

## Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

### The Story of "Amazing Grace"



**John Newton, 1725-1807**

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound..." So begins one of the most beloved hymns of all times. The author of the words was John Newton, the self-proclaimed wretch who once was lost but then was found, saved by amazing grace.

Newton was born in London July 24, 1725, the son of a commander of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. When John was eleven, he went to sea with his father and made six voyages with him before the elder Newton retired.

Over the next several years, he experienced a series of unbelievable situations at sea, including being pressed into service, desertion, recapture, abuse and more – too much to go into detail here. John Newton ultimately became captain of his own ship, one which plied the slave trade.

Although he had had some early religious instruction from his mother, who had died when he was a child, he had long since given up any religious convictions. However, on a homeward voyage, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his "great deliverance."

He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Amazing Grace

By John Newton

Amazing grace!  
 (how sweet the sound)  
 That sav'd a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found,  
 Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught  
 my heart to fear,  
 And grace my fears reliev'd;  
 How precious did that grace appear,  
 The hour I first believ'd!

Thro' many dangers,  
 toils and snares,  
 I have already come;  
 'Tis grace has brought me  
 safe thus far,  
 And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promis'd good to me,  
 His word my hope secures;  
 He will my shield and portion be,  
 As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and  
 heart shall fail,  
 And mortal life shall cease;  
 I shall possess, within the veil,  
 A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there  
 Ten thousand years,  
 Bright shining as the sun,  
 We've no less days  
 To sing God's grace,  
 Than when we first begun.



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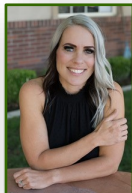
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## May God Bless You

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and  
superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within  
your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
at injustice, oppression, and  
exploitation of people  
So that you may work for justice,  
freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed  
for those who suffer pain, rejection,  
hunger and war  
So that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and to turn their  
pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough  
foolishness to believe that you can  
make a difference in the world  
So that you can do what others claim  
cannot be done to bring justice and  
kindness to all our children and the  
poor.

## The Story of Amazing Grace (Continued from page 1)

For the rest of his life he observed the anniversary of May 10, 1748 as the day of his conversion, a day in which he subjected his will to a higher power. "Thro' many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has bro't me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." He continued in the slave trade for a time after his conversion; however, he saw to it that the slaves under his care were treated humanely.

By 1755, after a serious illness, he had given up seafaring forever. During his days as a sailor he had begun to educate himself, teaching himself Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

He decided to become a minister and was eventually ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and assigned to the congregation of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton's church became so crowded during services that it had to be enlarged. In 1767 the poet William Cowper settled at Olney and befriended Newton.

Cowper helped Newton with his religious services, holding not only a regular weekly church service but also began a series of weekly prayer meetings, for which their goal was to write a new hymn for each one. They collaborated on several editions of Olney Hymns, The first edition, published in 1779, contained 68 pieces by Cowper and 280 by Newton.

Composed probably between 1760 and 1770 in Olney, "Amazing Grace" was possibly one of the hymns written for a weekly service. There are the six stanzas that appeared, with minor spelling variations, in both the first edition in 1779 and the 1808 edition, the one nearest the date of Newton's death.

The origin of the melody is unknown. Most hymnals attribute it to an early American folk melody. The Bill Moyers special on "Amazing Grace" speculated that it may have originated as the tune of a song the slaves sang.

Newton continued to preach until the last year of life, although he was blind by that time. He died in London December 21, 1807. Infidel and libertine turned minister in the Church of England, he was secure in his faith that amazing grace would lead him home.



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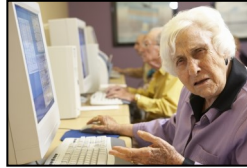


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### So Many Questions!

It's 2020, and I still have so many unanswered questions!!!! I still haven't found out who let the dogs out...where's the beef...how to get to Sesame Street... And why Dora doesn't just use Google Maps...?



Why do all flavors of fruit loops taste exactly the same, or how many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop.....why are eggs packaged in a flimsy carton, but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails...why is "abbreviated" such a long word; or why is there a D in 'fridge' but not in refrigerator...?

Why is lemon juice is made with artificial flavor yet dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons... why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections... and, why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts" —where's that extra penny going...?

