

# To One It's Monday to Another It's Wednesday

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

Recently, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I spent some time in St. Augustine for some vacation days. We don't often get to have vacation days, but when we do, we try to enjoy it.

A few blocks from our motel is a place we love dining, the Village Inn. What I like about this restaurant is on Wednesday they always have free pie with anything you order even if it's just coffee.

We went down to have lunch at the Village Inn. It was Monday, however, and the pies were free only on a Wednesday. That did not stop me from trying, though.

The restaurant host escorted us to our table, and we sat down. Then the waitress came to take our order. It was then that I had a thought giggling at the top of my head. That is always a dangerous situation. I decided to go with it.

"Ma'am," I said as seriously as I possibly could, "I am a Yahooist, and according to our religion, your Monday is our Wednesday. Does that mean I can have the Wednesday free pie today?"

Looking at me for a few moments, she then broke out in laughter.

"A Yahooist, you say." Then she took our order and went to the kitchen.

I heard some laughter coming from the kitchen area when she went back, and every waitress that walked by our table looked at me and said, "Yahoo."

Then the manager came to our table and said, "So, you're a Yahooist. How could I join that religion?"

Knowing that he was just having a little fun with me, I responded very seriously, "To join you must say 'Yahoo' three times in a row and then bring me a free piece of pie."

Then our waitress came back with our meal and

greeted both of us by saying, "Yahoo." Then my wife and I shouted "Yahoo" back, and all of the customers around our table started to laugh and say, "Yahoo."

As my wife and I were eating our lunch, I thought that I had accomplished my purpose for the day. I love making people laugh and smile. That is what I call a good day. I know I can't make everybody smile or laugh, but I can make some people and those of the people I focus on.

As we were finishing our meal, the waitress brought our ticket to the table. She commented by saying, "It sure was nice to meet a real Yahooist. I hope you come back again." Then, as she left, she chirped, "Yahoo."

"You sure made an impression with her," my wife commented.

As I looked at the ticket, I noticed that the pie we ordered was not on our ticket. I called her back and asked about why the pie was not included on my ticket.

"Isn't today your Wednesday?" she said. "On Wednesday, the pie is always free." As she walked away, she cheerfully said, "Yahoo."

I have found that it always pays, and pays wonderfully, to make somebody smile.

The theme of my life is, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken" (Proverbs 15:13).

My goal is never to let a day go by without causing somebody to smile.

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# Story with a Sad Ending

By: Dawn Reed

Several weeks ago, I told about my friend Beverly (not her real name) whom I had met at a Bible study at the jail. (I loved her right away!) She gave her heart to Jesus in January and was baptized in March. It was the first time she had been clean in a long time.

Beverly told me she started doing drugs at age 11. When I asked her where in the world she had gotten drugs, she said from her family. She'd already lost many of them to drugs.

After her baptism, Beverly began to change. She was reading her Bible and LOVED it...seeing clearly for the first time in decades. After several months, she was transferred to an in-house drug rehabilitation at another county jail. I visited her regularly. We prayed each time before I left with hands together on the plexiglass.

Upon finishing her rehab, she had 30 days left to serve in our county. Recently, I asked for prayer that God would work to find another place for her to finish that time-not in jail lest she digress. Many of you did just that and even contacted me. Thanks again! God worked a miracle! Her lawyer, the assistant county attorney and kind judge arranged for her to go to a rehab facility for those 30 days. Though I couldn't contact her, knowing she was warm,

in a real bed, being fed and going forward helped me sleep at night.

Less than a week in, my dear Beverly walked away from that rehab. She went back to old friends and old ways. I got a call one evening that she was in ICU after an overdose; she was unresponsive. Days later, she was taken off life-support. Her funeral was the next week. I am still in disbelief.

I believe Beverly was sincere when she gave her heart to Jesus, but her old life beckoned. The draw of 27 years of drug addiction was too great.

During the visitation and funeral, my grief was heavy. I was overwhelmed with the reality of the drug epidemic in our area. With many tears, I wondered if we were making a difference at all at the jail. The staggering numbers of those under the influence of drugs are continuous and growing. Today, they seemed insurmountable.

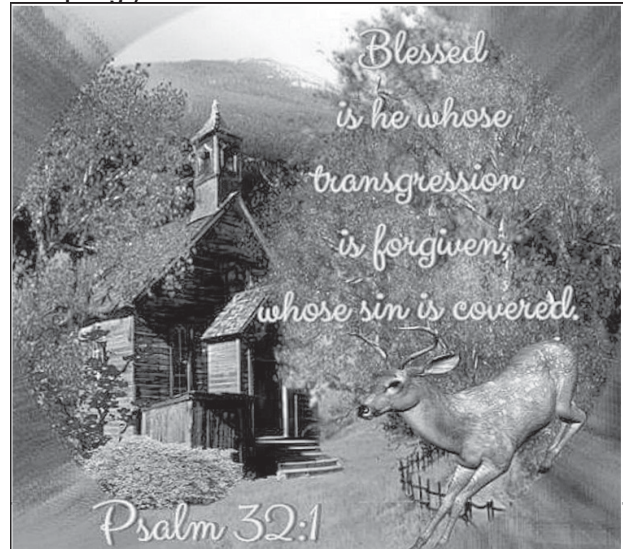
After a good cry, I remembered missionaries in hard places with people suffering from starvation and disease. I thought of Mother Teresa who served lepers in Calcutta. I thought of Harriet Tubman leading slaves to freedom in Canada.

I picked up my phone and texted some of the ladies on our jail ministry team: "We will pray. We will go. And we WILL NOT give up!"

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