

Back from death: A reason why

By all accounts from the hospital staff, Bart had died. He had been in a wreck, and when the emergency crew arrived on the scene, he barely had a pulse. Bart was life-flighted to the nearest regional hospital, and the nurses and doctors did everything they could to save him.

Bart was well-loved in our community, and word spread quickly. Many people started fasting and praying. But despite it all, eventually, the hospital said they had lost him. But then something happened, and he came back.

Bart didn't really want to come back, and he was not at all pleased at being here.

"I'm not afraid of dying," he said. "It's the process of getting there that I don't relish, and I didn't want to have to do it twice."

To add to his displeasure, he found that many of his internal organs didn't work as well as they previously had. Some things had to be removed to save his life, and what was left worked at a subpar level. He

Life's Outtakes



DARIS
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said that if the fasting and praying had brought him back, he was not the slightest bit pleased with it.

Bart often asked why he had to come back. One day at church, he specifically cornered me to ask that question.

"Bart, I can't tell you why some things happen," I replied. "But I feel everything has a reason. Sometimes something will happen, and you will feel that your question will at least partly be answered. However, you may never know the full reason until your life is ending."

Bart tried to deal with his changed life the best he could. He worked through his health issues and learned to live with the ones he could not change. He

struggled to do everything he could before and had to adjust to letting his sons do more of the farm work. It was a big adjustment, and he tried not to complain, but he still struggled with the question of why. And with that question came the personal doubts about himself and the value of his life.

But all of that changed one day. On that day, a group of Bart's grandsons, along with a few friends, decided to work on some old four-wheelers and snow machines in Bart's shop. The machines hadn't run in years, and the boys were trying to get them started. They were using extra gasoline to try to get the engines to fire when something went terribly wrong.

A spark from one machine lit the gasoline on fire, and that caught the gas can on fire. A huge flame shot out, engulfing the portion of the room closest to the door. They tried to get the door open, but with the fire burning too hot near it, the heat drove them back. The fire shot up to the ceiling, and once it had

burned a hole through the sheetrock, it raced with the flame of an air-fired forge through the rafters.

Unable to help with the equipment his sons were working on, a discouraged Bart had decided to go home. That was when he saw the smoke. He rushed to his shop and quickly realized there had to be someone inside. He braved the heat and smoke to get the door open and quelled the fire there enough so he could get all the boys out.

The boys were taken to the hospital, and though they all had smoke inhalation and burns, the doctor said they would all recover.

But then he said something to Bart that made him rethink his question on the value of his life. The doctor said, "If you had not been there, arriving when you did, none of the boys would be alive."

Bart considered that maybe there truly was an important reason for his life after all, and he was glad he came back despite the challenges.

Keeping up is hard to do at my age

There was a time in my life when keeping up was part of my daily routine. I started each day with a specific objective, and by the end of the day, I had completed it.

I took pride in completing my work on time. The secret was to plan carefully. Some projects required several days; therefore, I organized them accordingly.

That had been true throughout my life until a very serious enemy came into view and hindered me from finishing some projects. This enemy has been a curse in my life.

Comparing me with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, you will discover that she had no such enemy in her life messing with her schedule. If she wanted something done, she completed it on time. I, on the other side of the marriage table, had trouble along these lines, and even though I wanted something done, I never actually got it done when I wanted it.

You might ask what this enemy is. It was something I really never expected in my life, and voil  , there it is. That vicious enemy is "Old Age." It has snuck up on me without any indication it was coming.

Although The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is technically two years older than me, she doesn't have that same

Out to Pastor



DR.
JAMES
SNYDER
MINISTER

enemy messing up her daily schedule. No matter what, she finished a project exactly on time.

When I was younger, I was taught that "Old Age" was chasing me and would catch up sooner than I expected. Laughing, I always pushed it aside and said everybody gets old except me.

I looked at my father and mother and noticed they were getting old. I never really believed that I would actually come face-to-face with "Old Age," and yet here it was.

