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*The Joy of
Family and
Friends*





*Your love
has given me great
joy and
encouragement.*

Phileman 7

Bedtime Stories

When bedtime stole around each night
the kids would gather 'round
To hear Dad read a story
in a children's book he found.
He read of Peter Rabbit,
or of that scary troll
Whose house was underneath a bridge
where people took a stroll.

Of course old Humpty Dumpty
really ended up a mess,
What really happened when he fell
is anybody's guess.
And Goldilocks went visiting
the house of three nice bears
And liked a piece of furniture
when she sat in their chairs.

Sometimes he'd read a story
from a children's Bible book,
These also were exciting
for Dad knew just where to look
To find Daniel in the lion's den
or Jonah in the whale,
Or Jericho's walls all tumbled down—
their interest did not fail.

Some stuff was kinda' scary
but that kept their interest up--
When Dad sat down and read to them
it helped to fill their cup.
They'd go to bed with happy thoughts
and then drop off to sleep
But first they prayed and asked the Lord
that He their souls would keep.



*Forever
Friends*



If you have friends you are not poor,
in fact you're truly blest
For they are much more valuable
than gold and all the rest.
You can count up all your silver
and the gold you've slashed away
But it won't love you like a friend
if you've a rainy day.

I know some folks with lots of dough
and have a bit of fame
But having cash and having friends
are really not the same.
A friend will always love you
whether you are up or down
Or if you live across the tracks
or on Main Street in town.

So if you have some close, close friends
be thankful every day
And tell the Lord how blest you are
when you kneel down and pray.

*there is a friend who sticks closer
than a brother, Proverbs 18:24b*

Special Moments



We all have special moments
That we treasure in our heart,
The time when we got married
And did a family start
And looked upon a newborn babe
Who brought us tons of joy
For children are a special gift,
No matter girl or boy.

It seems God knew a family
Was the best way to go
To bring a lot of love and joy
To folks on earth, ya' know.
It seems these kids are little chips
Straight from the family block
And give us special memories
That in our heart we lock.

I'm glad God made a special plan
To populate the earth
For nothing can exceed the love
Of a new baby's birth.
So if you're blessed with lots of kids
Or only one or two
Thank God you have these special gifts
And that He smiled on you.

*Sons are a heritage from the Lord
Children a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*

Selective Hearing



It seems to me that kids select
the things they want to hear;
Its kinda' hard to rise and shine
till Dad shouts loud and clear:
"The bus is due to be out front
in ten, or maybe five"--
'Tis when they hear that final call
that out of bed they dive.

Another time its hard to hear,
and fills a kid with gloom,
Is when Mom shouts, and points upstairs:
"You must clean up your room!"
And other words are hard to hear,
like "take the garbage out,"
Or feed the dog, these, too, can seem
like foreign words, no doubt.

I know some kids have hearing loss
and don't hear very well,
But they can hear a block away
the ice cream man's small bell.



Choosing Your Friends

Be careful when you choose your friends
for they'll influence you
In thoughts you think and other stuff
that you will say and do.
Some folks we only know a while
and then they fade away—
They really don't impress us much
as we live day by day.

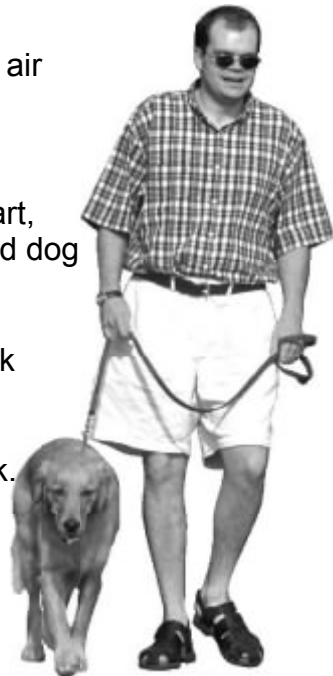
But there are other folks we meet
that we like quite a lot
Sorta' like a cup of coffee
that really hits the spot.
And so we travel on life's road
and try to play it smart
Aware that lots of folks we meet
leave footprints on our heart.

Walking the Dog?

