

He Took My Call!!

September 17, 2021

I've had a couple of difficult days, before that a couple of BLESSED days, but tonight took the cake!

On Thursday a week ago, I stopped in at a "Do It Yourself Store" to inquire about an herbicide that kills crabgrass and sedge. After getting the information I needed, I turned around to hear the words I seldom hear lately, "Hi Dr. Rapalje!" I said, "WHAT did you say??" He repeated the greeting, and my former student from named Patrick from about 20 years ago thanked me for being such a good teacher.

On Friday, my EMT friend from across the street asked me to help him transport a car to his fire station for a special event scheduled for the coming 9/11 weekend. After we arrived, he gave me a tour of his station, introducing me to a couple of his colleagues. There it was! I heard it again for the second day in a row: "Hi Dr. Rapalje!" This time it was another student, Jarell also from about 20 years ago. Well, for 36 years I had been a professor of mathematics at Seminole Community College, renamed Seminole State College of Florida since my retirement 14 years ago. There are currently only about three people I know of who still call me "Dr. Rapalje," two of whom are colleagues from before my retirement, and the third is a very good friend of mine named Edward.

A week went by, and I had been sick for a couple of days. It looked as if Martha was not well herself. I had been trying in vain to make a connection between her doctor and the mail-away pharmacy for about 2 weeks. It was 8:50 p.m., and Martha's doctor had left the office about noon on Thursdays. I hated to continue bothering the doctor, but I decided to go ahead, call his office, and leave a message requesting a refill for Martha. Certainly expecting the message machine, I was shocked when a PERSON answered the telephone. I thought I must have dialed the wrong number! In total surprise, I said, "Is your office OPEN??" The reply was, "No! We are just here working, and the doctor, recognizing YOUR NUMBER, said to take your call!" WOW!! I actually got to talk with Martha's doctor!

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Isn't that the way with the Lord, the God of the Universe? When we get into trouble, and we need help, HE TAKES OUR CALLS, and HE MEETS OUR NEEDS!!!

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