Every time I celebrated a birthday, it never occurred to me that it meant I was one year older than the year before. Why do we celebrate birthdays every year? Don't we realize that your birthday means you're just older?

Sitting at my desk the other day, I noticed a pile of work I needed to complete. I never realized I had so much to do at my age and it was taking me longer to do it.

I had the superstitious idea

that getting older didn't mean you couldn't accomplish all that you could years before. I just assumed that celebrating my birthday was just another click on the clock.

My birthday and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's birthday are two days apart. We went to a restaurant to celebrate our birthday like we usually do.

At the restaurant, we told our waitress we were celebrating our birthday. Looking at me, she said, "How does old feel?"

Without even looking at her, I reached across the table, took hold of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's arm and gently squeezed it. Then I looked back at the waitress and said, "It doesn't feel really that bad."

The waitress didn't know whether she should laugh or walk away. Unfortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew exactly what to do, and it wasn't to laugh. The look she gave me still burns in my head today.

My predicament is trying to get around that stupid remark to the waitress. As long as I have been married, I still have trouble dealing with my stupidity.

Through 55 years of marital bliss, I have worked hard to keep up with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When I think I've accomplished it, something happens that sets

me back in a remarkable way.

I'm not quite sure how she can keep up with everything. If I knew her secret, maybe I could apply it to my life and get to the place where I'm actually keeping up with everything. However, if I asked her the secret, I'm not exactly sure how she would respond.

Looking back over the years of my life, I think I can say the only place I have actually kept up with everything was my relationship with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. The fact that we've been married 55 years says quite a lot about both of us.

The secret I have discovered is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can fix anything wrong or broken.

About eight years ago, the bumper on my truck broke and was almost dragging on the ground. I had no idea what to do, and as I was looking at it, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out and said, "What's wrong?"

When I told her, she looked at it for a moment and then said, "I think I know how to fix that. Let me go inside and get something."

She came out in a few moments with some large paperclips. She looked under the bumper, asked me to hold it up, and then put three paperclips underneath the bumper.

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From the files of The Erie Record

Blast from the Past

In Memory of Bill Lock

FIVE YEARS AGO

DINO PARK ENJOYS FIVE YEARS – A little more than five years ago, "dinosaurs" migrated to Erie, finding a new permanent home.

Approximately 20 detailed skeletal dinosaurs made of welded steel, including automobile and tractor parts, left their original homes on Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dorris' property where they were created and displayed in the "Dinosaurs Not So National Park." Dorris built the creations over years, providing quite the sight at his home on Highway 47 just southwest of Erie.

CRASH SURVIVOR GIVES BIRTH TO 'BABY BOY' AT MO. RESCUE RANCH – UNION, MO. – Journey, survivor of Franklin's horrific Oct. 18, 2020, tractor trailer crash, gave birth to an adorable colt in the early morning of Monday, Aug. 16.

The mother and baby have bonded perfectly. Journey is a concerned and involved mom and her baby (whose name will be determined via a social media poll) is a happy and active boy. The birth went smoothly for both of them, and they appear to be doing very well.

Journey is mobile and alert and the new baby is already exploring his surroundings.

SIX YEARS AGO

IMPORTANT MEETINGS SET FOR THIS WEEK – Two important meetings planned this week could have a major impact on the day-to-day lives of local residents.

Today, at 4 p.m., the Erie City Council appointed committee for the purchase of Stub's Market meets for the second time. The committee met for the first time last week with its number one priority to develop a business plan to present to the city council Monday. The business plan is required for a loan application through Rural Development (and zero-percent financing).

The second meeting set for this week is a special meeting of the USD #101 Erie-Galesburg Board of Education Friday morning, starting at 7:30. The purpose of that meeting is to approve the proposed budget hearing and address any last-minute necessary action in regards to the school buildings reopening.

