

## Jan's "Short Stories"

My parents were married on March 15, 1945. Even though both of them are now in heaven, I still remember their anniversary and thank God for the amazing parents He gave me. My parents were strong believers. Many years ago they wrote their testimony. **Be-low is my Moms.** If you've never written your testimony, please consider doing so. It's a priceless gift for your family. I'm so thankful mine did!

### *Arguing with the Preacher*

When I was 13, I joined a church, was baptized, attended Sunday School and partook of the Lord's Supper, but I didn't have salvation. I was reading my Bible one day and realized that I shouldn't partake of the Lord's Supper, so I stopped. I knew that I wasn't worthy and didn't know how to become worthy. I used to pray once in a while and ask God to forgive me of my sins, but I didn't have any satisfaction in that because I didn't know whether He heard me or not, and my sins still bothered me. At the age of 29, I met a preacher of the gospel who asked me the question, "Are you saved"? I answered, "I don't know what you mean." He asked, "Where are you going when you die?" I replied, "I don't know, but I hope I go to heaven. I don't know whether I will make it or not. Nobody knows that." The preacher declared, "Oh yes, they do." I replied, "Oh no they don't, but if the Bible says so, I will believe it." I told him that my favorite book was John. He said "Good!" To tell you the truth, all I knew about John was the 14th chapter, and I had heard that at a funeral. When the preacher said, "good" he knew what was in John, but I didn't. He had me read John 3:16. I had never heard that wonderful message before in my life. I also read Romans 10:9 and there was the word 'saved' which had been in the Bible all these years and I didn't know it. Then I read 1 John 5:13. The preacher then asked, "Does that say 'hope' or 'know'? I replied, "it says that you know you have eternal life." I realized I owed God for my debt of sins which was death. He gave me His only Begotten Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in my place, and if I would believe on Him, I would be saved. Right there in my home with the eyes of faith, I saw Jesus as my substitute on the cross. Before I was saved, I was living in 'hope so', trusting in my good works. Now I know I'll go to heaven because my faith is in the work already finished by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

My Mom's faith became sight on December 25, 2003.

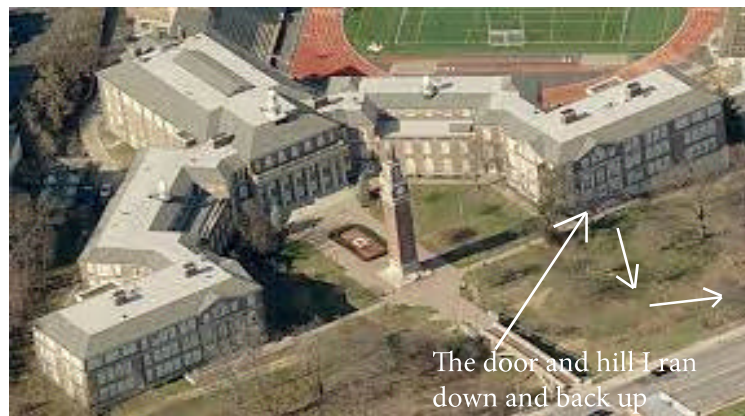
## NEVER AGAIN!!!

by Robert Bresch

Someone reading these articles asked me, "did all those things you write about really happen?" I can say unequivocally yes. I can honestly say that had I stayed in Cincinnati, I probably would have gotten into a lot of trouble, as you will see after this article.

This next story occurred when I was in the seventh grade at Withrow Junior High School. The school was adjacent to the large Withrow High School. The high school was massive (shown in the picture below). It was three stories and had a cafeteria on the third floor and senior classrooms. It even had a basement with two indoor swimming pools (one for boys and one for girls). We would have to go to lunch and swimming classes at the high school. I still have nightmares about my experiences at swimming classes. For instance, if you didn't have swim trunks, you had to swim in your birthday suit (nude). Let's just say I learned to change clothes with a towel wrapped around me. There were boys who loved not bringing their swim trunks and apparently, they were proud of what God had blessed them. Well, that's for another day.

I had several buddies I grew up with in Cincinnati, and we all tried out for the track team and made it. Little did I know later that everybody who tried out made it. We were proud and thought invincible. Every day at lunch, we travel over to the high school and climb up the three flights of stairs to reach the cafeteria. Now Withrow High School cafeteria was excellent. They had several serving lines. You only paid for the food you chose. Generally, you could choose from two types of meats (.20), one to three vegetables (.08 each), rolls (.03), desserts (.10), and milk (.05). So you could eat pretty well for about .50. My parents couldn't afford those lunches, so I had to pack each day. However, my best friend Ricky got a dollar every day from his mom, and he would give me half of it, and I would throw my lunch away. Every day as we entered the cafeteria, we noticed four large



glass doors leading down a long hallway. They were always close and locked. We would peer through the glass pane and laugh at all of the pictures of old football players and cheerleaders on the wall. One particular day one of the doors was ajar. (My daughter had a Camry that when her door was open, it would read "ajar" with a door symbol. She came home and asked her mom, "why can't they put that in English?" Her mom replied, "Callie, that is an English word.")

