

Slow is Just the Way I Go

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

One of the main complaints in the Parsonage has to do with my procrastination. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often refers to me as, Sir Procrastinator, as if it was a bad thing.

Anything that needs doing in our house, my wife is the first one to jump up and try to do it. She fixes things before they are even broken. How she does that, I will never know. It is a wife thing.

I, on the other hand, am slower than a politician trying to explain him or herself. For some reason, I was born in a hurry and that has been my motto all of my life. I am really not in a hurry for anything.

I take my time, relax whenever possible and just do not get excited about anything. I have found out that when I get excited about something and want to go fast forward, I always get into trouble. Trouble has become my middle name in this regard.

As a child, my parents wanted me to speed up and get things done quickly. I never could figure out why. Very few things need to be done in a speedy order.

I just do not have the energy, these days, to hurry up and get something done.

Last year, for example, the doctor gave me a little package to take home that I was supposed to put in a personal "sample" and send to the company. Certainly, I meant to do it as soon as I got home. But I took the slow way home, stopped and got a delicious banana split. I can only get these banana splits when I am driving by myself, for the other companion in our home has strict laws about such "nonsense," as she calls it.

I actually enjoyed my "nonsense" very much.

When I got home, however, I had forgotten about the box in which I was supposed to put in my "sample" and send to the company. I put it somewhere and I just forgot about it.

"When," my wife said, "are you going to take care of that and send it in?"

I almost said, "When pigs fly." But because I was slow in getting that phrase out, it never got out. Of course, I am so glad I was slow in that regard.

Sometimes being slow has its rewards. Some people say being fast has its rewards. I would not know about that personally.

Several months went by. "Did you send that package in?"

"What package?" I said.

Then she reminded me of that package and that I had to send in my "sample" for the doctor had ordered it.

Doctors! What do they really know? After all, they are only "practicing" medicine. When they get it to perfection, then maybe I'll believe them.

Several mornings when I would get up, I would hear the ques-

tion, "Are you going to take care of what you're supposed to do?"

I really meant to do it, but procrastination is the name of the game I play. I do not mean to play it that way, it just happens.

And it is not that I do not have a good memory. I do have a good memory in fact, I have locked several sections of my memory to save for when I get old. I will use that memory when I need it.

"You know," argued my wife, "you're not doing yourself any favors by putting this off. Why don't you do it today?"

Finally, and I am not sure what motivated me to do it, but I did do the process and got my "sample" and mailed it to the company.

My wife was happy when she heard that I did it and said, "Now, don't you feel good?"

I had to smile at her, but I really did not feel good. I really did not feel anything.

Several weeks later, I got a letter in the mail from the company where I sent my "sample." I was not sure what they were writing to me about. At first, I thought maybe something went wrong and I was in a lot of trouble.

Slowly, I opened the envelope and found inside a letter thanking me and it included a \$50 gift card. I could not believe what I just saw.

I could not wait for my wife to get home so I could share with her my good news.

I gave her the letter with the gift card and said, "I guess it really does pay to procrastinate."

She looked at the gift card and then looked up at me and said, "I did not know your 'sample' was worth that much money."

"Well," I said rather sarcastically, "now you know."

It only proved to me that sometimes procrastination does pay off. Sometimes when you jump into a problem or circumstance, you pay dearly for it. And sometimes, like my "sample" when you procrastinate you get paid.

I then reminded my wife of what King David said. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).

Of course, the key here is not waiting, but who you are waiting on. I like to procrastinate until I really know what God wants me to do. Sometimes it takes longer than I figured, but when I wait, I am never disappointed.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, in Ocala, Florida. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Even well-armed country boys need the Lord's protection

By: Roger Alford

I heard the tale the other day about the patrolman who pulled over the country boy as he travelled through the big city..

As the county boy got his driver's license from his wallet, the patrolman noticed his concealed carry permit.

"Do you have a gun with you?" the patrolman asked.

"Yep," the country boy said. "I have a .45 right here on my side."

"Do you have any other guns with you?" The patrolman asked.

"Yep. I have my 12-gauge Remington 1100 under the backseat," he said.

The big city officer, thinking surely that was all, asked if he had anything else?

"Why, yes," the country boy said. "I have a .357 in my console. And a .44 magnum in my glovebox."

The patrolman, unable to understand why anyone would feel the need to be so well armed, looked that country boy in the eye and asked: "Mister, you have so many guns. What are you afraid of?"

To which the country boy replied: "Not a thing, sir. Not one thing."

The Bible makes clear that folks can have far more confidence than that country boy when they put their trust in the Lord. David, the great warrior of the Old Testament, understood that. When still a boy, David confidently

faced Goliath, the giant of the Philistine army, and defeated him. Later in life, while in grave danger from an overthrow attempt, David wrote:

"O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, 'there is no salvation for him in God.' But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and He heard me from his holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around" (Psalm 3:1-8).

In David's day, an army was measured by its horses and chariots. David, however, understood that it was far more important to have the Lord's favour than to have a huge arsenal.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

If we trust in the Lord the way David did, a patrolman could ask us what we're afraid of, and we could honestly reply: "Not a thing, sir. Not one thing."

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com

RUSSELL COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." -Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

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Back to school blessing

Dear Heavenly Father,

For all the children returning to school, send you Holy Spirit as their guide and protector.

Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm. Put our sons and daughters in the right place, at the right time, to receive your grace.

Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts.

Help us to mature as parents and caregivers.

Bless every family, oh Lord.

We entrust our children to you, dear God.

Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In the name of the greatest Son of all, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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