FOREWORD

It’s almost a year now since my wife Erma changed her earthly address to a heavenly one. The last few years we talked more to each other than before—we were both a bit hard of hearing, and so had to repeat everything two or three times.

We have four children, and they are all girls but three. My daughter Heather has now taken Erma’s place and tells me what to do!!! I’m grateful for that. Heather says that since I have so many jokes they shouldn’t be taken to the grave with me...I should do something about that.

In this book I’m trying to put my jokes to use, so I’m using humour and short stories with a segue (or, as the say in German, a “donkey’s bridge”) trying to combine it with something to think about. They may be little things. Someone has said that the little things aren’t important...and that is a sure sign that he has never been in bed with a mosquito!!

In 1970, when I was in Kabul, Afghanistan, I was asked to visit the wife of an American soldier. The husband was in the hospital with a broken leg. Two of us went to see the lady. She told me that she had tried three times to kill herself and her children, but was always interrupted. Amongst other things I said, I kept repeating, “Give God a chance.” Six years later somebody who had seen her said that her life had been changed.

Every action of your life will touch some chord that will vibrate through eternity. Maybe some comment in this book will help in some way to make your life more what God has planned for you.

I want to thank my daughter Heather, son Paul, and daughter-in-law Chanda for correcting my mistakes and typing it for me.

If anyone is blessed or helped through this book give all the glory to God.

100 Plus Vignettes of Wit and Wisdom
A cowboy wanted to buy insurance. When the agent asked him whether he had ever had an accident, he replied, “No.”

“Did you ever have anything unpleasant done to you?” was the next question.
“Yes,” he answered. “A horse kicked me, breaking several ribs, and a rattlesnake bit me.”
“Wasn’t that an accident?” asked the agent.
“No,” said the cowboy, “they did that on purpose.”

Matthew 10:28-31, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid: you are worth more than many sparrows.”

In Amos 3:6b and also in Exodus 21:13 we read that God lets tragedy happen. It seemed like such a tragedy when the kingdom was divided after Solomon's glorious reign, but it happened. In I Kings 12:15 we read that God allowed it. Tragic things happen because God's plans are different than ours.

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*Our experienced Mom will take care of your child. Fenced yard, meals, and smacks included.*

*Auto Repair Service*
*Free pick-up and delivery*
*Try us once, you’ll never go anywhere again.*
A very rich man told his servant Hans that he was going away for several months and he should build him a house. He gave Hans a sum of money and told him that if any was left, he could keep it.

Hans decided to use the cheapest material available so he would have more money in the end. When his master returned, Hans handed him the key to his finished house. The master replied, “Keep the key--that is your house.”

You can imagine what he thought when the house began to deteriorate, “If I had known, I would have used better material!”

Jesus told us to be careful how we build, for the building will be ours. (Matthew 7:24-27)

I Corinthians 3:10-11, “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (See also verses 12-15)

God wants to reward us—that’s why He wants us to work for Him.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

(II Corinthians 5:10 NIV)

I cannot work my soul to save For Christ that work has done; But I would work like any slave Out of love for God's dear Son.

100 Plus Vignettes of Wit and Wisdom
A teacher of ornithology gave the students an exam. He covered pictures of birds, leaving just the legs sticking out. Then he asked the students to identify the birds from their legs.

One student got very irritated, threw his test on the teacher's desk and was leaving the classroom when the teacher stopped him and asked, “What is your name?”

The student lifted his pant leg and said, “You guess!”

God knows everything -- there is nothing hidden to Him. However, He says if we will uncover (confess) our sins, He will cover them. But if we do not, then He will uncover them.

Luke 12:2 “There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.” See also Revelation 20:11-15.

Before He created the world we read in Ephesians 1:4 that He chose us to be there for His glory. God can never be taken by surprise. He knows what we are going to say before we say it. Before we were born He knew what miserable failures we would be and He loved us. He still loves us with unlimited love.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:4-6 NIV)
A man was standing on a street corner in Chicago, snapping his fingers. A passerby asked him what he was doing, but he didn’t get an answer. He asked again, and still no answer. Angered, he then said, “If you don’t answer, I’ll hit you in the face.”

“Well,” said the man, “I’m keeping the elephants away.”

“Elephants!” scoffed the passerby, "There are no elephants within 3000 miles of here.”

“That shows how successful I am!” was the answer.

Winston Churchill said:

“Success is enduring one failure after the other without losing your enthusiasm.”

The apostle Paul said it this way in II Corinthians 4:8-10, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”

I don't suppose that Andrew ever dreamed what far-reaching results leading his brother Peter to Jesus would have!

A family of five drove up to the Bible School in Germany. I asked them about their conversion. They said they had been at mass in a Roman Catholic Church, and when they came out they found a tract on their windshield. The father read it and told his family that that was what they needed. The name of the one who put it there was on the tract, so they went to his house and got converted.
A man had a parrot and it was always saying, “Let’s kiss, let’s kiss.”
The preacher had a parrot and it always said, “Let’s pray, let’s pray.”
One day the man asked the preacher if they could put their parrots together so his would learn something more sensible. The preacher was quite willing, so the parrot moved in and immediately started saying, “Let’s kiss, let’s kiss.”
The preacher’s parrot responded, “Wonderful, finally an answer to prayer!”

In Matthew 7:7 Jesus said, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

There are some things that we can tell God and simply leave them there. I think that's what Habakkuk did. In the first chapter he told God all his complaints and in the second chapter he says, "Now I'll stand on my watch and wait and see what God will do." In other words, "God, it's Your turn now."

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
(Luke 18:1 NIV)
# 6

Overheard on a telephone, “That stupid idiot doesn’t think I’m his equal, but I am!”

My brother is so stingy he doesn’t want his left hand to know that his right hand isn’t doing anything.

The Bible teaches that if you want to get rich, you must be willing to give.

Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Malachi 3:10, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven, and pour out so much blessing, that you will not have room enough for it.”

So the moral of the lesson is:
Do your givin' while you're livin' and then you'll be knowin' where it's goin'. Apparently God will not reward anything that's left in your will because II Corinthians 9:7 says that God loves a cheerful giver and that excludes a corpse for they are not cheerful! Jesus even took note of the widow with her two mites. See Mark 12:42.

Little is much when God is in it.
A very fat man said to a very lean man, “You look as though you’ve gone through a famine.” “Well,” said the lean one, “you look as though you are the cause of it.”

The Bible says you are to learn from the birds. They don’t worry about food.

Luke 12:22-24, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!’”

Although Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," He also said that man does not live from bread alone, but from every word that comes from the mouth of God. We are challenged to be sure we have the right priority. When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, God gave them manna but always only enough for a day. If they gathered more it spoiled. Exodus 16:14-34. He gave them meat for one month (Numbers 11:19-20) until it nauseated them.
Two men were arguing and finally one hit the other on the cheek and said,
“The Bible says if you get slapped on the left cheek, you are to turn the right cheek also.”

He did, and then jumped on his opponent and started beating him up while quoting at the same time,
“Give and it shall be given to you.”

Two men were watching and the one said to the other,
“What are they doing?”
He answered, “They’re interpreting Scripture to one another.”

II Peter 1:19-21, "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

II Timothy 2:15, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

Maybe the above story is a bit radical but God does want us to take the Bible literally. Some have told me it's all about interpretation. I usually answer with John 3:16. If God offers us a gift we should be willing to accept it. That verse does not need to be interpreted. Some say Scripture is hard to understand. I usually say it's not what I don't understand that bothers me; it is what I do understand that keeps me on my toes.
Humor is like the shock absorbers on a car -- it helps you not feel the bumps so hard.

Life is like riding a bicycle -- you don’t fall over until you quit pedaling.

It’s always too soon to quit and never too late to start over again.

Never give up.

I Corinthians 9:24-27, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

I was in Africa talking to a man about the importance of getting right with God. He realized I was from Germany and said to me, "Don't you know that Christianity is a lost cause?" I told him it may look like that but the race is not over yet. He was much younger than I, so I said to him, "Suppose we were to race and I said to you, 'You start at the beginning and I'll start at the halfway mark or even the 3/4 mark.' If you were to win, great would be your victory."

"God says to the devil, 'I'll give you all the advantages but I'll beat you in the end.' It looks like defeat now, but the end is not yet."
An evangelist asked a boy on the street where the post office was. The boy asked who he was and what he did. The evangelist said, “I tell people the way to Heaven." The boy said, “You don’t even know the way to the post office and you’re telling people the way to Heaven?” In Proverbs 1:2-7 we read:

2 for attaining wisdom and discipline;
   for understanding words of insight;
3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,
   doing what is right and just and fair;
4 for giving prudence to the simple,
   knowledge and discretion to the young-
5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
   and let the discerning get guidance-
6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
   the sayings and riddles of the wise.
7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
   but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Matthew 7:13-14, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.”

In Luke 13:23 someone asked Jesus if only a few people will be saved. Jesus answered, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door." He also said, "Except you become like children," and to the thief on the cross after his short prayer, "Today you'll be with Me in Paradise."

Is it really that hard to be saved? I believe Jesus is telling us it is not so hard to go through the door, but it is difficult to get to the place where we are willing. For me it meant leaving my friends and changing many of my habits. After that it was easy because Jesus said in John 6:37 all He wants us to do is to come.
A tavern was being built in an American town and the church people didn’t like it, so they prayed that God would somehow intervene. It was just finished when lightning struck and burned it down. The tavern keeper sued the church because he knew the church had prayed against it, even though the church didn’t accept responsibility for the incident. When they appeared before the judge, the judge said, “Isn’t it interesting the tavern keeper believes in prayer but the church doesn’t!”

We have a similar story in Acts 12:12-15. The church prayed, Peter got out of prison and went to the place where the Christians were praying but they didn’t believe that it was Peter!

In Genesis 18 we have Abraham praying for Sodom and Gomorrah. How can we explain his courage to talk to God the way he did? I believe we have the answer in the first part of chapter 18.

First of all, when the three men appeared, Abraham made haste to make them feel welcome. After he had prepared the meal he stood near them and watched them eat.

Secondly, in v. 16, he walked with them and got so well acquainted that the Lord revealed to him what they intended to do.

Thirdly, in v. 22 we read that Abraham remained standing with the Lord and then he had the courage to start bartering.

Perhaps our prayer life is hindered because we haven't gotten well enough acquainted with the Lord. Through reading how He dealt with people in the Bible we'll get better acquainted with Him.
A child came home from church so happy she prayed, “Jesus, that was such a good service! Sorry You weren’t there!”

A man said to God, “From Your point of view, how long are 1,000,000 years?” God answered, “Like a second.” Then the man asked, “How much is $1,000,000 from Your point of view?” God replied, “Like a penny.” Eagerly, the man requested, “Would You give me a penny?” “Yes, in a second,” was the reply.

Jesus warned about eternity being real in Mark 9:42-44, “And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.” (See also verses 45-48)

One of the things we learn from the Old Testament is that God deals with sin and the sinner. When the children of Israel went into Canaan they were commanded to destroy all—women, children, and livestock. Therefore, it is no wonder that we read in Revelation 6:15-16 that they were praying to the rocks to fall on them and hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. Hebrews 10:31 says it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
A boy with long hair wanted his Dad's car. The dad didn't like his long hair and said, "No."
The boy knew why he said no, and said, "Dad, Jesus had long hair."
"Yes," said dad, "but He walked everywhere He went."

