

Colleen Marchwick

Bent not Broken

*"A tree that is unbending, is easily broken." Lao Tzu*

This year has been one of intense emotions like a winter storm that blows so that I no longer see, full of snow and ice weighing me down until I was nearly touching the earth.

I cancelled your dreams- no study abroad- and that weighed me down.

I furloughed you and re-assigned you to save money and that weighed me down.

I was separated from you in your time of illness and isolation and that weighed me down.

I cannot give you back what you have lost- a wedding, joys of first-time motherhood, milestones, adventures- and that weighs me down.

Bending under the weight hurts me and I cry sometimes but I am not broken.

I did not break.

Now, the sun is coming out, the weight is lifting a little, and I am following the warmth and light one day at a time.