

## The Passing Of A Generation

One of the great blessings I and my family have had is meeting Christians from all areas of life. Some have been poor, some were well off financially, some factory workers or farmers, others employed numerous people. One group that has always stood out is older Christians who grew up in the 1920's and 30's. I have always appreciated their can-do attitude and determination. Some have called them the "Greatest Generation" I simply think of them as casting a long shadow for us to follow.

H.T. Crawford grew up during one of the worse economic times our nation and the world has ever experienced. It is called "The Great Depression" a time when fortunes were lost, unemployment was around 25%, wages were deflated, and times were hard. They lacked what those of my generation call necessities: things like electricity, indoor plumbing, air conditioning, central heat, phones, and in many cases food. They grew up hard and learned to work in order to live. H.T. spoke a little of those times and to him it was simply the way it was. But those hard times made that generation grow tough. Not callous but tough minded, they did what needed to be done.

Then came along another trial, World War II. The world was at war in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region. Our nation was attacked and suddenly that generation was called upon to go and fight. They were not fighting for economic prosperity but for goodness and humanity. H.T. would tell you the harshness of war, and he came back with its scars. It was hard for him to see movies or news stories with war scenes in them. The images and feelings of battle stayed with him.

But as he would say, with the help of a good woman, I got through it. Betty Jo and H.T. married and got busy at living. Those of his generation made this nation great and improved our standard of living.

But H.T. and Betty Jo did not stop there, they served the Lord. He served the Lord for a number of years as an elder. By the time I came along he was no longer in that capacity but he was still active in the Lord's work as a constant source of encouragement. The Christian life is compared to a race in Hebrews 12. H.T. ran his race and I am glad for a few laps I was on the same track.

He ran to the finish line and now he will be missed but his works follows him. - - Dennis Tucker