

HUGS

Heartfelt, Uplifting, Guest Stories

DEVOTIONS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY
DECEMBER 12, 2019

Obedience

As a child growing up, I lived on a farm in Gilbertsville, KY. We had fruit trees and my Dad had five or six hives of bees to pollinate the fruit trees. I was one of ten children (number eight to be exact). Dad and Mom told us to stay away from the bees. One day I got a stick and started poking in the beehives. The bees came out and covered me from head to toe. My uncle was visiting, and he took his cap off and beat the bees. I only got three stings. Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

Another time I disobeyed was when my mother's sister moved her furniture into a house that was close by. My mother told us to stay away from the house. My sister and I knew she had a Victrola (record player) and a very large tricycle. So, we slipped over to the house. My sister played with the Victrola and I rode the big tricycle. Our mother needed us to help her do some chores. She called us and saw us coming from the house. When we disobeyed, mother wouldn't punish us at that moment. She let us ponder and think about it long enough we thought maybe she had forgotten. But no such luck. We finally got our punishment, a "whoopin" (with a little bit of hickory tea). (Colossians 3:20) "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

—Ruth Davis

Doing Good With Penicillin

When I first moved to Grand Rivers, in the early 1950s, there were no physicians in town. A friend of mine was sick with pneumonia so I went to check on her. Back then a doctor's visit was not you going to the doctor; it was the doctor coming to you. When I went to see about her, I realized that she needed a physician and I was only a nurse. I called in Dr. Smith to come see her. After he looked at her, he decided that she needed a shot of antibiotics. The doctor needed someone to help him, so I asked him if he needed my help and he gladly took it. I said I would do anything he wanted me to do and I gave her liquid penicillin. She became healthy again after having the penicillin.

After this visit, he trusted me with the penicillin and gave me more bottles of it to give to other sick people. When other people got sick, they either came to my house or I went to their homes and gave them penicillin to heal them. I still would call Dr. Smith and tell him their symptoms and he'd give me permission to give them the medication. We all have opportunities to serve those who are in need. God gave me the ability to help those who are sick, and I used it to heal the sick people who came to my door. "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men," - Galatians 6:10a.

—Hazel Demery

A Beautiful Thanatopsis

One of the most influential men in my life, at a time that I really needed direction, was our high school principal Robert Goheen. I think that he took special interest in me for two reasons, one because he was a Christian, and secondly, our birthday was the same day: September 24th. He was about 34 years old when I was born.

I vividly remember that he liked poetry and had committed the poem "Thanatopsis" to memory, written by William Cullen Bryant, sometime in the 17th. century. The words rolled off his tongue as easy as his breath. To this day, I can hear his baritone voice saying "so live that when thy summons comes to join that great innumerable caravan . . ."

He taught many principles that are still part of my being, putting much emphasis on the need to be self-disciplined, have endurance, and determination in any worthwhile endeavor. He taught all who would listen that one can accomplish almost anything he desires if our energy is properly focused.

Thanatopsis comes from Greek words, thanos, "death" and opsis "to view." Death is not a bad thing if we have the assurance of reaching heaven and living eternally in the presence of God, the Father and his son, Jesus. we can do this if we are properly taught and totally committed to living In Christ.

Many lessons in life become fixed in our memory when we see the logic behind them. Recently our minister made clear (for the first time for me) the purpose of the book of Revelation. The theme of that last book is "WE WIN!"

--Jim Dossett

Just One Yesterday

Psalms 127:3 says: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord." Realizing one day what precious little time there was to spend with our little boys before they'd be grown I began to write a song about them. I'd like to share the words with you.

*There was a little boy, then there were two.
Oh how their eyes would shine, when they'd say,
"Mommy, I love you."*

*Where has the time gone, where have the years
flown?*

*It seems like yesterday I heard them say,
"Mommy I made an 'A' today, I got a spanking
too.*

*"Will you play ball with me, leave the dishes for
someone else to do?"*

*"When you were young, Mom, did they have
school?"*

"Why doesn't everybody live by the golden rule?"

"Mom I'm a big boy now, I'm not supposed to cry,

*but will you tell me mom, why did old blackie have to
die?"*

*"He was my pal, Mom, and I miss him so today."
It seems like yesterday I wiped those tears away.*

*"Mom I'm a young man now, I've put my toys away;
tell dad I need a car, for next week's my 16th birthday,
and I know moms don't understand much about
boys."*

It seems like yesterday I picked up their little toys.

*"Mom, there's someone I'd like for you to meet.
We're getting married, Mom. You'll like her--She's
awfully sweet."*

*"Is that a tear, Mom? Aren't you happy for me?"
It seems like yesterday I had them here with me.*

*I watched them run and play and wiped their tears
away.*

And I dry mine today, for just one yesterday.

--Joyce Dossett

Net Full of Fish

John 21:1-14

One night, Peter and some disciples were out fishing on a boat, and they didn't catch any fish. Then in the morning, Jesus appeared on the land, but Peter didn't know who it was. Jesus asked them if they caught any fish, and they said no. So he said to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did, they got so many fish. The net was so full that it should have broken, but they made it in without breaking. Then they knew it was Jesus, and he was the one who made them catch all the fish. Peter was so excited it was Jesus. He jumped in and swam to him on the land, and they ate breakfast.

This story teaches me that Jesus is powerful. If it's in the Bible, it's definitely important. God takes care of us and gives us what we need, not all the stuff we hope we get-what we really need. Some stuff we want really doesn't matter. Peter and the disciples trusted Jesus and they got what they needed. It didn't make sense why they should put the net on the other side, but they did it and it worked so we should do what Jesus says even when we don't understand it. He is the smartest and knows what we should do. We need to be excited about Jesus like Peter. I need to run and tell my friends when Jesus helps me and tell as many people as I can about Jesus and heaven so they can get a castle there too.

--Addison Dougherty

