

Gospel Gazette

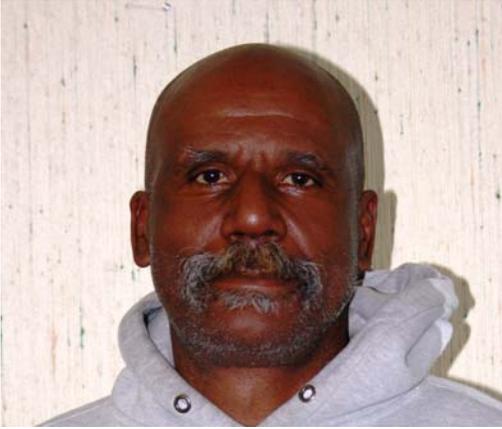
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NO GOD? NO PEACE. KNOW GOD! KNOW PEACE!

I was raised in a single parent family. My mother and father divorced when I was nine years old. My oldest brother had the responsibility of helping my mother raise me and my three brothers. When I was 10, my mother started dating a school teacher who later became her boyfriend. He was a



functional alcoholic who led my mother into alcohol. She never had a drink in her life until she met him.

Their relationship spun into domestic violence to the point of finally having to separate from each other. By this time, my mother had also become an alcoholic herself. She took care of my brothers and me the best she could while we were growing up.

My brothers did fine, but I was always getting kicked out of schools for fighting and other bad behavior. Amazingly, my grades didn't drop until I was in the eleventh grade. I dropped out that same year and took a job as a sanitation worker for the street dept. I grew tired of the job after a year and quit. I moved to Ogden to live with my grandmother and my three other brothers. I finished trade school and started working as a welder. I had three different welding jobs but kept getting laid off. In 1974 I moved back in with my mother and brothers. By now, my mother was remarried but separated. She had 10 years of sobriety at this time. However, I was now using alcohol and drugs.

By 2004, I was in the Salvation Army's recovery program and did well. I finished with a descent job, attended a good church and was in a Christian fellowship that supported me, as I also gave support to others. For two and half years I stayed sober but fell back into old habits again after getting away from the church. I got arrested for trying to buy drugs from an undercover police officer and went to jail for two and a half months. I lost my job and everything I owned. Now I was living out of my car.

My car was eventually impounded and that's when something happened! God's spirit came upon me! I prayed from my heart for forgiveness! I prayed for God to come into my heart and change my life! He must have heard me because a week later I was released on pre-trial and asked my counselor for help to get me into another program. First she tried to get me into the First Step House but I would have to wait four months to get in. Then she tried to get me into other programs, but they all had waiting lists that were too long. The Salt Lake City Missions program was the only one with an opening. I believe this is where God wanted me to be all along. The unique thing about this program is that it's smaller and intimate so I can learn more about

spiritual, practical and emotional teachings. I'm learning about a one on one relationship with Jesus and God the Father. I feel like I've finally found the peace, purpose and meaning. I thank God He loves me and helps me live to do His will and not just my own.

Joe Woodward

Bulletin Board Advice (for young people)

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.



Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

WORRY

Because of the ill effects of worry, Jesus tells us to “take no thought” or “don’t worry” about those needs that God promises to supply. Worry may: (1) damage your health (2) cause the object of your worry to consume your thoughts (3) disrupt your productivity (4) negatively affect the way you treat others, and (5) reduce your ability to trust in God.

Worry immobilizes - Concern moves you to action.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness” means to turn to Him first for help, to fill your thoughts with His desires, to take His character for your pattern, and to serve and obey Him in everything. What is really important to you? People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly bump God out of first place if you don’t actively choose to give Him first place in every area of your life.

SEVEN REASONS NOT TO WORRY

- (1) The same God who created life can be trusted with the details of your life.
- (2) Worrying about the future hampers your efforts today.
- (3) Worrying is more harmful than helpful.
- (4) God does not ignore those who depend on Him.
- (5) Worry shows a lack of faith and understanding of God.
- (6) There are real challenges God wants us to pursue, and worrying keeps us from them.

(7) Living one day at a time keeps us from being consumed with worry.



In Memory of Paul Harvey

Paraphrased by Paul Harvey

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many dirt roads have been paved. There's not a problem in America today, crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency-that wouldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character. People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride. That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog.

We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along. There was less crime in our streets before they were paved. Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. And there were no drive by shootings. Our values were better when our roads were worse! People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust & bust your windshield with rocks.

Dirt Roads taught patience. Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk-you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail, you walked to the mail box.



What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped pop corn and pony road on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap. Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole. At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini. At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra spring time income, from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road.

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Contact Philip Arena at 801-355-6310