



Times Remembered
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covered step. My boots crunched along the ice-covered snow. Tree branches hung low with ice; the water bucket left overnight was one solid chunk of ice. That didn't improve my attitude.

Why couldn't we just ease into winter more slowly rather than the sudden drop in temperatures the last few days? I kept grumbling, I don't like this weather!

Slowly I realized this wasn't so bad, it could be worse. As I turned from feeding the dog and cat, I noticed the Butterfly Bush I planted last summer was bent over and encased in crystal ice. I gazed at the rest of the yard with a different attitude.

The ice storm had left everything beautiful by crystallizing every piece of grass, leaf, moss, seed, and rocks. The ice storm also coated the trees and electric lines; breaking lines and causing damage and loss of power. The storm transformed the drab winter scene to a magical world of crystal. The woods and yard took on a breath-taking wonderland.

I believe God can show us another side of our problems. There could be beauty in difficult situations. I had almost missed God's blessings by pre-determining aggravation at the onset of snow and ice.

We often see only the problems and miss the blessings and lessons from a loving God.

My prayer today is that we will feel the loving arms of God wrapped around through storms and problems. And we will know in our hearts that He will never leave us or forsake us as we trust in Him.

Blast from the past!



Four of the 13 children of Samuel Courtney and Stanley Green Reed Barnes, about 1954, left to right, Ruby Alice Barnes Lynch (11), Eldene Charlene O'Shea (9), Raymond Barnes (25), and Beverly Wayne Barnes (7). Happy Birthday, Raymond! who turned 92 on February 9, 2021. (Photo courtesy of Lincoln Lynch)

Snow and Ice

I am looking out the window at the snow and ice from my dining room table and contemplating what I will write about this week. I thought and thought, but all I could think of was the weather and how I hated snow and ice. The past few winters have spoiled us.

Reluctantly, I pulled on my warmest winter wear; I planned on making a quick dash to the barn with water and feed. Cautiously, I opened the front door to step out on the ice-

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