

INTO THE FOLD

visit our website at www.umcrp.org

June 2019

Ponderings by Pastor JoEllyn....

Despite our desire to turn back the hands of time, the truth is: We get older every day. Hopefully, as we grow in age, our souls are being formed into a more beautiful and wiser form of the younger person of our past.



As we experience growth, we have learned to follow Jesus more closely, and have felt the commission to tell others about Him.

"And even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, until I declare Your power to the next generation."
Psalm 71: 18

In this verse, it is clear that God is encouraging us to share with those who are younger and experiencing things that have long since been out of our thoughts and minds. We in turn have had a lifetime of understanding that:

*"I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long, as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be."

Anything we do in our own strength is nothing compared to a life lived in His strength and power.

I challenge you today to tell your story, the story of God's amazing strength to the next generation. They may be your children, children in your church, or those in your neighborhood. They are the future, and let's say when they meet Jesus and live in His strength, they will become ambassadors to the following generations.

Sharing Jesus with those younger than ourselves is a strategically Godly investment in the future, one that will overflow with dividends of wealth. You may be timid about sharing what you know, with those younger people that God has put in your life. Start by asking, "Would you like to hear a story?" Everyone is open to hearing what you have to say, even if you are not sure where to start.

You may have heard the phrase "God doesn't call the equipped — He equips those He calls." I am not sure who first shared this thought with me, and yet, I believe it to be true.

This truth has encouraged me often, especially when I feel inadequate to face challenges or when someone assigns me something that overwhelms me.

Followers of Jesus have experienced this truth

throughout centuries, even as early as the first disciples. They were ordinary people like you and me, most not highly educated, but Jesus called them and through Him they accomplished extraordinary things. They changed the world then and we continue to change the world today.

At every stage of my journey, Jesus has asked me to take on something that I felt unprepared to take on, and I knew without Him I would fail. Guess what? He gave me what I needed when I needed it, and He continues to do that to this very day.

If you are feeling weak and inadequate and not equipped for God's assignment, you are not alone. Brothers and sisters in Christ have and still struggle with the same feelings. He has promised to be with us and that is something that you can take to the bank.

Praying you through,
Pastor JoEllyn

Bette's Pen:

For my sister Deb, brother Joey, myself and family, this will be our 7th Father's Day without, Dad, Many of you knew him... Joe Watnick. We miss him.. I remember as children Sunday was family day. After Church, we would go for a summer Sunday drive down country roads, Dad knew the roads that had the hills and those

dips that would tickle your tummy. We would laugh and giggle and say do it again. Dad & Mom would laugh and off to another hill & dip. Later, in hindsight, Dad would say maybe that wasn't very smart to do, but we loved it... Then we would go home for an afternoon of playing games, or our favorite card game, Flinch..

I know there are many who have their Dad in Heaven just as we do. I saw this saying, and it is quite true for us and I'm sure for you too..

The greatest gift I ever had, came from God, and I call him Dad! -
Anonymous

Loving Memories on Father's Day
Dad, Of all the gifts in life however great or small, to have you as my Dad was the greatest gift of all.

A special time, a special face, a special dad I can't replace. With an aching heart I whisper low I miss you Dad and love you so!

Thank you for all you did for me, & our family...
All my Love.....

Do any of you have a power of prayer moment, a God Wink, or God Moment, A family time that makes you smile when you remember, you would like to share? ... Let me know, and we can put in the newsletter... Blessings & Peace be yours,

Bette

Music Fest 2019

The weather did not cooperate again this year.. It started out a beautiful day. Radar made it look as if rain storm would go around us. In a return appearance from last 2 years, the great, New Prairie Jazz Band opened the Fest, and finished their awesome performance. The sky was threatening & turning dark, and the wind started to pick up but consensus was that the storm would go around. Down by Docks, a popular & wonderful local area

band, was next up. They were all set up and started playing. The fest goers were ready to listen to the awesome tunes of the band when "wham, bam" The wind picked up, attempting to make the canopy, protecting the sound board into a kite. Four of us ran to each of the four corners to keep it on the ground. The threatening sky opened up and it down poured rain, as the fest goers, except for a few hearty souls who hunkered down with rain poncho's & umbrellas to listen as Down by Dock continued playing, ran for cover... The Music fest was moved inside, with the Portage Choriliers on stage next under direction of ??? .. Carrie Carlson, organizer of the Fest and director of Portage High School Jazz String Orchestra, didn't disappoint with the musical talents of this Jazz Band. Returning Portage Jazz Combo was wonderful with their smooth melodies. .

