



Volume 10, No. 6, June, 2022



How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

Stuart Townend, Copyright ©1995



*Our legacy is written on the hearts
of those who know us best.*

(Malcolm Parsley)



Leaving A Legacy

In his book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," bestselling author Stephen Covey says, "Begin with the end in mind." This is the second of his seven habits.

This means we must know and have a clear understanding of our destination. It is easy for us to get caught up in the busyness of life. Occasionally, all of us need to step back for a moment and think about our day, week, or month. Then take a longer period to reflect on the end of life. What will be your legacy?

The song, "Find Us Faithful" includes these lines:

"After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
and our children sift through all we've left behind,
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover

Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.

(chorus)

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light the way.

May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe.

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

O may all who come behind us find us faithful."

After hearing Dan Garrett speak a few years ago in Memphis, my husband and I read his book, "Leaving A Legacy." Garrett's theme suggests most people pass on their valuables but not their values. We decided to be intentional about passing on our values.

We rented an Airbnb farm for 4 days and invited our two sons and their families to join us. We planned a loose schedule that included time to relax, play games, and enjoy the farm. The agenda also included 1½ to 2 hours a day communicating with our sons and their wives about values and goals, both ours and theirs. Before

arriving at the farm, we emailed questions that we hoped to talk about together. Some of these questions were original, and some were from Garrett's book.

The time at Shank Camp was well spent. We all gained insight about each other. We enjoyed hearing our daughters-in-law share their backgrounds and how they grew up. Each couple told of their dreams for themselves and their children. Harold and I also shared values we thought were important. You might choose a different venue, but be intentional, be together, and communicate values.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 reminds us "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

"O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light the way.

May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe.

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

O may all who come behind us find us faithful".

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma



What is Your Legacy?

What is a legacy? One person said, "In simple terms, a legacy is passed from one generation to the next and often refers to gifts of money or property. However, leaving a personal legacy involves more than the financial assets you bestow on the younger generation."

So, do we have a legacy? Do we have one we receive or one we leave for others? Yes, we can have both. Proverbs 13:22 tells us "A good person leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren, And the wealth of a sinner is stored up for the righteous."

We see examples of a personal legacy left by many of the restoration leaders in the church. Alexander Campbell, Marshall Keeble, Ira North, Mack Lyon, and many, many more have blessed not only their own generations, but many to follow.

As women, we won't leave a preaching legacy like those men, but we can certainly leave one equally as impressive. There are many women in the church who write or teach, both in class situations and by example, that will leave their mark for many generations to come.

In a recent sermon, we were told that three different studies over a ten-year period determined that 80% of young adults who remain faithful to the church had not just an acquaintance but a relationship with at least one or more older adults other than their parents within the church. That hit me right between the eyes. I had to examine myself and my relationship with the younger generations within our congregation. The preacher I was listening to said that an older woman had told him every week, "You are going to be a great preacher one day." When that time came, he said he could not think of anything else to be, because she had told him so many times what he was going to be. WOW! What a responsibility! We must help keep our young people faithful. Not all our young people can be great preachers, but we can encourage them to be strong faithful Christians, and we must.



I am sure there are women in your congregation who are quietly always available to listen when you need good advice. You probably know a woman who reliably arrives at the door of someone who is ill with a warm casserole, or who picks up a load of laundry and brings it back clean and folded. Another young woman with two or three small children and no time to spare may call and run by with that few groceries you needed, or that prescription you were too sick to pick up. Someone else may drive a sister or brother to the doctor's office. We see so many examples of service among our sisters. Even something that seems like a small thing can be huge to someone else. I have seen something as simple as a greeting card turn a sister from suicidal impulses. That was a powerful "small act of kindness" that had an eternal legacy for a sister who felt "insignificant," unloved and unneeded.

Do any of those things seem trivial to you? Trust me, they are not. When women do those acts of service, they leave a legacy of servitude and that is what we Christians are called to. Sometimes young people are not taught how to serve; however, by the examples they see around them they learn to be the kind of Christians God wants us to be. You can leave such an invaluable legacy for your sisters and for your children. Ultimately that legacy will be far more valuable to them than any monetary inheritance they will ever receive.

Beyond that, you as a Christian have received a legacy worth even more than the example of servitude; by teaching and by example, Christ showed the importance of serving others. Through his life and his death and resurrection he gave us the richest legacy of all. In

Ephesians 1:18 Paul said, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe."

