

March 26

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT) We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Carol and I watched the movie *Noble* last night which depicts the life of Christina Noble. Born in 1944 in Dublin, Ireland, Christina and her three siblings dealt with poverty and a drunken father. When her mother died, she was sent to an orphanage where the sisters treated the children as free labor. She escaped and lived on the streets, sleeping in the forest and eventually an abandoned building. In her teens she was gang raped. When she was found, she was taken to a home run by nuns, where the mother superior had her sign some papers. Christina did not know at the time that she was pregnant; she had signed away her son, who was adopted without her knowledge or approval. She married an abusive husband, whom she eventually left with her three children. During this time, God gave her a dream about Vietnam and the street children. After her children were grown and on her own, she decided to follow that dream. In 1989, on her own, she traveled to Ho Chi Minh City, where she saw children everywhere living as she once lived: no home, eating garbage, being abused, etc. Yet, the problem was so large, she did not know where to start so she entered a church and reminded God that He brought her here. She ended her prayer, "I'll tell you what: I'll walk; you lead."

The movie is not a faith-based movie, but it is a movie about faith. When she told God, "I'll walk; You lead," I was hit by the power of that prayer. Christina knew the problem was bigger than she was, and she had no idea where to begin. Many times, when we find ourselves in situations like this, we have a tendency to strike out on our own. Robert Schuller stated, "Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing perfectly." That may sound inspiring, but it did not work out well for Abraham and Sarah. If we follow this mentality, we end up leading and asking God to follow us. Despite all her hardships and disappointments, Christina knew that would not work. Therefore, instead of trying to do something – anything – on her own, she turned to God. She would walk the streets of Vietnam until God led her to the right place, and that is exactly what happened. Eventually God stopped Christina in front of a compound. It was a state-sponsored orphanage. Christina applied for a work visa, which was very difficult to obtain, and was given three months to make a difference. Let us do the walking and leave the leading to God.