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SALT & LIGHT

From Good News Bible Church

Making Disciples and Leading Them to Maturity in Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

28 MARCH
9 Palm Sunday

1 APRIL
Maundy
Thursday Seder
Suppers

2 APRIL
Good Friday
Service

3 APRIL
Evangelistic
Easter Egg
Outreach for
the
Neighborhood.

4 APRIL
Easter Sunday
(No 8 a.m.
service)
9 a.m. Breakfast
10:30 a.m.
Worship

The Elaine & Bud Willis Story



Elaine Willis grew up on a farm near Montezuma, IA. After she graduated from high school she moved to Cedar Rapids to seek employment. She wanted to earn enough money to go to nursing school.

However, while working at a restaurant, she met Bud Willis. They were married one year after their first date. Bud and Elaine had three children: Dan Willis, Diana Stahle and Debra Kosek, along with six grandchildren.

Bud and Elaine were married for 25 years before they decided to divorce. Bud was an alcoholic whose alcoholism was getting worse. And he refused treatment.

During the 14 years they were divorced, Elaine finished college and became the librarian at Prairie View Elementary for the College Community Schools. She retired from there after 27 rewarding years of service.

However, Elaine's most rewarding experience during this time occurred when one of her coworkers invited her to attend a Wesleyan church.

Believing that was what she might need, Elaine went to church with her friend. A salvation message was given at the church service and Elaine received Christ as her Savior.

Meanwhile, her ex-husband, Bud, was not having such a joyous time. He had suffered a massive stroke and was being cared for by his mother.

After Bud's mother passed away Elaine and her three children took care of Bud. Bud and Elaine were remarried.

The Lord opened up an opportunity for their daughter, Debra, to share the Gospel message with her father. Bud Willis believed on the Lord Jesus for his salvation before passing away in 2007.

Their son, Dan, works for Quest in Iowa City during the day. He has a son, Jeremy who lives in Iowa City and works for Ruhl and Ruhl as a realtor. On evenings and weekends he rents his apartments to students. Diana Stahle is married to Richard who farms outside of Solon. Diana is a nurse at the Linn County Health Department. They have three children, Amanda, Scott and Ben.

Debra Kosek is married to Kevin who works for the Veteran's Hospital in Iowa City. They have two girls, Anna and Natalie. Debra works for her brother in the rental business.

"As my time on earth winds down, I'm working on putting family picture albums together," Elaine says. Elaine enjoys meeting friends for lunch and reading the Bible plus all kinds of books and newspapers.

Elaine Willis has been a welcome presence at Good News Bible Church.

Do Hard Things

By Katherine Arch

Do hard things. Generally, such a statement produces groans from any group of people, regardless of age. Some might find exercising hard, while others might have more of a struggle using moderation with their eating. "Hard things" are everywhere. Each day one makes many choices from being on time for work to witnessing to a friend. Most of the time we shrug off the hard things with excuses such as, "that's not my job," "I can do it later," or, "I'm too busy to handle one more thing." However, in using such trivial excuses we not only try to justify being lazy or apathetic, we miss out on things God may have planned for us. Please allow me to elucidate.

As a part of our Sunday school class, "Do Hard Things," Pastor Arch challenged us to do hard things in three specific areas: physical, spiritual, and service.

Without going into great depth, this exercise was a way to apply hard things to our life going above and beyond the expectations set for us, especially considering our age. The book argues that teens often waste valuable years that they could be serving God. Our challenge was to find ways to put this into practice.

Before I continue, I wish to clarify that everything we have done or are doing has not been on our own. When we do hard things for the glory of God, He is willing to help us and make our endeavors successful. So, as much as I'd like to take credit for what happened to me, I really can't. I can just praise God that He was able to do really amazing things. And He used us. This was my experience.

About a month ago the poverty-stricken nation of Haiti was hit with a class-seven earthquake, leaving 3,000,000 people in need of emergency aid. While thinking about what I could do for my service project for Sunday School I remembered that Pizza Ranch allows groups of young people to wait tables for one evening to raise money for a particular project. I wondered if our class could use this opportunity to raise money for earthquake victims in Haiti.

After calling the manager at Pizza Ranch and explaining my plan, I contacted the youth of the church. Nine kids and one adult volunteered to help. On the designated night, we bused tables for the evening, collecting all the night's tips and 10% of the overall profit for the night.

At the end of the shifts I walked up the woman working the cash register and asked her if I could collect the profits for the night. With a look of skepticism she asked,

"Are you in charge?"

"Yes," I replied. What followed was the question I expected.

"How old are you?" After telling her I was 15, I was able to share with her a little bit about our class.

As a result of that evening, our youth raised over \$600. This wouldn't have happened if we all hadn't been willing to do something hard. I was petrified to call the manager and arrange the event. Some of the kids who helped out that night were not generally comfortable with talking to strangers. But we did the hard thing-*we tried*.

So although doing hard things is hard, we truly fail if we never even try. There are many things in each of our lives that God wants to use if we're only willing to get out of our comfort zones and try.

Sometimes things like making our bed, working out, or telling someone that you are a Christian may not seem important or even fun at the time. But if we're willing to try, we will find that God has something great planned for us.

Special Announcement!

This is the last hardcopy of the Salt&Light Newsletter readers will receive unless they notify the church office (319 354 3331) requesting continued hard copies. The following issues of Salt&Light will be sent by email. If the Good News Office does not have your current email address, please email the office promptly at gnbc2@goodnewsiwacity.com so you may receive the next issue. Thank you!

Good News News

- A relief offering was raised at Good News to buy medicine for Haiti. Nearly \$3000 was raised in this offering, purchasing the equivalency of \$65,000 worth of valuable and needed meds.
- A group of teens worked one evening at Pizza Ranch, earning \$600 for Haiti relief.