



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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My Sunday afternoons are usually spent snoozing on the couch while Corky watches racing or fishing or hunting or football or any-

Pear Pickin' on a Sunday Afternoon

thing else that might catch his fancy, but for me there's nothing better than a nap! I love to crank the air conditioner to 'Artic Cold Front', snuggle under my favorite quilt and fall asleep to the sports announcers voice. My belly full of Mommas good cooking, I can usually nap right up until supper time.

Sunday lunch you can find our whole family gathered around Momma's table. It's always piled high with meats and breads and filled with green beans, mashed potatoes, big pitchers of sweet tea, Aunt Shirley's pies and lots and lots of noise! Our latest meal had us discussing Thanksgiving

plans and then the conversation turned to the pears that were ripening on some property owned by the family, that we refer to as 'The Mountain'. The weather was beautiful, the air held a hint of crisp fall temperatures that were to come, so we quickly cleared the lunch dishes and loaded up the trucks for 'The Mountain'.

The drive was perfect, purple and yellow flowers dotted the fields and as we began up the mountain, little blue flowers along with small golden flowers shaped like bells, lined the road. I made Corky stop so I could take some pictures of them. Daddy had always

taught me about the native plants of our area, but this one I wasn't familiar with. We drove on, talking of plans for our children to be here at Thanksgiving and Sarah Beth's upcoming trip to Italy to see her husband. How wonderful that she would be able to spend time with him during Christmas.

We arrived at the pear trees and bailed out. My three year old, great nephew, immediately found a woolly worm and sat quietly 'babysitting' and taking bites out of every pear he could reach. My sister Beth, propped a ladder against the lowest branch and passed pears down to me which I piled in my tie-die shirt un-

til the weight was too much to carry. My nephew Taylor, backed his huge Ford truck under the tree and niece Scarlett hopped in the bed and began picking while nephew Jon documented it all with his camera. Their Dad Dwight, made his way to the pear tree that was the 'good eating' tree and shook the branches with a garden rake. The pears that Beth picked were the 'putting up' kind, great for preserves and canning whole. Momma stood wrapped in a blanket of fall colors, pointing out the pears with the best shape. Corky checked for signs of deer and helped load our filled boxes in the truck. The only thing miss-

ing from the afternoon of fun, was Daddy. He loved a fall afternoon in the woods.

I stood back and watched his family. Jon raced across the field towards the pond with an amber colored dog that had showed up to keep us company. Colton tried to feed his woolly worm a pear and a breeze tugged at Mommas blanket. Daddy wasn't missing at all, he was there on the breeze, watching his family grow and proud that we continue the traditions he instilled in us, all those years ago.

Until Next Time...



Tam

Thank you from the family of Sylvia Jane White Wilson

The family of Jane Wilson would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the cards, food, visits, flowers, and prayers during the recent illness and passing of beloved Jane. The loving support of our friends and families has been a tremendous comfort during this difficult time of sorrow.

Jean White, Tony and Paula White, Angela and Gerald Flynn Family, Julie and Kevin Richardson Family, and Becky Fowler Family

In memory of My Sons

I still miss Mark Moore. He was my son that got killed 18 long years ago. And I miss Billie Ray Seals. He was also my son. I love both of them and cry every day and pray I see them both someday.

I love you boys.

Love, Mom
 Christine Moore

Thank you for your help

I want to thank everyone that helped Derrick Moore after he got hurt August 2 of this year. He almost died but God was with him and thank you for praying for him. He is my grandson and I love him as if he was my own son. My name is Christine Moore.

Speeding Up Disability Exam Claims

VETERANS POST by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has just announced the awarding of \$6.8 billion in contracts to improve the Medical Disability Examination process and get veterans' disability claims handed more quickly.

Let's look at the five companies it chose:

-VetFed Resources, Inc., Virginia, a veteran-owned small business.

-Logistics Health, Inc., Wisconsin, has a national network of "medical, dental and behavioral health providers" that offer annual physical exams and periodic health assessments.

-Medical Support Los Angeles has dozens of clinics scattered around three states.

-QTC Medical Services, Inc., California, appears to have a full complement of medical associates in seven big-city locations and has done exams since 2000.

-Veterans Evaluation Services, Inc., Texas, is another veteran-owned company.

A thumbs-up to the VA for expanding services to get the disability claims handled faster.

However, anyone can build a website and say anything on it, as well as skew facts on an application. One way to evaluate a company is to check the employer review sites on the Internet. You'll find both positive and negative reviews anywhere you look, but the devil is always in the details. Sometimes employees make small comments that add up ...

Another source of information is in patient complaints. I wonder if anyone considered any of these sources of information when they were awarding contracts, or if they only stuck to the applications in front of them.

It's also disturbing when two of the awardees file a protest with the Government Accountability Office against the others saying that the agency "miscalculated proposals, engaged in misleading discussions" and more in handing out the contracts. In wading through the very long decision documents, with the names of 28 attorneys at the top, it's hard to see how all the legalese and finger pointing will translate into actual veteran care and medical disability evaluations.

The Greatest Motivation by BOB CASEY, preacher Cornerstone Church of Christ 70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

If you were asked: "What is the greatest motivation of men and women?" I wonder what the answer would be. But speaking from the book of God, here is my reply: In **I Corinthians 13:13**, Paul says; "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity."