When I stop and realize just how very blessed I am to be inheriting all God offers through the gospel, I am deeply humbled. Suddenly, no matter how financially rich or poor I may be, I am the richest woman on earth. I am a daughter of the king according to Romans 8:14. Who could possibly desire a greater legacy than that?

By Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



A Legacy of Love

A legacy is a gift left by will. Many times, the world sees a legacy as something monetary. However, it's the gift that someone wills from the heart that truly changes the world!

A true legacy lies in the unspoken gifts generations before left for us—not material gifts but gifts that never rust or decay, gifts that made us who we are today, gifts and acts of service and love that have lasted for generations!

These individuals have not just told us the stories of old and taught us the Bible with words. They have shown us how to live a legacy of love. Today, I honor one of our family's greatest heroes of faith who left his legacy of love, not only to us, but also to thousands around him, Mr. Junior Mace, our loving father and grandpa!

As our family thought about treasured memories of him, some of the greatest words that came to mind were loving, dedicated, impactful, and his heart to teach others about Jesus. I love these quotes my family shared about his life that describe so perfectly who he was.

"The word that reminds me the most of my dad is dedicated. Not only was he dedicated to my mom and us three kids, but he was most dedicated to the Lord and His church. He was dedicated to sharing the gospel with everyone he met. It didn't matter who it was, he would strike up a conversation with anyone and ask them if they knew God."

I love the quote, "He was the best salesman Jesus ever had. I think one of his greatest legacies would be that he literally wanted everyone to go to Heaven! Even when he was sick in the hospital, he was sharing his faith with the nurses. He even tried to teach his doctor. Sharing his

faith was a huge part of his life. His legacy will be the people who will be in Heaven because of Junior Mace. "

"When I think of my grandpa, I think of a very loving man. He no doubt loved Grandma, his kids, and us grandkids. Most importantly, he loved God's word and teaching others. He converted and baptized many people in his short time here on earth. To this day, I hear people say if it wasn't for my grandpa, they wouldn't be in the church today."

"My grandpa was impactful. I was only 10 when he passed away, but as a little girl I could see how much of a difference he made in people's lives. The amount of respect that was given to him, the feeling of always wanting him in the room, and the love that he gave away is something I will always admire about him. His impact reached farther than I could ever see, and I feel honored to know that he will be a part of me for as long as I live."

Junior knew the importance of loving Jesus, his family, and his friends. He knew that time spent with family and friends was a gift of joy and laughter that would outlast his physical life.

"He loved to tease. Some of my fondest memories with him is playing Phase 10 and Rummikub. Whoever would win would shout out, 'I smell something, I smell something!'" (As in you were the rotten egg for losing). I remember going many times with him to the auctions he loved, and Grandma and he would end up with some of the craziest things. It would drive my grandma nuts, but he would find a way to resell the stuff to make a little money. He also loved to watch The Andy Griffith show. I had many sleepovers at their house, and we usually watched Andy and Barney during lunch while eating tuna fish sandwiches together. These are just a few examples and stories about how my grandpa was the definition of a loving Christian man. I can only hope I can leave such a legacy as he did."

I was blessed to meet Grandpa Junior personally right before he gained his reward of Heaven! His smile and his love lit up the room! However, what really lit up the room was the love I could see between him, grandma, and his grandson, who I am blessed to be able to call my husband! I knew this was a man who had loved his family with all he had! Though grandpa passed away shortly after that, I have been given the opportunity to be a part of his legacy of love through my family and the friends he poured his heart and soul into! I see it in their smiles, their kindness, their generosity, their laughs, their

stories, and their love! I see it as each of them strives to live life for their Lord, giving it all to Him!

True love, love like Junior Mace's, never dies! The love he poured out daily while he was here with us was one of the greatest gifts he willed! He wanted everyone he met to know about Jesus and the true love only He could give. However, Grandpa Junior's love spoke louder than words! It is a gift that we will never be able to put a price tag on, or fully define by words, because it's a legacy that will last for generations, a legacy that will last for eternity, a true Legacy of Love!

Today I encourage you to remember that moments that change the world, the true things that leave a legacy, will never be monetary! For it is the small things, those things of everyday love and sharing our faith, that create a Legacy of Love that will last long after we are gone! I hope today through Grandpa Junior that his love can continue to change someone's life for the Lord, knowing it's not about the material things we leave behind, but about the love of Jesus we pass on that changes people, not just for their life, but throughout all generations and for an eternity! May we each strive to leave a true Legacy of Love, just like Junior Mace!

