



**Times Remembered Betty A. Young**  
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It was the height of the summer, late July 1963, and something was killing the chickens. It crept unto the brooder house in the wee hours between nightfall and dawn and took the laying hens a few at a time. There were no tracks, but the predator was slipping in from the outside from someplace Dad hadn't discovered yet.

It was a sad day to find our hens dead. On a farm you come face-to-face with realities of nature, more often the life and death daily struggles that animals face. One little mistake can have big consequences. You check and re-check chicken coups and chicken houses for gaps in the wire, and cracks or holes in the walls. Sometimes a predator can squeeze under the bottom run of boards around the chicken house.

Now our hens were a social group, just like women, they liked to congregate and squabble around a conveyor chain contraption designed

# Foul Play

to remove manure from the brooder house. Here is where the hens, White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, and Golden Comets gathered to eat, drink, socialize, and lay their eggs.

The predator was determined and crafty; and apparently hungry. It had come nearly every night for close to a week. It had begun by killing a few hens that were careless enough to move outside at dawn, before daylight, before the nocturnal predators retreated to their dens.

At first we thought it was an owl, because of the way the heads were ripped off. The chickens were free-range and could move around at will, leaving them susceptible to a silent, diving attack from the air. Chickens can fly, but very slowly; they can run faster but not fast enough to escape an attack from the sky. The killing continued and when the manner of it changed beyond decapitation we begin to suspect raccoons.

We knew raccoons were scavengers and not killers but what could it be? Every morning at daybreak we would go to the brooder house and find more dead hens. We had never had such a problem in all the years we had been raising chickens.

The next step was to try and trap the predator. Dad borrowed two traps from a friend that would kill the animal instantly and two leg-hold traps and placed them carefully at the ani-



mal's most likely points of entry. But the animal was too clever, and either ignored the traps or set them off without being caught.

Next we checked every entrance and exit, and every nook and cranny that could be sealed was sealed. Nothing could get in or out. For a while that seemed to work, but when the traps were taken down, it returned.

From early July through the end of the first week of August that year, the predator had killed 15 laying hens. This was a significant loss for a small time farmer and difficult to recoup. And we still didn't know what it was...

Then one day, it left tracks. At the entrance to the henhouse, if you bend down and looked closely, you could see blurred animal prints left behind in the wet dirt. More telling,

there was the distinctive, unmistakable impression of a raccoon's paw. I've read that a raccoon can flatten themselves out to less than three inches thick in order to shimmy under a chicken house.

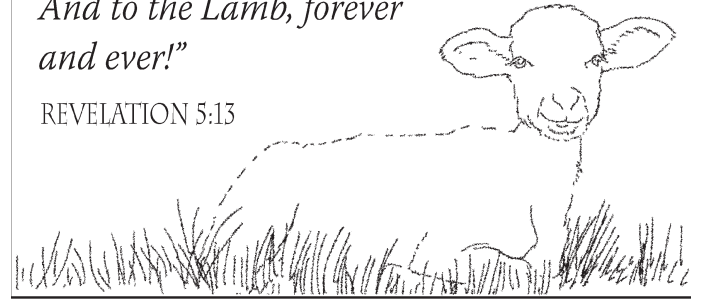
Then one night we heard a loud flopping noise; like something hitting against the wall... something was in the trap; Dad jumped up, grabbed his shotgun and rushed to the brooder house. There was the predator caught in the trap!

They say, every dog has its day... well, today was Mr. Raccoon's day. Needless to say the raccoon didn't get re-located like Turtle Man re-locates them in the television program, "The Call of the Wildman." When you depended on farm poultry and animals to earn a living you had to make sure they weren't coming back again.

## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

"Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever  
and ever!"

REVELATION 5:13



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**SEEDS FROM THE SOWER**

Michael A. Guido, D.D.  
Metter, Georgia

One day a man decided that he was going to kill President Harry S. Truman. He waited patiently for the right moment when the President would come into his line of sight. Just as he pulled the trigger and fired his gun, a Secret Service agent threw himself in front of the President, took the bullet and was killed. He gave his life for the President and the president's life was spared.

"I never knew what it meant," said Mr. Truman, "to have someone die in my place."

There is One, however, Who has died in our place that we might have eternal life and live forever with Him.

This One that gave His life did not live a secret life. He lived His life where all could see Him, hear Him, come to know Him and follow Him. The Bible says that "He loved me and gave Himself for me."