A boy wanted to get married and quoted Solomon in Proverbs 18:22, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing."
The boy said, "I'd rather listen to Solomon. He had 700 wives and he still recommended it. Paul didn't have any."

Malachi 2:14-15, "You ask, 'Why?' It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth."

If you want your marriage to sizzle with love in a loving cup,
When you're wrong, admit it and when you're right, shut up.

A young couple won a considerable sum of money in the lottery. She said to him, "Now we have plenty of money. I'm taking you somewhere where you've never been before; money is no problem." So she took him by the hand and led him into the kitchen!

Since my wife went to Heaven last September, I can empathize with this man. The kitchen was my wife's domain and now I'm trying to find my way around in that strange room. Now I know why God said to Adam (not to Eve), "It is not good for a man to be alone."
A man said to his wife one day, “I don’t understand how God could make a woman so beautiful and so stupid.”

She said, “I know; He made me beautiful so you would marry me and me stupid so I would marry you!”

God says that neither beauty nor strength are on His priority list.

Proverbs 31:30
“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”

Psalm 147:10-11, “His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man. The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”

Someone has said it was not the apple in the tree but the pair on the ground that caused all the trouble. I was married 59 years and thank God for that wonderful idea of having husband and wife living together under one roof. Now just to think that God calls the church His bride and one day she will stand before Him without stain or wrinkle. Ephesians 5:27-28.

If He removes from me all the stains and wrinkles you won't know me. I will have to introduce myself. What a wonderful Bridegroom!

Lord, haste the day.
A woman with a new Mercedes was looking for a place to park at the supermarket. She noticed that a place would be free and was waiting to drive in when a young man with his Porsche raced in ahead of her. Stepping out of his car, he said, “It’s sure good to be young and fast.” She didn’t like that, so she accelerated and smashed into his Porsche! Opening the window, she smiled and said, “It’s sure good to be old and rich.”

It’s nice to do what Jesus said in Luke 12:32-34, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Maybe sometimes we have to invest in spiritual things and thus lay up treasure in heaven. Apparently that's what happened to Cornelius in Acts 10:2. He laid up his treasures in heaven and that opened his heart for the Gospel.

I heard a statement today that I like: Don't work for the money, make the money work for you.

God is rich in mercy and He loves to reward His children. He doesn't need our money or our service, but He wants it so that He can reward us.

Augustine said on one occasion, "Jesus says in John 15 'without Me you can do nothing;' and," he added, "God says 'without you I will do nothing'."
Something good about an egoist –
he never speaks about others.

Don’t expect to be a lighthouse in a foreign country if you’re not willing to be a candle at home.

Every action of your life will touch some chord that will vibrate through eternity.

II Corinthians 5:15, “And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them, and was raised again.”

Romans 7:18, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” See also II Corinthians 13:5-7.

In II Timothy 2:20 Paul tells us that in a house there are articles of gold, silver, clay, and wood. Each is used for a different purpose. So it is with us: nobody can do the work God has assigned us as well as we can. Perhaps others can see better than we can what we're really good at. In I Corinthians 12 Paul uses the body to show that each part has a particular function. Let's find out what we're good at and do it with all our might.
Peter Marshall tells a story about an Austrian town where a spring on a hill supplied the town with water. A man is employed to keep the spring clean.

One day the town council decided that they were paying a man for services that weren’t really needed. So they fired him. Soon the spring became clogged with debris and ceased to run freely.

The town council realized their mistake and rehired the man. He quickly had the spring functioning properly again.

One man can have a tremendous influence on a lot of people.

You & I are important. God is still looking for people who are willing to sell out to Him.

Ezekiel 22:30, “I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.” See also Jeremiah 5:1.

On that day when God hands out the rewards I'm sure that many that were not recognized here will receive greater rewards than some of us that are well known here. However, I know that God is fair and we'll not be envious or jealous. We'll all be thankful. It's interesting that we read in I Corinthians 4:5b that God will find something in each one of us to praise—if only the fact that we were willing to believe.
A Siamese twin with her head attached to her sister was asked after 43 years, “Do you ever ask God why?” She answered, “No, my God doesn’t make a mistake.”

**God makes all things work together for good.**

Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

In Genesis 45:7-8 Joseph says to his brothers who sold him into slavery, “But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”

I like the picture of God weaving a rug of our life. We see the underside of knots but God looks at it from the top. All the beautiful colors woven together make a wonderful picture. Someday we'll see it.

In Matthew 25:14-15 Jesus tells a parable of how God distributes His talents to each one according to his ability. God will not reward our success but our faithfulness. Years ago Bill Gothard had a little pin with the letters GINFWMY -- God is not finished with me yet. When my dwelling is completed (John 14:1-3) and my work here is done, I'll move. **Praise the Lord!**
The tall preacher was very dry. (I mean dull!) He waved his arms while preaching and drank a lot of water. At the end of his sermon, one man said to the other, “That is the first time that I’ve seen a windmill driven by water.”

One preacher boy said his father could take a passage from the Bible and preach many sermons from that passage. The other preacher boy said, “My Dad can take any passage and preach the same sermon.”

Jeremiah says there is a difference between straw and wheat. In Jeremiah 23:28-29 we read, “‘Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?’ declares the LORD.
‘Is not my word like fire?’ declares the LORD, ‘And like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’”

After Peter had failed his Lord so tragically and they were together once more, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" John 21:15-17. Three times Jesus asked, and then He told Peter to feed His lambs and sheep.

The question arises: "What shall he use as feed?" The answer is in the words of Jesus, "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word from the mouth of God." So Peter was to feed the sheep the Word. That job has been handed down to us. Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing. That makes our job very clear!
An Indian chief told his people (who were not inclined to work very hard), “It’s going to be a hard winter. Get a good supply of wood ready.”

After a while he thought he should ask a meteorologist what kind of winter he expected. He was told, “It’s going to be a hard winter because the Indians are gathering so much wood.”

I’ve often said that if I thought that a certain denomination would get me to heaven, but I didn’t know which one, I’d join them all! But Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the Way.” Not a way, but the Way.

Jesus told a very religions man in John 3:3 that he had to be born again. “I tell you the truth; no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

In reading Judges 3 this morning, I was struck with v.2. God allowed some of the godless nations to live among the Israelites so that they would learn to fight. It is comparatively easy to live the Christian life as long as we are in that 'holy huddle', but we learn to fight when we get into the world. I considered moving into a condo in Abbotsford where approximately 80% are Christians, but then I thought: if I'm to be a light I'd better move into a place where it is dark. God doesn't want all the light in one room.

And He didn't leave us without weapons; He gave us the armor of God in Ephesians 6. We may not always be welcome but neither was Jesus. Even His own brothers didn't understand Him. Mark 3:21.
Someone said, “If I had the faith of a mountain maybe I could move a mustard seed,” misquoting Matthew 17:20. However, without faith it is impossible to please God. See also Hebrews 11:6.

**Martin Luther said on one occasion, “You are saved by faith alone, but faith that stays alone is not saving faith.”**

James 2:14-17, “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

When Jesus was about to feed the 5,000 in John 6, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread?" I believe He wanted Philip to think with Him.

A man had a garden full of weeds. A neighbor came by one day and said, "That looks bad with all those weeds." So the owner of the garden pulled up the weeds, worked up the soil and planted flowers. Some time later the same man came by and said, "My, God has given you a beautiful garden of flowers."

"When God had it alone it grew nothing but weeds,” the owner retorted, “I planted the flowers."

God said to Adam in Genesis 1:26, "Let them have dominion." So man is responsible.
When we are in the furnace, God has His eye on the temperature and His hand on the thermostat.

I Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

God allowed Job to go through severe testing, but He kept Him. Take your Bible and read Job 1:6-22; then turn to Job 42 and read verses 10-15. God did not tell Job why all this was happening to him. He did tell Paul all the suffering is not to be compared with the glory he will enjoy later. Romans 8:16, “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.”

Jesus did warn us that if we follow Him we will suffer persecution (Matthew 5:11-12), and we are to rejoice because our reward in heaven will be great.

Recently I entertained 5 unsaved ladies from our condo, and when I gave my brief testimony it became very clear who appreciated it and who didn't. You cannot mix light and darkness. In I John 3:10 we are told there are two families.

Paul says we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. II Corinthians 6:14 says light and darkness cannot have fellowship. By God's grace let's do all we can to dispel the darkness.

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

(I John 3:10 NIV)
A little girl asked her mother, “Why does the bride wear white on her wedding?”
Mother answered, “Because it’s the happiest day of her life.”
“And why does the bridegroom wear black?” she then asked.

*A devoted husband will support his wife when she has problems that she would not have had if she hadn’t married him.*

The Bible says that a happy marriage is not 50%-50%, but 100% on both sides.

“*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*”
*(Ephesians 5:21 NIV)*

What Paul tells the church in Galatians 6:1-5 also applies to the marriage relationship. Since God is the author of family life it is a good idea to let Him control it. We are all egoists by nature so it's good to get God involved and thus keep the marriage running smoothly. Till last September I was married 59 years and must confess I was constantly learning. The last years were the best years. To be really happy in your marriage relationship you must try to make your spouse happy. It will backfire and you will be happier. God had a wonderful idea when He created man and woman!

Jesus tells us that there is a marriage supper coming and we need to be ready. In a parable in Matthew 22:2 He compares marriage with the kingdom. A man was found who did not have wedding clothes on and they threw him out, verse 13. The right dress is Jesus' blood and righteousness.
A teenager in Newfoundland, Canada, wrote his mother and told her that in the last year he’d grown another foot. So his mother sent him 3 socks for Christmas.

An older couple was walking through the park and they saw a young couple kissing. The wife asked, “Why don’t you do that?” He answered, “Because I don’t know that girl!”

Our conversation must be clear.

II Corinthians 1:17-18, “When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, ‘Yes, yes’ and ‘No, no’? But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not ‘Yes’ and ‘No.’” See also II Peter 2:1.

In I Timothy 4:1 the Spirit clearly says that there will be deceiving spirits and that many will abandon their faith. We are also told that if we lack wisdom in understanding the Scriptures we are to ask for it. James 1:5. I believe that if we act on what we do understand, God will give us additional wisdom to continue following His ways.

Let's be sure that we have the right foundation and not try to build on the sand. Matthew 7:26. The best foundation is the one we read about in I Corinthians 3:11. If we put our faith in Jesus then our building will withstand all the storms. When we really seek Him, He will answer like He did in Isaiah 58:9. We must turn from our own ways and seek to follow His. Then He will say, "Here am I."
A woman in Chicago had a maid working for her. One day when the phone rang, the maid answered. The woman listening in, heard: “Yes sir.” Silence, then, “Yes sir.” Again silence, then, “It sure is,” and she hung up.