Old Thyme Bluegrass Band, featuring our own Steve Everingham, his brothers, Doug & ??? and Kamden closed the fest with their fine music. Despite the weather we had a good turn out to the Fest. The Pulled Pork dinner was delicious as always.. Fest goers were treated to some great music..

If you didn't make it to the fest you missed some really good music and food. See You Next Year!

HATE has 4 letters so does **LOVE** –
ENEMIES has 7 letters so does
FRIENDS

LYING has 5 letters so does **TRUTH** –
NEGATIVE has 8, so does **POSITIVE**
UNDER has 5, so does **ABOVE** –
CRY has 3 letters, so does **JOY**
ANGER has 5 letters so does **HAPPY**
RIGHT has 5 letters so does **WRONG**
HURT has 4, so does **HEAL**

Life is like a double edge sword. So transform every negative side into

An aura of positivity. We should always choose the better side of life... It's your perception that makes the difference in the way you feel
Excerpt from LifeLearnedFeelings

EVENTS & MEETINGS 2019

Graduate Sunday June 9th..

UMW MEETING

Tuesday June 11, 10:30 a.m.

@ Cheryl Lenig's

Fair Meeting Tues June 11, 6:30

Best Years

Wednesday June 19,

Noon Black Smith Shoppe

Pie Making Day - @ the church

Friday June 28th @8 a.m.

Food Prep at the Fair Building –

Fri & Sat, July 5 & 6 @ 8 a.m.

LP County Fair

Church Food Booth July 7- 13

Clean up of Fair building to be determined soon

Sign Up Times Schedule will be out on the Credenza for when you can work a shift or two or three..

There are various times 7 a.m – 11 a.m. – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m – 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and slots you can fill; Grill, Fryer, Crockpots, Hot Table Specials, Drinks, Desserts, Salads, Cashier, Kitchen, Table Cleaners, Runners.

Euchre Night UMW sponsored
Saturday Sept 21 5 – 9 p.m
No Silent Auction... Just a fun time to play cards, laugh, chat.
Come for sandwich 5 – 6 pm..
Cards at 6.. Details later...



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue with the study 3:16 THE NUMBERS OF HOPE by Max Lucado, for the month of June.... Digging deeper into the meaning of these 26 words. We will delve into

who exactly is “Whoever” in the first of the next 7 words, “Whoever believes in him shall not perish”.. We lose much in life, but never our place on God’s “Whoever” list. Can just believing be all there is to it?? Or is there more? Perish, such an omnibus word... Makes one shudder!!

Believers and seekers alike have flocked to this hope and continue to share this message with those they love. Please join us in unpacking these next seven words to find out what do they mean to us & for us. No status too low – No hour too late – No place too far – However- Whenever – Wherever.... Whoever includes you.... Forever.... He loves. He gave. We believe. We live.

Please come & join us. class meets at 10:30 right after fellowship hour.

CHILDRENS CHURCH:

The children begin the Summer Series AT HOME with GOD...Church Family starts June off... They will learn about Peter & John, Pentecost, First Called Christians, Believers Share, Choosing the Seven..



The May Best Years group met at the Blacksmith Shoppe hosted by JoEllyn Chadwick. There were 21 present. Iva said grace & lively conversation along with good food followed. June Birthdays are Linda Everingham, June 5th, Art Lenig, June 23, June Lenig, June 25, & Sharon Campos June 28. Anniversaries are; Art & Rose Lenig, June 7, & Herb & Arlos Scofield June 17.

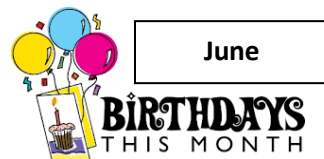
Myrna gave an update on Pam, that she is home & doing better Norma Faulstitch passed away last week..

Attendance gifts of gardening tools were won by: Rose Lenig, Sharon

Campos, Jim Williamson, Ann Riedstra, & Shirley Kirkham.. Others present were: Connie Galloway, Deanie Eubanks, Evelin Hamilton, Ben & Karen Rison, Harold Carlson, Herb Scofield, Art Lenig, Lester Chadwick, Wayne Kirkham, Bob Swanson, Linda Everingham, & Bette Schaefer, The May meeting will be June 19, at the Blacksmith Shoppe, hosted by Iva.



