



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

## Camping on Copperas

Several years ago when Bob and I first married we spent the weekend camping at his Great Aunt's cabin located in Powell County on Copperas Creek. The quaint, rustic little cabin sat close to the creek. No phone, no TV, no indoor plumbing, just the six of us in a small cabin enjoying each other's company and creating memories.

The inside was open floor plan with two beds, a couch and table with a few cabinets. There was no indoor plumbing; therefore we went to the outhouse. Bob told us there was a woman buried next to that outhouse. She fell in and drowned and they just left her there. She walks in that open field at midnight on a clear night with a full moon. Yeah, right!!

More importantly, the cabin's heart consisted

of the recollections of childhood events that made the place just being there special.

We arrived in the afternoon and began unpacking all of our camping gear. The girls put clean sheets on the beds, swept the floors and checked for spiders, wasps and other critters, while the guys gathered firewood and rocks for the fire.

Bob, the former Boy Scout, built a log cabin type fire to cook our hamburgers and fried potatoes. The square shape acts like a chimney, allowing heat and flames to escape through the top in a somewhat uniform fashion and is more conducive for cooking food than a teepee formation.

After cooking the food, and devouring all the fried potatoes and delicious fixings, we were ready to kick back and enjoy the camp fire. The sun was beginning to set, and the cooking utensils were scrubbed and put away.

Now then, we were getting settled all warm and comfy into our chairs, when someone mentioned that there sure was a lot of traffic racing up and down the creek that passed by the cabin. Where in the world were they going? There were four-wheel drive trucks and four wheelers mostly.

Deer season was fast approaching, but wasn't out yet; were people looking for deer to spotlight? That is against the law! Or perhaps, deer poaching could be a possibility;

which is even worse. This went on for several hours.

About 11:00 P.M. the County Sheriff pulled up while we are enjoying our camp fire. They began to ask us questions like, what are we doing there, have we seen any people going in and out? Duh! Only a dozen or two. They explained there had been reports of deer poachers in the area. They proceeded on up the creek to check on the situation.

We decided it was time to go inside and lock our doors, (there was no lock), and check our weapons; just in case we might need them. The guys were sleeping close to their guns. We thought it was funny because every now and then one of them would holler, "Did you hear that?" "No, what?" "Sounded like a door slammed."

Then, all at once we heard this screeching sound; maybe like a scream . . . it sounded close but very faint. Everyone raised up in bed and looked around, all except Bob. Where was Bob? We all start looking for him when we heard him bust out laughing. He was hiding outside the window with a large coffee can with a string in the middle of the can. He had made a noise maker; he was pulling the string back and forth that made the scary sound like a scream. He was trying to scare us; well, he succeeded! We made him sleep outside for a while! By the way, the sheriff caught two poachers that night.

## Decision Time: Mom offers son two options for dinner



### America's Heartland

**Roger Alford**  
RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

A mother asked her teenage son if he'd like something dinner:

"What are my options?" he asked.

"Yes or no," his mother answered.

The Bible makes clear that we have a very important "yes" or "no" decision to make when it comes to serving God. We see that in the example of one of the great heroes of the Old Testament, a man named Joshua. He was courageous and faithful to God, and, as a result, was honored with the privilege of leading God's people into the Promised Land.

When Joshua was old and nearing death, he called all the leaders of Israel together and had a heart-to-heart talk with them, offering a very compelling argument for dedicating their lives to the Lord.

Joshua reminded them of the incredible things God had done for them over the years, delivering them from slavery in Egypt and giving them an incredible homeland. I truly believe it was one of the greatest motivational speeches of all time. In it, he called on the people to put away the false gods of neighboring countries.

"Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Having heard Joshua's challenge, the people answered: "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God" (Joshua 24:16).

It's always heartwarming when one of God's people tells others how wonderful He is. It's even more heartwarming when they make the decision to give their hearts to Him.

I'm convinced that any-

one who opens the Bible and earnestly considers the options will choose the Lord every time.

Long after Joshua had graduated to Heaven, a new generation of people had strayed from the faith and were worshipping false gods. That's when the prophet Elijah arrived on the scene, and he, like Joshua, called the people to make life's most important decision.

"How long will you halt between two opinions?" Elijah asked the people. "If the Lord be God, follow Him" (1 Kings 18:21).

Our relatives and friends and neighbors need to be challenged in the same way. They need to choose whom they will serve. Who better to voice that challenge than you?

I'm guessing the teenage son answered "yes" when he considered his mother's options for dinner. And you just may be surprised how many people answer "yes" when you give them the option to accept Christ.

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

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