A little while later the phone rang again, and the maid answered, again in the same way. So the lady of the house asked what those answers meant. The maid explained:

“A man asked, ‘Is this the Jones’ residence?’ and I said, ‘Yes, sir.’ He then asked, ‘Is Mrs. Jones in?’ and I said, ‘Yes, sir.’ Then he said, ‘Long distance from New York,’ and I said, ‘It sure is.’”

Heaven is a long way off, but when we get there, we will join a large congregation and sing. See Revelation 5:9-14, “And they sang a new song, ‘You are worthy...’”

A little girl was sitting and reciting the alphabet. When asked what she was doing, she said she was praying. Since she didn't really know what to say, she was reciting the alphabet and asking God to take out the letters and form the words of her prayer because He knew better what she needed than she did herself. In Romans 8:26 Paul says the Spirit helps in our weaknesses and intercedes for us. Therefore, we can simply trust God to put into words what we are unable to.
Three men were traveling in the desert when their car broke down. They would have to walk. Each decided to take some part of the car with them. The first said, “I’ll take the radiator. Then we’ll have something to drink.” The second said, “I’ll take a hub cap to use for cooking any prey we catch.” The third said, “I’ll take the door so that when we get too hot, we can roll down the window!”

I believe Jesus had a sense of humour.

Matthew 7:3-5, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” See also Luke 14:16-20.
Luke 14:16-20

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

Some of the stories in the Bible are really humorous. In I Kings 18 we read of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The Israelites were worshipping Baal, so Elijah said, "Let's have a contest to see who is God. We'll each build an altar, but put no fire on the sacrifice. We'll ask God and Baal for fire and see which one will answer." Elijah told the prophets of Baal to go first. So they built their altar and started praying to Baal. Read their prayers in verses 26-29.

I like the way Elijah taunted them. He said, "Pray louder." They shouted and cut themselves, but there was no answer. When it was Elijah's turn, he rebuilt God's altar, prepared the sacrifice, and then saturated everything with water. His prayer was short (v. 36, 37), but fire came down and burned the sacrifice, the water, and the stones.
Russian humor: one day Gorbachev phoned Shevardnadze and said, “I have a bad headache this morning. Did we drink last night?”
Shevardnadze said, “We sure did!”
“Did we sign any important papers?” asked Gorbachev.
Shevardnadze answered, “Yes, we signed that everyone was free to leave Russia.”
“Are we the only two left here?” continued Gorbachev.
“I don’t know,” said Shevardnadze. “I’m speaking from London!”

God wants us to have a happy heart.

Proverbs 15:13-15, “A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.” See Ephesians 5:18-20.

When the Medo-Persian army took Babylon they found a remarkable way to get into the city. In Daniel 5 we have a very haughty Belshazzar. Apparently he felt he was secure. He had plenty of food stored up and no water shortage. The river ran right through the city, the walls were high and wide enough for 2 chariots to pass one another, so he and his cohorts drank and partied. But the enemy rerouted the river, coming in under the wall to conquer the Chaldeans. Daniel foretold the fall of Babylon to Belshazzar.

In Daniel chapter 2 we read of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He had a vision of a great statue which symbolized the history of future empires. God gave Daniel the wisdom to interpret the dream. It has been fulfilled up to this day.
Fritz Kreisler was a well-known violinist. One day he saw a violin that he wanted. When he went to buy it, he was told that it was not for sale.

So he asked if he could play it. The collector gave permission. Fritz took the violin and tuned it. Then he tightened the bow and began to play. When the collector heard the music, he said, “That violin sounds too good to just be hanging on the wall. You take it and play for other people.”

The news of having all our sins forgiven and knowing we’ll enter heaven is too good to keep for ourselves.

John 14:1-3, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” See also II Corinthians 5:21.

In an article an atheist wrote, he stated, "If I believed what the Christians say they believe I would not rest for a moment. I would proclaim it loud and clear. For it if is true that a choice we make here can influence all of eternity and determine either a place of torment or a place of eternal bliss for us, I would consider all other things of little value."
...cont

If an atheist feels like that shouldn't we take a lesson and tell people wherever they are and whenever we meet them to prepare for the future?

When I was 17 years old, sitting in a church one day, I don't remember what the preacher said, but the thought came to me that I should talk to someone about Jesus. When I went outside, I saw a friend of mine, so I went to tell him about Jesus. I was very scared and nervous and so was he. But he received Jesus and later went to a Bible Institute.

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

*(II Corinthians 5:21 NIV)*
Years ago it was customary to have a lamplighter light the lamps on the street corners. On one occasion, a little girl with her nose pressed against the window watching the lamplighter, said to her mother, “That man is poking holes in the darkness.”

*Light is stronger than darkness.*

Jesus said we are to be a light in this dark world.

Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Sometime ago I read that in one of Billy Graham's meetings each person was handed a match. At a given moment all the lights were turned off, and everybody was asked to light their matches. For just a little while the stadium was lit up with 25,000 matches. In Psalm 119:105 the Bible says that it's the Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

Recently we had a power outage and we had to use candles. It made us very happy to have the power come on again. We may not always be aware of it but our lives do make a difference. We used to sing, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." I've found that even praying out loud for a meal in a restaurant can make people uneasy—or happy!

Let's not become weary of well doing for in due season we will reap. Ecclesiastes 11:6.
George Burns, the comedian, was asked what he thought a sermon should be like. He said, “It should have an interesting introduction and an interesting conclusion, and those two should not be too far apart.”

One preacher said,
“Last Sunday my sermon had 26 points. Because of the complaints, this Sunday my sermon is pointless.”

A speaker should stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and sit down to be appreciated. Paul says in I Corinthians 1:18-19 that the Gospel is powerful and in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing, so let's not be hesitant to preach the Gospel by word and by our lifestyle.

We need to keep in mind what we read in Proverbs 10:19 because it is so easy to say words that we regret later and we can't get them back. In Matthew 12:37 we read, "by your words you shall be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned." In Romans 10:9-10 we are told that with the heart man believes and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I've been enjoying reading Ecclesiastes. Solomon says our words should be few (chapter 5:2). Do not be quick with your mouth.

One preacher said a sermon need not be long to have eternal results. We are actually here for a very short time when we try to compare it with eternity. Let's remember Ecclesiastes 12:1.

*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them."*  
Ecclesiastes 12:1. NIV

100 Plus Vignettes of Wit and Wisdom 34
A lumberjack was looking for work. When applying for a job, he was asked, "Where did you cut wood in your last job?"
He responded, "In the desert."
"There are no trees there!" they exclaimed.
"No," he said, "Not now."

John 8:7 says, "Let him who has no sin cast the first stone."
When Job was sitting on the ash pile with all his sores, his companions accused him of trying to hide from God by not confessing his sins. Job 5:17-24. Eliphaz says how happy a man will be if he lets God search him, and finds he is forgiven. Psalm 103:1-3.

Someone has said that if Jesus had not prayed for those that crucified Him, God would have destroyed the whole world.

Remember God's love is unlimited and poured out on all. Jesus loved the thieves on the cross, both the one on the left as well as the one on the right. He loves the prostitutes, the drunkards, the homosexuals, and the righteous—and me, too!

**Wanted:** Hair-cutter.
Excellent growth potential.

**Wanted:** Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.

**Wanted:** 3-year old teacher for pre-school. Experience preferred.
A man looking for employment was asked why he left his last job. He answered, "Because of sickness."
When asked what kind of sickness, he said, "I don't really know, but they said they were sick of me."

Isaiah tells us how sick Israel is in his first chapter, vs. 5 & 6.

*Isaiah 1:5-6 NIV*

Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted.

From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.

A very fine girl told me she had never sinned. I asked, "Did you ever steal?" After a few minutes of thought she confessed she had. I told her, "So you are a thief. Did you ever tell a lie?" and again she admitted, "Yes." So I said, "You're a liar."

Yes, we are all sinners. Mark 7:20-23. We are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners. Jesus died for all our sins but we can only enjoy that forgiveness if we recognize how broken we are and receive that forgiveness into our hearts. Jesus came for sinners and not the righteous.
A Jew and a Chinese were standing together when unexpectedly, the Jew up and hit the Chinese. So the Chinese asked, "What was that for?"
The Jew answered, "Because of Pearl Harbor."
"That wasn’t the Chinese, that was the Japanese," he said.
"Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipinos all the same," was the response.
After awhile the Chinese up and hit the Jew. The Jew asked, "What was that for?"
The Chinese answered, "The Titanic."
"What have we Jews to do with the Titanic?"
"Oh," said the Chinese, "Rosenberg, Weinberg, Goldberg, Steinberg, Iceberg all the same."

God places us all in the same category. Romans 3:23; John 6:63; Romans 7:18.

In spite of that God loves us and makes us a tremendous offer in II Corinthians 5:21. He wants to take our sin and give us His righteousness. That is a terrific offer.

When we consider the creation and all that God has done how could we ever think that perhaps if we go to church often enough we would merit His favor? It is by grace (God's riches at Christ's expense) that we are saved.

**G.R.A.C.E.**

God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense
A man went into a Chinese restaurant and said, "There are American Jews, German Jews and Russian Jews. Are there any Chinese Jews?"
The Chinese said, "Just a minute. I'll go and see."
He came back and said, "We have grape juice, orange juice, apple juice, but no Chinese juice."

When I was in Delhi, India, I saw a young man dressed in a uniform greeting the passengers as they got off the plane. I always carried my Bible (not in a case), so when I approached him, he asked about it. After I gave him a brief testimony, I asked what his job was. He said he had the responsibility of telling people of the sights to be seen in that area, including the Taj Mahal.

When I asked about seeing it, he said, "Let's have coffee and you tell me more about the Bible. That is more interesting than seeing the sights." So I had the wonderful privilege of introducing him to the One about whom the Bible speaks. I believe that is what Solomon refers to when he says in Ecclesiastes 3:11 that God has placed eternity in the hearts of man.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)*
Walking through the woods one day when the leaves were beginning to fall, I noticed some of them were beautiful colors. It seemed to me as though God was trying to tell me, “Ernie, it would be good if you would show some color before you die.”

A mother and her son were walking in the falling autumn leaves. Some of them were beautiful colors. She said to her boy, "God painted all these leaves."
"And just think of it, He did that all with His left hand," her son answered,
"Why do you say that?" The mother was curious.
"I learned in Sunday School that Jesus is sitting on His right hand." Colossians 3:1-6.

Psalm 19 encourages us to observe God's creation

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.

3 There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.

4 Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is hidden from its heat.

(Psalm 19:1-6 NIV)
An older man asked an older woman to marry him and she said, "Yes." The next day he had forgotten what she said, so he phoned to ask whether she had said "yes" or "no". She answered, "I said 'yes', but I don't remember the question."

Isn't it strange that we often forget the good things that have happened but continue to remember the bad things? Jesus put it this way, "You can see the mote in your neighbor's eye but are not aware of the beam in your own eye." Matthew 7:1-6.

If a very beautiful, well-dressed woman was to come into the room and had a black spot on her forehead, I'm sure that we would be inclined to remark about that, ignoring the rest of her appearance.

God will find something good in each one of us. “Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.” I Corinthians 4:5.

