Don’t miss the forest for the trees

It was already a wonderful moment. I was sitting with my grandson reading to him from the book “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein.

But in my haste to use the story to teach Tyler an important life lesson, I almost missed the most important lesson of all.

“The Giving Tree” is a brilliantly written story about the relationship between a little boy and a tree. The book follows the life of the boy from childhood to old age as the tree unhesitatingly gives of herself to satisfy the boys ever growing needs. The tree gives apples, leaves, branches and finally its trunk so the boy can have money to buy a boat, a house, etc. Each time the tree gives the boy a gift, the author writes, “And the tree was happy.”

In the final pages, the boy (now an old man) meets the tree one last time. The tree sadly states she has nothing left to give because only a stump remains. But the boy wants only “a quiet place to sit and rest,” which the stump can provide. As the boy who is now an old man sits, this final stage of giving the entire story, ends with that same sentence “And the tree was happy.”

I was intent on getting to the end of the book so that my grandson Tyler would learn lessons about generosity, greed, love and sacrifice. But Tyler kept turning back to a single page. On that page was a drawing of the boy wearing a crown made from leaves given by the tree so the boy could play king of the forest. At least a half a dozen times he insisted on returning to that page.

This was it!

This was the moment I almost missed. I closed the book and took my grandson by the hand. We grabbed a roll of scotch tape and marched out into a brisk fall afternoon. On the deck lay thousands of leaves. The other lessons I wanted Tyler to learn would come later. This moment was made for grandpa to crown his grandson with leaves and pronounce him King of the Forest.

In my haste to accomplish my agenda, I almost missed the moment.

Listen and watch closely for those once in a lifetime moments. Capture them immediately. They pass all too quickly.

Today, Tyler is 6 years old. He no longer wants to be king of the forest. Today he wants to be captain of the seas. I hope I don’t miss the moment.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul cautioned the saints, “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Ken Davis
Franklin, Tennessee
A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson in logic. "Here is the situation," she said. "A man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help. His wife hears the commotion, knows he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?"

A girl raised her hand and asked, "To draw out all his savings?"

A visitor once asked, "Does it ever rain in Arizona?"

A rancher quickly answered, "Yes, it does. Do you remember in the Bible where it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?"

The visitor replied, "Yes, I'm familiar with Noah's flood."

"Well," the rancher puffed up, "We got about two and a half inches of that."

A pastor and two of his deacons are out on the river fishing in their rowboat. Twelve o'clock rolls around, and one of the deacons notices a nice spot on the bank to have lunch. He turns to the others and says, "That looks like a nice spot for lunch. What do you say we have lunch over there?"

The other deacon agrees, and so does the pastor. The deacon stands up in the boat, steps out onto the river and walks over to the bank. The pastor looks on with amazement, and thinks to himself, if his deacon is holy enough to walk on water, surely he can.

The pastor stands up, steps out of the boat, and sinks into the water. The first deacon turns to the second and says, "Think we should have told him where the rocks are?"

A man, fond of practical jokes, decided late one night to send his friend a collect telegram which read: "I am perfectly well."

A week later, the joker received a heavy parcel...collect...on which he had to pay considerable charges. Upon opening it, he found a big block of concrete which had this message:

"This is the weight your telegram lifted from my mind."

A new hair salon opened up for business right across the street from the old established hair cutters' place. They put up a big bold sign which read:

"WE GIVE SEVEN DOLLAR HAIR CUTS!"

Not to be outdone, the old Master Barber put up his own sign:

"WE FIX SEVEN DOLLAR HAIR CUTS."

One day a man drove his secretary home after she fell quite ill at work. Although this was an innocent gesture, he decided not to mention it to his wife, who tended to get jealous easily.

Later, that night the man and his wife were driving to a restaurant. Suddenly he looked down and spotted a high-heel shoe half hidden under the passenger seat. Not wanting to be conspicuous, he waited until his wife was looking out her window before he scooped up the shoe and tossed it out of the car. With a sigh of relief, he pulled into the restaurant parking lot. That's when he noticed his wife squirming around in her seat.

"Honey," she asked, "have you seen my other shoe?"

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, only to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner.

"Good morning," said the young man. "If I could take a couple of minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners."

"Go away!" said the old lady. "I haven't got any money!" and she proceeded to close the door.

Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open. "Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration."

And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet.

"If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder."

"Well," she said, "I hope you've got a good appetite, because the electricity was cut off this morning."

As Barb was getting to know David and his family, she was very impressed by how much his parents loved each other.

"They're so thoughtful," Barb said. "Why, your dad even brings your mom a cup of hot coffee in bed every morning."

After a time, Barb and David were engaged, and then married. On the way from the wedding to the reception, Barb again remarked on David's loving parents, and even the coffee in bed.

"Tell me," she said, "does it run in the family?"

"It sure does," replied David. "And I take after my mom."

A hunter asked, "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?"

"I killed it with my club."

The astonished hunter asked, "How big is your club?"

The pigmy replied, "There's about 60 of us."

The students in my third-grade class were bombarding me with questions about my newly pierced ears.

"Does the hole go all the way through?" "Yes."

"Did it hurt?" "Just a little."

"Did they stick a needle through your ears?" "No, they used a special gun."

Silence followed, and then one solemn voice called out, "How far away did they stand?"

As Barb was getting to know David and his family, she was very impressed by how much his parents loved each other.

"They're so thoughtful," Barb said. "Why, your dad even brings your mom a cup of hot coffee in bed every morning."

After a time, Barb and David were engaged, and then married. On the way from the wedding to the reception, Barb again remarked on David's loving parents, and even the coffee in bed.

"Tell me," she said, "does it run in the family?"

"It sure does," replied David. "And I take after my mom."

A hunter asked, "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?"

"I killed it with my club."

The astonished hunter asked, "How big is your club?"

The pigmy replied, "There's about 60 of us."

The students in my third-grade class were bombarding me with questions about my newly pierced ears.

"Does the hole go all the way through?" "Yes."

"Did it hurt?" "Just a little."

"Did they stick a needle through your ears?" "No, they used a special gun."

Silence followed, and then one solemn voice called out, "How far away did they stand?"
Stand up for the Lord in Texas

Coming back from two Muslim conferences in Garland and Houston, Texas, I learned about yet another event planned only a week and a half later in Austin, the Capital. I felt like Texas was another target in the sight of the Muslim agenda. After meeting many fellow Christian believers and Patriots, I quickly signed on to the event in Austin. I teamed up with my new friend Liz and headed to the Capital.

The weather on January 29 was perfect. When we walked to the Capital grounds that morning, a small group was already in place with signs proclaiming Jesus Christ and American patriotism.

The podium and microphone were already set up with a “Texas Muslim Capital Day” sign hung on the front of the podium.

The Muslims were beginning to arrive by the busload. They had planned to bus in as many as would attend, from all over Texas. We were obviously outnumbered and that alone made a statement for the news media who were also gathering to record the event. Our group of “standers” probably numbered about 50. The Muslims bragged they had hundreds.

I stood with my sign in the area designated for us with the other “standers”. I really had no intention of speaking at all when I arrived, but when I saw the podium and open microphone—well maybe I would!

Someone near me agreed to hold my sign and I walked past the officers and went towards the Capital steps and “mingled in”. I removed my cap that said “Israel” in colorful letters - it just wouldn't blend very well, obviously.

The speeches were to begin at 9 am and they delayed the start until 10:30 am to allow for those who were late to arrive in time for the speeches. About ten speakers stood around with their notes in hand as I continued to wait along with them. No one seemed to think I was out of place.

The media was setting up the cameras facing the podium and the steps. My friend Liz found me and I told her what I planned to do. I asked her to tell the group to pray for me and also gave her my keys to my SUV. I instructed her to take care of my vehicle in case I was arrested. Then I prayed.

Someone from the Muslims told everyone to stand behind the podium and fill up the Capital steps (all on purpose for the media). The speakers were told to line up in the front – so I did too!

A woman began her speech and commented on how wonderful it was for the SEVENTH annual event for Muslim Capitol Day. She mentioned her affiliation with CAIR, and that alone should anger every American! That's when I approached the podium. I grabbed the mic with both hands.

I proclaimed the name of the Lord Jesus Christ over the Capital of Texas! I stand against Islam and the Muslims.

