

Zion News

"There but for the grace of God go I." - John Bradford.

This phrase has been used popularly to acknowledge that one is lucky not to be in the same unfortunate or unpleasant situation as someone else. It is easy to look at others in war-torn areas of the world, in places of injustice and famine, at those with serious health conditions, at those with family and personal issues and utter with a genuine sense of gratitude, "There but for the grace of God . . ."

But is that the true meaning of this saying?

The origin of the phrase has also been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, John Wesley, John Bunyan, and other important religious leaders. Even though the exact origin may be unknown, it is almost assuredly inspired by the words of the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15, verse 10. Check it out.

In the 19th century the phrase was traced back to John Bradford as an expression of humility and a reliance on God's Grace. The story goes, that on seeing a poor criminal taken to the place of execution, Bradford would say, "But for the grace of God goes John Bradford."

When Queen Mary I of England ascended to the throne in 1553, she threatened reprisals against anyone opposing the Catholic Church. Bradford was arrested on the charge of "trying to stir up a mob" and was imprisoned in London Tower for writing religious works and preaching to anyone who would listen about the reformation of the church.

On January 31, 1555, Bradford was tried and condemned to death. He was to be burned

at the stake on July 1. Bradford was given a special "Shirt of Flame" by a Mrs. Marlet, for whom he had written a devotional work. This was a clean shirt that was sewn specifically for the burning, made in the style of a wedding shirt. This had become a common way of honoring martyrs.

A large crowd delayed the execution because many who admired Bradford came to witness his death. He was chained to the stake with a young man, John Leaf. Before the fire was lit, Bradford asked forgiveness of anyone he had wronged, and offered forgiveness to those who had wronged him. He then turned to Leaf and said, "Be of good comfort brother, for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night!"

Bradford knew that the same evil thoughts were in his own heart as are in all people. When he saw anyone drunk, or swearing, he would remind himself, "Lord, I have a drunken head; Lord, I have a swearing heart." By the sight of others' sins he could see his own sinfulness. So when witnessing the shameful end of criminals by execution he knew in his very being, "But for the grace of God goes John Bradford."

Upcoming Birthdays: July 8-Jacob Nash Culbertson, July 10-Ron Korte, July 26-Marianne Hanner, July 26-Carol Randall, July 29-Ramona Carlyle.

Anniversaries: July 14-Greg & Jalane White, July 18-Wally & Barb Smith, July 22-Roger & Lisa Kibler.

This coming Sunday, Rev. Leroy Allison will be leading the worship service along with musical guests "Strings Attached." Everyone is welcome.

Next up... 92nd Moultrie-Douglas County Fair

ANOTHER EARLY DEADLINE

And as I write this we are all on pins and needles. We are so badly in need of rain and the forecast is very hopeful that we will get rain through the next few days. A LOT of rain it looks like or maybe I should say several days of rain. Of course what falls right in the middle of these days is our town's big Freedom Celebration, parade and fireworks on Saturday. Just hoping for a window in the rain where we can get those things and in, enjoyed and finished. Of course then we head right into the Moultrie-Douglas County fair and we all know what that means.....more rain!

UPDATE

Well, I wrote that first paragraph before Thursday and decided to leave it so this paragraph is written on Friday and is an update. Still on pins and needles about whether or not the parade and fireworks will happen but wow! what a storm, huh? Not sure I have ever experienced winds that strong but then I'm not usually on the interstate when something like that hits. Here's what I wrote on facebook: "So yesterday I head to Chicago to pick Izzy up at Union Station. Know storm is coming but figure how bad can it be? Even if my sister did try to warn me. Between Arcola and Tuscola it hits so I figure I will get off at Tuscola. Behind a semi so I can't see as I head toward the exit (driving rain didn't help) and I'm thinking, why is there a big gate across the exit? What am I seeing?! The underside of an overturned semi RIGHT at the exit! I can get back on interstate but at this point traffic is stopped because of the horrific wind. I could have sat next to the semi I had just gone around but I feared it blowing over on me. So I rode it out literally. Did angle the car so I wasn't getting the full brunt of the wind. Back on the road with traffic moving slow and everybody with

