

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



God is good. And He has a good plan for each of our lives. No matter what may be going on right now, God's plan is unfolding. In the meantime, Romans 12:12 tells us to "rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying" (NLT).

I think that's good advice, especially in times when it feels like we've been waiting and waiting...and waiting for something to happen in our lives. Hope is vital in times like these and it will keep us looking ahead, anticipating, expecting whatever it is we're hoping for.

Over the years I've learned how to lock myself up in a prison of hope, knowing that God has nothing but His best planned for me. He promised me things concerning my ministry and my life. And hope is what helped me hold on in those early years when it got hard.

Anticipation
I remember when it was just three weeks into my marriage to Dave and he asked me one

day, "What's wrong with you? You have such a negative attitude!" And I said, "Well, if you don't

expect anything good to happen, then you won't be disappointed when it doesn't." That was how I felt based on my feelings about past experiences. I had a very negative outlook on life, so I spoke negatively about it.

This is the way I used to live...before I became a prisoner of hope. As I grew in my relationship with God, I learned how to trust Him, how to stand on His Word, and how to stand my ground in prayer when it got tough. Today my outlook on life is completely different from what it was many years ago. Now I enjoy my life and I encourage others to enjoy theirs as well.

Jesus died for us to live an abundant, fulfilling life. And hope is the confident, favorable expectation of the life we can have in Him.

Double for Your Trouble

Now, I do realize there are many things that can happen to us that aren't so enjoyable. And that can make it difficult to grasp the idea of enjoying life.

So, think of it this way: What are you hoping for? What are you expecting in life? What are you looking forward to? Focus on that.

My negative outlook was due to my attitude about all the bad things that had happened to me. I was stuck in the pain of my past, so I didn't believe anything good would happen in my future. Because of all of the negative things that had happened, I was programmed to believe that negative things would always happen. I lost hope.

Well, God was there and He knew that. But over time He kept loving me and dealing with me, promising me what Isaiah 61:7 says: "Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours" (NIV).

That's an amazing promise for us all - a promise of double for your trouble! Double the blessing...double the joy...double the peace! Now doesn't that inspire hope in your heart?

Of course, this double-blessing promise isn't for the double-minded. When you walk it

out in everyday life, there will be times when doubt, fear, unbelief and weariness will come against you. It's in these times you will need to fight a good fight of faith. You will need to guard your mind against negativity about your situation. I encourage you to find out what God says about it and then stand on the promises in His Word.

The Bible tells of many times when people encountered Jesus and He touched their lives, and how they wanted to stay with Him and follow Him. But He sent them home - back to everyday life - to live out and share with others what He'd done for them.

They had to hold on to what He had done for them. And in the same way, we must hold on to whatever He promises us and be confident that He is working in our situation. Hope releases the power of the Holy Spirit in these times.

Hope

I want to encourage you to make a decision to cultivate an attitude of hope in your life. Speak positive things about your future and refuse to be negative. You may not always feel hopeful but don't give in to your feelings. Catering to bad

feelings feeds and empowers them. But standing our ground and not giving in to negative feelings starves them and causes them to lose their power over us.

Just ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. Line your will up with His and get excited about serving God. You could become a person who inspires others to become prisoners of hope!

Kendall Steven Hickey 1938-2017



Kendall Steven Hickey, Jr. of Cottage Grove died on December 2 at the age of 79.

He was born in Puyallup, WA on February 19, 1938, to parents Kendall Steven and Dorothy Ada (Over) Hickey. He married Linda Jo Colvn in December 1981 at their home in Cottage Grove. Kendall was a car salesman, and a drafter for Kimwood Wood Product and Machinery. He also worked as a drafter for Boeing. He enjoyed classic cars, hot rods, restoring furniture, and oil painting. He liked spending time with his wife, Linda, at the coast. He was a

member of the Church of Christ at 6th and Gibbs. Kendall is survived by daughters Stephany (Ronald) Gabaldon and Stacy (Scott) Campbell, both of Cottage Grove; 7 grandchildren and

9 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his spouse, Linda; son, Robert Hanks; and grandson, Kurtis Gabaldon. A graveside service will be held in Fir Grove cemetery on Saturday, December 9 at 1:00 PM. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

John David Shaw 1985-2017

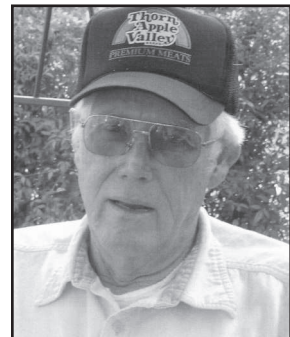


John David Shaw of Cottage Grove died on November 25. He was 32. John was born on April 5, 1985 in Cottage Grove to parents Danny Ray and Ellen Erdine (Davis) Shaw.

He graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 2004. John loved the outdoors, enjoying hunting, fishing, camping, gold-panning, shooting guns, and riding motorcycles. He enjoyed playing disc golf and participated in disc golf tournaments every Saturday in Cottage Grove.

He loved his dog Bullet more than life itself. The family would like to thank John's large circle of friends who came to the hospital to support him and his family. He was always surrounded by friends, even until his last moments of life. John is survived by his parents, Danny Ray and Ellen Shaw of Cottage Grove; sisters, Shelley Heine, Jennifer Davis, and Jessica Shaw of Cottage Grove; sister, Danielle Howard of North Bend; brother, Matt Davis of Creswell; brother, Shane Heine of Cottage Grove; and numerous nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life is planned at a later date. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Jack Westbrook 1929-2017



Jack L. Westbrook, 88 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on December 2, 2017. He was born on May 11, 1929 in Lindsey, OK to Mike and Oma (Green) Westbrook. He was a high school graduate and served in the United States Army. He married Monta Ray Swicegood on February 22, 1953 in California. They were married for 57 years. Jack was a supervisor for Crown Zeller Bach. He was a member of the Elks Club. Jack enjoyed hunting, fishing, making knives, traveling, visiting with friends and family. He is survived by his son, Larry Westbrook; daughter, Peggy Westbrook; son, David Westbrook; 6 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Monta and a great-grandson. A Memorial service will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR. A Private Family inurnment will be at Fir Grove Cemetery.

Gary Dean Johnson 1940-2017



Gary Dean Johnson, 77 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away November 24, 2017. He was born May 6, 1940, in Portland, OR to Clarence and Hattie (Fisher) Johnson. Gary graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1958 and played both baseball and football. He loved to take his grandkids on his truck in the parades. Gary drove a log truck in both CA and OR as well as other trucks. He retired from Willamette Trucking in 2007. Gary enjoyed watching old movies, walking, baseball and football games, feeding birds, watching his grandkids playing sports and giving them great advice. He married Sandra Steen on March 16, 1958, in Cottage Grove, OR. Gary is survived by daughter Barbara Johnson, Eugene, OR, son Tim (Denise) Johnson, Cottage Grove, OR, daughter Vicki Johnson and son Rod (Laura) Johnson both of Springfield, OR, sisters Joan and Candy both of Cottage Grove, OR, brother John Johnson, Salem, OR, brother Walter Johnson, San Antonio, TX, 7 grandchildren; Chris, Julian, Dani, Oliver, Dylan, Ryder and Bryon, and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents, a sister and step-dad. There will be a celebration of life after the first of the year. Inurnment at Myrtle Creek, OR. Memorial contributions may be made to the Burkitt Lymphoma Foundation. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

GRACE MARILYN COOK

October 10, 1934 - November 28, 2017

Grace Marilyn Olp Begley Cook went to be with her Lord Jesus on November 28, 2017.

She was born in Payette, Idaho to Charles and Grace Olp on October 10, 1934. She grew up mostly in Sutherlin, Oregon where she met her husband. She got married on her 15th birthday to Ray C. Begley on October 10, 1949. They were married 43 years when he passed away in June 1992. Grace then married Albert Cook in January 1996. He passed away in June 2017.

Grace was a devoted mother and grandmother. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, reading and time spent with family.

She is preceded in death by daughter Melissa LaDawn Rush, great-grandson Jonah Bergey, sister Dorothy, brother Paul and two infant brothers.

Grace is survived by her 5 children: Catherine Joan Robinson (Dennis), Charles Ray Begley (Judy), Judy Kathleen Clark (Larry), Marilyn Rose Begley and Dorothy Marie Vosgien (Jeff); 16 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; 3 brothers and many nieces and nephews. She also had three step-daughters: Margaret Rhodes, Roseanne Friege and Sandra Moose.

She was loved very much by family and friends and will be greatly missed by many.

A celebration of life service will take place on Monday, December 11th at 1:30 PM in the Youth Center at Hope Church in Albany (formerly First Assembly).

AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home is handling the arrangements (www.aasum-dufour.com).



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