Jesus' Steps

Following Jesus’ steps my feet are so small,
Struggling along sometimes I fall.
There is so many places that He has been,
I’m so grateful that He wants me to follow Him.
Always looking back when I start to stray,
He takes my hand and helps me on my way.
Every step that He takes is filled with love,
As He talks to His Father God, above.
Filled with so much hope that He has to share,
Touching so many lives letting them know that He cares.
Healing the sick as He walks along,
Showing the weak that with Him they are strong.
Giving so much with each step He takes,
Knowing what everyone needs never making a mistake.
Spreading mercy and grace, along the way,
He gives so much to us everyday.
Never giving up or stopping to rest,
He’s everything that I need, I’m following Jesus’ steps.

Written By Eva Dimel©
Inspired By God

Christine Weick makes her speech at “Texas Muslim Capital Day” in Austin.
The GOOD NEWS Just Keeps Coming  www.goodnewsjkc.com  Phone 979-877-0911

Hugs from Heaven

I accepted Jesus to be my Lord and Savior when I was 8 years old and have tried to serve Him and do His will my entire life. I thought I had to prove to Him how good I was by doing things I thought would please Him and make Him proud of me and hopefully worthy to be His child. I have since learned that is so not true. There is nothing any of us can do to earn God’s love. The Bible says “Salvation is a gift from God, so no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

At 55, I found myself divorced, blind from diabetic retinopathy and confined to bed for 8 months trying not to lose part off a foot to a diabetic sore that would not heal. My youngest daughter and my two granddaughters were living with me at the time, trying to help take care of me as I was not able to get out of bed. Times were pretty bleak for all of us at that time, still trying to figure out what God wanted us to do with our lives.

My daughter came home from church in May 2005 and said, “Mom, I know what God wants us to do. He wants us to start a Christian newspaper.” I thought that was the craziest thing I had ever heard. Neither of us had any background at all in the newspaper business; I didn’t know anything about how to work a computer; I was legally blind and we were both broke. I thought she was nuts! I mean mistaken. I’d been a floral designer for 40 years and my daughter was a certified preschool teacher. We knew absolutely nothing about the newspaper business. We’ve since learned God doesn’t call the qualified, but he does qualify His called.

Over the next two weeks, God assured me in numerous ways that He really was calling us to do this work for Him. We argued for two days over a name for the paper. When Holly left for work I prayed, “Lord, if this is really what you want us to do, then you’re going to have to tell us what name you want.”

That’s all I said and then I rolled over in my bed and turned my TV on to see my favorite show at that time, Matlock, already in progress. The first words that come from the screen were Trivet saying, “You’re not going to believe this, but the good news just keeps coming!” Bang! There it was! I turned off the television and wrote that down, “The Good News Just Keeps Coming” That was the final answer that assured me that maybe God was really calling us to trust Him and do that.

There were already a lot of churches, media ministers and various books and pamphlets telling you how to become a Christian, by the writer’s interpretation. As you know there are a wide variety of beliefs. What we wanted to do was to tell the stories of people that knew and loved God and how He had brought them through difficult times in their lives, how God had answered their prayers and many times in ways they couldn’t have even imagined possible.

Our mission statement is from Mark 5:19, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what wonderful things the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been.”

Ten years ago we found a few trusting businesses that would purchase ads from us to get this ministry kicked off. We no longer have to solicit ads, stories or distribution sources. God provides them all.

We started the paper with 2,500 papers and distributed them only to Austin County where we live. We never gave any thought to subscriptions. We weren’t going to do that. We just wanted to put them out for anyone to pick up and read and learn that God really does love them, regardless of anything they might have done.

There are so many great writers out there and we still receive a lot each week wanting to teach the Bible or give their advice, but each time we accept an article for publication, it has to show how God works through their lives. That is our “measuring stick” to be able to print anything in our paper. We never take sides with any denomination, but believe God’s Holy word, the Bible as the only true source for information we print in The Good News Just Keeps Coming.

Three years ago, I was blessed to meet Grove Norwood, a wonderful Christian man that through a great deal of tragedy in his own life, was led to start a prison ministry. It broke my heart to hear the lies that have been told to inmates, that God can never forgive them for the awful things they have done and they are going to burn in hell for eternity! Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible says, the only reason anyone chooses to go to hell is because they have refused the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, refused to repent of their sins and refused to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

I took such compassion on his ministry and was flattered when Grove asked me to join his team. I was excited to work with prisoners and tell them how very much God loves each one of them, that they were made in God’s image and God don’t make junk. Then I realized that dividing my time between the ministry God called me to do and the ministry He has called others to is dividing my time and not focusing on what God wants me to do, even though both ministries are serving God.