In Genesis 19 we do not find anything very commendable about Lot, but Peter calls him righteous. II Peter 2:7.

Isn't God wonderful to see something in us that maybe those around us do not notice?

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler.
# 37

Rich people aren't necessarily happy but happy people are rich.

A very small shack on the coast of Geneva, Switzerland, amongst many beautiful villas had the inscription on it Matis Guric meaning ‘good enough for someone who’s going to die.’

A multimillionaire was asked how much he would need to make him happy. He said, "Another million."

Jesus says in Luke 12:27-31 that we are to learn from nature and be content. God takes care of the lilies and the birds so He certainly can take care of us.

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Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. (Luke 12:27-31 NIV)
Shortly after my wife and I were married, she told me she had a little box under the bed I was never to look into. I promised and since I'm a preacher, I was obedient for many years. But I was very curious. One day when she was gone the temptation to look into the box won.

When she returned, I confessed that I had looked into the box. "Well," she said, "What did you see?"

"I saw 3 eggs and $2000. What does that mean?"

She explained, "When we got married and I knew that you would be preaching, I decided for every bad sermon I would put an egg in the box."

"Wow!" I exalted, "Only 3 eggs! What about the $2000?"

"That," she said, "Is the money for all the eggs I sold."

Paul tells us in II Timothy 4:2-5 we are to preach the Word.

> Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (II Timothy 4:2-5 NIV)

The Holy Spirit uses the Word to bring conviction and to lead us to the One that is willing to forgive. Read Isaiah 40:9-11. God loves us and will give great blessings to those who trust Him. He wants us to enjoy life. In John 10:10 we are promised that we will have life abundantly if we follow His instructions.
A young man went to a liberal college; i.e. a college where they do not believe that all the Bible is reliable and the absolute truth. His dad was an evangelical Christian. When the son came home during school break, he asked his dad, "Is Jonah still in your Bible?"

The dad said emphatically, "It sure is."

The son came home the next year and asked the same question, "Is Jonah still in your Bible?" and again the dad said, "Yes."

The son came back the third year and again asked the same question. He got the same answer. Then he said to his dad, "Show me Jonah in your Bible."

The dad got his Bible and starting looking. He became increasingly frustrated because he couldn't find Jonah. Finally the son laughed and said, "Dad, I cut that out three years ago. Is this the first time you noticed it?"

Paul says in II Timothy 3:14-17 that all Scripture is inspired and absolutely reliable.

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**But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** (II Timothy 3:14-17 NIV)
Mary's boyfriend had left for a few weeks and he wrote her a letter of how much he loved her. He wrote, "I love you very much. I would climb the highest mountain, cross the deepest river, go through the hottest fire, and walk through the most barren desert just to see you again." And then he added a P.S. saying, "I'll come see you on Saturday if it doesn't rain."

John says in I John 3:19-24 that we are known because we love each other. Love is more than a feeling—it is an act of the will. God revealed His love by sending his Son to die for us.

The only kind of service that God wants of us is a service that we do because we love Him.

A 4 year old boy was asked how he knew that his mother loved him and he said it was by the way she said his name when she called him.

A 6 year old boy said that love is when an old man and an old woman, after having been married for a long time, still like each other.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (I Corinthians 13: 4-7 NIV)
A woman lost her broach in a theatre. She phoned the caretaker and asked him to look for it. He did and found it. But when he went to the phone to tell her, she had already hung up. Since he didn't have her phone number or her name, he could not pass the news on to her.

When we talk to God in prayer we must not hang up too quickly! It might take a while, which is why Jesus says in Matthew 7:7-11, "keep on asking, keep on seeking and keep on knocking."

God's mill grinds exceedingly slow but very fine. And so Habakkuk says in 2:2-4, "wait."

We live in an age where we want everything right now. So we have instant rice, instant coffee, quick service in eating places, etc. God has time. He taught Moses 40 years in the desert before he was ready to lead Israel out of Egypt! I know He is still working on me. I pray that I'm willing to be made willing to do what He wants me to do.

2 Then the LORD replied:
   "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.
3 “For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.
4 "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by his faith.”

Habakkuk 2:2-4 (NIV)
A dissatisfied king was told if he could get a shirt from a man that was satisfied and wear it, then he would be satisfied. He sent his servants out to find such a man but one by one they came back without having found a satisfied man—until the last servant returned. He said, "I found a man that is really satisfied, but he does not own a shirt."

In Luke 12:13-15 we are told that life does not consist of things that we have.

We have found that we don't give because we have, but we have because we give. Luke 6:38.

We are also told in Mark 8:34-36 that we are worth more than the whole world.

A dying man said to his priest, "If I were to give the church a million dollars, would that improve my chances of getting to heaven?"
The priest responded, "I don't know, but I think you should try it."

Gold is so plentiful in heaven that God paves the streets with it!

In comparison to many in the developing world, we are very rich. But Jesus says we are to lay up our treasure in heaven.

Illiterate? Write today for free help.

For Sale:
Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating
Evangelist Wooden had just finished an evangelistic campaign and was taking down the tent when a man came along and asked: “What must I do to be saved?”
“It’s too late,” the evangelist said.
“Surely I can do something to get saved.”
But the evangelist insisted, “It’s too late.”
“Just because you're taking down the tent can’t make it too late for me to do something.”
The evangelist said, “It’s too late because it has all been done. Jesus did it all. On the cross He said, ‘It is finished’ or ‘It is all paid for.’” John 19:30.

If we could be saved by working for the Lord then Jesus wouldn't be necessary. He would have died in vain. It is quite clear that we cannot bribe God. God hates sin and sin has to be punished. But since He loves the sinner and the death of the sinner was required as punishment, Jesus offered to take the punishment. He died on the cross for us -- the sinners.

Paul says He will not share His glory. I Corinthians 1:20.

We are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-10), not by what we do. The gift that God gave was His Son. John 3:16. A gift has no value if there is no one to accept it. If, however, we receive the Son we have eternal life.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)*
A sick man said he would give $1,000,000 to missions if he would get well. He got well but didn’t give the money as he had promised. When asked why he hadn’t followed through, he said, “It just shows how sick I was.”

I believe that is probably true in many areas including so called foxhole conversions. We have a tendency to call on God as a last resort but God says, “Don’t always wait that long.”

God has so much power and He would like us to make use of it. He has so much wisdom and would be glad to share it if we would ask. James 1:5.

He has great wealth, Haggai 2:8, and would gladly give it to us if we would meet His requirements. Psalm 37:4.

Jesus tells us in Mark 8:36 that if we gained the whole world and lose our souls we have made a very tragic mistake.

Let's take stock of our possessions and make sure that we own them and that they don't own us.

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4
An older man wanted to test his wife’s hearing so from 15 feet behind her he called, “Honey, do you hear me?” There was no answer so he came closer and again called, “Honey, can you hear me?” No answer. From 5 feet away he called again, Honey, do you hear me?” and she answered, “For the third time, ‘Yes.’”

After Jesus had pronounced hard judgment on the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew 23, He gave an invitation in verses 37-39, but they would not come to Him.

_Hosea 11:1-5 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt._
_As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images._
_I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them._
_I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them._
_He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return._

God laments over Israel saying that he had taught them to walk but they were not willing to obey.

The only way to be happy as Christians is to learn to obey.

Trust and Obey is a song we often sing but it's actually more than a song. It is the way to true happiness. We may not reach that total obedience, but we grow one step at a time.

_God does not reward our success but our faithfulness._
Why does a $20 bill look so big in church but so small in the grocery store?

As Christians we should be comfortable in the spiritual and spiritual in the everyday. "For we are in the world but not of the world," says Jesus in John 17:13-19.

We should be insulated but not isolated.

We are to flee temptation -- I Timothy 6:11-- and not leave a forwarding address.

Faith is a by-product of obedience.

There is a special blessing if we trust the Lord.

Jeremiah 17:7-8
Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

We should be attractive but not an attraction.

Can you imagine what must have gone through Gideon's mind when God said 32,000 men are too many, let those that are scared go home. Then, even after 22,000 went home, God still said too many. In the end he had 300 men. Gideon may have said, "But God, there are thousands of Midianites." We know 120,000 were killed (Judges 8:10).
An engineer, John, and a computer geek, Fred, sat together in a plane. John was very tired and wanted to sleep but Fred wanted to play a game. He said to John, “I’ll ask you a question and if you can’t answer you give me $5. Then you ask me a question and if I can’t answer, I’ll give you $5.”

John wasn’t interested, he wanted to sleep. “Well,” said Fred, “we’ll change the game. I’ll ask a question and if you can’t answer it, you give me $5. But if I can’t answer your question, I’ll give you $50.”

“OK,” John agreed, “that’s better.” So Fred asked, “How far is it from the earth to the moon?”

John thought and thought and finally said, “I don’t know.” He pulled out his wallet and gave Fred $5. Then he asked Fred, “What goes up the hill with 3 legs and down with four?”

The computer geek thought and thought and finally said, “I don’t know,” and gave him $50. Then he asked John, “What is the answer?” John said, “I don’t know.” He pulled out his wallet and gave Fred $5.

When King Saul thought he had the answer, he fell. Read I Samuel 15:13-16 and verse 22.

Saul was only partially obedient and the outcome was tragic for him. When God gives a command it must be obeyed.

*If we obey to the best of our ability we can always trust Him to help.*
Worry does not remove the troubles of tomorrow but robs us of our strength for today.

An eyelid can hide the sky and a mote the stars, but nothing can hide us from God’s all seeing eyes.

Psalm 139:1-6
O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.
Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.
Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Since that is true we should pray with the Psalmist in that same Psalm verses 23 & 24 and then we should cry out like David in Psalm 51:2.

God has promised to cleanse us if we come to Him.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah. 1:18.

No matter how deep we fall, God's hands always go deeper. If it weren't for God's gracious help we would all perish. He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. As the father waited for his prodigal son in Luke 15, so God waits for us prodigals to come home. His invitation is always "come."
Bertha Belch was a missionary in Africa and was booked to come home on furlough. The pastor announced to his congregation, “Come and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.”

A man phoned his wife from work and said, “Honey, tonight I’d like to eat out.” So when he came home there was a sandwich on the front porch.

We may misunderstand what is being said but the Word of God is clear and we only need to obey. I don’t understand nearly all that is written in the Bible but I use the same method reading it that I do when I eat chicken. I enjoy the meat and leave the bones.

John tells us in I John 5:11-15, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

First we must read what has been written and then many other things will become clear. We must read what’s in the book and not try to put our thoughts into it.

God does not leave anyone in the dark who really wants to know what His will is.
A black man named Washington got up to preach and said, “I was black when I was born; I was black in my teens and am black now that I’m old.

“I’m black when I’m cold and I’m black when I’m hot. I’m black when I’m sick and I’ll be black when I die.

“You were pink when you were born, green when you’re sick, blue when you're cold, red when you're sunburned, brown when you're tanned and white when you die – and you call us ‘colored’!”

A man with a very weak heart won $1,000,000 in the lottery. His wife thought if she told him he might have a heart attack so she asked her diplomatic preacher to come tell her husband. The preacher said, “What would you do if you won $1,000,000?” He answered, “I’d give half of it to you.” That caused the preacher to have a heart attack.