I know some folks will own a dog
for it's a friendly pet,
It eats a lot of dog food
and sometimes sees the Vet.
Of course the Vet advises that
they should walk their dog
As exercise will help their pet
to sleep just like a log.

But when I see them walk the dog,
the dog is in the lead
As if it takes it's master out
to thank him for its feed.
I wonder if it's possible
for dogs to realize
It's owner needs
some good fresh air
and also exercise.

I 'spose I'll never figure out
what's in a mongrel's heart,
But I would guess a well-fed dog
would want to do its part.
So I'll not worry if the dog
takes its master for a walk
I'll kinda' watch
from my front door
while dog and master talk.





Cheer 'em Up

When people come across your path
I wonder what you do—
I wonder if you cheer them up
or they leave feeling blue.
Remember, everyone you meet
could use a bit of cheer
So take the time to say some stuff
they really need to hear.

And if you cheer 'em up a tad
it could be you will find
Their attitude might really change
about the daily grind.
And if they hum and sing a bit
and make a joyful sound
It really might cause other folks
to spread their love
around.

*But encourage one another daily
Hebrews 3:18*

*You
Are
Special*



When I said "Yes" in '45
then shortly said "I do"
I didn't know the joy I'd have
when I first married you.
It seems God had a special man
dressed in a Navy suit
Who also was a gentleman
and really kind, to boot.

Though it was sixty years ago,
some things ya' don't forget
I still can see my wedding dress
I wore on that day yet.
I didn't have much money
so a big ten dollar bill
Was all I paid for it, you know,
but still it filled the bill.

We've worked together many years
and four kids came along
And we were happy for each one.
They filled our lives with song.
We've really done a lot of stuff
that most folks do not do
Like going overseas to teach.
We also traveled, too.

We went around the world two times
and saw a lot of things,
We've been in fifty countries.
What great joy this travel brings.
We saw a lot of people
that we thought were really kind
And meeting different folk abroad
helped us expand our mind.

How blest we are for sixty years
that we've walked side by side--
I didn't know how great you were
when I became your bride.
The kindness and the gentleness
you show from day to day
Says though I'm pretty shaky
you still love me anyway.





The good Samaritan we know
was really a nice guy,
He helped a fellow in a ditch
who was about to die.
The Bible tells that other folks
who saw the wounded man
Just left him there and passed on by.
I wonder if they ran.

Some folks are not compassionate,
they just go on their way
Ignoring folks around them
who are struggling through the day.
But happy are the loving folks
who take the time to share
And look out for the hurting ones
and show them that they care.

It doesn't matter who we are
or how much stuff we own
We all need love and caring friends
so we are not alone.

John 4:1-26

Bitterness

I know that it is not much fun
to feel depressed and low
When bitterness keeps
plaguing you
most everywhere you go.
You want to have a song inside
and have a happy heart
But you have felt so bad so long
you don't know where to start.



To harbor bitter feelings
because someone did you wrong
Can really kinda' get your goat
and take away your song.
If you would think on it a bit
I'm sure that you would find
It really is not worth the stress
to keep it in your mind.

Forgiveness is the only way
to set your spirit free--
I know it's worked for other folks
and also worked for me.
Don't let another person
spoil your life and make you sad,
Forgiving them will heal your heart
and make your spirit glad.

Get rid of all bitterness Ephesians 4:31

Flawless

If you are looking for a friend
Who has no flaw nor fault,
You might as well call off your search
And bring it to a halt.
There is no one on planet Earth
Who's perfect to a "T."
And if we're honest with ourselves
Our own faults we might see.
So if you have a friend or two
We take folks as they are,
And they may do the same for us
Although not up to par.
This could be why we get along
With others day by day,
We've come to know all folks have flaws
And love them anyway.



*for all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God Romans 3:23*

*Don't Just Stay
At Home*

You've been everywhere and you've seen all the sights?
You've not missed a thing on your multiple flights?
Just slow yourself down to a much slower pace;
A road map will tell of an interesting place
Like Horse Heaven Hills, Oblong, and Big Foot,
They might be worth while for a glance or a look.
Then Thief River Falls, also Gully and Hay,
May be just the place for a wonderful day.
E'en Stinking Creek Road has a sound all its own
(Before taking that one you may want to phone).
The place that's called Pitts just might be a winner.
It could be a place for a jolly good dinner.
There's Windfall, and New Hope, and Rattlesnake Hills--
Now that in itself could produce many thrills.
So get out your map and pack toothbrush and comb.
You'll miss all these sights if you just stay at home.



