

HUGGS

Heartfelt, Uplifting, Guest Stories

DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY
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I Hope I've Done Enough

We had received the news that her time on this earth was coming to an end. As I sat on the edge of her bed, holding her hand, tears streaming down my face, I told her "Grandmother, I'm not ready for you to go." She squeezed my hand and said, "Me either honey, me either." There was this long pause where I witnessed how deep in thought she was before she said, "I just hope I've done enough." I quickly reminded her of her faithful walk with Christ and that through God's grace she would be saved. She smiled the sweetest smile, squeezed my hand again while saying, "I do believe you are right."

When I looked at my precious grandmother, I saw the heart of a servant. She had always been an excellent Christian example to me. She devoted her mornings to studying her bible with my grandfather. Throughout the rest of the day, she was the picture of serving others through love as Galatians 5:13 states. To me, her life depicted faithfulness.

In the silence on the way home that night, I thought about her serving heart, loving works, and faithful life. She knew her time was near. She had worked her whole life for what lay ahead of her. We need to prepare every day, to receive our ultimate reward—a home in heaven with our Maker—with the knowledge that God's grace will take care of the faithful. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

--Diana Hunt

Putting God First While Traveling

When I was growing up my family traveled from time to time. We were often on our way home on Sunday, so I was very blessed to grow up in a family that put God first. When we were traveling, Dad and Mom always made sure we stopped for worship.

My favorite story concerns what happened in North Mississippi, where we stopped one Sunday night. We presumed that worship started at 6:00 pm. However, we pulled into the parking lot around 5:55 p.m. and it was kind of weird; everyone was already inside and there was no action in the foyer.

We thought they may have started early. Nonetheless, we got out and headed into the church building. To our surprise, as we walked in the front door, we saw the auditorium doors opening and a lot of people making their way toward us; they were exiting as we were entering.

You see, services started at 5:00 p.m. Even though we missed worship that evening, it was still a significant lesson. While it was embarrassing as a kid to walk in as they were leaving; to that church family, it was encouraging.

Hebrews 10:25 reads, "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

It's important to take time for God and his church. So, when you are on the road next time,

make sure you stop to worship with and encourage your Christian family.

--Kevin Hunt

Children and Generosity

I started playing golf when I was a caddie, and I still play today. It's my favorite sport. I think golf is the best sport you can play—from a very young age until you are old, you can still enjoy this game. I have had three major surgeries, and God has blessed me in that I am still able to play this great and challenging game. I vacation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina every year. It's the golf capital of the U.S. My brother and his wife travel with us and he and I play golf.

A few years ago, we were playing. When we finished and were in the pro shop, a man came in and said four vehicles had been broken into, including our car. As I was filling out the police report, my sister-in-law was talking with my wife. She was saying he got our cell phones, purses, credit cards and money.

A young couple with a young boy was in the pro shop; and when this little guy heard my sister-in-law say that our money had been stolen, he wanted to give us his money. At the time I was busy with the police and was not aware of this. Only after this ordeal was over, my sister-in-law told me. Now this touched me deeply. This was a bad experience for me, but the thing I will remember the most will be the young boy that was going to give his money.

Jesus commented on the greatness of thinking like a child (Matthew 18:3). He also said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:32). Let us remember these principles.

--Joe Edd Inman

Two Important Decisions

I was baptized in May of 1943. It was on a Sunday and Wiley Mathis was preaching a gospel meeting at Calvert City. The church did not yet have a baptistery and we had to go to Benton. Albert Harrell, and Draffen Schmidt (whose wives were Christians) were baptized that day. Brother Mathis also farmed and sold seed. Years later, he saw me and my husband and told me how proud he had been of me through the years.

I graduated from high school in 1949 and not long afterward, I moved to Brookport, Illinois. I had worked in Walgreen's for a couple of months, but I decided I did not want to continue there, because of having to work on Sundays. I moved to Brookport and lived with my father's sister and her husband. She was disabled, so I did much of her housework and helped as much as I could.

In Brookport, I worked as a switchboard operator for the telephone company. My aunt and

uncle were not members of the church of Christ, so I knew I would need to find a way worship services of the church. As it turned out, I walked to and from the church building. Within a short time, I met a young man known as "Junior" and he wanted to take me out for lunch after church services. We dated for several months and were married in 1950. Junior was a farmer and later got a job in construction. We were married for fifty-nine and a half years. These two decisions (to follow Christ and marry a Christian) formed the foundation of what has been a very blessed life.

--Lorene Krueger

A Strong Christian Wife and Mother

Arlene Wyatt was born May 12, 1910, in 1931 she married Rex Lyles. They had three children, with me being the middle child, and born in 1936. My mother was a strong Christian woman, not to mention a strong woman, who helped raise a family during the Great Depression. Daily, she could be found reading the Bible and memorizing verses.

I can remember, back to when I was a teenager, us working the wringer washing machine and she would be reciting her memory verses. I followed and helped her around the house, and, whether washing, cleaning, or cooking (though she wasn't a great cook), she was constantly reciting verses from the Bible out loud. I learned so much from her at those times! Whether she knew it or not, she was teaching me as well.

My father was not a Christian at that time, although he did go to church with us on Sunday mornings. Sometime in the 1970's my parents were planning a long trip to California, and I guess she was concerned for their safety, and his eternal soul, and she finally convinced him to become a Christian. Before they left, he was baptized. After that they were both very active in the congregation until their deaths. My father passed away at the age of 92 in 1995. My mother was also 92 when she passed away in 2003.

I fully believe that she was a great example to my father and a great example of a Christian woman like the Bible describes: "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct" (1 Peter 3, 1-3).

--Janet Mathis