The greatest news that has ever been proclaimed is that we are sinners and Jesus is a wonderful Savior. II Corinthians 5:21 says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Isaiah 53:6 says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
God does not reward success but faithfulness.

A rescue group was stationed on the beach and they had a slogan, “You must go out but you mustn’t necessarily come back.”

When Jesus said, “I send you out as lambs amongst wolves,” Luke 10:1-4, He also told those messengers to, “make lambs out of the wolves.”

When God gives us an assignment it is always bigger than what we can do in our own strength.

He sent Gideon with 300 men to fight against approximately 135,000. Judges 7:7-8.

In II Chronicles 20:20-22, Jehoshaphat defeated a huge army because he followed God’s instructions.

Obedience is better that sacrifice. I Samuel 15:22.

Maybe some of the reasons why Christians are not more active in getting the Gospel out are:

No sense of sin. We have become too tolerant with the sins that beset us. Hebrews 12:1.

We are not willing to deny ourselves and take up the cross. Luke 9:23.

Jesus is still calling for workers in the vineyard.
Where God is, a spider’s web is a wall, and where He is not, a wall is a spider’s web.

The one who never makes a mistake is the one who never does anything; but he makes the biggest mistake of all by not doing anything. If there were 100 steps to becoming a Christian, the devil would not try to stop the first 99. He would only try to keep you from taking the last one. However, the last one is so simple that many miss it. The Bible says, “As many as received Him,” John 1:12 (that is receiving Jesus). For He is the only way. John 14:6.

If you trust Him He will be your Shepherd, Psalm 23. He will be your fortress and shield, Psalm 84:11.

There is a difference in becoming a Christian and being one. However, without becoming a Christian (Jesus calls it being born again, John 3:3), you cannot be a Christian.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Devil’s Beatitudes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians — they are my best workers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked — I can use them.</td>
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<td>3. Blessed are the troublemakers — they shall be called my children.</td>
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<td>4. Blessed are the complainers — I’m all ears to them.</td>
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<td>5. Blessed are those who are bored with the minister’s mannerisms and mistakes — for they get nothing out of his sermons.</td>
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<td>6. Blessed are those who gossip — for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.</td>
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<td>7. Blessed are those who are easily offended — for they will soon get angry and quit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Blessed are those who do not give their offering to carry on God’s work — for they are my helpers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister — for he shall be with me forever.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
A Christian Science boy said to his pastor, “My mother is sick.”
“No,” said the pastor, “she only thinks she is sick.”
The next Sunday, the pastor asked the boy how his mother was.
“Oh,” said the boy, “She thinks she is dead.”

I handed a lady a tract, the title of which said, “Am I going to heaven?” She handed it back with, “not interested”.
I said to her,
“I’m sorry, there is another place but I wouldn’t like to see you go there.”

God doesn’t send anyone to hell. Anyone that goes there must go past the cross and ignore the invitation of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30.

Hell will be populated by volunteers and that is what will make hell so terrible. Jesus tells us what it will be like in Mark 9:42-49.

You can laugh people out of heaven, but not out of hell.

Some people don't believe in Hell, but that doesn't change the truth. Jesus has the last word.

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Never give the devil a ride – he will always want to drive.

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
Meekness is the ability to receive praise without becoming conceited, and blame without becoming despondent.

We are so busy fighting the battle that has already been lost that we cannot enjoy the victory that has already been won. On the cross Jesus was victorious and the devil was defeated. That is why Jesus could pray for his executioners and cry out, “It is finished.”

A man taking a can of cream to town noticed on the way that the can wasn’t quite full. So he added some water from out of the ditch, not noticing that there were 2 frogs in it. The one frog thought, “It’s over,” sank to the bottom and drowned.
The other frog said, “I’m not giving up!” and started to paddle. When the man opened the can, there sat the frog on a clump of butter.

So let's learn a lesson from the frog and keep on pedaling.

Read Psalm 39:4-8.

The optimist has no brakes
and the pessimist no motor.

The optimist developed the airplane
and the pessimist the parachute.
Voltaire, an atheist, scoffingly said, “I would sell my place in heaven for a ruble.”
A Prussian spoke up and said, “We have a law here that says you can’t sell anything unless you have proof of ownership.”

Strange that skating on thin ice can get you into hot water.

A sign of maturity among our young people is the discovery that the knob that controls the volume can be turned to the left.

Our mind should be like the TV set—when it goes blank turn off the sound.

Amos says that there is a day coming when people will desire to hear the Word of God. Amos 8:11-14 says:

11 "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

12 “Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

13 "In that day the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.

14 “They who swear by the shame of Samaria, or say, 'As surely as your god lives, O Dan,' or, 'As surely as the god of Beersheba lives'— they will fall, never to rise again."

Thank God that we still have freedom to preach and hear the Word of God in the western world. But it could change overnight. There are many that slowly but persistently are trying to quiet all those who still cling to the truth of the Bible. Let's enjoy our freedom as long as we have it.
A very wealthy man put up a notice in his window one day offering to pay the debt of anyone that would come in by 10 o’clock on a given day with proof of his debt.

The assigned day came and the crowd gathered, but no one went in because they didn’t believe the sign. At about 9:30 an older couple approached and entered the man’s house. They showed this wealthy man a bill of $5,000. The wealthy man wrote out a check for that amount. They were about to go out when he requested that they wait a little while. At 10 o’clock he opened the door and the couple left.

The people outside asked, “Did he pay your bill?” The older man held up the check and showed them. The crowd then rushed for the door, but it was locked. From inside they heard a voice, “I said by 10 o’clock. Now it is too late.”

Jeremiah says in 8:20, the harvest is past, summer is ended and we’re not saved. Read chapter 8:18-22.

It’s never too late to start over again and always too soon to quit. But God's offer of salvation has a time limit.

Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” Hebrews 4:7
Trust In God
By: Norman MacLeod

Courage, Brother, do not stumble,
Though your path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely, strong or weary;
Trust in God and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light;
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God and do the right.

Trust no party, sect or faction,
Trust no leaders in the fight;
But in every word and action
Trust in God and do the right.

Simple rule and safest guiding,
Inward peace and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding;
Trust in God and do the right.

Some will hate you, some will love you,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above you,
Trust in God and do the right.

We often sing the hymn “Trust and Obey”. Paul says in II Thessalonians 1:7-10 that trust and obey belong together. I John 2:28
A young lawyer proudly hung out his shingle for his new business, wanting to impress people. When he saw a man coming to his office, he opened the door and then picked up the phone. He was also carrying on a conversation on a second phone. Finally he said good-bye, hung up, and asked the young man if he could help him. The man said, “No, I just came to hook up the phone.”

**Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.**

A lady secretary came to work. She was rudely bumped at the door. She didn’t like it and gave the man a real dressing down. When she came to her boss, he said, “I’m sure glad you got bumped. (Of course, she didn’t like that!) Now I know what’s inside you – some of it just came out.”

Jesus said in Matthew 23:23-26 that we try to cover up sin, but God knows what's underneath.

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**With His finger...**

♦ God wrote the 10 commandments -- Exodus 31:18
♦ God wrote in the sand -- John 8:6
♦ God has written the names of His children -- Luke 10:20
I dreamt death came the other night
And heaven’s gate swung wide;
With kindly grace an angel ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment
Stood folks I’d known on earth;
Some I’d judged and labeled unfit, or of little worth.
Indignant words rose to my lips
But never were set free;
For everyone showed stunned surprise—
No one expected me!

In Nahum, God declares punishment:

♦ Chapter 1—punishment decreed
♦ Chapter 2—punishment delivered
♦ Chapter 3—punishment deserved

In order to go to heaven we must:
A — Admit that we’re sinners. Romans 3:23.
B — Believe that Jesus died for me. Romans 10:9-10.
C — Commit my life to Jesus and confess Him. Romans 3:16-17.
*One ship drives east and another drives west*
  *With the selfsame winds that blow.*
  *‘Tis the set of the sails and not the gales*
  *Which determines the way it will go.*

*Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate*
  *As we voyage along through life*
  *‘Tis the set of the soul that decides its goal*
  *And not the calm nor the strife.*

A father gave his son 50 cents and told him he could do with it whatever he wanted. Later on the dad asked what he had done with the money. The boy answered, "I gave it to a beggar that was hungry."
His dad said, "Then you'll never get it back."
"But Dad," protested the boy, "The Bible says whosoever gives to the poor loves the Lord."
His dad, who was a Christian, was so pleased with his son that he gave him another 50 cents.
The boy excitedly responded, "You see, if you give to the Lord you will be rewarded, but I didn't think it would be so soon!"

*God wants to use us so that He can reward us.*

"Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good nor bad." II Corinthians 5:6-10.
# 61

*What we take in enlarges our heads; what we give out enlarges our hearts.*

*It is worse than murder if we know there is water and we do not tell the one that is dying of thirst.*

At 88, I can identify with this little ditty:

I can see through my bifocals  
My dentures fit just fine  
I can live with my arthritis  
But I sure do miss my mind.

Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-5 and rejoice in sins forgiven.

Many Bible verses speak of the brevity of time. Jesus says it's like the flower of the fields. James says it is like a vapor. The Psalmist says in Psalm 30:5 it's like a breath.

That's why we read in Psalm 90:12, "Teach me to number my days that I may gain a heart of knowledge."
A man phoned his son and said to him, "Son, your mother and I have been married for 40 years, but we're getting a divorce. No, don't try to talk me out of it, I'm through. I've had it and it's settled."

In a panic, the boy called his sister and told her what their Dad had just said. She called her dad and said, "Dad, don't do anything in a hurry. I'm sure that we can find some solution. My brother and I are flying to your place tomorrow morning. We'll discuss it then." Dad hung up and smiling said to his wife, "Our children are coming to see us tomorrow and they're paying their own way."

Sometimes something radical must take place in order to awaken us to our situation. On the radio I heard of a girl that was an atheist who had had a motorcycle accident. Her legs and her back were broken. Through this she learned to know the Savior.

In the 20th chapter of II Kings we have the story of Hezekiah's sickness. The prophet Isaiah told him that he should put his house in order because he was going to die. He wept and pled that he could live a little longer. God told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that he would live 15 more years. Here we have the record of a man who knew when he was going to die. How he spent his time after that announcement until his death is recorded in II Kings 20.

Amos 4:12 is a good reminder and warning for us to heed.

In Joshua 14:11 we read that Caleb was 85 years old and strong and healthy. He was fit for battle.
People that say they slept like a baby make it quite evident that they never had one.

Half of our troubles come from wanting our own way and the other half by being allowed to have it.

My wife, Erma, used to say that she believed in worrying because most of the time the things she worried about never happened.

The remedy for worrying, Jesus said, is to cast all our cares on Him. In Matthew 11:28 He invites us to take upon ourselves His yoke. When the farmers used to work with oxen they gave the shorter end to the strongest oxen so that he would carry the bigger part of the load. When Jesus tells us to take His yoke upon us, He always takes the short end and carries the heaviest load.

