

HUGGS

Heartfelt, Uplifting, Guest Stories

DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY
MARCH 26, 2020



How Smart Are We?

I have loved seeing how things work since I was a kid, some of which didn't work so well once I finished with my inspections! Nowadays everything seems to get smaller, faster, and smarter! I look back at the technology that has developed in my lifetime and I am truly amazed! Then I watch shows about ancient times and see how those people must have felt the same way about things that were developed in their lifetimes. We see how past generations did things and think, "Why did they do that?!" Will future generations look back at us and say the same thing?

The one thing I've concluded is things that work, do so because of order and precision. Our very existence is possible due to that order and precision. A precision that only the God we as Christians believe in could possess. I still can't figure out how supposedly intelligent people can believe our universe happened due to random events...that the earth just happens to be at the perfect distance from the sun to sustain life...that the atmosphere just happens to contain the right chemicals to breathe...etc., etc...

There have always been "smart" people. There have also always been those that believe they are smarter than they really are. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Corinthians 1:25). I can only hope we as Christians can reach out and let others know of our creator. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord

God 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" (Revelation 1:8).

--Matt Hall

In Service

In March of 1959, I was off to Norfolk, Virginia, to serve my country in the United States Navy. I chose the Navy because, for some reason, the uniform caught my eye—the bell-bottom trousers, neckerchief, and the hat. After arriving at the receiving station, I was sent to the assigning officer. He asked me what kind of ship I wanted to be on, and I chose an aircraft carrier. I liked airplanes and I wanted to be on the largest ship in the Navy!

I was assigned to the U.S.S. Intrepid C.V.A. 11, which at that time was operating in the Mediterranean Sea. My transportation was a supply ship and I was onboard that ship for about thirty days. When we came alongside the Intrepid to replenish it, I was high-lined from one ship to the other. High-lining is done when a line or rope is passed between two ships and a person is transported along that line in a chair high above the sea. I had to trust God to take of me!

The Navy made it possible for me to visit many nations and see many historic sites. At the top of the list of sites seen, were those within Israel, the land of the Bible. It was thrilling for me to walk the same ground that Jesus did many years ago and is a memory I will always cherish.

Though the U.S. Navy is a powerful fleet and serving in it was an honor, my greatest honor is to serve “the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15). My hope is that you serve him, too!

--Joe Inman

How Could I Keep from Believing?

As I type this, my unborn son is kicking and punching with all the might that his tiny fists and feet can muster. Although I had a different topic in mind as I sat down to write, I can't help but turn my attention to the flutter of excitement that is happening in my belly.

I wonder how anyone who has ever experienced pregnancy, whether firsthand or through their partner, could ever doubt or deny the presence of our Lord. There is nothing short of miraculous about the tiny cells that grow into a living and breathing person within the womb. I am in awe of God's working to cause this tiny heart to beat inside of me. “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13).

I find it extremely difficult to imagine that something this amazing could have happened by chance over billions of years. It is too wonderful, too big, and too *godly*. One day my child will know God, but God already knows everything about him. “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...” (Jeremiah 1:5a).

I am so thankful for this blessing of life, and I hope that I never take it for granted for a single second. I hope my son will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that he was made by God. More importantly than his physical life is his soul. “...that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16b).

--Kensley Hall

The Importance of a Christian Husband

I married my first husband, Buddy, in 1956. We had four children—David, Parker, Linda, and Gail. Prior to our marriage, Buddy had never attended any kind of church, so the spiritual teaching and setting an example for our children were left to me. Although Buddy did attend worship with us when his work allowed, he later began to attend less and less. Eventually, as the years went on, he became more bitter. Looking back, I wish that he would have become a Christian, or at least continued to come to worship with us.

Buddy passed away in 2002 at 77. After he died, I began traveling and meeting new friends. On one of these trips, I met Norman, a preacher in the Lord's church. He too had lost his spouse. We

talked and got to know each other on the trip. When we got back home Norman called me. From then on, we went everywhere together. After a short engagement, we were soon married! We both knew it was meant to be, so why wait!

Philippians 2:2 says “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Norman made my joy complete and was an encouragement to me. We went to church together, and it was so nice to have to have a husband that was there beside me. Norman passed from me in 2011. We were happily married for seven years. They were seven happy, memorable years.

--Janet Mathis

Choices

Every day when we wake from a night's rest, we begin making choices that will affect our lives. The choices we make will not only affect our earthly lives but will also affect our eternal destiny. When God created man, he gave him a mind and the ability to make these choices whether good or evil. God has also provided man with a book that instructs him on how to make choices to favorably affect his eternal destiny. God also provided only two places in which the souls of men will spend eternity. One is heaven and the other is hell.

Heaven is described to us by the apostle John in Revelation 21:18-23: “And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones...and the twelve gates were twelve pearls;...And the street of the city was pure gold as if it were transparent glass. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine on it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof...”

Hell is described as a lake that burns with fire and brimstone. There you find the “fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars” (Revelation 21: 8).

Which place do you wish to spend your eternity? You show whom you serve by the choices that you make daily.

--Jerry Hall