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## Milestones



Barbara Miller  
March 23, 1927—93 years  
Eagle Senior Center



Cleo Karr  
March 4, 1926—94 years  
Boise Heatherwood



Barbara Browning  
March 7, 1929—91 years  
Kuna Senior Center



Barbara Corn  
March 10, 1929—91 years  
Garden City-Eagle SC



Elaine Hansen  
Feb 2, 1930—90 years  
Meridian



Norma Madison  
Feb 16, 1930—90 years  
Meridian Senior Center

## Things I'm Super Good At

1. Running. — Late, that is.
2. Forgetting someone's name a minute after they tell me.
3. Thinking of a great comeback — an hour later.
4. Digging through the trash for the food box I just threw away, because I already forgot the directions.
5. Eating my spouse's French fries on the way home from the drive-thru.
6. Googling my symptoms — and then panicking.
7. Forgetting about putting the laundry in the washer into the dryer — until I'm in bed.
8. Calculating how much sleep I will get if I can fall asleep right now!
9. Making an appointment over the phone and forgetting to put it on my calendar.
10. Making lists of things I'm good at.

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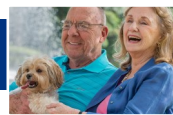
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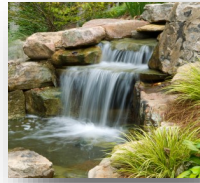
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## One Leg at a Time

My Aunt Mildred lives in an assisted living. The residents have their own apartments, but eat meals together in a nice dining room.

One morning, Sam, one of the residents, didn't show up for breakfast as he always did, so Aunt Mildred became concerned and headed upstairs to check on him. She found him coming down the stairs, but he was having a hard time. Sam had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to be having trouble with his legs.



Mildred said she was going to call for an ambulance, but he said no. He said he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and into the dining room, where he ate his breakfast.

When Sam tried to return to his room, however, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so over his protests they called an ambulance for him.

A couple hours later, Mildred called the hospital to see how Sam was doing. She finally got through to a nurse who told her, "Oh, he's fine. He just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts."



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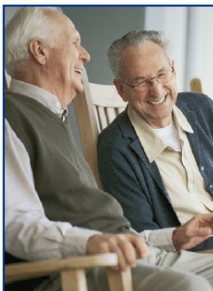
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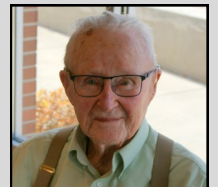
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### Bad Luck of the Irish

Soon after O'Brien clocked in for work, the foreman called him over and told him that he had a phone call in the front office. When O'Brien returned, he had a mournful expression on his face and his head hung low. His foreman noticed and asked if it was bad news.



"To be sure it was, Boss," he replied, "I just received word from Ireland that my dear mother died earlier this morning."

"Gosh, that's awful," replied the foreman, "Do you want the rest of the day off?"

"No," replied O'Brien. "I'll finish out the day."

About an hour later, the foreman returned to inform him that there was another phone call for him in the office. This time when O'Brien returned he looked twice as glum, and the foreman asked if everything was alright.

"Boss, its even worse. That was my brother, Patrick, and his mother died today too!"



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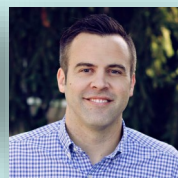
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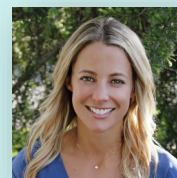
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**A Very Bad Case**

Hank walked into the doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had "Shingles," he said.

So she wrote down his name, address, insurance number and told him to have a seat.

Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked him what he had. "Shingles," he said. So she took him into an exam room and wrote down his height, weight and medical history.

A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Hank what he had. "Shingles," he said.



So the nurse took his blood pressure, gave him an EEG, and took a blood sample. Then she told him to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor.

And hour later, the doctor came in and asked him what he had. "Shingles," he said.

The doctor asked, "Where?" "Outside," said Hank. "On the truck. Where do you want me to unload them?"

**HOW TO AVOID MIXING METAPHORS LIKE THE PLAGUE**

by Brian Bilston

Remember, it's not rocket surgery/  
First, get your ducks on the same page.  
After all, you can't make an omelette  
without breaking stride.

Be sure to watch what you write  
with a fine-tuned comb.  
Check and re-check until the cows turn blue.  
It's as easy as falling off a piece of cake.

Don't worry about opening up  
a whole hill of beans,  
you can burn that bridge when you come to it,  
if you follow where I'm coming from.

Concentrate!  
Keep your doors closed  
and your enemies closer.  
Finally, don't take the moral high horse;  
If the metaphor fits,  
walk a mile in it.

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### More Things to Think About

- What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- Which letter is silent in the word “scent,” the S or the C?
- Why is the letter “w” called “double u”? Shouldn’t it be called “double v”?
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- The word “swims” upside-down is still “swims.”
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- If you replace “W” with “T” in “What, Where and When” you get the answer to each of them.
- Maybe a lot of animals need glasses but nobody knows it.
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

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Dee Hess  
March 25, 1935—85 years  
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Jimmy Wiggins  
March 11, 1950—70 years  
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Verlen & Elizabeth Moore  
March 24, 1946—74 years  
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