Written by Kim Kemnitzer and family, in memory of our loving father and grandfather, Junior Mace



The Legacy of a Father

Many have or have had wonderful fathers—fathers who are with them, loving them and providing their daily physical needs. He is also a wise and fair disciplinarian. More importantly, he is the spiritual leader in the home, leading by teaching and example. Others don't have a good father who is home, providing both physical and spiritual needs or needed discipline. There are way too many single parent homes where either mom or dad has deserted the family.

Being a good father doesn't mean he won't make mistakes. Fathers are human. They sin just like everyone else. But Christian fathers have a way to be forgiven from the Father who never makes mistakes, who is always there for His children, providing both their physical needs (Matt. 6:6) and spiritual needs through the blood of His one and only Son, Jesus.

Titus 2:11-14 says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly pleasures (passions) and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus

Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."

Even if we have or had a "not-so-good" father, or no father at all in the home, our Father in heaven will never desert His children. He is always available, loving us and providing every need, and forgiving us when we mess up. He also disciplines us for our good.

Earthly fathers have a place of honor in the home, so our heavenly Father should have the highest place of honor in our lives. God gives us many examples in His word of both good and evil fathers. One example of a not-so-good father is Eli. He was a priest of God, but he failed to either teach or discipline his sons. They turned out to be ungodly men and so died because of their sins. 1 Samuel, chapters 1-4.

He also gave us examples of godly fathers, such as Abraham, Isaac, Moses, and David. They all sinned at times against God, but they remained faithful all their lives. We all sin, but we must be faithful to the Lord. There is a great difference in being sinless and being faithful. As Christians, we cannot be sinless; but we can all be faithful.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri



How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Have you ever just read the words to this hymn? I read through the hymn several times to write this devotional.

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

The Father's love for us is so great that He sacrificed His Son. I can't imagine letting one of my children suffer for people who didn't care.

He did it so that we would be able to live in eternity with Him, not because we deserve it, but because the Father loves us that much. Jesus willingly let them



nail Him to the cross. He was obedient to the Father so we could have the reward. As Christians we are to be obedient to His commands because of our love for God.

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

We may see the crowd shouting, "Crucify Him," as more guilty than us for putting Him on that cross. But He died for all our sins. Our voices were in that crowd. My selfishness, my unbridled tongue, and my wanting to do things my way held Him on the cross. When we partake of the Lord's Supper every week, this is what we should be remembering: how can I be a better a Christian this week than last?

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Paul said this best in his letter to the Galatians, "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14. We are all given the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. We all are given the opportunity to be baptized into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and to become a new creature in Christ. Now we need to share the Good News to a lost world.

Debbie Broughton, St. Robert, Missouri
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BLOOMING LEGACY

I was in a Zoom Bible study recently with some lovely ladies from Canada and Minnesota. The topic was "Bloom Where You Are Planted." We discussed using the gifts God gives us where we are. Some shared what their gifts are, such as praying for others, encouraging others, leadership, serving others, and decorating.

The phrase, "bloom where you are planted," is not exactly in the Bible, but it is based on Scripture. Francis De Sales (1567-1622) is credited with the following quote: "Truly, charity has no limit; for the love of God has been poured into our hearts by His Spirit dwelling in each one of us, calling us to live a life of devotion and inviting us to bloom in the garden where He has planted us, and directing us to radiate the beauty and spread the fragrance of His Providence." There are scriptures within

that quote. See Romans 5:5, 2 Corinthians 2:14-15, Ezekiel 20:41, Psalm 1:1,3, and Jeremiah 17:18.

To bear fruit, trees must bloom first! God has planted us where we are to be a blessing to others and to bring honor to God at the same time. Our roots must be deep in Him so we can draw upon His power to bear rich fruits that enrich, encourage, help, and teach others.

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, and let it be through Him that you give thanks to God the Father." Colossians 3:17

I recall a quote from my childhood on a little plaque in my parents' home: "What you are is God's gift to you; what you make of yourself is your gift to God."

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Marilyn Pecinovsky, Cresco, Iowa
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UKRAINIAN CHRISTIANS' WAR-TIME LEGACY OF TRUST

When I was a kid, a lot of churches were established. Big dreams, extensive campaigns. Hundreds of baptisms. A lot of lives changed.

