

In Memory of...

Idris Welch

Idris Inez Welch, 95 of Forest Grove, OR passed away on September 30, 2014 in Forest Grove. A memorial celebration will be held at a later time.

Idris was born in Lincoln County, Nebraska on February 6, 1919 to Abner and Minnie (Smith) Dillon. After receiving her education, Idris started teaching in a one room school house in Nebraska. Idris married Wayne L. Welch in McCook, Nebraska on March 8, 1941. Wayne passed away in June 2010.

Idris enjoyed camping, fishing, snowmobiling, playing cards, reading, painting, sewing and was a excellent cook. She also loved to do gold mining and she helped build their own log cabin. She was a devoted spouse, a wonderful mother, a dedicated teacher, a Girl Scout Leader, quick-witted, and a good friend and listener.

Survivors include her sons, Larry Welch and his wife Lorna of Zeballos, British Columbia, Canada, Ron Welch and his wife Sandy of Vernonia, Oregon, Darwin Welch and his wife Linda of Vernonia, Oregon, Leon "Shorty" Welch of Richland, Oregon; and daughters, Darlene McLeod and her husband Bryon of Vernonia, Oregon and Gayle Yokley and her husband Cliff of Atwater, California. She also had sixteen grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, two sisters-in-law, Betty Zufall of Londenville, OH, Toni Welch of Fresno, CA and many nieces and nephews.

Things to Ponder: Feeling Overwhelmed?

By Grant Williams

Do you ever feel overwhelmed to the point you want to simply sit down and check out for a while? I have been experiencing those emotions a lot lately myself. It has become very difficult to balance my schedule. It seems like working for the bus company, trying to maintain a couple of small businesses, serving on a few committees, and trying to pastor a small church leaves me feeling exhausted and depleted.

The thing that keeps me going is the knowledge that most of the things I do have great eternal value. If it were not for my faith in God I know I would be very tempted to bring everything to a halt and take a step back.

Obviously it is impossible to drop my responsibilities in favor of an easier life. There are bills to pay, people who need to be taught and encouraged, and services that I am able to render that benefit those God puts in my life. I believe whole heartedly that I am saved by my faith in Jesus Christ and His grace is sufficient for all of my needs because of God's mercy and kindness toward me.

But I feel compelled to work hard because I also believe God has prepared a life of work for me to accomplish. Paul said in Ephesians 2:10, "For we

are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I do not believe for one second all the work I do helps secure my salvation, because my salvation is made secure by my faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. But I am confident that what I do will bring glory to God and do my part in building His kingdom.

When you are tempted to quit and throw in the towel remember God has a plan for your life. You might get discouraged because you feel overwhelmed, but don't quit.

Paul gives us the answer we need in Galatians 6:7-9, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Hang in there!

God knows what you are going through. Always remember He planned your life a long time ago, and He has not asked you to do anything He won't give you the strength and the wisdom to do. Seek God and His kingdom first and you will be amazed at how exciting your life will become!

Meet the Exchange Students *continued from page 14*

and Megan Zavales. Sandra is on the VHS cheer squad and is also running cross country this fall. She says she would like to try out for basketball in the winter and softball in the spring. Sandra says she has traveled in the past to the Netherlands and Turkey and this is her first time visiting the United States. Sandra says the burgers in the United States are much better than in Germany. She says Vernonia is like "...a big family," which is different from the big city of Hamburg. Sandra is one of six exchange

students from Germany living in Vernonia this year, which means she has too much opportunity to, "speak in German and not practice my English," she says. Sandra says she will return to Germany next year to finish high school.

Guilherme Botelho is a senior from Portugal where he lives on the coast, just five minutes from the beach. "Will" is living with Shelley Hennesey and Joe Fennell in Vernonia. Will says he used to enjoy surfing in Portugal, but since

picking up his father's old camera, he now enjoys photographing surfers more than surfing itself. In Vernonia, Will is a tight end, corner back and the punter on the football team. At 6' 4" he is also really looking forward to the basketball season this winter and will try track in the spring. Will says he "...came here for the hamburgers!" He says he loves American fast food. "Some of the other exchange students are worried about healthy food; I'm not. I'm all into fast food and sports," says Will. He says he

has always felt a call to come to America and says he has been dreaming about this trip for many years. He says he hopes to return to Portugal in the summer, check in with his parents, and hopefully return to the U.S. to play basketball, attend college and study chemical engineering. Will says he really likes traveling and has been encouraged by his father, who is Brazilian and travels for work and thinks it important for his children to be open minded about the rest of the world. Will has traveled to Spain, France, England, many times to Brazil, and Tanzania for an African safari. He has visited the United States once before and went to New York City and Disney World in Florida.



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