

## HAND-ME-DOWNS

I had always thought Hand-me-downs were the clothing that was pre-used and the coats that were too big that I remembered when I was a child. But then I read an article that described Hand-me-downs as the things we leave behind. As I thought of this description of hand-me-downs, I thought of the things our children and grandchildren asked for when their Father and Grandfather recently passed away. Our children wanted his Bibles. When they both wanted the same thing, I was worried but then I looked and realized they could both receive at least 3 each. He had a lot of Bibles. Before he became ill, he had a daily practice. He would read the Upper Room, his current Bible, and do his prayer list. His list was quite long as he tended to not remove anyone once they were on it. Our oldest Granddaughter said she wanted something but would let me decide. I offered her the Mantle Clock he had received for 25 years of service, engraved with his name. I then offered our other Granddaughter another wooden clock from when he retired also engraved with his name. Our Grandson had already been promised his Grandpa's model car collection. I received as a child from my Grandfather a doll bed he had made. He was an excellent carpenter and the bed is made without nails and fitted together with dowels and made with love. When I look at this bed and touch the wood he touched and finished I am reminded of a man who loved his granddaughter very much and hugged her often. I hope that these things left behind will remind our children and grandchildren of a man that loved them always and that this is what they need to treasure the most.

The followers were distraught. How could they go on? What would they do? Jesus had died and now they were alone. But then the miracle!

Matthew 28:18-20 The Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror, then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Lord, be with us in this time of a pandemic, guide us in all we do. Be with those who are alone, those who grieve, those who are ill, those who question. Be with our leaders, give them wisdom, understanding, and your guidance. We thank you for those in our lives that have shown us your love. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and give him strength for today and hope for tomorrow as he leads us through this difficult time. Be with his family, keep them safe. May we be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that is fearful, anxious, and uncertain. Heal our land. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Grace Epperson