

**Times Remembered**

**Betty A. Young**  
BYoung505@Outlook.com

Remember when we collected Top Value Stamps in the 50s and 60s? Before "rewards cards," we had Top Value Stamps. Kroger was the largest business that I remember giving them. Grocery stores, drug stores and gas stations also gave them to their loyal customers.

The cashier would take your money and punch in the magic formula that would spit out the stamps, the receipt and your change.

I collected and saved

# Collecting Stamps

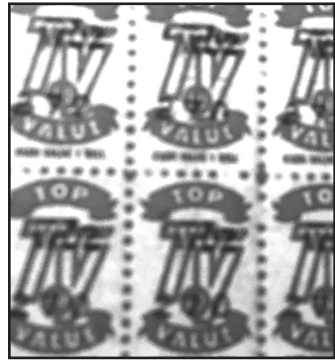
the stamps in a shoe box and then neatly glue them in saver books. It took 50 of the stamps to fill a page. The 10s were, of course worth 10 times as much, it only took five of them to fill a page. After 30 pages, you filled one saver book.

When I had collected enough to redeem them for an item or items; I went to the redemption center and selected the items that I wanted to purchase with my stamps. I remember getting a set of beautiful orange and yellow glasses and a pitcher to match, some princess cookware, and some towels.

Something felt important about the stamps..... something that made my imagination soar, like I would redeem them for pirate chests filled with gold chains, jewels and pearls. I got all dreamy-eyed as I looked through the Top Value gift catalog and contemplated what I would get with my stamps.

With Top Value

Stamps.....you could do almost anything! They were your private nest egg.....to spend for extras that added so much to life. They were great to use for birthday gifts, graduation gifts and shower gifts.



Many people saved their stamps all through the year to purchase toys, for their kids at Christmas. You could get basketballs, toy trains, dolls, cars, trucks, board games, "Flyer" red wagons and stuffed animals and house wares like sheets and dishes.

Yes, there were S&H Green Stamps, and Family Stamps but Top Value Stamps are the ones I remember most fondly.

# The Lord Can Use Our Broken Pieces to Make A Masterpiece



**America's Heartland**  
**Roger Alford**  
RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

A semi-truck slammed into a toll gate on a busy highway, doing serious damage and causing a traffic jam. A highway crew arrived at the scene, rushed over to the toll booth, and starting applying a substance to the pieces of the broken gate, placing each one back into place. They had everything back together in no time at all. A motorist who had watched the whole thing was amazed that the booth went back together so easily. He asked one of the workers, "What was that stuff you used to put the booth back together so fast?"

The workman re-

plied, "Oh, that was toll gate booth paste."

I know. I know. I can't hear some of you groaning at that old joke. But, to my point, I'm glad we have a Lord who so wonderfully can repair our brokenness.

If you think back over the years, you'll recall that He came to you in your brokenness and loved you back to wholeness, time after time. That broken heart, He soothed it. That broken relationship, He helped you past it. That broken dream, He gave you a better one. That's just what He does.

Remember the day when a multitude of 5,000 men plus women and children had gathered to see Jesus, and it had gotten past supper-time and they were all very hungry. Jesus fed the whole bunch with five loaves of bread and two fish. And every person ate until his or her belly was filled. If you remember, after everyone had eaten, the disciples gathered up 12 baskets filled with pieces of leftover bread and fish.

You see, our Lord is interested in broken pieces. I loved what the

late, great Baptist evangelist Maze Jackson said about why Jesus gathered those pieces. Maze joked that they were given to 12 doubtful preachers who lived down the road, to show them that Jesus really can do anything, that nothing is impossible with Him. Those pieces, no doubt, proved to be a great blessing.

I really love the underlying message from that scripture that Jesus can make great use of the broken pieces of our lives. Those heart-breaks you've experienced allow you to come alongside a hurting friend. Those difficulties you've faced allow you to help that co-worker. The losses you have suffered allow you to come alongside that grieving neighbor. Yes, your brokenness can be a blessing to those around you. The Lord didn't need toll gate booth paste to repair your life. With his great love, he fixed you up.

*Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at P.O. Box 673, Owenton, Ky. 40359 or 502-514-6857.*

# Hospital plans Ladies Healthy Heart Brunch

Mercy Health - Marcum and Wallace Hospital will sponsor a Ladies Healthy Heart Brunch on Saturday, March 7th at Irvine First Christian Church (located at 270 Main Street in Irvine) at 9 a.m.

This free event will feature a presentation titled, "Are numbers just numbers? Heart Health and You" by Dr. Paula Hollingsworth, a cardiologist with Baptist Health Lexington.

All women who attend

will receive a free brunch, gift and door prize chance. Health screenings offered include: waist/weight/BMI, carotid artery ultrasound, and lab work (you must fast 12 hours for cholesterol and blood sugar test). Educational booths will also be available.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one killer of women; that's approximately one woman every minute. Ninety percent of

women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease.

"It's important for women to be educated about heart disease," said Dr. Paula Hollingsworth. "The symptoms of a heart attack and heart disease can be different in women versus men and are often misunderstood. It's also important to know how your numbers impact heart health."

Please sign up by Monday, March 2nd by calling 726-8185.

## Ladies Healthy Heart Brunch

Saturday, March 7th at 9 a.m.

Irvine First Christian Church

(Address: 270 Main Street in Irvine)

Join us for free brunch, education and health screenings sponsored by:



Please sign up by Monday, March 2nd by calling 726-8185.

FREE health screenings offered at the event:

- waist circumference/weight/BMI
- cholesterol \*must fast 12 hours
- blood sugar \*must fast 12 hours
- carotid artery ultrasound

Guest speaker: Dr. Paula Hollingsworth, Cardiologist, Baptist Health Lexington



# ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

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MARCH 2-6, 2020

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"Mommie & Me" and Storytime Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. & Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

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