We decided to venture down the hall. The pictures we saw were funnier up close. One picture had a football player missing his two front teeth wearing a helmet that didn't have a faceguard. Apparently, we laughed a bit too loud cause a couple of upperclassmen stepped out of their classroom with their letter sweaters yelling at us, "What are you doing on Senior Hall?" We had heard nightmare stories of what Seniors would do to the underclassmen if they got close to them. Now we were treading on their sacred hallway. Then all of a sudden several of the boys started screaming, "get 'em." That's when I turned on the track juices and turned to run to the nearest exit. I glanced back and saw what looked like the whole football team coming at us. I was the first one to hit the exit door and started running as fast as my little legs could run. My friends were right behind me. Remember, we thought we were invincible cause we were fast. As we made each turn, the senior boys weren't making the same turns we were. They were pure-tee jumping over the rails tackling each of us. One by one, I could hear my friends screaming. I had made the final turn toward the exit door to freedom with my best friend right behind me. I heard their voices as if they were only a few steps away. I heard one shouting, "don't let those .... get away." I ran so hard I pushed the door leading to the outside (and my safety) so hard it hit the rubber stopper and shot back so fast I wasn't able to totally clear. It pushed me out and over the stair rail, causing me to run down a deep embankment and back up to another side. The door closed on my best friend knocking him back inside into the hands of all those seniors. Those were the days when hazing was tolerated. My friends told me they had their pants hoisted up the flag pole while I sat on that hillside. They hung there long enough for all the high school students to see until the teachers came to their rescue. But by then, their action had already done the damage and humiliation. My best friend Ricky described it as one of the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to him. All of my friends were a little miffed at me for being the only one to escape. Thank goodness it didn't last long. It was probably because I couldn't walk for two days. The muscles in my legs swoll up so much I had to wait till the swelling had gone down. When I did go back to school two days later, it was still so hard climbing those stairs. My buddies, finally over their undue treatment, laughed as I labored up and down the stairs. They felt better that I didn't escape without some sort of embarrassment. I will say we never entertained the notion of doing that again. My mom was right when she taught us to wear clean underwear cause you never know what might happen. What I always wanted to tell my mom was you might start out wearing clean underwear, but there's no guarantee they will stay that way.

Kent Fletcher sent this to me

So I was in the car today and saw someone with the license plate "X0DUS3 5", so I thought I was like Exodus 3:5 and I looked it up, and do you know what it said?

*"Do not come any closer."*

Now that's a well done biblical license plate.



## North Carolina Baptist Singers and Orchestra

Monday, March 21 at 6:45

NCBSO will be in concert with songs you will absolutely enjoy in this wonderful time of worship. Linda Rose, Jennifer Ferrell, Connie Hemric, Debbie Cowan, Cathy Leathers and myself are a part of this group. So come and enjoy this wonderful evening.

Also we need volunteers throughout the day. We need people to help with the snacks, direction, lunch and dinner. All in all, we need about 25 people. If you would like to help, please let me know or Jan Perry (jans.piano@gmail.com)



Monday, March 14, 12:00 Lunch and Movie: No Cost

RSVP by Sunday, March 13

Contact: Jan Perry (jans.piano@gmail.com)

Minor-league baseball announcer Artie Decker (Billy Crystal) and his wife, Diane (Bette Midler), get to see their only child, Alice (Marisa Tomei), very seldom. To their surprise, Alice and her husband (Tom Everett Scott) ask them to watch their children so they can embark on a trip for work. It promises to be a fun time for all, until the three young ones turn out to be quite a handful for this old-fashioned couple. Artie and Diane may need to bend the rules to make everyone happy in the end.



We started this newsletter wanting to bring some fun to you during some intense days of COVID. I've enjoyed looking back over my past and capturing these small snippets of life. Maybe you have a funny story that happened to you that you would be willing to share. Perhaps you have a talent for writing poems, etc., that you wouldn't mind others reading. Space is limited. I know cause I can't tell you the number of times I've had to rewrite and then rewrite to whittle it down. I will continue to write but in smaller amounts. We will try to post at least one to two of your submittals every month. Also, we've added birthdays (back page) and also listed those who have passed away (page 2). Because we are all spread out we thought we would help with some information.