- 01 Steve & Cheryl Lenig
- 06 Mike & Gretchen Krivak
- 07 Art & Rose Lenig
- 17 Herb & Arlos Scofield
- 28 Mark & Carol Dillon Schuck
- 30 Scott & Jeannee Nordin



- 03 Michael Swanson
- 05 Linda Everingham
- 05 Bailey Lenig
- 06 Jason Lenig
- 06 Darcy Freese
- 08 Scott Hakes
- 09 Megan Lenig
- 11 Rick Novak
- 12 Alex Thresh
- 12 Elliot Thresh
- 15 Emily Huff
- 16 Cheryl Lenig
- 16 Clifford Hughes
- 18 Paul Iwaszewski
- 20 Kevin Wheatbrook
- 22 Cody Williamson
- 23 Arthur Lenig
- 24 Erik Richardson
- 24 Art Wasielewski Jr
- 24 Margaret Rimmer
- 25 June Lenig
- 26 Deanna Jack
- 28 Beverly Mrozinski

28 Sharon Campos
30 Madilyn McSurley



If you have a need or you know someone that needs prayers, Call Pastor JoEllyn and she will relay to the next person to activate the Prayer Chain.

Pastor JoEllyn’s Cell phone # for After Hours Emergency & Prayer Chain Request
(219)-363-5061

June FOOD PANTRY Requests

Always Need plastic bag

*Any Soup,
Any Cereal,
Applesauce*



Dollars for Dogs



Food Pantry Fundraiser @ Kabelin’s Saturday June 22nd 8:30 – 2 p.m

&

Bake Sale

If anyone would like To donate a bread, cake, pie, cookies,

muffins etc. for the Bake Sale would be kindly appreciated... Please come out for a good dog, sweet treats, & help support our Food Pantry...



WHAT MAKES A DAD?

God took the strength of a mountain & The majesty of a tree,

The warmth of a summer sun, The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature, &

The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages, & The
 power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity, &
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these
 qualities.
 When there was nothing
 more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was
 complete..

And so, He called it DAD

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY ALL YOU DAD'S AND GRANDDADS...

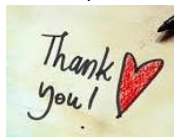
The rose is the flower most often associated with Father's Day. Red roses for Dad's who are still living, and white for Dad's that have passed away.

Did you know? There are more than 70 million fathers in the United States... WWW.HISTORY.COM



Thank you,
 Wayne Kirkham,
 Harold Carlson,
 Colin Syverson for helping me with changing the church sign..

Thank you to all our Sunday School Teachers.. Jean Dare, Pam Dixon, Karen Fitzgerald, Cheryl Pumroy, Shannon Merrill, for making a difference, for planting the seeds in helping our children grow in understanding God's



word & for helping them grow in God's love...



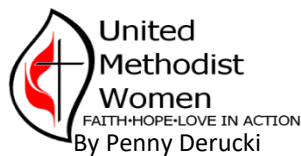
A big, big thank you to all of our church family & community who not only came out to support & listen to the talented Music groups that performed, but who helped with the Music Fest Saturday May 18 in any way . Organizing, inviting, & coordinating the performers for the Fest, Setting up for the event, scurrying around bringing the music inside, & getting equipment under cover & holding the canopy from becoming a kite, when the skies let loose with the downpour rain, making cookies for the dinner, and the delicious sweet treats for the bake sale, and then staying after putting everything back in its place.

Thank you, to all who helped with the food prep, cookie bagging & working the serving line of the Pulled Pork



Dinner during the Fest..

You all rock!!!



On May 14, 2019, the United Methodist Women came together in fellowship and celebration for this beautiful day that God had made for us. Our President Barbara Parker, opened our meeting and we read together our Purpose. We enjoyed pumpkin and blueberry bread, fruit and juice provided by our hostess, Barbara Parker. We shared cares and concerns for Pam Dixon and for

those traveling for doctor appointments.

We received a thank-you for our donation to Bashor Children's Home, in Goshen Indiana. It reads; your generosity sustains our mission and enhances the tradition of providing "help for today and hope for tomorrow" to hundreds of abused, neglected and troubled children and their families each year.

