

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

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Memorial Day poem: A Time to Remember



Memorial Day is a time to remember to honor and show our respect for all men and women who gave up their lives for the country they fought to protect. Although we cannot picture all of their faces nor recognize each person's name we give thanks today for those brave US soldiers. When called by our country they came.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Bobby had memorized who were Jesus disciples, BUT watching cartoons before attending Sunday School appears to have cluttered his little mind. **Mk 1:14-19ish**

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

- **May 14, 1804** - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.
- **May 14, 1942** - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.



Looking Back and Look Forward

written by Marla Carter

Last week I went with my parents to take flowers to the cemeteries where our loved ones are buried. Each year, Mom makes sure every headstone has new flowers by Memorial Day. I asked Mom, sort of in jest, "Am I going to have to do this when you're gone?" She said, "Oh, no, don't worry about it. No one does it anymore anyway, at least not the young people." As she took the floral arrangements out of the car and carefully secured them to the headstones, I noticed she was looking around and commenting on which flowers appeared recently placed and which did not. She told me how it used to be that families would always want to be the first ones there to get flowers on the graves. I kind of chuckled about that; was being the first with flowers proof that you loved your dearly departed family member more than other families loved theirs?

Looking across the cemetery, there were some graves that had giant displays of flowers and garden flags. One person had a large Dallas Cowboys flag on a pole beside the grave. And then were graves that were bare--no flowers, or memorabilia, just the headstone. Did that mean no one cared about that person? I started thinking how maybe the whole concept was just silly; it seemed an odd thing for Christians in particular to place flowers at grave sites. After all, we know that the graves only hold the remains of these earthly, temporal bodies. The real part of our personhood, the part that lives on, is not contained in the grave. The souls of our loved ones who have passed away are residing in heaven (if they were believers).

So why do we visit cemeteries and take flowers to place there? We do so to remember our loved ones, to carve out space in our hurried lives and crowded thoughts to reflect on the life of the person we loved and lost. In the Bible, God specifically created times of remembrance for

His people. He knows we need the liturgy of remembering. In the Old Testament, there were certain days of the year that God ordained so that His people would remember the great works He'd done among them and worship Him. Remembering is good for our hearts; it can help bring us to a place of gratitude. It can strengthen our faith as we remember what God has done and how He has been faithful.

Consider the Lord's Supper. When Jesus shared His last Passover meal with His disciples, what did He say? "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.." 1 Cor. 11:23-26

When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we look *back* to Christ's death on the cross. We examine ourselves, consider our sin, and remember that it was our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. But we also look *forward*. We look forward to when He is going to return, when our sin will be no more, and we will go to heaven to be with Him forever.

Could flowers on a headstone, in a small and simple way, communicate a similar message for believers? We remember the person we lost; we acknowledge our love for them. We also look forward to when we will see them again, because we know that as believers, death is not a final goodbye. Like Jesus, we will be raised to live eternally. Even the headstones and flowers themselves depict this truth. Headstones, a picture of death, are dark, stone, lifeless, cold. Flowers, a picture of life, are colorful, bright, and joyful.

So maybe I will continue the tradition and make sure there are flowers on the graves of my loved ones who have passed--not out of duty but as a beautiful testament to the God who gave me my family and gave His own Son for my sin, that we might declare death to be defeated and live forevermore.

Patriotic Puns and Jokes



- ★ Imagine if Americans switched from pounds to kilograms overnight.

There would be mass confusion.

- ★ Studies show 9 in 10 Americans do not have basic math skills.

I'm so glad I'm in the 1%.

- ★ Why are there no knock knock jokes about America?

Because freedom rings.

- ★ It's sad that nothing is made in America anymore.

I just bought a new TV. and it said "Built in antenna". I don't even know where that is!

Memorial Day Trivia

Answers below.

1. What city is known as the birthplace of Memorial Day?
2. Memorial Day was originally known as what?
3. Memorial Day was first recognized on what date?
4. When was the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery established?
5. When did Memorial Day move from May 30 to the last Monday in May?

5. 1971
1. Waterloo, NY 2. Decoration Day 3. May 30, 1868 4. Nov. 11, 1921

