

Yelm SDA News Letter

Volume II, Issue 3 BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION June 7, 2008

Prelude: WELL FOLKS, THANKS FOR THOSE THAT GAVE

input!! As always the success or failure of this venture relies mostly on you and your participation. This can be done by putting suggestions in Charlie Flanagan's mail box at the Church located across from the pastor's office. Or call our Office Manager, Di Chappell, at the Church 360-458-5144 or email her at office@yelmsda.org with your information. Or you may call Charlie at 360-456-5416 or email Charlie at mistercharlie@comcast.net. (Note: **The next edition will be August 2nd.**) Limit the information to something that may be of interest to the members and friends of the Church. I have added "**Editor's note**" in some places.

CHURCH CLERK'S CORNER – Transfer in: Yasmin Cirilo

from Jordan Street SDA Church, Pensacola, FL & **Sharon Williams** from Windworks SDA Company Church in Lacey. Praise God!

Transfer Out: Vernon Jennings to Federal Way SDA Church, Federal Way, WA & **Beth Jennings** to Federal Way SDA Church, Federal Way, WA They have moved to be closer to family.

PASTOR BRAD'S CORNER

School Remodeling Update-- Progress is continuing on the exterior of the school. The siding is basically completed, new windows are installed, and we are now preparing the building to paint. Sunday, June 8, is the date we are planning on painting the school. ALL hands are needed to assist in masking, taping and caulking the gymnasium and school house. Make sure to mark your calendars for this important event.

Interested Students-- One of our main focuses this next year will be compiling a list of interested students so that as the re-opening date for our school draws closer we can have an estimate for student numbers and grades for our school. Di posted a message on our reader board with our phone number indicating we are looking for students for the 09--10 school year. Thus far we have 10 interested student who have responded to our reader board advertisement. If you know of any potential students for our school, please contact Di at our church office, 360-458-5155 and she will add their names to our list interest list.

Campmeeting-- June 19-28 at Auburn Adventist Academy our annual campmeeting is taking place this year. The featured speakers this year are

Pastor's Corner Cont'd -- Roy Adams, Carl Cosaert, and Doug Batchelor. FOR RESERVATION QUESTIONS: call Donna Dickerson at (253) 681-6008, ext.4132. NO PETS permitted. CAFETERIA MEALS are available except on Saturdays. SITE RENTAL: All overnight accommodations must be in a conference-designated location. No facilities rented to teenagers. ELECTRIC SERVICE provided is for lights and cooking only and not for air conditioning. ARRIVAL: Please honor the Sabbath by not moving in or out during Sabbath hours. **Trailers and RVs Should Not Arrive Before 10 am Sunday June 15th.**

Note from the Pastor: This month we celebrate Father's Day. I hope you will enjoy this inspirational collection of Father's Day quotes for Christian fathers.

- "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." -- Billy Graham, Christian Evangelist
- "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." --Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic Priest and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame
- "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." – Clarence Budington Kelland, U.S. Writer
- "How true Daddy's words were when he said, 'All children must look after their own upbringing.' Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands." – Anne Frank, German Jew and Holocaust Victim
- "It is much easier to become a father than to be one." – Kent Nerburn, U.S. Author and Educator
- "My dad has always taught me these words: care and share." – Tiger Woods, U.S. Professional Golfer
- "Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father!" – Lydia M. Child, U.S. Author
- "We are given children to test us and make us more spiritual." – George Will, U.S. Journalist

Let us thank God for our Fathers and continue to pray for God's wisdom as we seek to lead our children into a forever friendship with Jesus. **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!**

A Story from another Pastor let's call him Pastor John

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, decided to pause at the back of the church and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, a man came down the aisle, the minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was kind a shabby and his

Pastor John's Story cont'd -- coat was worn and frayed, the man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noon time came this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear, he decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?"

The old man said, "I worked down the road. Lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was my prayer time, for finding strength and power. I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away; as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kind of what I say: I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS JIM CHECKING IN TODAY."

The minister feeling foolish, told Jim, that was fine. He told the man he was welcome to come and pray just anytime. Time to go, Jim smiled, said "Thanks." He hurried to the door.

The minister knelt right there, he'd never done it before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, and met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed, in his heart, he repeated old Jim's prayer: "I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME CHECKING IN TODAY."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim hadn't come. As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some.

