

A Word From the Publisher

Welcome summer! I am so thankful that we (Floridians) had a super nice spring. It's been a long time since we enjoyed more than a week of spring before the HOT temperatures came in. Well, I just wanted to remind everyone that we did have several weeks but now that's gone. Now it's time to make sure you stay hydrated, always have your sunglasses and make sure your air conditioner is in good shape. The summertime heat has arrived! I'm so thankful I work inside and praying for those who work outside. It gives me such appreciation for those that do work outside every day.

This Sunday is Father's Day! I am so thankful to still have both of my parents and they continue to be a huge part of my (our) life. Actually, I am blessed to have the best parents in the whole world! And I mean it. My dad...is one of a kind. He has such a great sense of humor, his smile lights up any room, he's crazy at times, he's a faithful servant to the Lord, he loves my mom and he loves his children. These are just a few qualities of my dad.

As a child growing up, we always had things going on. There were five children and usually we lived in a small home. Well, it didn't seem small to us. I think our first house in Callahan had three bedrooms (2 girls shared and 3 boys shared rooms), a kitchen, one bathroom and a living room. Thinking back... we survived. Were we on top of each other, probably! Did it matter? Nope! Times for us children growing up were times going to school, coming home doing homework and playing outside. Summertime, we were always outside



playing and listening for Mama's strong whistle to come home. We, children, thought we were in heaven when we moved into the big two-story house in Callahan. The house had 4 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs (all for the children), a big living room, my parent's bedroom, a bathroom and kitchen downstairs. To us, it was huge! We learned as we grew older, with our parents room located directly under the creaky stairs that was no sneaking around at night. They heard everything! Sweet memories! I'm so thankful for my childhood.

My dad was and still is a man of discipline. We had rules in our home and they were to be followed. We got spanked as children and we learned from it. I still get chills when I hear my dad's voice change and I feel like I've disappointed him. It cuts to the bone. I am truly blessed.

No matter what your story is about, your upbringing or your home life, just know that your heavenly father cares much more for you than what I have described in my father. Our Father God never changes. He is the same today, tomorrow and forever. He loves and cares for us. He breathed life into us. He is the reason we are here today. I pray God's blessings to all fathers for strength and courage to let God be your guide in your life today. For the fatherless, you always have our Heavenly Father. He's waiting for you today. All you have to do is ask Him to come into your life today.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West