From our Prayer Calendar, Myrna Everill read the Mission Witness, given by Hannah Reasoner, Global Mission Fellows International from New York serving in Columbia. I am excited to work with an organization that engages the entire community, including children, to discuss justice issues

and human rights. Although transitioning to a new culture is never easy, it helps having work I'm passionate about and feeling like I'm part of something greater.

We are planning a fall euchre night for September 21, 2019.

There will be food but no silent auction this time. More details to follow.

Rose Lenig's Program for today, **April showers bring May flowers**, is something that we all can relate to for sure! This popular saying which we generally use during the springtime, comes into existence in the form of poems in England in around the mid 1500's. In 1557, a collection of writing-named as a Hundred Good Points of Husbandry-was composed by Thomas Tusser. March winds, bring April showers, April showers bring May flowers and June bugs. I have to share this with you, If April showers bring Mayflowers, what does the Mayflower bring? Pilgrims? She read several **April Showers** poems to us and this was one of my favorites:

Life is a splendid thing, for sure, or could be, quite a lot, For being showered with loving friends, is for sure the nicest things we've got. God's been watering all our hearts, of this we do not doubt, for in planting only lovely things, we get the good things out. If we've got some love to share, with a friend all tried and true, we can sure feel sort of cozy tucked under God's heaven so blue. But sometimes these days it pours with rain and we can hit some right raw mud, but when we patch it up with loving, we get to chuckle at the fun.

I want to send you lots of happy thoughts and prayers for God to bless you every day, with the softest of April showers to bring you the loveliest flowers in May.

Our next meeting will be on June 11, 2019 at 10:30 am central time at Cheryl Lenig's home, 8408 E US Hwy 20, New Carlisle IN.

Come join us.... We'll be saving you a seat....

Vacation Bible School



The Education team has decided to have VBS this year. The date will be Monday July 29 & Tuesday July 30... 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Kid's will kick up their heels at Yee-Haw VBS, as they stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate the greatest truth of all - God is GOOD!



If God sneezes, what should you say?



We have some helpers who have signed on, but could use a few more... Please Prayerfully consider helping in some way for this very important project. To man a station or help get lunch ready & served for VBS...

Want to help,
Please See Karen Fitzgerald.....

Be sure to come as we will be "Celebrating God's Greatest Gift" Have the children invite their friends. It's going to be so much fun...



Susan Knowlton (hospital pneumonia),
Bonnie Barning

(hospital, pneumonia, Carrie/Harold mother) Brad Nimtzt (Surgery Cancerous lymph nodes, Sherry & Paul Iwaszewski son-in-law) Carolyn Hunt (Chemo, friend of JoEllyn, Bette, Deb) Pat Majot (heart issues, friend of Bette & Dave) Lloyd Knowlton (cancer, Joe/Susan Knowlton's brother) Pat Tucker (Congestive Heart Failure & Afib, Lisa's grandmother) (Joe Spence (health issues brother in law Joe Knowlton) Mike Harris (Chemo) Pam Dixon, (Recovering complications of Surgery), Sally Grindle (knee replacement, friend Joyce Blint), Walt (Chemo) Betsy (kidney stone) Singleton friends of Jeff & Bobette Elkins) Trea Terry (serious car accident, great grandson, Art & Rose) Joe Knowlton (health issues) Carrie Chadwick (maintain back pain, Pastor JoEllyn daughter) Scott Thieme (health issue), Bette Elkins (Chemo,) Phillip Heminger (cancer) Kathy Heminger (Health Issue, cousins Bobette & Jeff Elkins) Debbie Baughman (recovering back surgery, sister

Bobette/Jeff Elkins) Betty Schimmel (cancer, sister Jeff/Bobette Elkins) Bob Lenters (Cancer & Heart, Ann Riedstra brother & daughter in law) Alice Riedstra (cancer), Richard Asvitt (feeling better, brother Virginia/Dave Bradford) Jim Williams (Shawna from BSS, father, recovering after Heart Surgery)

We have a few very special people in our church family that are struggling with various health concerns who wish to not be named. Please keep their UNSPOKEN REQUESTS lifted in prayer, as God knows who each of them are and what it is they need. Give them strength Oh Lord, to deal with whatever their struggle... Let them feel your arms embracing them with your warm, wonderful, love.. Bless them with your Peace. Thank You, God....