At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill. The week that Jim was with them, he brought changes in the ward. His smile of joy was contagious. Changed people, were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad, when no flowers, calls, or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile; "The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, that in here all the while everyday at noon He's here, a dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me: "I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN. ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY, I THINK ABOUT YOU EACH DAY, AND SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS CHECKING IN TODAY."

May God hold you in the palm of His hand and Angels watch over you.

Pastor John's Story cont'd -- But for those of us who are already His, He not only holds us in the palm of His hand, but has engraved our names there, and we are continually in His sight (Isaiah 49:16).

OFFICE MANAGER CORNER: Diana Chappell is working hard. Office hours are still Tuesday, and Thursday 1-5pm and Friday 1-3pm.

You will notice that we have advertised our school on the Church reader board. In one week, we have had phone calls from mothers and grandmothers excited about the school opening. We have, so far, ten children possible for our school! That's just the first week! These women all said that they know more mothers in the community who are unsatisfied with the Yelm schools and are looking for Christian schools. Several were very excited about the possibility of integrating with homeschooling. It will be exciting to see what the next few weeks will hold! God is opening the doors - let's get our running shoes on!

On the Lighter Side This one's for Di

As a Church's Officer Manager, I answer the phone by saying, "Jesus loves you, Jane speaking. How may I help you?" One day I was deep in conversation with a Member of the Church when the phone rang. "Jane loves you, Jesus speaking. How may I help you?" I said distractedly.

There was a pause before the caller said, "Somehow I thought your voice would sound different."

It's good to have you back Di, we have missed you!!!

WED MASTERS CORNER: from Larry Jennings

YOUR Web Site

Greetings! I don't know how many of you use your website, or have even looked at your website but it should be noted that you have a very active website. www.yelmsda.org has 300 or so hits a month with over 100 being new or a return that is past one month. You are seen from every continent and most countries every month. Many are from service people trying to find something from home and others (who knows why they are looking?). One person from Fiji has accumulated over 2 hours this past month and has visited every week for the last several weeks. **(See the Bulletin Board in the Foyer for a pictorial view of the world wide Hits to our Site.)** What an awesome outreach!

Several known uses of the website are:

1. Travelers looking for a church where they will be on a given weekend.
2. People moving, trying to find a home church.
3. Local People looking for Spiritual Retreat or new church.
4. Members, to see who's preaching and what is the agenda for the week.
- 5..... The uses are varied and many

Your Web Site cont'd -- Your Website is a Portal to Your Church and IS visited every day. Hopefully this nugget of information will inspire, keeping up and supporting the web site, and using the website.

If you have links you would like to see added submit them to Charlie Flanagan and he will review and forward... If upgrades are suggested fine, they too can be reviewed and considered...

LIBRARIAN CORNER: School is out, gardens are planted, and there are plenty of "honey-do lists" to fulfill, but there is still time to read for those who love to learn. Our library has been blessed with many recent donations of VCRs for young people and cassettes. We would still like to add to the CD file. And we have many lonesome books that need to be held and "listened to" (i.e. read) for the first time.

For questions about how the check-out system works ask Laurel Weeks or read the suggestions at front of the pink plaid check-out book and the column headings in the book. The pink plaid check-out book is located on top of the wood bookcase in the foyer. Please be careful to supply all the information requested in the column headings, printing legibly, and to return books promptly. We are always interested in suggestions for additions to the library and feedback regarding any books that are read if you wish to do so.

HEALTH TIPS CORNER: from Sandra Latham, Nutritionist

Vitamin D: Scientists are asking for the recommended amount of vitamin D to increase from 200 IU per day to 800 – 1000 IU per day. Research indicates that vitamin D affects brain health, reduced colorectal cancer, osteoporosis, muscle weakness, autoimmune disease, infectious disease, and cardiovascular disease. Vegetarians can have a hard time achieving enough vitamin D in their diet. The best known food sources includes egg yolks, liver, fatty fish, butter, and fortified milk. A good way to increase your vitamin D intake is time in the sun. Fair skinned individuals need 10-15 minutes per day. Darker skinned people need more time in the sun. As important as vitamin D is, it is also important to note that over-consumption can lead to a toxic effect.

