

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



Everyone deals with emotional pain to some degree. Whether it's a difficult relationship, an addiction, abuse, depression...it can cripple us and prevent us from moving forward. But regardless of what's happened in our past, God still wants us to have a great future.

For years, I thought I had to settle for a second-rate life because I had been sexually abused by my father. I thought my future would never be as good as it could have been.

That's what our enemy, Satan, wants us to believe. He wants us to believe that our past pain has permanently damaged what God can do with our future.

Maybe that's where you are today. You look at everything you've been through and think, My situation's just a hopeless mess. Maybe it would

be different if God had done something sooner, but now it's beyond repair.

If so, I want you to know that God can fix the unfixable and bring dead things back to life! (See Matthew 19:26.)

If you are brokenhearted—if you've been hurt, abused, disappointed or unfairly treated in any way—it doesn't limit what God can do in your life. In fact, God can give you a future that's better than it would have been if you had never gone through painful experiences.

Isaiah 61:7-8 has meant so much to me over the years. It says, "Instead of your [former] shame you will have a double portion; and instead of humiliation your people will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore in their land they will possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy will be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice..." (AMP).

This scripture helped me understand that no person could pay me back for what I'd gone through—but God could! And He'd even give me double for all the pain I'd been through.

I've witnessed this firsthand in my own life.

God has used His Word to transform me from the inside out. Instead of anger and bitterness, I now have peace and joy. Instead of being a victim of past abuse, He is using my experiences to help many find healing and total restoration from emotional pain!

Jesus has already opened the prison doors! We no longer have to stay in the "prisons" of emotional pain, rejection, disappointment, worry, depression, anger, addictions or bad habits.

If you've ever dealt with any of these things, you know they can have long-lasting consequences. Pain from the past has a way of lingering and even affecting your future.

But you don't have to live stuck in the pain of your past. You can make an exchange—you can trade your pain for God's promise and have beauty instead of ashes.

God offers each one of us healing and restoration, but we also have a part to play in the process. We can't expect to keep our "ashes" and still receive God's beauty. We have to choose to move forward and leave things like bitterness, resentment, and self-pity behind.

Self-pity was a hard thing for me to give up. I used it for years to comfort myself when I was hurting; however, the Lord

showed me that it's actually idolatry—it's turning inward and pitying ourselves when we should have compassion flowing out of us to other people.

Self-pity is a major trap that will keep us stuck in our pain. It's the same with bitterness and resentment. It took me a long time to get past the point of thinking, Someone owes me. I was bitter and angry about my past, and I ended up taking it out on the people around me, trying to "collect" from those who had no way of paying me back.

I had to decide to let go of my anger and resentment and trust God to restore what I had lost. He alone could make wrong things right...in His way and in His timing.

God can take any situation and turn it around for His good.

If your life is a fragmented mess, let Jesus gather up the pieces. Be determined to maintain a positive, grateful attitude, focusing on God's blessings and the great things He is doing in your life.

As you do, your pain will become someone else's gain, your mess will become your message, and what you've walked through will become someone else's miracle. You'll have a life of beauty, joy, and praise!

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lee Gilman 1950-2017



Robert Lee Gilman, 67, passed away Sept. 7, 2017 at home in Albany, OR.

He was born to Donald and Barbara (Ware) Gilman in Cottage Grove, OR in 1950. He was raised in Lorane, OR and then Cottage Grove where he attended and graduated from Cottage Grove High School.

In 1968, he married his high school sweetheart, Judy Bricker, and together they raised their family in Cottage Grove until moving to Albany in 1988 where he spent the rest of his life.

At the age of 10 he discovered trapping which started him on what he called "a lifelong adventure" which became his career. He trapped commercially, contracted for Oregon timber industries and started an urban wildlife control business. He loved the outdoors and spent his lifetime hunting, fishing and camping with fam-

ily and friends. He had a love of history and family genealogy and passed some of his own history on when he authored the book "Bear Tales and Trapline Trails" published in 2014. His love for his family was immeasurable. He had a special place in his heart for each of his grandchildren. His friends became family. He was a member of Eastside Christian Church in Albany where he and Judy attended together for 30 years.

Robert is survived by his mother, Barbara Gilman of Cottage Grove, his wife of 49 years, Judy of Albany, his daughter, Kelly Rhodes and her husband Darin of Dorena, his son, Sam Gilman and his wife Donna of Albany, and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Eastside Christian Church, 1910 Grand Prairie Rd SE, in Albany on Sunday, Sept. 17 2017 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Robert's memory to Eastside Christian Church (Missions fund in memo). Arrangements in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.

