

I Sure Miss My Old Typewriter

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

I was going through my office the other day looking for something, and then I saw it for the first time in many years. It was my old typewriter.

Most people today have no idea what the typewriter is.

In those old typewriters, what you typed was exactly what you got. If you mistyped a word, it was mistyped. I cannot remember how many times I yanked the paper out of the typewriter, put in a new piece and started typing all over again.

The thing so exciting was if I wanted several copies of what I was typing, I could use carbon paper between each page. What I typed on the first page was typed on the second and third pages. That sure was exciting because now I had copies of what I was typing.

The problem was, when I made a typo on the first page, it went all the way through to the last page. You could not fool those carbon copies. What was on one was precisely on the other.

That typewriter was a friend of mine, and we worked like a well-oiled machine. The thing about that typewriter, it never tried to correct me. It always went along with what I said and wrote — and never talked back to me. I was actually in charge.

At the time, I thought I had no better friend than that old typewriter of mine. To look at it now, I kinda smile as I remember how things have changed.

I was writing my first book, typing each page, when I learned about this new thingamajig called a computer.

The more I learned about these computers, the more interested I became. According to the people I was talking to, I could increase my out-

put 100 times faster. I initially did not believe that.

Finally, halfway through that first book, I decided to switch over to a computer. Those first computers had no hard drive, so you had to put a floppy disk in to run any program that you might be using. You also had to save what you were writing to a floppy disk.

I set that new computer up in my office and started fiddling around with it to try to understand how it worked. Much to my surprise, the more I fiddled, the more I liked the music I was hearing.

I did not have to use paper until the manuscript was completed and I could print it out on a printer. If I made a typo, I could correct it right there on the screen, no problem.

Getting adjusted to it was difficult for me. I remember the first chapter I did and worked very hard to complete, but I forgot to save it on a disk and lost that whole chapter. I was a little provoked because my old typewriter would never have done that!

Looking at that old typewriter, I thought of what Solomon once said. "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Maybe the way I do certain things today has changed, but the message is always the same. Techniques change, but words never will.

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Love Like a Big Girl

By: Dawn Reed

A while back, our pastor preached a sermon entitled "What love is... and what love ain't". I got tickled. Oh, how I love that country boy! (He's also my husband.)

He directed us to I Corinthians 13.

That first verse is a kicker: If I speak in the languages of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only "a whole lot of noise" (my translation). I've known people like that! I thought to myself and nodded my head in agreement. Preach it, preacher!

He went down the checklist:

1. Love is patient, love is kind. (Well...I always TRY to be patient and kind, so I'll check yes on that.)
2. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (I TRY not to envy and appreciate my blessings...and TRY not worry so much about what other people are getting. And I TRY not to boast or be proud... but SOMETIMES in my head...I MIGHT think more of myself than I should and start counting my good deeds...No checkmark on that.)
3. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking. (I'm practically NEVER rude, I think...but the "self-seeking" part... recently, I realized that I mostly want MY way.)
4. ...love is not easily

angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. (I TRY to bite my tongue...is it still so bad if I just think it and get mad inside? And the part about keeping no record of wrongs! Not even SOME THINGS? This was getting more difficult!)

He went on through the chapter. When he hit the last part...it hit ME!

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, and acted like a child. But when I became an adult, I put away those childish ways." In other words, when I grew up...I started ACTING LIKE AN ADULT! I've read that sooo many times before, but THIS time it clicked.

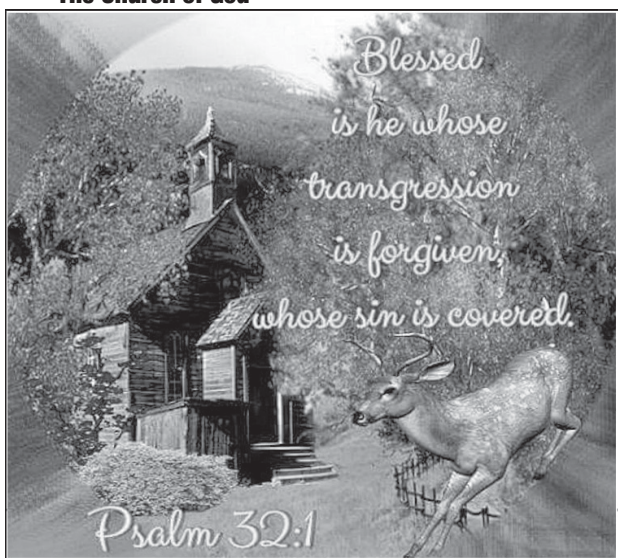
When we are followers of Christ, we are commanded-not encouraged- to love people every day. We see people everywhere we go. We can't afford-not have the option-of loving like PRESCHOOLERS!

So...that means we WILL be kind. We WILL be patient. We WILL NOT be rude. We WILL NOT be self-seeking. We WILL NOT be easily angered, and we WILL NOT keep a record of wrongs. We are going to ACT like and LOVE like adults-even if we haven't had our naps!

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