If you want someone to remain on or add please fill out new request card or call Pastor JoEllyn or Bette 219-778-2910

Jacob Adams US Army- States grandson Chris Adams
Craig Carlson, (pilot) US Air Force son Harold & Carrie Carlson
Matthew Chadwick US Army - son Lester & JoEllyn Chadwick

Michael Showalter Marines, grandson Wayne & Shirley Kirkham
Matthew Rompca Air Force nephew Shirley & Wayne Kirkham



Katelyn Williamson U S Marines
Daughter of Al and granddaughter of Jim Williamson
If you have someone serving and would like on our prayer list

please let Bette know...

Please lift all those serving our country, who are struggling, for whatever the reason; being alone, illness, divorce, loss of job, loss of loved ones, going through the firsts

after death of loved one.
Give thanks for everything...
Hear our Prayers, Oh Lord!

OOOOOPS: Bette missed the King's Club Gretchen sent for the March Newsletter..
I'm so sorry, but I have included in this, the June issue..

Thank you to those who have given to the Kings Club to support the missions of our church.



Kings Club Offerings for the month of February include:

Wayne Kirkham gave in celebration of his birthday 3-11

Mark & Rhonda Forney gave in celebration of:

Evelyn Pilar's 90th birthday 2-24

Iva Wasielewski gave in celebration of:

Olivia Swanson's birthday 1-23

Karen Swanson's birthday 1-30

Jacob Goodspeed's birthday 1-31

Roxy Hawkins birthday 2-5

David B. Wasielewski's birthday 2-7

David A. Wasielewski's birthday 2-14

Iva Wasielewski's birthday 3-10

Laken Wasielewski's birthday 3-16

*Kings club offerings go to support the local missions supported by the Missions and Outreach Committee. Which includes The Rolling Prairie Food Pantry, Hope Rescue Mission, Broadway Christian Parish, the Local Emergency Fund, and the Journey to Bethlehem. Donations of any amount are appreciated and accepted.

Pentecost

June 9th, 2019

<http://www.umc.org/>

One of the principal days of the Christian year, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Traditionally, Pentecost has been a day for baptisms. Because it was the custom in the early church for persons being baptized to wear white robes or clothing, the day also became known as Whitsunday, a contraction of white Sunday.

Shavuot

The Jewish holiday Shavuot 2019 begins at sunset on Saturday, June 8 and ends at sundown on Monday, June 10.

What is Shavuot?

Shavuot, the feast of weeks, is celebrated seven weeks after the second Passover seder. Although Shavuot began as an ancient grain harvest festival, the holiday has been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Learn more about the history of Shavuot here.

What are some customs and practices for Shavuot?

– To commemorate the giving of the Torah at Sinai there is a tradition of staying up all night studying Jewish texts in what is called a tikkun.

– On Shavuot the Book of Ruth is read.

– Traditionally dairy foods are eaten on Shavuot.

– In order to mark the agricultural history of Shavuot, some decorate their house and synagogues with a floral theme.



Added Sugars – What Should be the Limit

According to the Center for Disease Control website "Americans are eating and drinking too much added sugars which can lead to health problems such as weight gain and obesity, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. To live healthier, longer lives, most need to move more and eat better including getting fewer calories from added sugars."

What are added sugars?

- Added sugars are sugars and syrups that are added to foods or beverages when they are processed or prepared. Naturally occurring sugars such as those in fruit or milk are not added sugars.
- Added sugars are called by many different names. Examples of added sugars seen on ingredient labels include brown sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, dextrose, fructose, glucose, high-fructose corn syrup, honey, lactose, malt syrup, maltose, molasses, raw sugar, and sucrose.

Americans should limit their added sugars consumption

- Americans should keep their intake of added sugars to **less than 10% of their total daily calories** as part of a healthy diet. For example, in a 2,000 daily calorie diet no more than 200 calories should come from added sugars, this equals 50g.
- The leading sources of added sugars in the US diet are sugar-sweetened beverages, grain-based desserts like cakes and cookies, candy, and dairy desserts like ice cream. Reducing the amount of sugary drinks and sugary foods each day and replacing these with plain water and fruit might be a good way to reduce added sugars intake.