Mildred W. Hand 1934-2017



Mildred W. Hand, 82 of Cottage Grove, passed away Sept. 3, 2017.

She was born Dec. 16, 1934 in Marshfield, Oregon to Harry and Grace (Guilliams) Wagner.

Mildred graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1953.

On May 31, 1953, in Cottage Grove, she and Donald Eugene Hand were married. He preceded her in death in 2000.

She worked for the Register Guard as Circulation Manager and for a video store for 15 years.

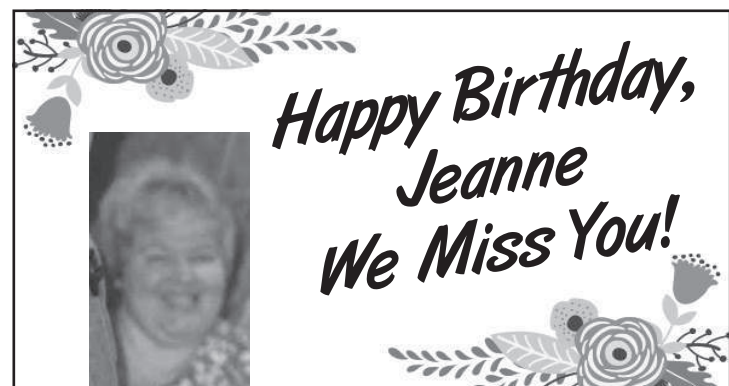
Mildred enjoyed bowling, knitting, crochet, traveling, making jelly, and spending time with her family. She was a USBC member and in the Bowling Hall of Fame and the Oregon Bowling Assoc.

She is survived by two sons, Robert (Becky) Hand of Cottage Grove and Allen (Stacy) Hand

of Eugene, Ore., five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 13 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and her funeral will be at 10 a.m. on Thurs., Sept. 14 at Smith-Lund-Mills, with burial to follow at Fir Grove Cemetery and a reception will be held at noon at The Cottage Bowl following interment. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, the Parkinson's Society or to the Cottage Grove Bowling Club, 740 Row River Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.



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Aaron Michel Wafer 1983-2017



Born December 13, 1983 in Roseburg, OR; Died August 5, 2017 in

Eugene, OR at 33.

With great sadness we say goodbye for now.

He leaves behind his mother Juline Wafer, beloved Cole Clement, Grandmothers, Aunts, Uncles, cousins and many friends.

Aaron attended school at Tiller, Reedsport and Cottage Grove, Oregon. His work included labor and construction.

Aaron loved family, friends, cooking, camping, snow, mountains, 4-wheeling, bonfires and sitting by a fire.

An informal BBQ & potluck and celebration of life for his local area friends will be held at his final residence: 72751 Shoestring Road, Cottage Grove. Saturday, September 16, 2017 at approximately 3 pm.

A family centered gathering will be held at a later date in Camas Valley, Oregon.

For more information regarding the celebration contact Erica Mitchell on Facebook, or Juline Wafer. Condolences may be sent to the address shown above.

Orpha Irene Hales 1926-2017

Orpha Irene Hales born to Frank and Louella (Vanderburg) Willis on June 13, 1926, died Sept. 6, 2017 at the age of 91 of Congestive Heart Failure. She was married in 1945 to Vilas Robert Hales who preceded her in death in 1986. She was also preceded in death by her parents and son Garland V. Hales, a grandson Kevin Lamm and great grandson Nathaniel and a great granddaughter Clair. She loved the Lord and her family very much and praised him by playing the piano and going to church. She is survived by daughter Laredon (Lare) F. Lamm and her husband Lynn; Son Ron and wife Kelly and grandsons Ken and Jake and their blended family—son Steve and grandsons Don and Craig and numerous other relatives and very close friends. She always believed her Savior would come back for her someday and we believed he did as she demonstrated the last few days of her life with her outstretched arms She would say to everyone "I Love You!" A memorial services will be held at the First Baptist Church in Cottage Grove on Friday September 22nd at 11am. Burial will be held at the Roseburg National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers (all though she loves them) she would say to all "give as you are led, to those who are in need of Love!" Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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Death Notices

Edmiston-Larry Dean Edmiston, 77 of Cottage Grove, died September 3. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Thrasher-A memorial will be held on Saturday, September 16 at the Cottage Grove's Elk's Lodge at 3 p.m. for Jim Thrasher who passed away on August 12. All of those who knew Jim are welcome to celebrate a life well lived.

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