

Is your life running on empty?

By Gary Andrews
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Several years ago I drove a chartered bus to Ft. Worth, TX, with a group of senior adults on board. They were going to a senior adult conference held in downtown Ft. Worth. Even though this was only a part time job for me I was considered lead driver and one that took good care of the bus and its passengers.

This particular trip I had everything in order and insured that these senior adults got to where they were going. I drove from Mississippi to Texas, ran around Ft. Worth to several locations and made several trips from the motel to the convention center. I had been a driver for several years and considered myself to be ahead of the game when it came to having plenty of fuel in the bus. This time I miscalculated and in the middle of town around 9 p.m. I exited the convention center only to go about 100 feet. There I sat in the middle of the road with a bus load of tired senior citizens.

I learned a valuable lesson from this experience. Even though I thought I had everything planned out, I allowed the bus to run out of fuel. Many times during our lifetime we think we have our lives in order only to find out we are not where we should be.

In our work place, in our social life, in our church activities, with our family and friends, we seem to be okay on the outside when we are actually running on fumes and need to be recharged.

Many times this will happen when we isolate ourselves from others and not feed off of their energy. This is especially true when we quit attending church. So many of us tend to think we can sit at home, go fishing, or attend other functions we deem more important than fellowship with Christians. I have heard many people say that I don't need the church. I can worship on my own terms by praying and reading the Bible.

This is not untrue but being alone and studying your Bible will give you a self-satisfaction that will not be shared with others.

Look at what the apostle Paul said in Romans 15:14; "I myself

am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."

Not going to church or sharing your faith with others will eventually leave you feeling empty on the inside. We need to do as Jesus taught us through the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Verse 19 states "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Just as I allowed the bus I was driving to run out of fuel, which took 14 hours to correct and get on the road again, our lives can also run out of gas. I should have taken a closer look and better care of what I was doing

ing and I wouldn't have let the people down that were with me.

Are you running on empty? Only you can tell.

Prayer: Father, again I thank you for another day of life. Thank you for your many blessings and I ask that you continue to bless me in everything that I do. Let me serve you with a full tank of gas and not run empty. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday – Matthew 28:16-20; Monday – Amos 3:3; Tuesday – Job 14:1-6; Wednesday – James 4:7-11; Thursday – Micah 6:14; Friday – Proverbs 15:29-33; Saturday – Acts 2:42-47.

Gary Andrews is the author of Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.



He's becoming a man
Dear Dave,

My son is about to go off to college, and I'm concerned about how he'll handle his money when he gets there. We've taught all our children how to use your envelope system, and to save and give, but I'd like some advice on how he can safeguard his finances a little better.

Ashley
Dear Ashley,

If you haven't already covered it, he needs to learn to utilize a debit card and reconcile a checking account. Set the account up in your name and his, so you can follow what's going

on in the account. If there's an issue, this gives you easy access so that a minor incident doesn't become a huge problem.

Right now, the best way for him to learn is to make educated, informed decisions on his own and to stand on his own two feet. You're there for guidance at this point — not control. I'd let him use a debit card, cash, and have a few simple envelopes for expenses. Also, he needs to report back to you monthly what's going on with the budget. What I'm talking about here isn't control; it's a simple, regular review and coaching session on finances. This is an exciting time in your



One of Robert Randle's sister gave a report on him that he is doing fine.

Mrs. Pearl Mae Meeks gets around slow now, but with help she'd able to get around and handle her business. I saw her entering a local bank last Wednesday. Pray that she continues to be able to handle her business.

Mattie B. James is doing pretty good. I talked to her son Quinn last Wednesday.

Floyd James Moore and Catherine Williams' sister passed in

Chicago, Illinois.

I had a doctor's appointment on October 4, so I was not able to attend the TRIAD meeting. I guess some of the attendees missed me. The sheriff did. He told me on the way to Bible study, "You wasn't at TRIAD."

This writer wants readers to pray for my brother Raymond Kee of Coffeetown. He was airlifted to the University Hospital in Jackson on Thursday, October 5. This time it's his head, not his kidneys. My brother had



The Jo Nell Payton Memorial Diabetic Walk was held on Saturday, September 30 at Derrick Hobbs Park in Durant. Former Durant Mayor Robert Johnson help to start the diabetic walk fund raiser event with then city volunteer, Jo Nell Payton, before she was elected as alderman for Durant. New and returning participants honored Payton's memory by raising \$500.00 that was donated to The Mississippi Diabetes Association at the state wide walk that was held Sunday, October 1 in Jackson. This year's walk was sponsored by Robert and Acquanette Johnson (pictured above fifth and sixth from left respectively) along with Durant Alderman Carolyn Riley. (Photo submitted)

lives. You've laid a foundation, and it's time for this little one to spread his wings a bit. Together, you can make sure he's learning and living the way a young man should!

Dave
Leasing equals financing

Dear Dave,
What is your opinion on leasing cell phones?

Monica
Dear Monica,

In most cases, leasing something is just another way of financing. I wouldn't lease anything, apart from a building or office space for a business in the short term.

There are almost always hidden conditions and a few "gotchas" hidden in the fine print of leases. Besides, leasing a cell phone? Really? Come on! If you can't pay cash for something like a cell phone, it means you can't afford the phone. It's as simple as that!

surgery on October 6.

First Sunday it was good having Bro. Napoleon Young back in church. He had been out for a while. The members of Trinity were glad to see him.

Pray for Rev. Melvin Russell. He went to the University Hospital for back surgery on October 6. He lives in Mileston.

Designation of Holmes County to receive FSA Disaster Loan Applications

"Emergency loans for farmers, ranchers, and operators are available through the Attala County Office of the Farm Service Agency," Larry Pate, FSA Farm Loan Manager, said today.

According to Pate, this authority is pursuant to Secretary Perdue's declaration on September 29, 2017, of a major disaster in Mississippi caused by rain, flash flooding, and flooding beginning April 1, 2017, and continuing. Holmes County is contiguous to the primary natural

disaster area. Therefore, it has been designated eligible for Federal Disaster assistance pursuant to Section 321 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

Applications for assistance in the disaster-stricken county will be accepted by FSA through May 29, 2018.

Farmers qualifying for emergency loans may borrow up to 100 percent of their actual production loss or the amount needed to restore their operation to its pre-disaster condition, whichever is less. The new emergency loan and outstanding principal balance of any existing emergency loan owed by the applicant or any individual member of an entity cannot exceed \$500,000.00.

FSA emergency loans cover losses from designated disasters and are made to qualified farmers who cannot obtain credit from other lenders in the local area.

Dave
** Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business, and CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 12 million listeners each week on 575 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.*

VOTE--VOTE--VOTE--VOTE
Frances James-Randle
Election Commissioner, District 5
November 7, 2017
*Paid for by Frances James-Randle



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Sunday
October 22, 2017 | *10:30 A.M.*
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SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A.M.

A FELLOWSHIP MEAL WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.

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