## Deaths

Janice Smith 1/21

J.L. Hughes 1/23

Bill Walker (Linda Mangum's brother) 1/25

Kelly Wilson's Dad 1/28

Millie Chace 2/12 (Sheryl Sherman's mom)

Susan Wilkin's Mom 2/14

## Pastoral Care During Emergencies

As a reminder, our pastors serve on call to minister to our congregation during emergencies. If you need pastoral care and support during a personal or family emergency, please contact our on-call pastor at: 919-286-2281, Ext. 6350





Cindy Brantley 3/03  
Margaret Utley (Dol  
Rick Sisson 3/05  
Rick Warren 3/06

Carolyn Shelton 3/10  
Kaye Tabor 3/11  
Karen Sharp 3/13  
Jim Deck 3/19

Neil Robinson 3/20  
Kay Andrews 3/21  
Earl Powell 3/21  
Malbert Smith III 3/21

Nancy Speagle 3/22  
Michael W. Davis (Mike) 3/25  
Shirley Mathis 3/26  
Ricky Sykes 3/28  
Kathy Wilson 3/29



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WORD LIST:

ALLERGIES  
AQUAMARINE  
ARIES  
BASKETBALL  
CABBAGE  
CORN  
BEEF  
DAFFODILS

DAYLIGHTSAVINGS  
FANNYPACKDAY  
IDESOFMARCH  
JONQUIL  
MAPLESUGAR  
MARCHMADNESS  
MARDIGRAS

MARS  
MUD  
PISCES  
POLLEN  
RABBIT  
RAIN  
SPRING

SPRINGCLEANING  
STARTSEEDING  
STPATRICKSDAY  
VERNALEQUINOX  
WORMMOON



# SOUND OF JOY CHOIR

Starts back Wednesday, March 2nd  
(Room 202 located near the church's offices.)

Before you say no, check us out. Come and experience a great time with some great folks. The only requirement is to come with a joyful heart and we'll take it from there. We will be working on a musical project starting on this date. It's gonna be AWESOME!!!

## *Evidence for a Creator by Randall Floyd*

In our skeptical culture, we need to be ready with an answer when doubt creeps into what we believe. You've heard of the Big Bang...but there is more to the creation of our world and universe than a random boom. Univ. of Oklahoma Professor Peter Strauss is a scientific expert and follower of Christ, as well as a Creation Science advocate. He claims the fingerprints of the intelligent God operate the entire universe...with some mind-boggling, complex scientific examples.

To have a planet like Earth, several right (exact) factors have to be in place:

1. Right kind of galaxy: one that produces heavy elements and proper radiation levels.
2. Right location in the galaxy: just right radiation exposure with adequate oxygen and carbon levels.
3. Right kind of star (the Sun): Class G, singular (not binary) that supports stable planetary orbits.
4. Right distance from the star: Earth is exactly where it needs to be to support life. Any closer and it's too hot; any further and it's too cold to sustain life.
5. Right amount of water: Water is necessary for life, but too much causes problems.
6. Right amount of gravity: gases like methane can escape but oxygen stays.
7. Right kind of moon: one moon for a planet is rare, and ours stabilizes the planet's tilt, which is also perfect.
8. Right tectonic activity: even though movement causes earthquakes, scientists tell us that it is key for life because it helps to maintain the continents we live on, and generates earth's magnetic field.

9. Right “blocker” planets nearby: the huge planets Jupiter and Saturn are just near enough to be a vacuum cleaner for devastating comets and meteors... which then don't hit our planet.

[illegible]

In other words: It' aint gonna happen. So much for Star Trek! Romans 1:20 says: There are things about God that people cannot see...His eternal power and all that makes Him God. But since the beginning of the world, those things have been easy for people to understand. They are made clear in what God has made. (ERV). So, if God put that much careful detail into the whole universe just so we could live on our planet, think about how much He cares about you...and the details He pays attention to in your relationship with Him.

(Sources: The Case for Miracles by L. Strobel; Rare Earth by P. Ward & D. Brownlee; and [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org))

# BIG BUS TOUR

## March 29 - April 2



There still some room available for this awesome trip. The cost is \$1000.00 per person but there's so much to do. If you're still interested please contact Jan Perry (jans.piano@gmail.com or Randall (randall@gsdurham.com)

## 10 GREAT PROMISES

Dr. Clay Waters next series starts Sunday, March 13  
These are the ten greatest promises in the Bible