



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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School has been out for about a month now and we still aren't really having summer. All the rain we've been having... and school will be starting soon. Hopefully, the rain will stop soon and we will have summertime and a dry 4th of July. Maybe all the plants will have a chance to dry out.

The rain is especially hard for farmers who have hay that can't be cut because of the rain. It doesn't have a chance to dry out to be baled. Also, vegetable leaves turn yellow, drown out and die. That's not good because the Farmer's Market people need good weather for their crops.

I remember when we had tobacco. If any of the fields had low places, the tobacco would drown out and some that weren't drowning would die due to something called black leg. We would reset the tobacco plants after it dried up; but they still would not be as big as the rest of the crop.

I remember when I would go with my Dad to measure the farmer's tobacco; if the farmer was over his amount of his allocated base it would have to be destroyed. The plants that had drowned out or small would be

Summertime



Colton Helton

chosen for destruction. Then sometimes those big beautiful tobacco plants would have to be cut; that really hurt. But it was the law back then. The rule now is the change to end the federal program and price supports which for 65 years limited the amount a farmer could sell but set a minimum price for their leaf.

Now they can grow all they want, but the price will be about 25 percent less; about \$1.50 a pound instead of \$2.00. That and other changes in the tobacco market means that some growers won't be growing any more. It's a shame in my book; it's not right that the US tobacco has been regulated ending most tobacco crops. The small farmer has been phased out.

On another subject now...

I want to congratulate my grandson, Colton on his awesome school year. He had all A's this year again and received the award for Best Athlete. "Mr. Muscle Award" Award is given to the best boy athlete in 4th grade. He is 10 years old and a big boy for his age. He's

5'2 and weighs 123 lbs. Also he is playing travel baseball where he pitches and he's hitting the ball very well. He loves pitching, but there are only so many pitches per game because of his age; too much pitching at his age could damage his arm. He plays center field and third base when he doesn't pitch.

Colton recently attended the Auburn University basketball camp where he received the "Hot Shot" award over 50 other players in his age group. The award was presented by Auburn Tigers coach Bruce Pearl.

In addition, today, Congratulations to my son-in-law, Steve Helton, Colton's father, who is now Athletic Director at Scott County High School. He and my daughter Tara will still coach Girls' Basketball at Scott County High too. Steve is very deserving of this position. He is a hard worker, very dedicated and knows all the sports being played. He also is very organized; that is a characteristic I really admire in him, too. Good Luck in your new position!

It was no accident: Redneck says snake bit him on purpose



America's Heartland

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A redneck, having applied for an insurance policy, had to answer some routine questions.

"Have you ever had an accident before?"

"Nope," the redneck answered.

"Not even one?" the agent persisted.

"Nope," the redneck said. "A rattler bit me once, though."

"And you don't call that an accident?"

"Nope, the danged varmint did it on purpose."

I expect all of us have experienced accidents of one sort or another. Sometimes there have

been physical or emotional injuries as a result. Pastors are often asked why God allows bad things to happen to good people. No answer to that question is ever adequate. We simply have to trust that God loves us and that He knows what He is doing, even when it makes no sense to us whatsoever.

In Isaiah 59:8-9, God tells us "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God sees the big picture from his throne on high, and we see only a tiny bit from down here on our level. So we must trust that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord" (Romans 8:28).

When people come to us with broken hearts because of a turn of events and ask "why" the Lord allowed it, we should be honest and let them know we don't have the answers, and that, in the

absence of answers, we need to lean on His assurances from the Bible.

One such assurance is that God loves us. In fact, He loves us so much that He gave his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for us on the cross at Calvary so that we may live forevermore. Despite what's happening in our lives, we can rest upon the truth of His love.

Another assurance is that life on this earth is not the "be all end all." The Lord has prepared a much nicer home, an eternal home for his people.

The Bible assures us that our Lord loves us, no matter what comes our way, and that nothing can ever happen that would separate us from His love.

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, no things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

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