Thank God that He loves us, gave His Son for us, and that He died for us.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What king of Judah built up the defenses of Bethlehem and other cities? Rehoboam, Omri, Hiel, Nimrod

3. Where did Saul massacre 85 persons (priests) who wore a linen ephod? Ramah, Tyre, Petra, Nob
4. How many years did it take Solomon to build his own house (palace)? 7, 13, 20, 40
5. Whose water ration was the sixth part of a hin? Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Matthew
6. Who shut the door of Noah's ark? His wife, cities? Rehoboam, Omri, Hiel, Nimrod

## God's Way

I seem to be caught up in receiving God's promises by faith. We must believe God to receive God. The promise of redemption's rest, is woven throughout the pages of God's Word from the earliest chapters. The Sabbath rest and Canaan rest filled a purpose in their time, but both pointed toward a greater rest. Isaiah prophesied of this rest. **Isaiah 28:11-12**, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. <sup>12</sup>To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear."

Jesus revealed that redemptive rest was at hand when he said; "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (**Matthew 11:28**) Peter also declared that the rest God had in mind had arrived in **Acts 3:19**, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

That, which was hinted at in the Sabbath observance, and looked in conquest of Canaan, is fully available to the born again child of God. The plan of God is for his people to have spirit rest. Those people who have experienced the new birth Jesus described in John chapter 3, have found the rest for which mankind has longed. Our lives are different now. We have a clear goal. We are no longer frustrated with life, and we can focus on activities that will have an impact in this world and the world to come. The child of God has a great inner confidence, knowing that his life is in the hands of an all-wise, all-powerful Lord who loves him dearly.

His former life of guilt and shame is gone. Hope has replaced hopelessness. Joy fills our heart and lights our countenance. Truly this is the abundant life of which Jesus spoke of in John 10:10.

Just because a person has experienced salvation does not mean he is enjoying the life God designed for him. When Israel left Egypt; houses, vineyards, and cities awaited them, BUT, they could only reap the benefits of Canaan by having faith to enter into the land.

God has promised abundant life to every Christian, but not everyone is taking advantage of it. A person must exercise faith to enter into the promises of Christ. We must believe that we can cast all our cares upon Him and leave them there. It is up to us to believe that He will never leave us or forsake us. He has promised it, and we must believe it. We can walk faithfully with Him; whether we can we always feel His supernatural touch or not. We should believe His assurance that He will never place anything on us greater than our ability to bear. If we believe that He, who is in us, is greater than he that is in the world, then we will have a foundation of faith upon which we may stand and from which victory will come.

Sin interrupted the perfect rest of the Garden of Eden. God's plan provides that man will one day be reunited with him in an environment free from any influence of sin. Never again will death or sorrow visit the redeemed. There will be no more temptation, no corruptible flesh to hinder us. For ages without end, we will be able to worship the One who freed us from the slavery of sin and bought us into eternal rest.

This is the hope and promise of the child of God. The effects of sin will be completely put away and we will remain in the presence of our King for all of eternity.

Come learn who God is and what He expects from His creation with me.

Written by: Mabel Tipton

### HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"I took your request for a raise to the manager, and it almost cost me my job!"

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## True Independence

by BOB CASEY, Preacher, Church of Christ

We have just this past week been fortunate to celebrate another year of independence from foreign rule, and are now governed by one of the greatest pieces of writing called "The Constitution of the United States." Besides the Bible there may be no known document greater than it. History tells us of the willing sacrifices made by those brave men who risk their lives and their fortunes when they signed this declaration seeking freedom, and then for several years war was fought and much blood was shed to gain this freedom. And so it was and continues to be that whenever our nation is threatened brave men and women rise in defense of our freedoms. So, since Valley Forge, millions have laid down their lives for the same cause.

Yes, I am proud to be called an American. I still salute our flag and get misty eyes when someone with enthusiasm sings the Star Spangled Banner. My own grandfather served in World War I and my father in World War II, and my own brothers and I have 35 years of military service to our country. **Patriotic, you bet!** Best is having one's life set free from the sin that brings forth death to all mankind, ever since Eve disobeyed the Lord and brought forth sin, and sin brought death upon all mankind. **Romans 3:23**, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

And since all have sinned, God in His mercy has provided a way that mankind can return to God without sin. **Romans 3:24**, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Paul goes on to reveal the process of freedom. **Romans 6:17-18**, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." He explains this process earlier in **verses 3 and 4**, "Buried into baptism unto death," "raised from the dead by the glory of the father," "Now walking in the newness of life." So then; the sweetest independence one can receive is the freedom from sin and eternal death. So today, sadly, while many may be enjoying our nation's freedoms, at the same time, may be in bondage of sin. But this does not have to be, because Christ has shed His own blood to secure us the true freedom we all need. Jesus says Himself in **John 8:36**, "If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." So why remain in sin's bondage; obey the gospel and enjoy the freedoms Christ wants you to have.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, Waco 1-859-369-4165

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