*Blue
Mondays*

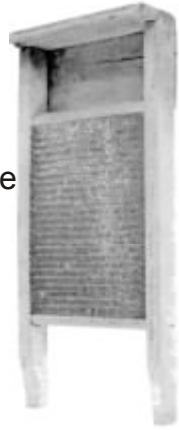


I did our laundry yesterday
it was no trick to do
I threw stuff in our wash machine,
in minutes it was through.
Then in the dryer went the clothes
as clean as they could be--
It wasn't long before the load
was dry and wrinkle free.

It hasn't always been like this,
those folks of long ago
Would wash their clothes on Mondays;
they just would plan it so.
They had a copper boiler filled
with water from the well,
And on a wood-fired kitchen stove
they'd wait 'til they could tell

The water would be hot enough
to melt Fels Naptha soap.
Then they would get the wash tubs out,
but somehow they could cope.
And in those early, early days
a washboard was the thing
To scrub the soil out of the clothes,
most scrubbers didn't sing.

In later years a wash machine
with wringer came along
And I would guess this new machine
did help restore their song.
But they were not clear
through the day,
the clothes must be hung out,
And hopefully they would be dry
if days were warm, no doubt.



Then ironing was quite a job--
on this I will not chat,
And women's lib was quite unknown,
there was no time for that.
Those country folks were mighty tough,
they didn't sigh nor shirk,
They did the things they had to do--
and that was work, work, work.

Some places in the world today
things still are pretty bad
The ladies head for river banks
to wash their clothes a tad.
There may be crocodiles around
or hippos swimming by.
Yet those brave ladies wash their clothes
and lay 'em out to dry.
So ladies of America,
remember how you're blest,
How you can run a batch of clothes
and then lay down and rest.

*Take
Time*



I've thought of young folks of today
with lots of stuff to do
With cell phones held up to their ear,
computers nearby, too.
Of course TV and radio
take time to hear and see--
With all this modern stuff around
something sorta' bothers me.

I wonder if kids of today
hear bedtime stories read
When all the children gather 'round
before they're tucked in bed.
Have they heard of Humpty Dumpty,
Peter Rabbit, or Bopeep,
The little girl who tried so hard
to find her missing sheep.

It seems they're missing something
if there is no story time
There are lots of things to cheer the heart
in stories or in rhyme.
So if you have some little folks
whose love you'd like to keep
Take time to read some stories
just before they go to sleep.

Just Smile

Don't push the replay button
If someone's done you wrong
For if you do you'll surely find
That you have lost your song.
The folks who even up the score
And ruminates on stuff
May find that hatred is not smart
And makes their life more tough.

Forgiveness heals a lot of wounds
That could one's life destroy
But if we keep a singing heart
It brings us lots of joy.
No matter what one says to you
That kinda' gets your goat
Just look 'em in the eye and smile.
Don't let 'em rock your boat.



*When I smiled at them,
they scarcely believed it;
the light of my face was
precious to them. Job 29:24*

School Days

How fondly I remember
The little one-room school
Where I attended as a child
And learned the Golden Rule.
My father was a farmer
And so this was the place
We went to learn to read and write
And ran hard to first base.

I know the building lacked a lot
Compared with schools today
But this small country schoolhouse
Served the village of Horton Bay.
And so the kindergarten kids
Heard stuff up through grade eight
So they learned things beyond their years
Which in itself is great.

If kids didn't learn the things they should
When they'd recite in class
They'd hear it several times again
So most of them would pass
And then they'd go to high school,
Some on to college, too,
It seemed those country kids were smart
And knew what they should do.

And recess was a special time
When we went out to play,
The young kids and the older ones
Would mingle every day.
At noon we'd get our dinner pail
And sit around and eat
Sometimes we'd find that Mom had packed
Some special little treat.

Don't feel sorry for the children
Who attend a one-room school--
They learn a lot and you can bet
They are nobody's fool.