There was a passage in the Bible (Matthew 14:22-33) where one stormy
night, Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee toward His disciples in a boat. Peter, one of His apostles told Jesus if that was really God, to call him to walk on the water. Jesus called him. Peter got out of the boat and looked at Jesus and he walked on the water just like Jesus was doing. But it wasn’t long before Peter got scared, took his eyes off Jesus, and Peter sank in the water. Jesus reached down his hand to catch Peter and save him from drowning.

I believe that story was told to remind us that as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, He will lead us through anything and be right there with us through whatever happens. But the minute we take our eyes off Him, we become scared, frustrated, and anxious. We take our eyes off Jesus and we sink. That’s seems to be a hard thing for me to remember. And Satan knows that it is one of my weakest temptations is to take my eyes off Jesus, even if I think what I’m doing is for a good cause.

We started our prison ministry a little over 3 years ago. I learned there are 130 prisons in Texas with inmates numbering from 4,000 in each one. After contacting a few prison chaplains, we began sending boxes of papers to four chaplains at four Texas prisons. It wasn’t long before we began receiving letters from inmates. I wanted to share with each of them how very special they are to God and how very much He loves them. Maybe that little bit of encouragement in their lives will somehow bring them to Jesus.

As time went on, I’ve received more

(HUGS continued on page 7)
Creamy Sun-Dried Tomato Spread

NOTE: This recipe makes a very large amount, so I usually half the recipe and bake in a nine inch square dish.

2 packages (8 oz each) cream cheese, softened
2 cups mayonnaise
¼ cup finely chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 jar (7 oz) oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, drained and chopped
2/3 cup chopped sweet red or yellow peppers (optional)
2 cups (8 oz) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
2 cups shredded Italian blend cheese
1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese, divided

In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese, mayonnaise, onion and garlic until blended. Stir in tomatoes and sweet peppers. Stir in mozzarella, Italian cheese, and ¼ cup of parmesan cheese.
Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered at 350 for 25 minutes or until edges are bubbly and lightly browned. Serve with crackers or garlic toast crisps. Best served warm.
Serves: 28

35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.
37 “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?”
40 “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, [a] you were doing it to me!’
Matthew 25:35-40 (NLT)
Sand and Stone

Two friends were walking through the desert during some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand, “Today my best friend slapped me in the face.”

They kept on walking until they found an oasis where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: “Today my best friend saved my life.”

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone. Why?”

The friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

Do not value the things you have in your life, but value who you have in your life! "Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as god for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

Submitted by Patti Hanson
Katy, Texas

Sand and Stone

from a passionate small group of “standers”.

The irony I find in all of this is that the Capitol would not offer a podium or microphone to the Muslims, so they provided their own. Well, I honored my Lord Jesus Christ by using their own equipment!

We made a difference! The Lord was honored first! Allah was knocked off his block! Praise God!

Rise up Christians. Rise up Americans. Rise up for GOD and COUNTRY!

Christine Weick
Missionary for Jesus

The Good News JKC
15220 FM 1458
Sealy, TX 77474
979-877-0911
dianaboring@yahoo.com
www.goodnewsjkc.com

The Shepherd's Way Church
Interdenominational
1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, TX 77474 (979)885-1225

Weekly Services

Sunday - 10 a.m. - Morning Service
10:45 a.m. - Children dismissed for Children's Church

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Family Night
Pioneer Club: 4 yrs. - 3rd grade
Area 456 Club: 4th - 6th grade
Elevate: Youth; Adult Bible Study

Tuesday - 9 a.m. - Fall & Spring Ladies' Bible Study
Friday - 10 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer

The Good News Just Keeps Coming, along with its staff, do not hold any ownership or responsibility for the validity of the information and logistics printed that are submitted to us and are printed in the paper; and they are not responsible for any misrepresentation of any sponsors and/or miracle blessing submissions resulting in physical, emotional, monetary, or quality of service adversities. They do not endorse any sponsors. The only actual truth that is held firm by the Good News and staff is the absolute truth of the Word of God as given to us through the Holy Bible.