When I was a teenager, Church had its challenges. All beliefs rushed into Ukraine. It was a test of our beliefs, and many congregations couldn't pass it. When I was a teenager then, we, with other teenagers, already made classes for our friends in the youth groups that we led. We fight for the church to preserve it.

When I became an adult, God blessed me to start a new congregation in Dnipro. And from the start, we saw ourselves as a city on a hill, as a church that would be a blessing not only to the community but will be a help to other churches. God blessed us and united us into a team. And currently, I know that Sergey and Marina can cover the church's needs in the place.

On the 23rd of February, I went to Bila Tserkva - the city near Kyiv, to teach Minor Prophets at the Bible Institute. I woke up with explosions. And my phone was ringing, dozens of messages were there. For the years, we have been involved in many programs in many cities. Each year we contacted about 40-45 congregations about camp Amerikraine, about different summer camps, campaigns, and seminars. People know that we know people in other places. And in Ukraine, we have the call of duty toward our families and relatives. This is the moment for the church when you can know and realize that you have the most significant family ever.

When I was on the floor in the corridor, I heard explosions outside. I was on the phone. I kept telling them that the church family in different locations could help and, of course, that we were with them. It took me a day to get back to Dnipro. During that day, we had about 70 cars with Christians who went west or abroad. When I got back home, my brother Bogdan met me at the train station during a curfew. He was waiting extra 5 hours to meet our sisters from Kramatorsk and me. The train was going slowly because of the missile strikes. When I got back home, I saw a familiar picture. All our first floor, basement, and second floor were filled with people. In the morning, I heard sirens and the work of air defense systems with explosions. The same morning we had a problem with the availability of fuel. We talked with people who gathered in our home, and I explained to them that if the situation with fuel will not be resolved, then we could be stuck. We decided to go.

We were already in constant contact with churches in west Ukraine. Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Lviv. We talked with our neighbors in central Ukraine - with other congregations in Dnipro, with the church in Zaporizhzhia and Kam'yanske. It took us two full days for a trip that usually lasted 10 hours. We didn't plan to go to Chernivtsi; it was the closest location with a limited amount of fuel. Cars without gasoline were abandoned on the sides of a road. Many vehicles were crashed on the way, and cars pulled to the side. Enemies jet fighters met us on the way. They were 100 feet from us on a low height just next to us. Hundreds of calls made on the way.

Wonderful people. Meetings with people we talk to in the morning or a day before. We met people from Odessa with whom we spoke just in the morning. We had the opportunity to sleep in another Christian home that one wonderful family left in a hurry. Eventually, we got to Chernivtsi. Many messages from all parts of the world were giving us all tears to realize how great is our God and how big is our church family. I read many comments. Ukrainians who called me usually said that they saw many messages from thousands of people who pray for Ukraine. It was encouraging to them. To know that they are not alone. They are not left, especially in the times like that. People called and asked where we were and started to come to Chernivtsi. And this is how I was temporarily stuck in Chernivtsi, which is a great blessing. We used our skills from camps and hosting. We navigated people, we sent people

further. And this is where the church family helped again.

It helped us to have food and allowed us to have places to go in Europe or even further. Our worship services are different now. They are more profound. God's living Word lives. We studied 1 Peter and the epistle of James - books to the refugees. Today I finished teaching the students Minor prophets where we could see God's mercy and His mighty hand amid war. We still don't have a constant amount of people who stay with us every night in the church building. But we gather together and have a small devo every day. I want to go home, but every time I want to do, I hear about missile strikes on the way back home. And my van is broken, and for a week I will not have it. So for me, it means that it will not be now. If you ever dreamed of living with Christians on an island or you didn't want for the retreat to be over - this is similar to what we have here now. Except we have more time to carry each other's burdens and hear each other's stories. What I want you to say is that the time right now it's notable for the church. There is a spiritual war going on too. But I want to tell you that we have many victors, who got stronger in faith, more robust in hope, stronger in love. And this coming Sunday, I want you to look on your left and right side - this is your family. If you ever have troubles in life or war - this is your family. The family that God blessed you with. Let us celebrate it.

by **Alexandr Rodichev**

The article above moved me to tears, so I wanted to share it with all who may not have seen it yet. (Editor)

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*As a father shows compassion to his children,
So the LORD shows compassion to those who fear*

Him.

Psalm 103:13

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Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveandlove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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