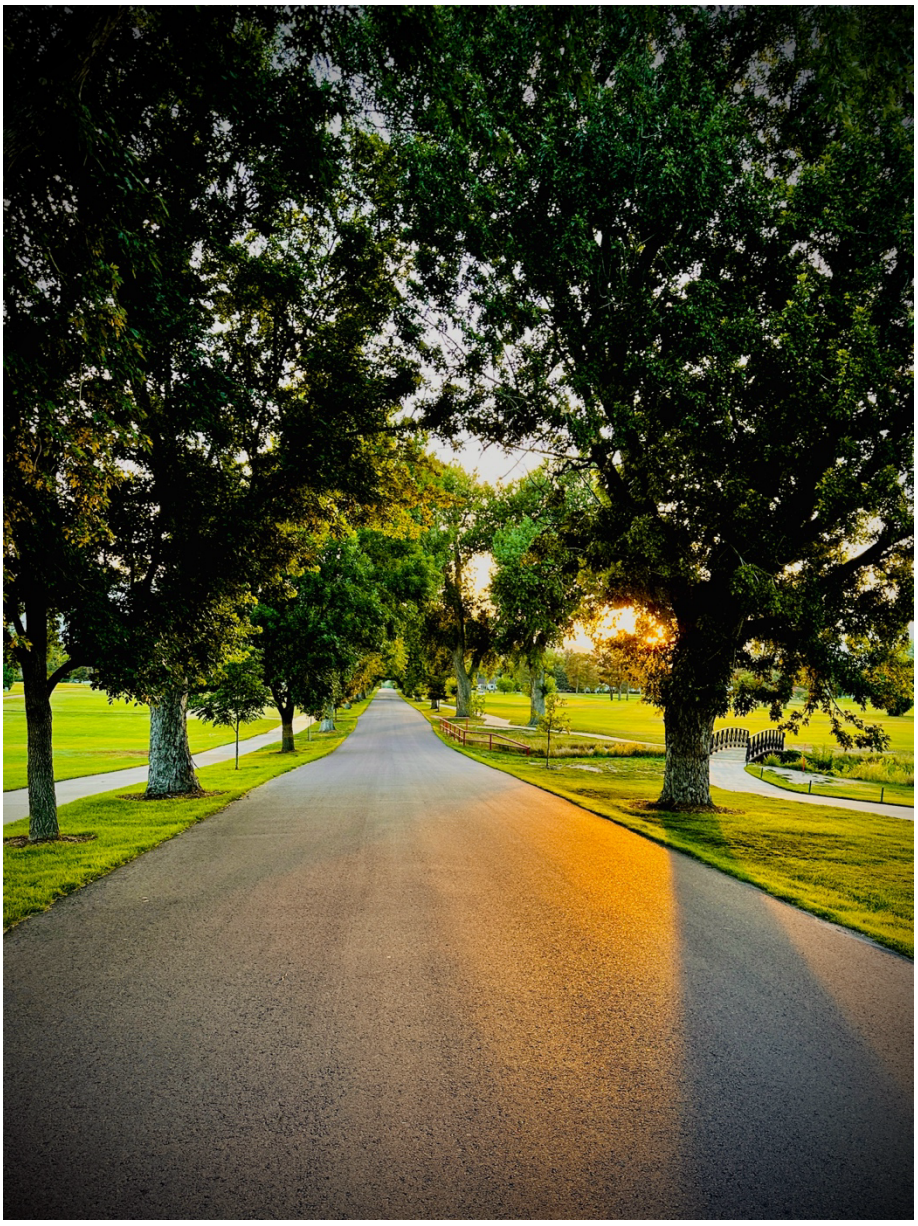
the SOURCE: the JOURNEY

2 Cor. 2:12 'The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along.' (MSG)



I used to get myself into trouble. All. The. Time. My mother called it 'vacation'. She refers to it as 'those times when Michi was on vacation'. Lots of things happen when any of us go on vacation, right? You know, 'What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.' But sometimes, those things that occur 'on vacation' stay with us for a lifetime.

One of the greatest gifts I've received since giving my life to Christ is the discernment the Holy Spirit offers. I don't find myself very often anymore in the positions I once did. I am not backing out of backdoors of any kind with my face covered and my head hidden. I am no longer stitching together stories fabricated with remnants of leftover scraps and threads of lies woven through small pieces of truth.

There's a gentleman we find in Scripture hiding in a cave, 1 Kings 19. Even in those days, people hid from God. Or tried to. And even then, a loving God sought mankind. He asked Elijah, *"What are you doing here? (v9)"* and Elijah bemoaned to God all He had been doing—for God, (as if the God of the Universe didn't know). We pick it up in *1 Kings 19:11-13, 'Then he was told, "Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God. God will pass by." A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains, shattering the rocks before God, but God wasn't to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake; and after the earthquake fire, but God wasn't in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper. When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there. A quiet voice asked, "So Elijah, now tell me, what are you doing here?" Elijah said it again, "I've been working my heart out for God..."' (MSG)*

I think one of the loneliest places to find yourself is hiding at the back of anyplace, feeling as if you broke yourself for someone, especially for God, believing you are used up and misunderstood. And there is such an enemy of our destinies whose 'soul' desire is to deceive us into thinking we are on the right path, reaching tremendous heights, going great places. Perhaps your detour has driven you further away from the righteous purpose a Holy God has destined for you, but if you are a child of His, the very Spirit of God Himself living inside of you wishes to nudge you and guide you and lead you back to the perfect path for you. It is what God planned all along for you and for me, and His Spirit living inside of us is equipped with all power to help navigate us along this journey we call 'life'.