This word charity given here in our languages is taken from the Hebrew and Greek words meaning to have love and goodwill towards mankind, also to give to the needs of others. Our Lord says in **Mark 12:29-34**, Jesus was asked by one of the scribes: which is the first commandment of all. To this the Lord replied: "The Lord thy God is one God. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength, this is the first commandment. And the second is like namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self, there is none other commandment greater than this." But I am afraid that we have entered into a time told by Jesus, described by Jesus in **Matthew 24:12**. He said this prior to the destruction of the Jewish religious and political systems which took place in 70 AD, saying "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." So today, because men have turned a deaf ear to God, and a cold shoulder to others around them we have entered into the perilous days described by Paul in his writings.

But there is hope, for Jesus has said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (**John 15:13**). Then He went to the cross and did this very thing. He went to the cross because there was no greater way to demonstrate how great His love is.

Now to a question for all of us. "Do we really love the Lord for what he has done for us?" How can we prove it? In **John 14:23** Jesus says: "If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him." Now then! Have you kept His word that will save you? Have you heard Him say: "Except you believe in me you will die in your sins." (**Luke 13:1-5**). Have you heard Him say in **John 8:24** "Except you turn in repentance in your sins, you will perish." Have you heard Him say in **Matthew 10:32-33** to confess His name before men. Example being **Acts 38:37**. Then you have obeyed His commandment to be baptized for the remission of sins just as the Bible teaches or have you been wrongly taught something else?

In my summation, if you have not obeyed the simple plan given to save you, then you do not love our Lord, and remain in a lost state no matter how comfortable you may feel attending, where you do. Does not our Lord also say in **John 14:24**, "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings, and the word which ye hear is not mine but the Father's which sent me." You might stand upon thirty Bibles declaring that you love Jesus, but if you have not obeyed His words to save you, you are still unsaved and are doomed unless you obey what He says. **Hebrews 5:8-9** plainly declares that eternal life only awaits those that obey Him. Read it for yourself. By my remarks, you may not think that I am not concerned for your salvation, but this is untrue. I love you enough to tell you the truth, because in doing so, I will save myself and all that will hear me. Read **I Timothy 4:16**. See what it says.

Attend with us this Lord's day at Cornerstone, 70 Bond Street in West Irvine.

Sincerely, Bob Casey 1(859) 369-4165

Winners never quit; quitters never win



America's Heartland
Roger Alford
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A man walked into the factory to deliver his job application to the human resources department.

After glancing over it, the human resources executive notices that this fellow has been fired from every job he ever had.

"I've got to tell you," the executive said candidly, "this has to be the worst work history I've seen. You think I'd consider hiring someone who has been fired so many times?"

"Yes," the fellow replied.

"And tell me why," the HR executive said. "Tell me one positive thing about this application."

"Well, it shows I'm not quitter."

There's much to be said for a man who doesn't quit, who hangs in there amid great adversity.

That's why I appreciate the words of the late great hall-of-fame football coach Vince Lombardi who once said: "Winners never quit and quitters never win."

It's all too easy to give up and walk away when times get tough. The temptation is to do just that when dealing with difficult people, difficult work assignments and difficult relationships.

I'm glad our Jesus is no quitter. He never gives up on us. When times are good, He's there. When times are tough, He's there. No matter the degree of difficulty, we can count on Jesus.

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," He told us in **Hebrews 13:5**. Great men are like Je-

sus in that regard. Winston Churchill, the British prime minister during World War II, was admired and respected by his countrymen. Amid times of great loss and despair when bombs were ravaging London, Churchill inspired his people with his persevering attitude.

In one of his most enduring speeches, Churchill shared the immortal words: "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

Those words could just as easily pertain to our spiritual enemy, the devil. He is waging war on mankind. And we should never, ever, give ground to him. If he can convince us to quit, he wins and we lose. Preachers need to keep on preaching. Singers need to keep on singing. Prayer warriors need to keep on praying. We mustn't quit.

That day when Jesus was being nailed to the cross on Calvary; He didn't quit. If ever there was a time any one of us would be ready to bail, that would be when the sharpened end of big nails were being pressed against our hands and our feet and a hammer ready to drive them through.

But that was the very reason Jesus came to this earth; to die on that cross. So, instead of calling down 10,000 angels and saying I'm out of here, Jesus allowed wicked men to nail Him in place, hoist Him into the air, where He'd hang for some six hours until he died as the sinless Lamb of God.

He died so we might live. He didn't quit. And we all need to thanking Him for that.

And when it comes to serving our Jesus, we mustn't quit either. In the words of Churchill:

"Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never."

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.



"My wife and I have an excellent relationship — she communicates and I _____!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Check	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
PICSENT	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dissent	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
LAINED	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Refuse	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SWEAT	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expert	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TAPED	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

TODAY'S WORD

Attention Veterans

A Veterans Benefits Field Representative will be at the National Guard Armory, 335 Cow Creek Road, Ravenna, on Thursday, October 6th and normally the first Thursday of each month. The hours are 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Veterans and their dependants will receive assistance filing for Federal and state veterans benefits. This service is provided free of charge by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. To apply, veterans need to furnish copies of pertinent documentation to verify eligibility. For further information, please call toll free within Kentucky, 1-866-376-0308, to speak with a Veterans Benefits Field Representative.