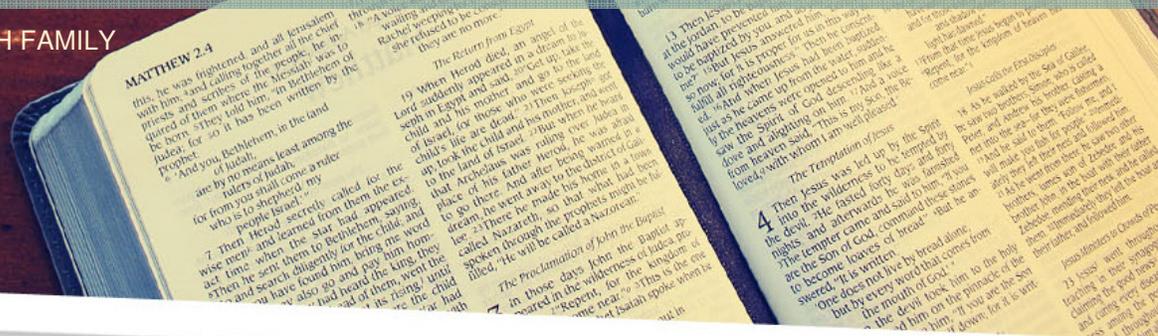


# HUGS

Heartfelt, Uplifting, Guest Stories

DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
DECEMBER 26, 2019



## A Prodigal Son

I was born in 1925 just before the great depression. We were poor just like most everyone else. When I was fifteen, I quit school and went to work to help my mother earn a little money. She washed and ironed clothes for others just to make a few dollars.

I picked strawberries and made enough money to buy a boat. With this boat I made \$25.00 a week harvesting mussels from the Tennessee River. After two years of this, I sold my boat for \$15.00.

I was sixteen years old and I wanted to go somewhere other than Paducah. I took my \$15.00 and left home with a friend. We bought bus tickets to Nashville. We stayed there about a week before our money ran out.

We decided to hitchhike to Louisville and made it to Glasgow, Kentucky about midnight. A policeman stopped us and wanted to know what we were doing. We explained to him that we were tired and needed a place to sleep. He let us sleep in the jail for the night.

We made it to Louisville and stopped at a fire station. We had not eaten in three days. The firemen gave us coffee and doughnuts.

We decided we had better just go back home. We headed home and after walking a long distance we came upon a farmhouse. I knocked on the door and told the lady we were hungry. She fed us and we were on our way.

We got home late that night and mother was waiting just like the father in the Bible. She cooked us breakfast at 2:00 a.m. (Luke 15:11-32).

--Robert Driver (deceased)

## Always the Bridesmaid

My parents sacrificed so that my twin brother and I could attend a Christian college. My "loving brother" made sure that he approved of any boy I dated, and since none were approved, I graduated with a BA degree and no "MRS" degree.

When I started teaching, friends thought I needed to be married. One of my students told her dad, the minister at the Calvert City Church of Christ. A young man, a member at Calvert, went with the preacher to lunch one day. He told the minister he had not found a girl he wished to date seriously.

After that discussion somehow my name came up at the next preacher's luncheon. The minister where I attended had been at that luncheon and asked if I would be interested in meeting the young man they had discussed. My initial reaction was "Wow, his minister has to find him a girl to date." Later I discussed this with members at Calvert and they were so excited for me to meet this young man. Therefore, I decided to drag my younger sister to visit Calvert. One year later, the minister for the church at Calvert married us.

Did I fail to mention that my “loving brother” was in the military service while we were dating? Too bad!

Why did I tell this story? I really believed that if God intended me to marry, I would. If he didn't then I would do all I could as a single Christian and be happy. There are many sisters in Christ who are single who do many wonderful works for the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17).

--Sandy Driver

## Disobedience

“Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1).

When I was about fourteen years old, I decided to break a young horse to ride. My dad told me not to ride the horse with a saddle, but I didn't listen. I borrowed a bridle and saddle from a neighbor and put them on the horse. I then mounted him and proceeded to ride him down a little dirt road.

On the way back, I met a car that scared the horse and caused him to bolt and fall down. He fell on my leg, pinning me underneath him and breaking my leg off at the ankle; it was only hanging by the skin. The horse wasn't hurt, but I sure was. The man driving the car took me to a neighbor's house and went to tell my dad. Dad was at work, but took me to a local doctor, who in turn sent me to the hospital in Paducah, Kentucky. They were able to reattach my foot to my leg. With the help of a cast and crutches, I was able to return to school and finish the year. I was very fortunate, and I didn't suffer any long-lasting effects from the fall.

When I think about that experience, I am reminded of what happens when we disobey God's word and become crushed by sin. If we will repent, we will be forgiven, just as my father forgave me. The Bible says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us (Psalms 103:12).

--Gene Dunn

## Global Warming

It is amazing the things I see from my sewing room window! While looking out my window, I noticed the Daffodils, planted by my mother many years ago, blooming in my neighbors' yard. Mom and Dad would be happy to know that such a wonderful young, Christian couple is living there. The maple tree in my yard has turned red in the top with buds that will turn into blooms, then later the leaves will burst forth. The grass is beginning to turn green (My husband is watching and waiting for it to get tall enough to cut). Spring is definitely in the air! After the winter we have had, I think we are all ready for it. I know I am.

While thinking on these things, I thought of the people who say global warming is going to cause all sorts of havoc for us. I can't say for sure that the temperatures haven't warmed any at all, but I choose to believe God's word, which says: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

In my years on this earth, I have seen moderate winters and very cold winters (temperature near zero); hot summers (temperature at 105) and mild summers I have seen beautiful springs and falls and years where it seemed like it went directly from summer to winter and winter to summer. Do you really think there is such a thing as global warming? I believe that until Jesus returns these things will continue just like God's word says.

--Lillie Dunn

## God Was with Us

Billy was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 15, 1934. He has an older sister and brother. His family moved to Paducah, Kentucky when he was five. He graduated from Reidland High School in 1953 and was voted “*Most Likely to Succeed*” in his senior class. He had several jobs. He worked on the riverboat and he and a friend ran a service station together. He moved to Hammond, Indiana in 1957 and he worked at Combustion Engineering in the factory. We were married in September of that year.

Two years later they had a big layoff and he went to work at Standard Oil in the office. He took some college courses at night while working. We decided to move to Murray, Kentucky in 1962 where he attended Murray State. We had our first daughter, Melody, in 1963. He graduated from Murray State in 1965. We moved to Paducah and he started working at Williams, Williams, & Lentz as an accountant. While we were renting in town, we attended Broadway Church of Christ.

Melody was in the first grade and we had a small house on Estes Lane. We built onto it and remodeled the rest. After we moved to Estes Lane, we placed membership with the Clement Street Church of Christ. We had our second daughter, Melissa, in 1970. We began worshipping with the Reidland Church of Christ in 1977. Billy was a Deacon there and the treasurer for ten years.

Billy was a good and loving husband and father. God was with us during all the moves.

-- Genevieve Estes (deceased)

