

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE VALLEY



Dawn Reed

Denzel was right.

The well-known actor counseled his friend, Will Smith, after Smith marched on stage at the Oscars last week and unexpectedly socked presenter Chris Rock in the face. (Rock had made a joke about Smith's wife.)

Later, when he won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role, an emotional Smith shared words Denzel Washington had spoken after the incident: "At your highest moment, be careful. That's when the devil comes for you."

It's a real thing. And in the Bible. If you're not convinced, just ask Simon Peter after the Last Supper with Jesus, or Elijah, or David. Or someone who has just come back from a mission trip or trying their best to live for the Lord. From the exhilarating mountain top to the depressing bottom of the valley in just moments.

In the upper room, Jesus shared Passover (and Last Supper) with His disciples. Peter had boldly declared, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Fifteen verses after, he denied three

times that he knew Jesus at all. Mountain top to valley in just moments.

Years later, Simon Peter penned First Peter 5:8, "Be alert! Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Often at your highest moment, on your best days.

The Apostle Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus (and believers today) to be on guard: "Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand," Ephesians 6:13 He didn't say if the day of evil comes, but when. He mentions "stand" twice in one verse. Not in our own strength, but in the Lord and HIS mighty power.

With Simon Peter and others in the Bible, God still had a plan for their lives, a re-start, a Plan B. God is faithful and forgiving, doing the same for us if we ask. An encouraging verse for days in the valley and a demonstration of God's grace is Psalm 40:2: "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

I've been on the mountain to valley roller coaster numerous times. Thankfully, my stuff is not on live television!



Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks



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Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks Celebrate National Donate Life Month

Nearly 1000 children and adults in Kentucky are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant

April 4, 2021 – Every April Russell County Circuit Court Clerk, Tony Kerr, celebrates National Donate Life Month in partnership with the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks' Trust For Life and Donate Life America.

The National Donate Life Month 2022 artwork was inspired by the vital role that bees play in sustaining life. Bees are a small but powerful life force, working together with dedication, collaboration and a strong sense of community.

"Just as bees are a powerful life force working together, we invite everyone to be a part of this interconnected, life-sustaining community by registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor," said Tony Kerr, Russell County Circuit Court Clerk. "There are no limits to registering as an organ donor. Everyone, regardless of age or health status, is welcome to register to offer hope to over 1000 Kentucky kids and adults in need of lifesaving organ transplants."

Over 60 percent of Kentucky's adults have registered their decision to be an organ donor after they have passed away. Yet the number of people in need of transplants continues to outpace the number of organs donated. Currently, 106,000 people are waiting for a transplant in America. On average, 20 people die each day because the organ they need is not donated in time—that is almost one person dying every hour.

Kendric Currington remembers what it feels like to be on that waiting list. At age 13, he was diagnosed with PSC, or inflammation that causes scars within the bile ducts of the liver. At 27, he was in desperate need of a liver transplant. Because of the generosity of another family, Kendric's life was saved. Today, he is an active volunteer and speaker for the mission of donation. Learn more about his Gift of Life story here: <https://donatelife.org/stories/kendric-liver-recipient-2/>

Everyone can join the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry in one of the following ways:

- On the internet 24/7 at RegisterMe.org
- Click "YES" while obtaining a driver's license or state ID at a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Regional Office

Governor Signs SB30 to Expand Organ Donor Registry & Education

Senate Bill 30 will create new ways to register to become an organ donor

Senate Bill 30 will allow the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to add organ donation questions to the screen when individuals are renewing their car tags online. It also allows County Clerks the opportunity to ask people in person to register as organ donors.

"Nearly 1,000 Kentuckians are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Across America, 20 people die each day due to this need. We knew we must find additional ways to grow the registry to match the increasing need for organ donation. As the registry grows, so does the number of organ donors and transplants – so this bill truly saves lives," shares Tracy Brewington Daniels, Cumberland Co. Circuit Clerk.

In 2021, more than 500 organs were recovered and transplanted across the Kentucky region, thanks to nearly 200 generous organ donors. SB 30 will expand the number of times people are asked to join the Registry and help those requiring urgent transplant services. The bill was sponsored by Senator Brandon Storm and passed unanimously through the Senate and House. Governor Andy Beshear signed it into law on March 9.

"I am proud to sponsor this lifesaving legislation. It is critical to increase the number of organ and tissue donors in Kentucky," Senator Brandon Storm said. "Working with these passionate nonprofits and Boards of Directors to draft this bill was important

to me as I know it will result in more registered donors and more lives saved."

"The Circuit Clerks committed to supporting the mission of organ donation 30 years ago. It is thrilling to see the continued momentum as SB 30 will potentially double the number of people who are asked to join the Registry each year. I have been honored to be part of the education and positive shift for Kentucky," says Brewington Daniels.

For more information about organ, tissue and cornea donation or to register as a donor, please visit donatelife.org. About Circuit Clerks' Trust For Life

The Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks'

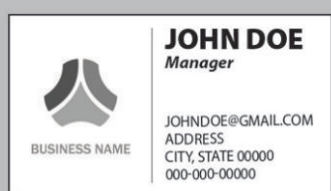
Trust For Life (TFL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that educates and encourages Kentuckians to be registered organ & tissue donors to save lives. TFL was founded in 1992 as the charitable arm of the Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks. The dollar donations at driver's license counters and other philanthropic partners, including KODA, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Kosair Charities, fund the statewide community outreach & public relations efforts to grow the Registry. For more info call 1-866-945-5433, email info@trustforlife.org or visit www.donatelife.org.

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