After a very difficult battle for an island, Napoleon finally took possession. At a conference with his officers a young officer stood up and asked Napoleon for that island. Napoleon asked for pen and paper and signed the island over to him.

The older officers were quite annoyed at Napoleon for giving the island to this young officer. When asked why he did it, Napoleon answered, “He honoured me with that request.” God is honoured when we ask for great things.
# 64

**Grandma's Apron**

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came those old aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling-wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall it was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out on the porch and waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner. It will be a long time before anyone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

*A lady sitting in the hotel, weeping because of her circumstances, was told by another lady, "Have you tried God?" That was the 'apron' that changed her life.*

*Someone else said, "I gave my little finger to God and He took my whole hand." — another 'apron' that changed her life.*
The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places.

A marathon is not won by a spurt at the beginning. It is a rugged stick-to-it-ism 'til the very end.

That is what Paul says in I Corinthians 9:24-27. God doesn't need us but He wants to use us so that He can reward us. He wants to help us but He doesn't always want to be used as a last resort. In II Chronicles 16:12 Asa went to the doctors and not to the Lord. Let's remember—God always wants the first place.

Have you ever thought when you sit down to a meal and ask God to bless it, that He is the Creator and Lord? We are asking Him to serve us. When we lose our keys, or whatever, we ask Him to help us. Yes, He is willing, but it is good to think of Who we are talking to!

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**Kids now talk about cleaning up the environment but they haven't figured out how to clean up their own rooms.**

**Wouldn't it be nice if people flashed as many smiles as they flash their credit cards?**
A veterinarian is a doctor who still makes horse calls.

In the Bible a horse is considered to be of great strength yet the Psalmist says in Psalm 147:10-11 that the Lord does not delight in its strength but that He delights in those that fear Him.

When a resort owner insists that the fish in his lake are biting make sure that he is talking about fish and not mosquitoes.

Jesus said that if we follow Him we will be fishers of men. Each type of fish needs different bait. That is why Paul tells us in I Corinthians 9:19-26 that we must choose the right bait.

Different people respond in different ways. We do not just want to bathe the worm, we want to catch fish.

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**Bumper Stickers**

Many that plan to seek God in the eleventh hour die at 10:30.

If God seems far away, you know who has moved.

Jesus is coming soon and is He mad. At the end of the road you’ll meet God.
Some people change their way when they see the light -- others do not change until they feel the heat.

I once saw a doormat with Isaiah. 43:2 on it.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2

God doesn't tell us that we will not have difficulties but that He will always be with us. In fact, He assures us that He will not break a bruised reed or snuff out a smoldering wick.

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. Isaiah 42:3

At best we are but a total failure but He is a wonderful Savior.

Sometimes God whispers.
   Elijah heard a whisper—I Kings 19:12.
Sometimes He shouts.
   Lazarus, come forth—John 11:43.

The day is coming when He will speak like a trumpet blast—Revelation 1:10.
Then, in Revelation 1:15, His voice is like the waves against the shore.

And one day He is coming to take His children home with a mighty shout and a soul stirring cry—I Thessalonians 4:16.
Jesus did say to the disciples that they were to give up everything (Luke 14:26-27). In other words, we are not to hang onto material things.

Jesus complemented the widow who gave her last money in Luke 21:2.

**Blessed Be Nothin'**

"Blessed be nothin'"
Remarked the wise sage,
"Be glad, if you've nothin'
In this day and age."

But nothin' is somethin'
That cannot be stole
Nor drop from your pocket
Nor purse's small hole.

Nothin' is somethin'
The banks cannot lose,
The creditors seize
Nor the burglars abuse.

Folks who have nothin'
Really should love it,
For nothin' is somethin'
The neighbors won't covet.

So if you have nothin'--
Be glad, sing a song!
For when leaving this earth
You can take it along.

*The only things you can take along are other souls.*
Intelligence is like a river.  
The deeper it flows the less noise it makes.

It isn't what you know that counts --  
it's what you think of in time.

I was speaking to a group of students in a school in Germany about my faith in Jesus Christ. It was a class on religion. The principal, who attended, told the students at the close of the hour, "We have been teaching you things from our head, but this man (referring to me) speaks from his heart." Praise the Lord!

Solomon, who was the wisest man that every lived, made some very foolish mistakes. He admits it in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 as well as many other portions of Ecclesiastes. But in chapter 12:1 he admonishes us to remember the Creator.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;  
Ecclesiastes 12:1
# 70

**Opportunities are never lost.**
_Someone else takes the ones you missed._

**The nicest thing about new friends is that they haven’t heard your old stories.**

When Job had all those troubles even his wife and his friends scorned him. Job 19:17-20.

When things go well there are many friends, Proverbs. 19:4. When poverty strikes they leave, Proverbs 19:7.

Showing partiality even invaded some of the churches according to James 2:1-7. God warns us that we must be careful not to show partiality to those what are esteemed heroes in the world, that is the famous, the rich. God loves them all but seems to show favoritism to the common people because He made so many of them.

One man wrote about marrying Maggie as follows:

```plaintext
Before I married Maggie dear,
I was her honey bunch,
Her precious boy,
Her sweetie pie.

But after years of married life,
This thought I pause to utter.
Those honeyed names have disappeared,
I'm just her bread and butter.
```
An R.V. dealer is a wheel estate dealer.

We were married for 59 years. At one time Erma said that we had moved 25 times and after that she quit counting. Our moves took us to several provinces, to several states and to Germany. She moved to heaven on September 29, 2006, and will not need to move again. I'm looking forward to my last move as well.

On every move down here we usually had 3 piles, one for the garbage, one to give away and one to take. On my last trip I will not have that problem.

A wealthy Chinese man said, "When I die and I'm in a coffin, make a hole on each side of the coffin and let my hands stick out so that everyone can see that I'm leaving empty handed." See also Luke 12:33-34.

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:33-34
When it comes to giving some people stop at nothing.

One man said, "My brother is so stingy that he doesn't want his left hand to know that his right hand isn't giving anything."

God has so much gold He uses it as concrete for the streets. It is interesting that we read in Malachi 3:10 that God wants us to test Him by our giving.

God loves to reward His children and is waiting to see if we are open to receive the bountiful blessings that He has for us.

In Jeremiah 17:5-8 God shows us the difference between trusting man and trusting God.

The roots grow deep where the winds blow strong.

It is interesting that James in his book in the Bible tells us that we are to count it all joy when life is full of difficulties and temptations. James 1:3-4.

There is no song in the brook when there are no rocks.

Only sunshine without any clouds and you have a desert.

In Judges 3:1-3 we read that God allowed some of Israel's enemies to stay in the land so that the new generation would learn to fight.
Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you will have a much better understanding why it is so hard to change someone else.

We don't always get what's coming to us, thank goodness.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve and grace is getting what we don't deserve.

I like what I recently heard a preacher say, "If I get criticized and blamed for something I said or did, I deserve it; and if I get praised and patted on the back for something I said or did, I don't deserve it."

Former President Carter said in connection with a failed effort to free hostages in Iran, "Success has many fathers but failure only one."

Let’s look to Jesus. Hebrews 12:2

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Hebrews 12:2*
A cat was being chased by a dog. The cat ran in a hole. The dog waiting outside said, with a perfect cat accent, "Meow." The cat came out and the dog said, "It is good to know a second language."

Some children know 2 languages, English and back talk.

Announcement in church bulletin, “Topic for next Sunday, ‘What hell is like.’ Come and hear our church choir.”

Proverbs 12:25b, "A kind word cheers him up."

In Romans 10:9-10 Paul says we are to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths.

In Proverbs 25:11 a word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

So a good thought for the conclusion of this rambling is:

"Make your words nice and sweet

for you never know

which ones you'll have to eat."
A preacher was getting his car fixed on Monday and said to the mechanic, "Keep the price as low as possible because I'm just a poor preacher."
The mechanic answered, "I know, I heard you in church yesterday."

I often hear people say that they don't go to church because there are too many hypocrites. I sometimes say, "You go to the movies or the grocery store and there may be hypocrites there."

To me a hypocrite just confirms that Christianity must be good or why would anyone try to imitate it?

Jesus dealt with hypocrites in Matthew 23. He was very outspoken. If you have any doubt as to how God sees them read the whole chapter.

In the last few verses Jesus tells them how much He longs to gather them to Himself.
Mrs. Jones went to visit her son Peter and have dinner with him. She noticed that he had a very pretty roommate named Maria.

Over the course of the evening she noticed that they were very intimate with each other. She wondered about the relationship, but Peter assured her that they were just roommates.

Peter noticed that his mother was very curious and so he once again tried to assure her that they were only roommates.

About a week later Mrs. Jones got a letter from Peter. He said, "Mom, since you left we can't find our silver sugar bowl. We don't want to accuse you of taking it but it is strange that the bowl is missing."

She wrote back and said, "If Maria had slept in her own bed she would have found it."

This story brings out a Scriptural principle. In II Samuel 11 & 12 we have the story of David committing adultery with Bathsheba and how he tried to hide it, even going as far as to kill Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. Please read both chapters.

This truth is also mentioned in Luke 12:2-3. If we cover our sins, God will uncover them; and if we uncover (confess) our sins, past, present and future, God will forgive them.

What a wonderful Savior!
# 77

**A Letter from God**

Good morning, I'm God.
Today I'll be handling all of your problems.
Remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours.

Once the problem is placed in the box do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removing it will delay the solution. If it is a situation that you think you can handle, please consult Me in prayer to be sure. Be sure that it is the right and proper solution.

*Because I do not sleep nor slumber, you do not need to lose any sleep. Rest, My child. If you need to contact Me, I'm only a prayer away.*

*Love, God*
"A Few of My Favorite Things"

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up with string,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids, glasses,  
Polident, Fixodent, false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,  
when the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favorite things  
and then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food nor food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and fear of sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,  
when the eyes grow dim,  
I simply remember the great life I've had  
and then I don't feel so bad.

Hebrews 12:1-2, If you keep your eyes on Jesus and run — not a 
sprint but a marathon — laying aside every weight and sins that 
would hinder, then that will be your favorite thing.
The Prayers of Jesus

At His baptism Luke 3:21
In a solitary place Mark 1:35
In the wilderness Luke 5:16
All night, before choosing the Twelve Luke 6:12
Before His invitation, "Come unto Me" Matthew 11:25-27
At the feeding of the 5,000 John 6:11
After the feeding of the 5,000 Matthew 14:23
When he gave the Lord's Prayer Luke 11:1-4
Before His transfiguration Luke 9:28-29
For little children Matthew 19:13
Before the raising of Lazarus John 11:41-42
In the Temple John 12:27-28
At the supper Matthew 26:26-27
For Peter Luke 22:32
For the disciples John 17
In Gethsemane Matthew 26:36, 39, 42, 44
On the cross Luke 23:34
At Emmaus Luke 24:30

While driving my car in Germany I was praying just generally about our many needs at the Bible School.

All at once I seemed to hear a Voice saying, "What do you really want?" I told the Lord I was sorry for my rambling but we really needed $10,000 to pay off a debt. God graciously provided.
Faith

From a tract written by an atheist which motivated C.T. Studd, Cricketer and Pioneer to become a missionary.

"Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of (faith) in this life influences destiny in another, (faith) would mean to me everything.

I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. (Faith) would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness.

I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of Eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for Heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences should never stay my hand, nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts.

I would strive to look upon Eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"
We have an Irishman as our doctor and he always likes a joke. I had to get a medical for my driver's license that was not covered by our medical plan. They could charge whatever they wanted. A friend of mine paid $105.

While there, I told the doctor about the man that visited the pope and noticed a golden telephone. So he asked, "What is that for?" and the pope said, "For my direct calls to God." The man then asked, "How much does that cost?" and the pope said, "$20,000 a minute."

Later this man went to South Ireland (strong Roman Catholic country) and while visiting an ordinary priest saw that he also had a golden telephone. He asked, "What is that for?" The priest said it was for his talks with God. So the man said, "The pope has one, too, and it costs $20,000 a minute. How much does it cost here?"

The priest said, "20 cents." Amazed, the man asked, "How can that be?"

"Oh," said the priest, "Here it's a local call."

When I finished my examination I asked the doctor, "How much?" He said he had just talked on the golden telephone and it would cost me nothing.

* A merry heart makes the face cheerful!
Children's Misquotes:

Humor thy father and mother.

Christians can only marry one wife and they call it monotony!

Lot had only one wife and she was a pillar of salt during the day and a ball of fire at night.

Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.

The Macedonians didn't believe, so Paul got stoned.

Adults, too, often misquote.

Many get a half truth and believe they have the whole truth. I often hear people say that if you do the best you can you'll get to heaven. I usually answer that I've never lived one day where I really did the best I could've. If, however, that were true, then we wouldn't need Jesus.

The truth is found in Ephesians chapter 2.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. 
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10
A pastor asked Bev Shea to sing a song dedicated to the pregnant women. He handed him the hymn book and suggested a number. The song was, "He is Able to Deliver Thee." Bev only sang one verse!

If you are going to lead a band you have to be able to face the music.

Honesty once pawned can never be redeemed.

James tells us that our lives are only a vapor in James 4:14. In a steam engine it's the steam (vapor) that produces power. The water must be in a container and the fire creates steam.

I'd like to make an application. If our lives are completely in God's hands, and the fire creates vapor, great things can be accomplished.

In a completely impossible situation in I Kings 18:16-45, God gave Elijah a great victory.
# 84

**Don't wait for something to turn up -- dig for it.**

**If you want to stay out of debt, act your wage.**

**Be wiser than other people if you can, but don't tell them.**

**Hope for the best, expect the worst, enjoy the in between.**

Jesus tells a story of a rich farmer in Luke 12, but in verse 20 he calls him a fool.

What was wrong?
not that he sowed the seed
not that he had a good crop
not that he decided to build a bigger barn

But we read in verse 17
he thought to himself -- he thought he was in charge
he clung to material possessions
he acted without God

Since God has created us and loves us enough to have Jesus die for us, He wants us to include Him in our lives.

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**Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.**

**We don't change God's message – His message changes us.**
God says in James 4:8 that we are to come near to Him and He will come near to us.

A walk with God is:

A walk of communion.
Moses talked with God face to face.

A walk of confession.
In Joshua 7:19 Joshua told Achan to confess what he had done and thereby give glory to God. God tells us that we are sinners and so all we need to do is to admit that God is right.

A walk of concern.
In James 4:9 we read that we are to mourn and weep and change our laughter to weeping. We must not be careless about our relationship to God.

A walk of confidence.
In Deuteronomy 4:7, He is near us and in Hebrews 13:5-6, He has promised never to leave us. So instead of praying, "God be with us" (as many do), we should say, "Thank You for Your promise never to leave us."
The secret in life is to get wise before you get old.

Life offers no obstacles, only opportunities.

Telemarketing is not an interruption in your daily activities, but an opportunity to say something challenging. Maybe in closing just saying, "Where will you spend eternity?" will make a difference.

The person who is all wrapped up in himself is overdressed.

There is never a wrong time to do the right thing.

There is a big difference between free speech and cheap talk.

Turning up your nose often gets it bent out of shape.

Frustration is not having anyone to blame but yourself.

Adversity reveals genius, prosperity conceals it.

To forgive heals the wound; to forget heals the scars.

Be careful of your thoughts -- they may break into words at any time.

Psalm 37:4 is good advice.

Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalm 37:4
A boy that was fascinated with the war in Iraq and watched all the T.V. newscasts with great interest was asked by his grandmother what he would like to be when he grew up. "Alive," was his answer.

Before you flare up at someone else's faults, count 10 of your own.

Some people never get interested in anything until they're told, "It's none of your business."

Paul in writing to the Philippians says in chapter 2:3-4 that we are not to be selfish but to be concerned with the things of others. Someone has said that if you share your joys, it doubles them, and if you share their sorrow, it cuts it in half.

It was because Jesus was concerned about us that He took upon Himself all of our sins. Let us learn to think of others more highly then we think about ourselves.

Dear God,
If you let The dino use
not extinct we could not have a country.
You did the right thing.
Jonathan
Time is not measured by the years that we live but by the deeds that we do and the joy that we give to others.

Waiting for your ship to come in isn't nearly as effective as going out and towing it into harbor!

There are 3 stages of life in a man:
1. you believe in Santa
2. you do not believe in Santa
3. you are Santa

Enthusiasm is the yeast that raises a lot of dough.

Ephesians 4:28 tells us that we are to work so that we have something to give to others. In I Thessalonians Paul also says the person that does not work shall not eat.

In Colossians 3:23-24 we are told to do all our work with the assurance that the Lord watches and is ready to reward us if we do it as unto Him.
One thing you can give and still keep is your word.

It is easier to be wise for others than to be wise for yourself.

A minute is a little thing but minutes make the day, so crowd in some kind deed before it slips away.

I enjoy reading the story of Jonathan and his armor bearer as recorded in I Samuel 14:6-14. God loves the impossible. It seems almost foolhardy to risk climbing up such a steep mountain to face a very uncertain future. But they knew that God could save with many or few, and certainly they proved that God could. We are always in the majority if we are on God's side. Joshua 24:15.

We read Thos. Edison
made light.
but in sun school they said
you did it.
so i bet he stole
your idea.
sincerely,
don na
If you find you are going
the wrong way on a one way street,

God always allows a U-turn.

The income tax has made more liars in the U.S. than golf has.

What I donated I have, what I spent I had, and
what I kept I lost.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:3 if you want to become great you
must humble yourself and become like a child. So the best
way up is down.

If you want to become rich you must be willing to

We tend to think if you want to become rich you must save as
much as you can.

Dear God,
If you give me
 genie lamp like Aladdin
I will give you anything
you want
except my money
or my chess set.

Raphael
Failure is success if we learn from it.

*We are not put on this earth to see through one another but to see one another through.*

*When we get our picture taken we try to look good. When God takes our picture He wants to make us look good.*

In Matthew 18:28-32 Jesus tells the story of a man that had 2 sons. So he said to one, "Go and work in the vineyard." He answered, "No, I will not."
So the father asked the other one to go and he said, "I will," but he didn't go.
Later on the first son changed his mind and went. Jesus said the first one did his father's will.
If everyone would sweep in front of his own door the whole world would be clean.

We are judged not by what we start but by what we finish.

This summer one third of the nation will be ill-housed, ill-nourished, and ill-clad. Only they will call it a vacation.

I heard about a Salvation Army major who was not supposed to influence people which way to vote. He told his congregation, "If we sing, 'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow,' then my party got voted in. If we sing 'God Moves in Mysterious Ways,' then my second most desired party got in. If we sing, 'O God our Help in Ages Past', then my least favorite party got in."

If we do what God really wants us to do then there is a song in heaven. People in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents. Luke 15:10.

**WARNING:**

Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

Plan ahead – It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
The nicest thing about new friends is that they haven't heard your old stories!

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of others.

People are funny -- they all want to live a long time but do not want to get old.

The riches that are in your heart cannot be stolen.

In Proverbs 3:5-6 we read that we are to trust God with all our hearts. In Romans 10:9-10 we are told to believe with the heart. Belief has to move 18 inches down from the mind to the heart. I always believed on God with my mind but it had to slip down to my heart. That happened when I was 16 years old.

Jesus used another illustration in Matthew 23:25. He accused the religious leaders of His day of washing the outside but leaving the inside full of greed and self-indulgence.
By the time you decide to look for greener pastures you are too old to climb the fence.

If you are not brave, pretend to be. No one will be able to tell the difference.

Gideon certainly had questions when he was told to go to war with the Midianites. The Lord encouraged him by telling him to go down to the Midianites' camp and to take someone with him. He was greatly encouraged. Judges 7:13-15.

There is no doubt that David was greatly encouraged because he trusted God. Look at the story in I Samuel 17:32-45. David simply used his sling and with a perfect shot he hit Goliath in his forehead. The Bible says the stone sank into his forehead.

Goliath said, "This has never entered my head before!"

I was asked how old a child should be before you tell them to love and receive Jesus. I said you can never start too soon.
# 95

*The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.*

*A speaker who does not strike water in 10 minutes should quit boring.*

*When the truth is in your way you know that you're on the wrong road.*

When Abraham realized it was time for his son Isaac to get a wife for himself he sent a servant to his own county and to his relatives to get a wife. When the servant came into the country he asked God to show him who this girl should be that he was to bring to Isaac for a wife. He asked God for a sign. If this girl would give him a drink from the well and also offer to give the camels a drink then that would be a sign that he had the right girl. Read Genesis 24 for the whole story.
Some people succeed because they're destined to but most succeed because they're determined to.

Enthusiasm is like the measles, if you don't have it you can't give it to anyone else.

What's sown with love will never tear.

Some feel that if Noah's ark could be found it would help them believe. Jesus said to His disciples when they talked about John the Baptist, "Blessed is he that believes even if he does not see." Matthew 11:6.

When God gives us the wealth for living He also gives the wonderful opportunity of giving.

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Life without purpose is barren indeed -
There can't be a harvest unless you plant seed,
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal,
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul...

If we send no ships out, no ships will come in,
And unless there's a contest, nobody can win...
For games can't be won unless they are played,
And prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed...

So whatever is wrong with your life today,
You'll find a solution if you kneel down and pray.

---

100 Plus Vignettes of Wit and Wisdom
Smile awhile and give your face a rest,
Stand up straight and elevate your chest.
   Reach your hands up to the sky,
   While you wag your head awhile.

Limber up and stamp your feet a bit
As you stand, and now before you sit,
   Reach right out to someone near,
   Shake their hand and smile.

*There are two ways of spreading light -- be a candle or a mirror that reflects it.*

In Matthew 5:14 Jesus says, "You are the light of the world."
Light is stronger than darkness. You can light a match in a
dark room and it will penetrate to the farthest corner.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," and so if we have
received Jesus we have the light within us and only need to let
Him shine through us.

God discriminated in Exodus 10:23. When God sent darkness
all over Egypt it was light where the Israelites lived.

Jesus said if the light becomes darkness, how great is that
Days are like suitcases — the same size, but some people can pack more into them than others. Many people think they are generous because they give free advice.

