

A Word From the Publisher

I recently visited the new boutique, Thee Southern Yankee. Not only did I like the boutique it also reminded me, once again, of my childhood. I spent most of my life in an old two-story house very similar to the boutique. In fact, ours was right across the road.

I can't help but think of those times. For me, it seemed to be a much simpler time and such a wonderful time. I know times had to be hard for my parents (with five children) to make ends meet but I never really knew that. They both

worked but still had time for us. I was the last of five so I got to watch what went on through the years with my older siblings. The boys always played ball and Marci was a cheerleader. The funny thing, which will make these younger adults sigh, is my mom made (sewed) my first cheerleading uniform in junior high school. I was in the eighth grade. That is totally unheard of now. In fact, she actually made my first 'pageant' dress. You know, I felt like a princess. I know she made a few of Marci's formal dresses too. We didn't know any difference but I know Mama had to spend money we didn't have to buy the material but she did.

One thing we didn't have were cell phones. Sometimes I think they are a thing from the devil. I like them because they are good to have in times of trouble. The sad thing is, they have taken over most people's lives. They can't be without them. They sleep with them beside their bed, they are in the car in their hands, in the bathroom, at the doctor, at work! It's non-stop. Scary. There are so many better things than a cell phone and the number one thing is time. Do you have any idea how

many conversations you have missed because you have your cell phone? How much one on one time with your children, parents, friends? I had a friend that recently went on a cruise with his wife. When I asked how it was, he commented, "When we got on it was beautiful. Shortly after we were out to sea we realized how expensive it was to use our phones so we shut them off. We really had a good time after that!"

Amazing isn't it. These darn cell phones have consumed our lives. When



Roger and I are out together, we NEVER take our cell phones in a restaurant. I want to have a conversation with him. At home, we are together with no cell phones. I have a real alarm clock...I don't use my cell phone. Our children know to call our house phone in the night, as we don't have our phones in our bedroom. The scary thing is, this is what our grandchildren are

seeing too. I have always said, "Little eyes are watching." They do what we do, not what we say.

I have recently been made aware, once again, that each day is a precious creation from God! We need to live each day to the fullest! Make sure to take every advantage to spend quality time with our spouses and children without distractions. Also make time to make opportunities to visit parents and grandparents while you still have them. I have been without grandparents for several years now and I do miss them. Many are so fortunate to have them around. There is lots of love to be shared!

Have a blessed week!

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