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THE HERALD

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Dear Daddy A Letter of Love and Hope to my Father

By: Jodi Robinson

My father and I had a very special relationship. He was my hero and I was his 'favorite' despite his faults and mine. So, when I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ's special gift of giving His life for me, being buried and rising again so that I might have eternal life in Heaven, I couldn't wait to tell my father. Unfortunately, although always polite, he made it clear that he had no interest in hearing anything about God.

For the last 3 years of my father's life, I wrote a short letter to him every day and included everything I could about what was happening in my Christ-filled life.

He had no church background. His mother died when he was young and he was shipped from place to place for his upbringing but I remember him telling me about his Grandmother who would tell him stories from the Bible and would pray in a closet. I don't know who else may have planted seeds or watered along the way.

In 1996, my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. I immediately flew from Ohio

to Arizona to see him. He seemed about the same as when I had seen him a few weeks before. He chose to try radiation and I went with him for his first few treatments before I had to fly back home. His last words to me were: "I love you". I always knew he loved me but he had never said it before. I cried the entire flight home.

Within a few days, he was extremely ill and the doctor stopped the treatments.

I had prayed for my father for years and had witnessed to him many times over the course of our lives. He was always polite but not at all interested.

He was unable to talk on the phone and I was unable to make another trip to Arizona. I prayed continuously and God laid it on my heart to write a final letter to my father. It was the hardest thing I ever did in my life. I sent the handwritten letter with a Bible, with all the Bible verses underlined and bookmarked.

This is my handwritten letter to my father:

Dear Daddy,

I bought this bible for you because I love you and I want you to have the same peace in your heart that I have in mine.

At a low point in my life, I discovered that the way to peace and comfort here on earth was through Jesus Christ.

I prayed that God would forgive me all the things I had messed up on in life, but most especially that He would forgive me for not accepting Him as my God sooner. I prayed in Jesus name and for the first time in my life, I felt total peace. And, though I've had lots of problems since that time, I have never been alone.

I don't claim to know all there is to know about God but I do know His promises about peace here on earth and life eternal in Heaven. And God keeps His promises.

Eternal life is so easy to receive. But man has always taken the things of God which are simple and complicated them. This has caused confusion. This has caused all the different churches—Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, etc. Originally there was only one church and what that church believed was the truth set forth by God Himself. I've tried to summarize those truths for you.

God created man in His own image (perfect but with the freedom of choice). Man made the choice to sin when Adam and Eve ate from the tree after God told them not to. Man has continued to sin ever since. Sin separates man from God because God cannot stand the sight of sin. Sin is anything short of perfection. People who seem absolutely wonderful to you or I, are still sinners in God's eyes because God is perfect and holy.

Our minister recently explained it this way. Suppose the only requirement to get to heaven was to swim from California to Hawaii and how far each of us could swim was based on how good we've been. There would be people who never got in the water, those who went 20 feet, 50 feet, 100 feet but there wouldn't be any who made it all the way on

their own. That's why God sent Jesus, His only Son to earth to live, die and rise again from the grave. And Jesus became the only way to get to Heaven. We are saved by praying to God in Jesus' name.

Because we have all sinned, we are deserving of death (separation from God). But God loved us enough to provide Jesus Christ as a way to save us from this separation. He sent Jesus to die on the cross and cover our sins forever so we might once again come into the presence of God and know His peace. This is not something you can earn by being good or doing nice things. It is a gift to you and me from God. There is only one way. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me".

The Bible tells us how to obtain this gift of eternal life with God in heaven. We need only to ask while believing.

This is a personal choice, Daddy. God still gives us a choice.

I pray with all my heart and soul that you will decide to accept the gift of Christ who died on the cross and rose from the grave that you might have eternal life with God in Heaven.

I know that God will answer my prayer.

Love,

Jodi

P.S. I have underlined and bookmarked in your bible the verses I read as I prayed and wrote this letter. These are the verses and the page numbers where you can find them in your Bible.

God's Choice for Us is Peace and Life

Roman's 5:1 (1534), John 3:16 (1440), John 10:10 (1455), John 5:24 (1444), John 6:47 (1447), John 10:28 (1456), II Timothy 1:10

(1622), *Titus 1:2 (1626), I John 2:25 (1664), I Corinthians 14:33 (1566).*

Man’s Choice is Sin and Death

Romans 3:23 (1532), Luke 16:15 (1417), Romans 6:23 (1536).