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

flashers on. Finally ran out of the rain. Hoping everybody in those semis made it through OK. Got to the parking garage and into the station just fine but Izzy's train comes in about two hours late. Uneventful trip home but it was 10 o'clock. Still no power this morning." And an update to update, power back at about 3:30 p.m Friday after several got messages saying power would probably not be back until Sunday afternoon. Bless those who have had to work so hard in awful conditions to make sure the rest of us can have our creature comforts. As for the unprecedented part, I don't remember ever being without power for more than a few hours since we have lived in this house but I was reminded of some past storms. Our favorite is the winter in the mid '60s when we were without power for a few days because of a snow/ice storm. We had a fireplace and several families camped out in our living/dining room on Logan Street. Us kids thought it was great. I'm sure the adults quickly got tired of it. There were also a couple of bad snowstorms in the 70s when we went for a time without power. Then there was the Valentine's Day ice storm which I seem to remember being in the late 80s/early 90s. We sure don't appreciate how easy we

have it until we lose what we take for granted.

MOULTRIE-DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR

The 92nd edition of the MO-DO fair is taking place this week as mentioned above. Queen pageants, tractor pulls, carnival rides, woman's club stand hamburgers, livestock shows and another up and coming star on Saturday night, Warren Zeiders. Heard him interviewed on WMCI. Sounded like a very nice young man with his priorities in order. Also seems that tickets are selling well for his show so it should be another big night at the fair. Let's hope the rain moves on through and gives us a little break during the fair. (I know, wishful thinking). We are fortunate to have been the host of this annual event for so many years. Always a lot to see and do at the fair and so much goes into the planning. Enjoy!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It was a great week at VBS, up to a point. Each day well over 100 kids attended and they did have to keep them inside on Wednesday because of the air quality (thank goodness the rains have helped that). Things were going really well but unfortunately the Arthur Menonite Church was one of the places that did not get power restored by Thursday evening so Friday's program and spe-

cial event had to be canceled. I know that there were not only many disappointed kids but also adults who helped through the week. VBS always has special organizations they help each year, one local and one national. This year the local one was our EMTs and paramedics, and the national was The Red Cross. But my special mention for the week is the number of young people who help each year with Bible School and that would be our high school students and some recent graduates. It is very heartwarming to see these 'kids' enjoying their time with the little ones. And what an example they set for the younger kids. A very special thing to witness.

SPEAKING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Recently learned of a young lady who happens to be Delano's cousin's granddaughter and lives in Florida. Her name is Shyanne and she plays baseball, not softball, but baseball. For many years she has played on teams made up mostly of boys but is now getting a chance to play with a group of girls and will be attending the PONY Girls Baseball World Series in Japan in August. She will serve as an Ambassador for the Baseball for All national nonprofit group that supports young women's baseball and is one of only 26 girls on the team. She stated, "It will be nice to be around players who have had similar experiences and who can talk about some of the challenges you face." Shyanne

See TOWN TALK on page 3

MANNEQUINS

Background: Our Miller's greenhouse

by Ariana & Don S. Chambers



Arthur History Fact #57

It was the year 1901...

Two years earlier, the bank robbery of 1899 was one of the most harrowing criminal activity the young community had experienced.

However, in 1901, some other strange happenings were going on.

Suspicious fires had been springing up throughout town. One of the fires burnt down a local hotel.

But the biggest disaster was when the new Grade School, having just been completed about a year earlier, burnt down.

Funny thing was that a reporter for the local newspaper always appeared on the scene to catch good photographs of the fires.

There was never any hard proof, but it seems some pressure might have been put on this reporter who soon moved out of town to Arcola.

Guess what? The story is that suspicious fires started happening in Arcola.

The citizens of Arthur rebuilt the school exactly how it had been before the fire.

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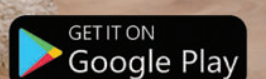
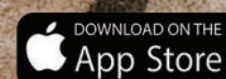


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