

TESTIMONIAL

March 27, 2019

GOOD MORNING –

WHEN ASKED TO GIVE THIS TESTIMONIAL, ONE OF MY FAVORITE SAYINGS FOR YEARS, CAME TO MIND.

It is: “CHANCE HAPPENS TO THOSE IN MOTION”.

CHANCE as defined by Webster is “*The possibility of something happening in the absence of any obvious design.*”

THE 2ND PART OF THE SAYING HAS THE WORD - “MOTION”

I HAVE BEEN IN MOTION ALL OF MY LIFE AND FOR MOST OF MY ADULT YEARS, I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ULTRA- ENDURANCE RACES.

HERE IS A BRIEF SAMPLING OF SOME OF THE EVENTS I HAVE DONE:

FOR 20 YEARS I PARTICIPATED IN THE IRONMAN TRIATHLON IN HAWAII WHICH COVERS 2.4 MILE SWIM, 112 MILE BIKE AND A FULL MARATHON – 26 MILES OF RUNNING.

FOR 2 YEARS I PARTICIPATED IN RACE ACROSS AMERICA – A NON-STOP 3000 MILE BIKE RACE FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. I WAS ON AN ALLWOMEN’S TEAM OF 4. BOTH YEARS WE FINISHED THE 3000 MILES IN 7-1/2 DAYS.

THE LAST EVENT I WILL MENTION WAS A TEAM EVENT CALLED THE ECO-CHALLENGE, A 350 MILE ADVENTURE RACE IN THE BACK COUNTRY OF SOUTHERN UTAH. IT TOOK 10 DAYS TO COMPLETE!

PREPARING FOR TODAY, I DECIDED TO TALLY ALL MY MILEAGE OVER THE YEARS OF TRAINING & RACING. THE ROUGH ESTIMATE ADDS UP TO 85,000 MILES RUNNING; 235,000 MILES BIKING, 10,000 MILES SWIMMING, AND NOW COUNTLESS MILES OF HIKING.

I CAN BEST SUM UP MY ABOVE EXPERIENCES WITH A FAVORITE QUOTE:

“IT IS NOT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ADVENTURE THAT WE EMBARK UPON THAT MATTERS, BUT OUR CAPACITY TO WONDER AS WE ENGAGE OURSELVES IN THE WORLD”

WHEN I PURPOSELY STOPPED COMPETING AND SOMEWHAT CUT BACK IN MY LATE 50’S, I STARTED TO FEEL VERY LOST. I REALLY STRUGGLED DURING THAT TIME, BUT COULDN’T FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.

A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WAS NON-EXISTENT. CHURCH WAS SIMPLY DAD TAKING US TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

SO ONE DAY DURING THIS PERIOD OF STRUGGLE, WHILE WALKING IN THE WOODS, I WAS CAUGHT TOTALLY BY SURPRISE WHEN I CRIED OUT TO GOD FOR HELP.

THAT EVENT STAYED WITH ME AND WAS VERY UNSETTLING.

BUT ONE SUNDAY I FELT COMPELLED TO COME TO A SERVICE AND SAT IN THE BACK OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH. IT FELT COMFORTING TO BE HERE. MY LIFE WAS CHANGING. WAS IT BY CHANCE?

I KEPT COMING BACK...I WAS EMBRACED BY SOME LOVING MEMBERS AND QUICKLY BECAME IMMERSSED IN THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY OF FAITH.

AFTER 15 YEARS, MY FAITH JOURNEY CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN THROUGH PRAYER, THE DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS, THE SERMONS, SERVING ON VARIOUS COMMITTEES, SMALL GROUP OFFERINGS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOU, THE MEMBERS OF TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

THERE IS NOW FULLNESS IN LIFE AND COMMUNITY, NOT ONLY COMFORT IN KNOWING A LOVING GOD, BUT THE CALL TO BE A BEACON OF HOPE TO OTHERS AS WELL.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER IN THE WOODS?? I DON'T THINK IT WAS BY CHANCE.

I DO BELIEVE THAT CHANCE HAPPENS TO THOSE IN MOTION, BUT I THINK THAT DAY IN THE WOODS, I WAS TOUCHED BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

I AM STILL IN MOTION, BUT NOW WITH GOD AS MY GUIDING LIGHT.

THANK YOU!