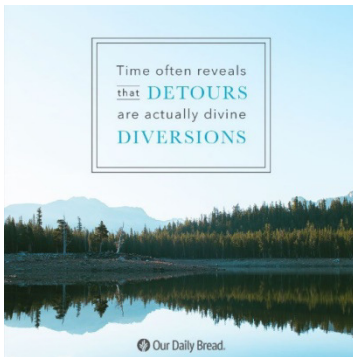


# A CRITICAL DETOUR

## – Guided by the Holy Spirit



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*Extract from: Our Daily Bread 28  
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Twice in Acts 16 Paul and company were redirected by God. First, they were “kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia” (v. 6). Then, “When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to” (v. 7). Unknown to them, God had other plans that would be right for His work and workers. His no to the previous plans put them in a position to listen to and be confidently led by Him (vv. 9–10).

Who among us hasn't grieved what we initially thought to be a painful loss? We've felt wounded when we didn't get a certain job, when a service opportunity didn't materialize, when a relocation got derailed. Though such things can momentarily be weighty, time often reveals that such detours are actually divine diversions that God graciously uses to get us where He wants us, and we are grateful. – **By Arthur Jackson**

***Father, I praise You that in Your wisdom You know how to best arrange my life. Thank You for protecting me through Your detours***

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### *Personal Reflection*

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Praise the Lord for today's topic on DETOUR.

I am sure if we take stock and reflect on what God has done in our lives, we can recall many detours. Many minor ones but some are major ones, like protection from serious or even fatal consequences. My reflection brings me all the way back to Year 2004.

My family was supposed to go for our annual trip, planned for a seaside resort in Phuket in 2004. However, this time when my wife, Margaret, suggested a quiet family retreat to Phuket, my spirit was somehow perturbed. I didn't really know why, and so I just told my wife, "Let's see about it and I will let you know."

As the days dragged on, my wife asked me for my decision on several occasions. Each time, I told her that my spirit was restless over this trip to Phuket. When she queried why I was so indecisive, I told her that I really did not know the reason. I had prayed many times; but no answer was given, not even a clue.

As the intended date for the trip drew near, I eventually told my wife that my spirit was not stilled and my heart pumped quicker each time I thought of it. I told her to change to another destination for our Christmas over the New Year family trip from 24 Dec 2004 to 1 Jan 2005.

So, our holiday destination was finally changed to Hongkong.

We didn't have the slightest prescience to know the news that would come to us. It was only after returning to Singapore at the end of our holiday that we got the shocking news that there was a huge tsunami over the Phuket resort.

Thousands of people perished in the watery grave, thousands more were injured. The resort was totally demolished by the tsunami.

I felt sorrowful for the sufferers in the tsunami. At the same time, there was this tremendous appreciation of how God had quickened my spirit to consider a detour for our holiday, saving my whole family from this sad and devastating disaster.

I told my wife that God saved us, because He was not finished with us yet.

We are forever thankful to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. All glory be unto Him.



Amen!

*Richard Lee*