For years I was my worst critic and then I got married.

Always forgive your worst enemies because nothing annoys them so much.

In II Corinthians 13:5 Paul says to his reader, "Examine yourself to see if you are still in the faith." The Psalmist didn't trust himself to do that and so in Psalm 139:23-24 he asked the Lord to search him to see if he was on the right road.

When I travel in a strange country I continually check the map to see if I'm on the right road. When my wife Erma was with me, she used to have the map on her lap to continually check to see if we were on the right road.

When we use the Bible and discover that we're on the wrong road, God allows a U-turn.

Dear God,
please send Dennis Clark
to a different camp
this year.

Peter
When asked to plant a garden the first thing many do is to dig up excuses.

Be yourself—who is better qualified!

*Happiness is not the absence of troubles but the ability to deal with them.*

I like to think of 4 different roads:

- The **Damascus** road. This was the road on which Paul was converted -- salvation.
- The **Jericho** road. Jesus set the example that we are to learn to serve.
- The **Emmaus** road. Here we have two sorrowing disciples.
- The **Golgotha** road. Our suffering Savior went this road alone for you and for me.

So we have in Acts 9:1-19 Paul's salvation.

We have in Luke 10:25-37 the story of the Good Samaritan, a picture of service.

Then we have the two sorrowing disciples on the way to Emmaus speaking of Jesus' death. Luke 24:17-24.

In James 4:14 we are told that our life is like a vapor meaning of course that it is very brief. However, if vapor is in a boiler and there is fire under it, it has tremendous power.

*Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*  (James 4:14 NIV)

If we are willing to let God put us in a boiler and put fire under us it is amazing what can be accomplished. Look at Samson in Judges 16:29. Samson was really in a boiler but God gave a mighty victory.

*Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.* (Judges 16:29-30 NIV)

*Give God what's right – not what's left. Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope.*
Mistaken Identity

You tell me I am getting old.
    I tell you that's not so!
The 'house' I live in is worn out,
    And that, of course, I know.
It's been in use a long, long while;
    It's weathered many a gale;
I'm really not surprised you think
    It's getting somewhat frail.
The color's changing on the roof,
    The window's getting dim,
The wall's a bit transparent
    And looking rather thin,
The foundation's not so steady
    As once it used to be—
My 'house' is getting shaky,
    But my 'house' isn't ME!
The dweller in my little 'house'
    Is young and bright and gay;
Just starting on a life to last
    Throughout eternal day.
You only see the outside,
    Which is all that most folks see.
You tell me I am getting old?

You've mixed my 'house' with ME!
# 102

I’m Not Getting Old but…..

⇒ Everything is farther away than it used to be.
⇒ It's even twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill, I noticed.
⇒ I have given up running for the bus, it leaves faster than it used to.
⇒ It seems to me they are making the steps steeper than in the old days.
⇒ Have you noticed the smaller print that they use in the newspaper?
⇒ There's no sense in asking anyone to read aloud as everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them.
⇒ Even people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age.
⇒ On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I.
⇒ I ran across an old class-mate the other day, and she has aged so much that she didn't recognize me.
⇒ I got to thinking about the poor dear when I was combing my hair this morning and, in so doing, I glanced at my own reflection.
⇒ Really now, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to either.

This reminds me of Ecclesiastes 12 where Solomon gives a review of what happened as he got older.
Out of this life I shall never take 
Things of silver and gold I make; 
All that I cherish and hoard away 
After I leave, on this earth must stay.

Though I have toiled for a painting rare 
To hang on the wall, I must leave it there. 
Though I call it mine, and boast its worth; 
I must give it up when I leave this earth.

All that I gather, and all that I keep 
I must leave behind when I fall asleep.

And I often wonder what shall I own 
In that other life, when I pass alone 
What shall they find and what shall they see; 
In the soul that answers the call for me?

Shall the Great Judge learn 
When my task is through 
That my spirit has gathered some riches, too 
Or shall at last it be mine to find 
What all I’d worked for, I’d left behind?

Lay up your treasures in heaven. 
Matthew 6:19-21
Jesus Loves Me
(Even though I’m getting older)

1. Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

2. Though my steps are, oh so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

3. When the nights are dark and long
In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

4. When my work on earth is done
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
To learn the fullness of His love.

Chorus:
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
Freedom is not constituted primarily of privileges but of responsibilities.

Freedom is not free.

Friendship consists of forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives.

In the first church according to Acts 2:45 they shared their wealth by distributing it.

In communism they shared their poverty.

A wealthy farmer who was very generous was asked how that could be. He said, "I have a granary full of wheat. I shovel out but God shovels in and His shovel is bigger."

My dear wife and I tried to practice the same with our income and we never lacked anything. Luke 6:38 always proved true.

---

Dear God,
I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nan
10 REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH

1. I was made to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites – they reckon they're cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped.
5. I still wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'm still young. When I'm older and have got a bit dirtier, I might start washing.
8. I really don't have time.
9. The bathroom's never warm enough.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

Silly reasons, aren't they? We all need to wash and we know it; there's no argument.

We all need a personal friendship with Jesus, too. The need may not be quite so obvious, but it's still there all the same.

Jesus can do something soap and water can never do. He can make us clean on the inside without any facecloth or soap.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

“We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

“We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

“We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will.

We openly ask these things in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ...Amen!”

Cont...
The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest.

In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright was pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively.

The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

"If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for everything."

Our wisdom is foolishness with God. 
Romans 1:21-23
How to get a Cat from the Top of a Tree

The owner tried and tried to get the cat to come down but it wouldn't. Finally he climbed up as far as he could and tied a rope to the tree. Then he tied the other end to his truck to pull the tree down. Just as he thought it was low enough, the rope broke and the tree whipped back into place. The cat went flying.

A few days later he saw one of his neighbors who he knew hated cats buying cat food. So he asked him about it!
The neighbor told him his daughter had been pestering him to get her a cat and finally he said, "If God sends you one from heaven you can keep it."

“And sure enough, she was kneeling in the garden one day praying for a cat, when from the sky the cat came flying right to where she was!”

God has interesting ways of answering prayer!
I wrote a book called “You never meet anyone by chance.” Flying in Germany this spring (2007) I sat beside a lady and I started my conversation by saying, “We’ve never sat together before.” She told me that she lived in Holland and was divorced with two children. Her former husband lived in Austria.

Then she said, “I have a very empty heart—I need something.” I told her that I believed I knew what she needed. I introduced her to Jesus, prayed with her, and gave her a New Testament. I hope I’ll see her in heaven.

In Psalm 51:2 David cries out, “Wash me!” God will do that (Isaiah 1:18).

In Isaiah 1:16 God says, “Wash yourself.” That happens when we obey (I John 1:9).

In John 13:14 Jesus says, “Wash others!” That happened when God sent Nathan to David after David had committed adultery and murder. II Samuel 12:1–14 tells the story.
A Message From One Who Is With the Lord

Please rejoice with me, my dear,
That now my joy's complete,
I'm gazing at His lovely face,
I'm resting at His feet.

I have no fear, distress or pain,
He wiped my tears away,
And all is beautiful and new,
No night—just endless day.

The glory of God is everywhere,
The Lamb is the Light thereof,
There's streets of gold, gates of pearl,
And all is perfect love.

I'm so glad to be with Him
And free from all my sorrow,
No more death or anxious thought
Of what will be tomorrow

So, my dear, don't grieve too long
But raise your head and smile
Because all this I'll share with you
In just a little while.

Mary Z. McHenry

How can those left behind know if someone is in heaven or not? Check Romans 10:9-10.
Eternity
In memory of Erma’s first Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees
Around the world below,
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars
Reflecting in the snow.

The sight is so spectacular
Please wipe away that tear
For I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs
That people hold so dear
But earthly music can't compare
With the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you
The joy their voices bring
For it's beyond description
To hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me,
Trust God and have no fear
For I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.
Eternity
In memory of Erma’s first Christmas in Heaven

I can’t tell you of the splendor
Or the peace here in this place.
Can you imagine Christmas
With our Savior, face to face?

May God uplift your spirit
As I tell Him of your love.
Please pray for one another
As you lift your eyes above.

So let your hearts be joyful
And let your spirits sing
For I’m spending Christmas in Heaven
And I’m walking with the King!
God's Plan of Salvation

God thought it — Ephesians 1:4
Jesus bought it — I Corinthians 6:20
The Holy Spirit wrought it — I Thessalonians 4:8
The devil fought it — Genesis 3:1
I got it — John 1:12

A man fell off a cliff but managed to get hold of a tree. He cried to God for help, and God said, "I'll help you."

Then the man looked around and said, "Is there anyone else around here?"

The gulf between God and man was spanned by the cross.

The 'religion' road leads to hell.

Through disobedience Adam and Eve blocked the fellowship and so were driven out of the garden and thus got on the broad road. Religion makes the broad road narrow a bit, but it still goes the same way. Matthew 7:13-14.

Because Adam and Eve sinned, they had to be punished and all of us, too, because we, too, have disobeyed God and broken His law. But thank God,

In order to get on the narrow road, we have to come to the cross and we have to:

Acknowledged that we are sinners. Mark 7:21-23; Romans 3:23.
God says we are sinners and He knows best, so we shouldn't argue with Him.


Commit your ways to Jesus and confess Him before men.
Matthew 10:32-33.
God's Plan of Salvation

God thought it
For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:4-6

Jesus bought it
For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. I Corinthians 6:20

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

The Holy Spirit wrought it
Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. I Thessalonians 4:8

The devil fought it
Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1

I got it
Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

If you have questions or would like to know more about life in Christ, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born into a Christian home in 1918 at Beaver Flat, Saskatchewan, Ernie studied at the Millar Memorial Bible College. After a stint abroad with the Canadian Armed Forces he continued his studies at Wheaton College in Illinois.

From 1947 until her passing in 2006 Ernie was married to Erma Klassen, nee Hammond, of Climax, Saskatchewan. Their four children reside in British Columbia, Quebec and Washington.

After teaching for some years at the New Brunswick Bible Institute in Victoria Corner, New Brunswick, Ernie took his young family to Germany in 1955. Here at the side of fellow Canadian John Parschauer and Swiss-born Heinz Weber he co-founded the Bibelschule Brake in 1959. Besides teaching Bible and traveling extensively as an evangelist and preacher he managed the business affairs of this fledgling school which quickly grew to become the largest institution of its kind in Germany.

Having come from Canada to Europe myself in 1964 – I am Ernie’s nephew – I had the privilege of working alongside of this amazing preacher, teacher, and ambassador of Jesus Christ for many years. In 1982 Ernie and Erma returned to Canada, finally settling in Langley, BC. Since that time he has traveled to Germany at least once every year visiting friends, preaching extensively and, as always, inviting everyone he meets to believe in Jesus. As I write these lines in May 2007 he is once again in Europe accompanied by his daughter Heather and son-in-law Roger Ewald. Ernie loves this country or, as he puts it: “I lost my heart in Germany.”

Doyle Klaassen
President of Bibelschule Brake in Lemgo, Germany (1978 – 2007)