

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



I think one of the greatest lies we can believe is, "It's too late!" At some point in our lives, we all feel like we've missed our chance or messed up an important opportunity. We can even be tempted to believe that we've disqualified ourselves from having a great future...that our best days are behind us.

If this is you—if you feel like you've missed your chance or like your opportunity to have a great life has passed you by—I want you to know something today: With God on your side, it's never too late.

While God Himself never changes, He is a God of change—He is always doing a new thing and working behind the scenes in our lives to bring about new beginnings. Where we see failure, God sees potential for something new. The minute we stumble and come apart, God is already planning our comeback. When we mess up "Plan A," we don't have to worry—God has a "Plan B!"

I love Isaiah 43:19 (AMP). In this verse, God says, "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Take a moment to really let those words sink in and think about this: If it really wasn't "too late," what are some things you would do? Would you go back to school to earn your degree? Would you reconcile with an old friend or attempt to make up for past mistakes? Would you follow your passion in life—something you're naturally gifted at doing—and try to fulfill your goals and dreams?

Whatever it may be, God wants you to know that it's never too late to begin again and have a great life. He is on your side and, if need be, He can even "put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Determination Is a Must

One of the greatest things we can do to cooperate with God's plan for our lives is stay determined. I've learned that when you feel discouraged, when others doubt or criticize you, and when your

dreams seem like they're just never going to happen, that's when you need to keep moving forward!

I'll never forget, many years ago, when I first started talking about the call of God on my life. Some of my friends felt that I must be mistaken, and they actually told me, "Joyce, we really don't think you have the right kind of personality to do this kind of ministry." It was not very encouraging!

But I knew what God had spoken to my heart, and I knew that I had a gift and a passion to teach His Word. So I kept moving forward. As a result, I lost some friends and was eventually asked to leave my church. Even some of my family members turned their backs on me.

Sure, it was difficult in the moment, but I cringe to think where I would be now if I had given up when I felt that rejection. I know I certainly wouldn't be fulfilling God's call on my life now...and I would be miserable because I wouldn't be following my passion.

I can distinctly remember a particular season during those early years when the Lord continued to encourage me not to quit. There was one Scripture in particular that He kept putting in front of me, and it continues to speak to me today:

"And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint" (Galatians 6:9 AMPC).

Our enemy, Satan, wants us to quit and give up. The Bible says he is the "father of lies" (see John 8:44). He continually lies to us and tells us things like, "Who do you think you are? That's never going to happen! Do you really believe that God spoke to you? You are going to do that?"

I believe we're actually most tempted to quit when our breakthrough is right around the corner. But if we'll just keep moving forward—if we'll remain steadfast and refuse to give up—we will reach our goal and walk in God's promises.

I'm not sure where you are today. I don't know what disappointments or setbacks you've endured. But I do know this: It's not over. God loves you, He sees you, and He has a plan to help you begin again. Because with God, it's never too late. He's the God of fresh starts, do-overs, new beginnings, and great finishes.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, He is the One Who makes all things new!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series *It's Never Too Late*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Unshakeable Trust: Find the Joy of Trusting God at All Times* (Hachette). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Audrey Meurer 1925-2017



Former Cottage Grove resident, Audrey Meurer, passed away peacefully in her sleep November 22, 2017 at Mee Memorial Hospital in King City, Ca. Audrey was born to Frank T. and Mary Tunzi on December 5, 1925 in a little house on the family farm that is now the King City Park, Golf Course and Fair Grounds. She attended Kindergarten through eighth grade at San Lorenzo School and graduated from King City High School.

She met Joe Meurer, in her early twenties. After a short courtship the couple married on January 3, 1949. They were married for 63 years until Joe's death in 2012.

Audrey and Joe loved to travel. They liked nothing better than to climb into their R.V. and go off on a grand adventure. On one of their trips they fell in love with the state of Oregon. They sold their house, packed up their belongings and moved to Cottage Grove.

Audrey was very active in the King City community and she continued her volunteer work when they moved to Oregon. They were very active in the their church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and with the Moose Lodge.

She enjoyed flowers and gardening. She discovered that the Oregon climate was conducive to Hydrangeas and Rhododendrons. It was not uncommon for strangers to ask if they could take a picture in her front yard. Her house was once featured as Garden of the Week on the local news.

In 2015 she returned to California. First she lived in a residential center managed by her granddaughter, Denise. Later as her health declined she moved to Salinas to Brookdale's Assisted living facility.

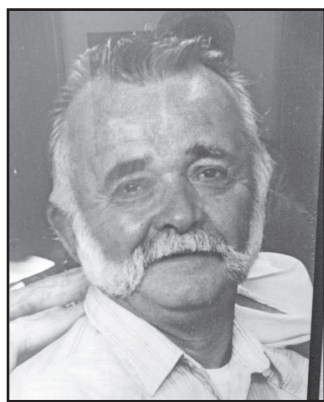
On November 1st, a mild heart attack caused Audrey to enter Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, she was later transferred to Mee Memorial. Although her spirit was fighting to continue to live, her body was just too tired.

She was preceded in death by her parents Frank T. and Mary and, her husband, Joe Meurer, her brother, Frank M. Tunzi, sister, Evelyn, and stepson Joe Meurer Jr. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Jacobsen, of San Jose, her son, Gary (Jerry) Meurer of Redding, daughter, Karen (David) Park of King City, Grandsons, Nicholas (Janet) Park of Santa Clara, Michael (Amanda) Park of North Hollywood, granddaughter, Denise Park of Colorado, and her great-granddaughter, Valentina Park, of Santa Clara.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Eddington Funeral Services in King City, California handled the arrangements. Internment will be held at Cottage Grove at a later date.

IN MEMORIAM

Billy (Hill Billy) Hill 1938-2017



Billy G. (Hill Billy) Hill, 78, of Cottage Grove died on Dec. 16, 2017.

He was born in Peoria, Ill. on Dec. 18, 1938 to Jude and Irene (Foster) Hill.

After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

On Feb. 5, 1958 in Willow Glen, Calif., he and Betty Bauer were married.

Billy worked as a house mover, baker, butcher, bartender, and construction worker.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, and watching all sports on TV. He had a great sense of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Betty, two sons, Gary of Morgan Hill, Calif. and Scott (Wendi) of Stevinson, Calif., a daughter, Holly (Jay) Druen of Manteca, Calif., a brother, Ed Hill of Peoria, Ill., 10 grand-

children and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Donald Hill.

A funeral will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 29 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove. Interment at Roseburg National Cemetery, Roseburg, Oregon.

DEATH NOTICE

Jimmie Wayne "Jim" Young, 70, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, died Dec. 18. A celebration of life will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant, 725 E. Gibbs Ave. in Cottage Grove, OR. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

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Beatrice (Bea) Dougherty 1924-2017



Beatrice (Bea) Dougherty, 93, passed away on Nov. 15 at her home in Cottage Grove at Middlefield Oaks Assisted Living.

Bea lived in Cottage Grove with her husband Bill, a school teacher, for about 40 years, during which time she raised her family - daughter Denise and son Craig.

Upon retirement Bea and Bill moved to Enterprise, Ore. where they could enjoy a drier climate. They lived there for about 20 years.

Bea was born in Sacramento, Calif. in 1924. Besides raising her family, she managed restaurants in Waldport and the Portland area, and ran an antique and collectible business from her home in Cottage Grove.

She is remembered for her patience and kindness. She is preceded in death by both her husband and son.

She is survived by her daughter, Denise Meek, and her daughter-in-law, Cindy Dougherty. She also has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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