

Times Remembered

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The first day of fall was actually September 22, but it has felt more like summer with the 80 degree temperatures we have experienced the past two weeks.

This morning, (Friday) the temperature is very comfortable; it actually feels like fall. The crisp air is always welcome and like nature, I'm ready for a much needed rest. Nature's actions are filled with autumn's splendor. People from the cities like to travel to the mountains to see the leaves.

The colors in the fall in Kentucky, Tennessee and the surrounding mountain states are magnificent cran-

Fall

berry reds, lime greens, and perfect yellows seem fluorescent in the direct sunlight. The evergreens' hues become deeper and even bright pumpkins seem lighter orange next to the bright orange leaves.

There are sounds of autumn too. Trees creak when the winds blow, the streams seem noisier, full and rushing, without the greenery to soften its roar.

In the distance, geese, ducks and wild turkeys squawk. Crisp leaves rustle under foot when we step. Even our house makes strange noises as the dry air blows against the logs. Acorns and hickory nuts are falling. Acorns are hitting our roof at night; sounds like a bomb. Actually, one night we thought someone was knocking on the door but it was acorns hitting the tin roof.

Newly cut wood smells great now; even the early morning fog and dew-covered pine trees have their own fresh scent. Soon we will enjoy a crackling fire, and the delicious scent of hot apple pie

and apple cider will fill the house. Makes me hungry just thinking about those fried apple pies like my Mom used to make.

It is time to get in the cool weather crops such as turnips, mustard, collards, cabbage and kale. We begin to store the dried apples and beans for fried apple pies and leather britches, otherwise known as shuck beans.

Digging potatoes is a fall ritual too. The smell of fried potatoes and a baked sweet potato with lots of butter and brown sugar don't sound bad either. Cornbread and a pot of green beans cooked with streaked meat is good too.

It's October, when the harvest moon glows and the hunter's horn blows, winter lies just around the corner.

Soon we will snuggle into bed at night with warm quilts and drift into a gentle sleep at peace with nature's changers.

Oh! The wonders of fall. Only God could create such as beautiful place in all seasons.

Peas might replace cabbage, but there's no substitute for the Bible



America's Heartland

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My old friend Harold Wainscott told me about two elderly ladies catching up on things after having not seen each other for some time.

After inquiring about one another's health, one asked the other how her husband was doing.

"Oh, he died last week," she answered. "He went to the garden to get a cabbage for dinner, had a heart attack, and fell dead right there among the vegetables."

"Oh, dear, I'm so very sorry," her friend replied. "What did you do?"

"I opened a can of peas, instead," she replied. Harold always enjoys

sharing incredible stories that he can tell in a very matter-of-fact manner, even though they are anything but matter-of-fact. I'm sure you've noticed that the Bible often does the same thing, relating facts without the sensationalism that's so common today.

I could only imagine the verbiage that contemporary writers might have tried to employ to convey the creation story. In their minds, such a momentous happening would demand lots of words. Here's how the Bible puts it: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

There was no long, breathless explanation. God did it. Enough said. The Bible contains neither verbosity nor sensationalism. Yet it is the best-selling book of all time.

The Bible explains that God said let there be light, and there was light, that he created the oceans and dry land, that he put the stars in their places, that he created animals and fish, and that, of course, He created Adam and Eve. The details of six incredibly amazing days were laid out very practically and efficiently in roughly 30 sentences.

The Bible is indeed incredible. It was penned by 40 different authors who were divinely inspired by God. These authors represented

all walks of life, including shepherds, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests and kings, who, used by God, created a perfect treasure of divine instruction.

As Southern Baptists point out, the Bible has God for its author and salvation for its end. It is altogether true and trustworthy, without any mixture of error whatsoever. The Bible reveals the principles by which God judges us. It is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be tested.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

I always liked what I heard an old Kentucky preacher say one time as he held the Good Book aloft: "It says Holy Bible on the front, and I believe that. It says genuine bonded leather on the back, and I believe that. And I most assuredly believe every word in between."

While the lady in Harold's humorous tale might have replaced peas for cabbage, there is no substitute for the Bible.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.

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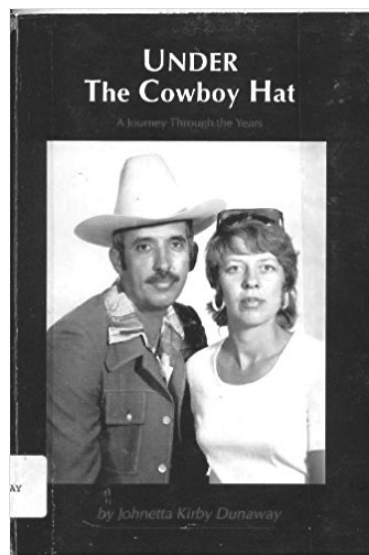
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