

HUGGS

Heartfelt, Uplifting, Guest Stories

DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY
MARCH 12, 2020

Just an Old Redneck Farmer

Last summer, I suffered a serious fall and ended up spending forty-seven days in two hospitals. While in Frazier Rehab Hospital in Louisville many people prayed for me, made phone calls and visits, and sent me text messages. And daily, I received a lot of cards. A great many of these were from our church family. These kind acts were a blessing and continually lifted our spirits. We still have a box full of cards that we brought home with us. Truly, as Paul said, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble" (Philippians 4:13, 14).

Near the end of our stay, a man came by, bringing more cards. He said, "Mr. Walker," and I told him "Mr. Walker" (my dad), was in Lyon County KY, and that I was Danny Walker, just an old redneck farmer for fifty-five years, who had some nice jobs in my lifetime.

He wanted to know if he could ask me some questions and I told him, "Yes," that I would answer what I could. He asked, "Are you a schoolteacher, ball coach, or a preacher?" I said, "No. Why?" He replied, "The last three days you have received more cards than all the other patients on that floor. The ladies in the mail room were trying to figure out who you were and what you had done . . . It was good talking to you and if you come back some time, stop by and visit."

The day I left the same man came by my room, shook my hand and wished me good luck. By the way, he was the supervisor of the mailroom.

--Danny Walker

Life is Good

The summer of 1948, my sister, Geraldine was sick with a high fever. She was hospitalized with polio. Her condition worsened; she could not breathe and was paralyzed, so she had to live in an iron lung and was shipped to Louisville's Children's Hospital by train.

After several surgeries, braces on both arms and braces from the waist down, she finally got to come home. She learned to walk some, but was unsteady and shaky. It was not easy, but she finished her education and graduated from high school. After high school, she and our mother started a ceramic business enabling Geraldine to have a career and income.

In 1970 she met Gerald Lumley at an arts and crafts fair. Gerald also had polio and his legs were paralyzed so they both were in wheelchairs. In August of 1973 they were married and continued the ceramic business.

Geraldine's condition weakened in 1992 and the doctor said she had Guillain-Barre Syndrome and was confined to the hospital for almost twenty years. I enjoyed visiting her. She always smiled and made me feel good. She never complained.

On January 5, 2012 Geraldine lost her battle to live. Among her few earthly possessions was a book, compiled by her 1957 graduating class for their 50th reunion, about class members' lives after graduation. Geraldine told about her ceramic business, getting

married, etc. Her last paragraph read *"Life has been good and I have tried to make the best of whatever situation that I had to cope with."*

The apostle Paul said, in Philippians 4:11, ". . . for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."

--Ramona Walker

Earthly Journey Toward Heaven

Life is a journey and we are here for a little while, but eternity is forever. What will you do with your life? Will you make a difference?

As we prepare for physical travel here on earth from one destination to another, we would not start out unprepared. We would most likely take the needed things of life: food, clothing, and shelter. A map or GPS device would be desired and of course, we would need money or a credit card.

We would be considered foolish if we left without the items mentioned above. What should and would we take for our spiritual journey with heaven as our destination? The Bible, the word of God should be our map to guide on this journey. We should seek directions from God's word and petition him daily through prayer and ask him for assistance and guidance. We should also look for things to do to bring honor and glory to him.

We are expected to teach others about him and how to become followers of Christ—just as Peter taught in Acts 2:38: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Add to that, Revelation 2:10b, "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life." This is how we should travel today here on earth, looking for our heavenly home (Hebrews 11:10).

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2).

--Don Whirley

An Unselfish Act

I am proud to share this story of a very sweet and unselfish act by our grandson when he was in middle school. He was on a school-sponsored trip to Nashville—to the art museum, to lunch, and shopping at Opry Mills. The museum, as I understand it, was relatively boring. . . Oh well. . .

So on to lunch and shopping. We all know how kids like to spend money, mainly their parents' money, but this young man was looking for something special he had seen a few weeks back while he was there with his Dad.

Most people know we are Alabama football

fans and it is natural for us to be drawn to sites with Alabama "stuff." So, he went to the place where he and his dad had previously seen something interesting.

They would have purchased it then, but it was out of stock. Consequently, this sweet young man went to that store, and sure enough, there it was—a long-handled spatula with an Alabama "A" cut out of the metal and "Roll Tide" on the wooden handle. He wanted it for "Granddad." It is a neat item, as well as a useful tool.

Upon arriving home, kids were getting off the bus with lots of bags and boxes from their shopping spree and, then there was a very happy young man with one purchase, a spatula for his grandfather. This little act of kindness was very touching indeed and is appreciated because of the thoughtful and kind heart of this fine young man.

We all need more kindness (Galatians 5:22).

--Wanda Whirley

Choose

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve; as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

I was raised in a Christian family. We went to church every Sunday. Daddy was a farmer. We didn't have a lot of fancy clothes, but we always had plenty to eat. All six of us children grew up to be Christians and were one big happy family.

We all helped on the farm. I helped my mother with cooking, canning, and helped care for the smaller children while mom helped in the field. As we grew older, three of my brothers went into the service. After graduating from high school, I started working in restaurants or grocery stores. Eventually, we all left home and got married. I was in the older group of three and I was the first one to marry.

After several years, we had all married and left the nest. I can happily say we kept close to our raising--all but one became Christians early in life. However, he later obeyed the gospel and is now a faithful Christian. He attends church regularly with his wife.

The grandchildren began coming along. I have ten grandchildren and my fourteenth great grandchild is on the way!

My life has not been too happy; I lost my husband at an early age--forty years old. He was the father of our four children. Later, however, other tragedies began happening. I lost three brothers in accidents. We could not have made it without God giving us the strength to keep on serving him.

--Joann Will (deceased)