SEVEN YEARS AGO

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD: Craw-Kan Plans to Expand Erie Operations Hit a Snag – Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative signed a contract to provide USD #101 with its high-speed internet and telephone service with hopes to expand to Erie businesses and residents at a later time. The steps to spread services to the rest of Erie, however, hit a snag.

Monday night, Craw-Kan's expansion efforts in Erie was met with unexpected resistance led by Everett Shrum. Craw-Kan General Manager Craig Wilbert was one of two company representatives at Monday's meeting of the Erie City Council.

Wilbert explained Craw-Kan purchased property at 121 W. 2nd St. (west of the Erie Post Office and AT&T building) with the intent on constructing a building to store equipment (primarily cables) to provide fiber option internet, cable television and phone services to Erie. The building would not serve as an office and would have very little traffic, but was perfectly located for Craw-Kan's intent.

One problem with the purchase of the land is that it is zoned residential, and the local planning commission denied to approve the zoning change request, citing no building plans sent with the zoning request change and "opposition" from neighbors. Wilbert was under the impression it was zoned commercially when purchasing the property.

"This is a \$750,000 project," Wilbert informed the council. "Broadband internet is the new key to economic development and our prices are amazing."

OPEN COUNCIL SEAT DEADLINE APPROACHING – The Mayor of the City of Erie Darrell Bauer is accepting applications or letters of interest for the open city council seat previously held by Terry Beachner, who held that position for more than 18 years.

Letters or applications for the Erie City Council seat should be submitted to City Hall, attention open city council seat.

EIGHT YEARS AGO

COUNCIL ABATEMENTS, GUTTERS AND WATER RATES – "Patience is a virtue" is the best adage pertaining to an Erie resident's request for abatement of city "streets" and alleys adjacent to his property.

Glen Windler requested at a previous Erie City Council meeting his desire to have the city vacate unused alleys and streets near his property.

While the council didn't oppose his request, the council did ask for more time to review the proposal before moving forward.

Windler was not the only local resident with a request of the council Monday. Jess Welch, who lives in the 400 block of north Grant, asked the council to "construct gutters" at his property when the city upgrades the street later this year.

Welch offered to pay for the materials (concrete). **POLICE CHIEF OUTLINES VEHICLE PROBLEMS** – "To keep or not to keep" is the key to a pair of vehicles currently assigned to the Erie Police Department.

At Monday's meeting of the Erie City Council, Chief of Police Tyler Riggs outlined the options for those two vehicles.

"I am on board with repair of vehicles we currently own," Riggs stated in his typed report. "It will save money and also time in trying to replace them. I would prefer to repair the Chevrolet Trailblazer mechanical issues and also electrical issues and keep it with the department."

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of Kansas

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Home on the Range

Oh give me a home, where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play, where seldom is heard, a discouraging word....these words in the song, "Home On The Range," our Kansas official state song, composed by Dr. Brewster Higley, in Smith County, Kan. in 1873, suggests that in the chorus, after each verse the words "where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy all day," that the "home" is a positive influence as one grows up. Have you given this song any thought recently? And more importantly the words "where seldom is heard a discouraging word?"

In your home do you give family members positive feedback and encouragement? When was the last time you told your husband/wife/children you loved them? When was the last time you gave them a hug?

It has been said, that to survive one needs at least eight hugs a day.

When was the last time you received a hug? Families need to keep communication lines open and so do communities as well as people in nations around the world.

The ability to communicate effectively with other people is a valuable life skill. Memories are built on past experiences. Pleasant memories linger forever. For older persons often their minds are very clear on topics relating to their childhood. Let them share those memories even though you may have heard them several times before. Be patient. Record or videotape these opportunities you have with family members of all ages and also friends.

There are numerous songs that mention home such as Stephen Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home." It suggests the folks are happy.

Home is the gathering place for families where one feels secure, where foundations for life are established.

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Hello Neighbor



LOIS
CARLSON
KSU
EMERITUS

KEEP IT CLEAN
Gary & Karen's
CAR WASH
East of Hwy. 59
North End of Erie

