

The Power of One



**by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist**

There was a lady who lived a hundred years ago. People around her might not have thought she would change the world. She was a housewife, tended a garden and sometimes worked in a little grocery store. She loved God and attended a tiny Baptist church but her husband never went with her.

The lady had three sons.

The eldest went away to war and came back with issues many veterans deal with. Her youngest son died at a young age from an accidental shooting. The middle son was unconcerned about God. He went to church during his younger years but then had many other things to occupy his time. He married and had a little girl—the lady's granddaughter.

The older lady could have been discouraged, none of her men cared about loving or serving God. But she did not give up. She decided she would take her granddaughter to church and teach her about the love and goodness of God.

The little girl loved going to church with her grandmother. She loved God and everything about Him. One special day in 1948 she gave her heart to Jesus.

Shortly after, her mother decided to go to church to see what the little girl was so excited about. She began attending regularly and also gave her heart to Jesus. One

Sunday morning, quite unexpectedly, her husband asked if she would iron a white shirt for him. Very surprised, she asked "Why?" He wanted to go to church, too! It was the beginning of a long love relationship with God! He gave his heart and life to Christ and never looked back! He became a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, missionary supporter and so many other things! He helped the needy and encouraged the down-trodden.

When the little girl was older, she had a family of her own and taught her children about God. All their lives, through good times and bad, she reminded them that God would give them strength. She made them go to church even when they didn't want to because she knew it was best. She clung to God's Word and encouraged them to do the same.

That little girl . . . was my mother.

My great-grandmother really DID change the world . . . MY world!



This photo is circa 1949. My grandfather, in a white shirt, grandmother, my mother, her little brother, a cousin and aunt are all headed to church—without the dog. My great-grandmother is the one in the hat.

Track star? Late night scare can put some speed in your feet



America's Heartland
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You may have heard about the old fellow

whose nightly walk took him past the cemetery.

One night, three girls caught up with him and explained how they were frightened to walk past the cemetery by themselves.

The old gentleman said he fully understood, that he used to be scared of cemeteries, too, when he was alive.

He said he'd never seen a group of girls run that fast.

It's amazing just how much the Bible has to say about running. We're called, in essence, to be track stars in the race

that really matters, the race that has Heaven as the finish line. Listen to this scripture:

"Run in such a way to win the prize ... a crown that will never fade away." (1 Corinthians 9:25).

I love that our Lord and Savior has made the way for everyone who trusts in him to receive the crown, or, in other words, to be winners. The fact is, if we have Jesus, there is no way to lose. The Bible tells us that, with him, we're more than conquerors.

I expect we could all

use some encouragement in that regard from time to time. Well, the Bible provides that encouragement. Consider this verse:

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary" (Isaiah 40:31).

I have always been a runner to one degree or another. As a kid, I

rarely walked. I ran everywhere. When I was in college, I ran daily. In my work life, I have gone through periods where I ran very little and other periods when I ran a great deal. Now that I've gotten into and past middle age, I find that running is absolutely necessary to keep my weight and blood pressure down.

As Christians, we must exercise in other ways

if we hope to be spiritually healthy. Those exercises include prayer, Bible study, worship and church attendance.

There are people who get engaged in spiritual exercises only when they get a good scare, like the girls walking past the cemetery. I'd encourage you not to wait for a scare to begin spiritual exercises. I'd urge you to begin the Christian race today.

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