Our Attempts to get to Heaven under our own Power

Romans 10:3 (1541), I Corinthians 1:25 (1551), Proverbs 14:12 (912), Isaiah 59:2 (1016).

God’s Remedy to Change Our (man’s) Choice to God’s Choice

I Timothy 2:5 (1617), I Peter 3:18 (1656), Romans 5:8 (1534).

How You Can Make the Choice

Revelation 3:20 (1677), John 1:12 (1436), Romans 10:9-10 (1541).

God’s Promise

Romans 10:13 (1541), Ephesians 2:8-9 (1592), I John 5:12-13 (1667), Ephesians 1:13 (1591).

My Daddy decided to follow Jesus!

He died 3 weeks after I wrote the letter. Someday I will see him again. If you are praying persistently for someone who doesn’t seem to be responding in any way, remember that God expects us to plant the seeds or provide the water but the increase will always come from God. Never stop praying. God is awesome and He answers prayer.

BABIES and PRESCHOOLERS AT OGBC

By: Jodi Robinson

Psalm 139:13-14 For You created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.



Levi Robert McAllister (Lee-Vai, rhymes with The Guy) was born on August 30, 2025 at 2:36pm at Aultman-Orrville Hospital. He went home with his parents Simon & Annie McAllister. He measured 8

Pounds, 5 Ounces and 19.5 inches. They chose the name Levi a few months before he was born because they liked the name as well as its meaning which is “joined” or “together”. The name Robert was chosen because it is a strong family name on both sides of the family, being Simon’s middle name and Annie’s grandpa’s name, as well as several other family members. Levi’s grandparents are Daron and Dawn McAllister and Kevin and Melissa Gullion.

His parent’s hearts’ desire for Levi is “That he will love and serve the Lord.”

FUNNIES

Anthropologists have discovered a 3-thousand-year-old human skull with three perfectly preserved teeth still intact. They're not sure, but they think it may be the remains of the very first hockey player.

About to take his first horseback ride, the greenhorn was checking out the horses in the stable.

The old wrangler asked whether he wanted an English saddle or a Western saddle.

"What's the difference?" asked the tenderfoot.

"The English saddle is flat, while the Western has a horn in the front."

"Better give me the English saddle," the fellow replied. "I don't expect to be riding in traffic."

"What position does your brother play on the football team?" Tom was asked.

"I'm not real sure," the boy replied, "but I think he's one of the drawbacks."

A diner called the waiter over and asked, "What's this at the bottom of my plate?"

"It's the design," replied the waiter.

"In that case," said the diner, "it's an animated drawing—it's moving!"

When Salley O'Malley of County Clare won the Irish Sweepstakes, she decided to treat herself to some of the finer things in life. "I've nivver had a milk bath," she told her milkman one morning. "Woudja be bringin' me 96 quarts o'milk tomorro?"

"Whativver ye want, mum," answered the milkman. "Will that be pasteurized?"

"No," said she, "Up to me chin will do."

Bill and George were always competing against each other. After one argument over who was better at folding and packing parachutes, they went skydiving to settle the dispute.

Bill jumped first, pulled his cord, and began to float gently to earth. Then George jumped and pulled his cord, but nothing happened. Next, he yanked on the safety cord, but that didn't work either. In a matter of seconds George was falling like a rock and flew past Bill. "So," Bill shouted, ripping off his harness, "you want to race!"

Gasping for breath and covered with sweat, a man came into a racetrack snack bar and ordered a soft drink. "What happened to you?" the waitress asked.

"I was in the paddock area," the man panted, "When I saw a \$100 bill on the ground. I bent over to pick it up. While I was bent over, somebody threw a saddle on me, and a jockey jumped into the saddle. The next thing I knew, I was on the track and the jockey was whipping my flanks."

"No kidding?" said the surprised woman.

"What did you do?"

"I finished third."

They were watching a TV soap opera, and he became irritated by the way his wife was taking it to heart. "How can you sit there and cry about the made-up troubles of people you've never even met?" he demanded.

"The same way you can jump up and scream when some guy you've never met scores a touchdown," she replied.