Aspartame: So what does aspartame convert to in your body? It converts to methanol (10 percent), aspartame (40 percent), and phenylalanine (50 percent). Methanol can convert to formaldehyde. Good for preserving dead things, but if you're not quite there yet, you might want to avoid products like Equal and NutraSweet often found in sugar-free drinks and chewing gum, candies and baked goods. A study from South Africa found that the studies sponsored by the makers of aspartame found no real problems with their product. However, Independent studies found a different story. Chemical changes that occur within your brain can lead to headaches,

Health Tips cont'd -- insomnia, seizures and cancer. Prenatal birth defects are also thought to be caused by aspartame and the list goes on. The effects are thought to build up with the continued use of this product: originally thought to be a benefit for weight loss, but now believed to increase your desire for carbohydrates. From 1981 to 1985 the FDA reports that 75% of adverse reactions reported on any substance in the food supply were from Aspartame. For further reading about Vitamin D, aspartame or other health concerns, check the Vital Choices website at newsletter.vitalchoice.com.

Going Green: Shopping for a new computer? The epeat.net is a web-site funded by the Environmental Protection Agency for comparing the new models of computers for their "greenness". The website compares the material they are built from, their effect on the environment, life span, energy conservation, end of life management, corporate performance, & packaging.

For Our Pets: To eliminate fleas and the bugs that bug you this summer, try these natural treatments for you and your furry friends. Mother Earth Newsletter suggests slicing a lemon, place in a pint jar, cover with boiling water. Leave this overnight. The next morning strain your product and spray on your pets until they are moist all over. Not wet. Use it once each month. Remember to wash their bedding once a week. Also, place a dish of soapy water near their beds. Leave a light on to attract the fleas. Do this every night. And feed a quality food to your pets. Including some brewers yeast in their food will help also. For a natural product you can purchase, try this website: cedarcidestore.citymax.com.

Lighter side of Health Tips

Exercise for people over 60 -- Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (**I'm at this level.**)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

Hearing Aids -- An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

Hearing Aids cont'd -- The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

KIDS KORNER: From Rose Hall

I wish to remind everyone that we will have Children's Sabbath School on June 7th and June 14th only. There will be no Children's Sabbath School on June 21st or June 28th, do to Camp Meeting at Auburn.

Advice for Parents -- Prepare Children for an Emergency -- Teach your child how and when to call 9-1-1 in case of emergency.

Use a toy telephone and pretend they are making a call. Help your child practice giving his phone number, address and parents full names.

Make sure the child knows that they should stay calm, **stay on the line**, and answer all of the operator's questions. Let the child know that help will be on the way, even though the operator may continue to ask questions.

Make sure child knows never to call 9-1-1 as a joke or just to see what might happen.

TREASURER'S CORNER: Clare Lindsay is working hard on Church business as his time permits. Praise the Lord he has a new job!!!

Thought we would repeat **Offering Definitions** with some additional information, hopefully, to aid our new members understanding.

Weekly Sabbath School Offering: Monies collected for missions each Sabbath are accumulated by our church and sent at the end of each month in their entirety to be placed in a World Mission Fund. From that fund our world leaders administer what is necessary to maintain present work and the remainder is used to assist with new outreach opportunities for mission advancement. **However**, in the Adult Class there are **two** places to place money. **One** is for the World Mission Fund and **one** is for supporting our local Sabbath School in the purchase of quarterlies, etc. for the Class.

Children's Offering: Monies collected by our children are used solely for the start-up of our Church School. **However**, other needs are occasionally designated for these monies. Like, the children collected for VBS one month.

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering: This is the offering received on the last Sabbath of each quarter for missions. It's a unique mission offering administered by the Annual Council. They determine which projects you will learn about during the quarter in Sabbath School. These projects are appropriated 25% of this offering. The other 75% is placed in the World Mission Fund listed above.

Offering Definitions cont'd

Conference Ministries: One church offering each month is designated for this account along with the amounts marked on the offering envelopes by various donors. At the end of each month the combined amount of all these donations are remitted to the Conference by the church treasurer. On average, the monthly amount is about **\$120**. Funds in this account are then allocated by the Conference in the following manner:

- 30% goes for Evangelism within the Conference.
- 10% is used for Youth Ministries/Sunset Lake Camp.
- 20% defrays tuition costs in a Worthy Student program.
- 30% helps the Conference Education Department absorb some of the rising costs of Christian education.
- 10% is remitted to Auburn Adventist Academy.

Other Offering Scheduled: Throughout the year Sabbath Offerings are designated for such as: Religious Liberty/NAD, Adventist TV Ministries/World, Adventist World Radio/World, Spring Mission Appeal/World, Christian Record Services/GC, Disaster-Famine Relief/World, Adventist Chaplaincy/World, Women's Ministries/NAD, Walla Walla University/NPUC, Oakwood/Andrews/LLU/World, Alaska Sacrifice/World, and Inner City/World. You can visit the website for the Washington Conference on your computer at www.washingtonconference.org/site/1/docs/2008_en_offeringreading.doc for a complete review of all offering collected. (**Note:** After 2008 and en there is an underscore.)

