

## *GIVING*

*Greenville, Maine, June 2013*

“Please, Lord?” I asked, as I walked through the dim dawn to the office. “I really love to see a moose! It’s not a big request— Emily’s health and Chan’s salvation are certainly more important. I know that, and You know I know it. But it sure would be fun to see a moose, if You want to let me!”

I made a reservation with a guide for a photo moose safari in Maine and planned a month’s vacation around it— whale watching, Acadia National Park, Uncle Tom’s Cabin— four delightful weeks of playing in the northeast corner of our country. But the focus was moose, and now was the time.

My guide drove me to where moose are often found by the road, and we saw two, a bull and a cow! Then we walked to the edge of a lake, where we saw a bull on the far side and a cow closer to us.

“Look!” Ed whispered. “Do you see the calf, that brown spot in the bushes to the right of the cow?”

I sort of saw it, and I used my telescopic lens to get as good a view as I could. Later, downloading my pictures to my computer, I discovered Ed was right: it was a calf, maybe two weeks old, nestled in the bushes while its mama grazed in the lake.

God delights in giving good things— and He specializes in giving even more than we ask for. Ed and I saw a total of 13 moose together, including the baby. On my whale watch later, we had a pod of four finback whales cruising and spouting around our boat for more than half an hour. In the national park, I got the last place on a horse-drawn carriage tour.

Maybe, when I give, I should find a way to add something extra. You need a bus pass? Sure, and let me get you a McDonald’s meal while I’m at it. “Your family needs groceries? I put in a couple of books for the kids, too.” Let me give you a ride home from church, and would you like to grab lunch together on the way?

I hope the added fun blesses the other person— I’m certain it blesses me!

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