How do I know how much added sugar I am consuming?

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Serving size	2/3 cup (55g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	230
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	20%
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 235mg	6%

The new nutrition labels will be required to have added sugars on the label. This has not gone into effect yet, but will very soon.

However, many food

companies are already putting added sugars on the label in light of the new requirements. *see example. By reading the food labels, you can add up how much added sugars you are getting in your diet.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/data-statistics/know-your-limit-for-added-sugars.html> is information comes from the CDC website at:

Hears to your health,
Gretchen Krivak MS, RD, CGFI



Why are there no 'B' batteries?

Good morning!
Sunday June 16 is Father's

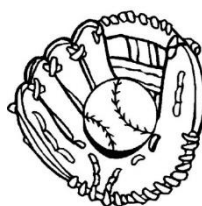
Day and we want to give thanks for the many important things that dads do. Here are a few things that you may see your Dads' use.

Do you know what this is and what it is used for? Yes, it's a wrench that is used for fixing things.

Many dads are good at fixing things that are broken around the house.



Do you know what this is? That's right, it's a baseball mitt. Some



dads like to play baseball, basketball or sports or games like corn hole, or maybe board games like



You know what this is. It's money. Dads have a job that they work at that helps provide money for the family.

That money can be used to buy food, clothing and many other good things.



What's this? Yes, it's a car. This car reminds me that often dads drive us to different places in the car, church, baseball practice & games, the zoo, or camping..

These are just a few of the things that dads, often like to do, but each has their own special way of helping us out. June 16th is Father's Day this year, and it is the perfect time to remember all that they do and to take time to say "thank you" to them. Make sure you say "thank you" to your grandpa's, or uncle's that help look after you. The bible says that all of us have God as a father as well. Although we can't see him he is real. He knows us, he watches over us, and he loves us so much. Take time to say thank you to God, our heavenly Father, because he is looking after us too. So I hope that you can take time

today to say “thank you” to your dad or grandpa or whoever else looks after you.

Prayer: Thank you God for dads. They are very important and we are grateful for all they do. Also, thank you for all the people that look after us and care for us. We also want to thank you God because all of us have you as a wonderful heavenly Father. In Jesus’ name, Amen

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Sundaychildrensfocus.com

The story below was sent to me by Alice Lenig. This touched her greatly and she wanted to share this true and heartwarming story with you. Thanks Alice!

Am I a fireman yet?

This is a true story viewed by millions of people on Global News...

In Calgary, Alberta a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6-year-old son, who was dying of terminal leukemia. Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination.

Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. The leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true. She took her son's hand and asked, 'Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up? Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?'

Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up.' Mom smiled back and said, 'Let's see if we can make your wish come true.'

Later that day she went to her local Fire Department in Calgary, where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Alberta. She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6 year-old son a ride round the block on a fire engine. Fireman Bob said, 'Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary Fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy - one with the emblem of the Calgary Fire Department on it, and a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots.' 'They're all manufactured right here in Calgary, so we can get them fast.'

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in Heaven.

There were three fire calls in Calgary that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls. He rode in the different fire engines, the Paramedic's' van, and even the fire chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy, that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice

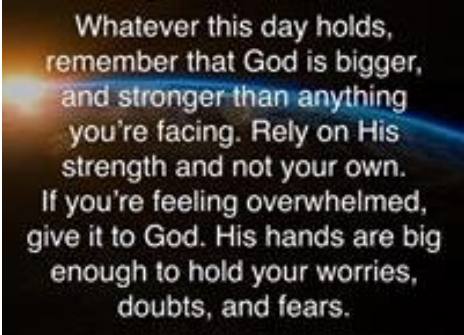
concept - that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a Fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition.

The chief replied, 'We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favor? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire?' 'It's the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?'

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window — 16 fire-fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room. With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him. With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, “Chief, am I really a fireman now?” 'Billy, you are, and the Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand,' the chief said with those words, Billy smiled and said, “I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and The angels have been singing.” He closed his eyes one last time.

Passed on with pleasure. Well done, Calgary Fire Department!!!

God is Good....
All the time!



Whatever this day holds,
remember that God is bigger,
and stronger than anything
you're facing. Rely on His
strength and not your own.
If you're feeling overwhelmed,
give it to God. His hands are big
enough to hold your worries,
doubts, and fears.