SOCIAL EVENTS CORNER: from Janeen Babas

Stay Healthy and Get Healthier -- So..., we [the proud, the few, the ~~(Marines)~~ Adventist] are walking every Tuesday evening at the Church. Since we, as Seventh Day Adventists, are into the health message... we figured more of our members would welcome an opportunity to exercise with others. We are there from 6-8 every Tuesday. Come join us!!

Big Father's Celebration -- Social Committee is busy planning our father's day picnic!! Hope everyone is planning to attend. It is June 8th in the Park in McKenna. We will have some great games and lots of fun celebrating our DADS!!

PATHFINDERS CORNER: from Sandi Shreve

The Pathfinders are now meeting on Wed. night at 7:00pm. They have asked a different adult each week from Bible Study & Prayer Meeting to meet with them at 7:15pm for opening prayer and to get to know them. This would apply to **any** of the Church Family. They would love to see **you**. They are meeting in the Children's craft room in the Church, it is unlocked.

PRISION MINISTRIES CORNER:

(AM-PM) Agape Message – Prison Ministries has changed the name to (APMF) Adventist Prison Ministries Fellowship. This name is consistent with the Conference wide use throughout all the prisons in the Conference. Any donations to our Prison Ministry should reflect the new name and go through our Church Treasurer – AM-PM **cannot** give a tax deduction receipt.

NOW FOR “This and That” on THE LIGHTER SIDE:

NEAT QUOTE -- Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear. – Mark Twain

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Definition from old Navajo -- When told the reason for daylight saving time, the old Navajo said, "Only a white man would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket and sew it to the bottom of a blanket and have a longer blanket."

MY LIFE GOAL -- “I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.” --- (Precise origin unknown. Variously attributed to Quakers Stephen Grellet, 1773-1855, and William Penn, 1644-1718, and to Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948, Indian leader.)

SCHOOL COMPARISON -- 1957 vs. 2007

Scenario: Jack goes quail hunting before school, pulls into school parking lot with shotgun in gun rack.

1957 - Vice Principal comes over, looks at Jack's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Jack.

2007 - School goes into lock down, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1957 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2007 - Police called, SWAT team arrives, arrests Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1957 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good paddling by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. He becomes a zombie. He is tested for ADD. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

School Comparison cont'd

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1957 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. State psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has affair with psychologist.

Scenario: Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1957 - Mark shares aspirin with Principal out on the smoking dock.

2007 - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from 4th of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle and blows up a red ant bed.

1957 - Ants die.

2007 - BATF, Homeland Security, FBI called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, FBI investigates parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated, and Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.

1957 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2007 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in State Prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ACTUAL NEWSPAPER ADS!

- 1.) FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER. 8 years old. Hateful little dog. Bites
- 2.) FREE PUPPIES: 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbor's dog.
- 3.) FREE PUPPIES... Part German Shepherd, part stupid dog
- 4.) FREE GERMAN SHEPHERD 85 lbs. Neutered. Speaks German.
- 5.) FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG. Looks like a rat ... been out awhile. Better be a reward.
- 6.) NORDIC TRACK: \$300 hardly used, call Chubby
- 7.) GEORGIA PEACHES, California grown - 89 cents lb.
- 8.) JOINING NUDIST COLONY! Must sell washer and dryer \$300
- 9.) WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE . WORN ONCE BY MISTAKE. Call Stephanie. **AND THE BEST ONE...**
- 10.) FOR SALE BY OWNER: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica - 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000 or best offer. No longer needed, got married last month. Wife knows everything.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If I want my dreams to come true, I mustn't oversleep.
Of all the things I wear, my expression is the most important.
The best vitamin for making friends.... B1.
The happiness of my life depends on the quality of my thoughts.
The heaviest thing I can carry is a grudge.
One thing I can give and still keep...is my word.
I lie the loudest when I lie to myself.
If I lack the courage to start, I have already finished.
One thing I can't recycle is wasted time.
Ideas won't work unless ' I ' do.
My mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open.
The **10 commandments are not a multiple choice.**

The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime! It is never too late to become what I might have been.

Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you might not get them back. Sometimes we get so busy with our own lives and problems that we may not even notice that we've let them fly away. Sometimes we are so caught up in who's right and who's wrong that we forget what's right and wrong. Sometimes we just don't realize what real friendship means until it is too late. I don't want to let that happen so I'm going to tie you to my heart so I never lose you. Send this to your balloons that you think have flown away forever. You may be surprised to see it return.

PRAY ONE MINUTE EACH NIGHT

One Minute Each Night It helps to remind each other how much we need to pray for the upcoming election. I wonder who we will be pledging if we don't start doing something about this nation?

In WWII, there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace. **This had an amazing effect as bombing stopped!**

There is now a group of people who are organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time 8:00 PM Central, 7:00 PM Mountain, and **6:00 PM Pacific**, stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying: for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for peace in the world. If you know anyone who would like to participate, please pass this along. Someone said if people really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. [AMEN!] Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Please pass this on to anyone who you think will pray for our nation.

SOME TOUCHING STORIES

FUNDRAISING DINNER for LEARNING-DISABLED CHILDREN

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning-disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: 'When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?'

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.'

Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.'

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. His Father watched with a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

As Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a

Fundraising Dinner for Learning-disabled Children cont'd

few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!' Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!' Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball ... the smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay'

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third! Shay, run to third!'

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!' Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

WOMAN and a FORK

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

Woman with a fork cont'd

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" was the Pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!" So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "Keep your fork, the best is yet to come."

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Woman with a fork cont'd

Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to "Keep your fork." Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility. And keep your fork.

NEVER JUDGE

"Some people!" snorted a man standing behind me in the long line at the grocery store.

"You would think the manager would pay attention and open another line!" said a woman. I looked to the front of the line to see what the hold up was and saw a well dressed, young woman, trying to get the machine to accept her credit card. No matter how many times she swiped it, the machine kept rejecting it.

"It's one of them welfare card things. Some people need to get a job like everyone else," said the man standing behind me. The young woman turned around to see who had made the comment.

"It was me," he said, pointing to himself.

The young lady's face began to change expression. Almost in tears, she dropped the welfare card onto the counter and quickly walked out of the store. Everyone in the checkout line watched as she began running to her car. Never looking back, she got in and drove away.

After developing cancer in 1977 and having had to use food stamps; I had learned never to judge anyone, without knowing the circumstances of their life. This turned out to be the case today.

Several minutes later a young man walked into the store. He went up to the cashier and asked if she had seen the woman. After describing her, the cashier told him that she had run out of the store, got into her car, and drove away. "Why would she do that?" asked the man. Everyone in the line looked around at the fellow who had made the statement. "I made a stupid comment about the welfare card she was using. Something I shouldn't have said. I'm sorry," said the man.

"Well, that's bad, real bad. The fact is., her brother was killed in Afghanistan two years ago. He had three young children and she has taken on that responsibility. She's twenty years old, single, and now has three children to support," he said in a very firm voice.

"I'm really truly sorry. I didn't know," he replied, shaking both his hands about.

The young man asked, "Are these paid for?" pointing to the shopping cart full of groceries. "It wouldn't take her card," the clerk told him.

Never Judge cont'd

"Do you know where she lives?" asked the man who had made the comment.

"Yes, she goes to our church."

"Excuse me," he said as he made his way to the front of the line. He pulled out his wallet, took out his credit card and told the cashier, "Please use my card. PLEASE!" The clerk took his credit card and began to ring up the young woman's groceries. "Hold on," said the gentleman. He walked back to his shopping cart and began loading his own groceries onto the belt to be included. "Come on people. We got three kids to help raise!" He told everyone in line.

Everyone began to place their groceries onto the fast moving belt. A few customers began bagging the food and placing it into separate carts.

"Go back and get two big turkeys," yelled a heavysset woman, as she looked at the man.

"NO," yelled the man. Everyone stopped dead in their tracks. The entire store became quiet for several seconds. "Four turkeys," yelled the man. Everyone began laughing and went back to work. When all was said and done, the man paid a total of \$1,646.57 for the groceries.

He then walked over to the side, pulled out his check book, and began writing a check using the bags of dog food piled near the front of the store for a writing surface. He turned around and handed the check to the young man. "She will need a freezer and a few other things as well," he told the man.

The young man looked at the check and said, "This is really very generous of you."

"No," said the man. "Her brother was the generous one."

Everyone in the store had been observing the odd commotion and began to clap. And I drove home that day feeling very American.

We live in the Land of the free, because of the Brave! Remember our Troops of Yesterday and Today!

Luke 6:37, 38, & 42

37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.