



Sometime Later

An overwhelming desire washed over me one morning in November of 2016. I had a sudden urgency to learn how to swim. Swimming is not a sport one would normally think about learning knowing that the days ahead would be cold and snowy, but there it was a desire to learn how to swim. I made a call and signed up for swimming lessons that day trusting that I might understand sometime later.

How does this milestone for me fit into a reflection for you? Well, stay with me and I know you will make the connection. When I was 7 I lost my balance in shallow water and floundered around for what seemed like a very long time trying to get myself upright. From that time fear has been the first word to come to mind whenever I thought of water. I had attempted and failed miserably in high school to overcome this fear. It was deeply seeded and would not go away. You would only find me in the water with a lifejacket securely fastened! So, the thought of suddenly embracing the idea of swimming 50 years later was a mystery.

This past summer, 7 months after learning to swim (or rather overcoming my fear), the reason was revealed to me as I jumped into the 7 foot end of a pool with my 4 grandchildren without hesitation. This memory would never have been made if I had not made that call and learned to swim. I was reminded of several instances in my life when I followed through with what seemed silly at the time only to discover sometime later the importance of following the prompting of my spirit.

Recently my daughter-in-law shared with me that she plans to travel with a youth group from their church to Houston, TX in June of 2018. This trip was scheduled 3 years ago. I am sure the organizers of this event had no idea of the impact of 20,000 teenagers descending on a community in need as it continues to rebuild after hurricane Harvey. Only now do they know the importance of selecting this location for their major youth rally at this time in history.

One of my favorite promises found in the bible comes from Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." In each and every day we are being prepared for what lies ahead.

From what we would believe to be stumbling blocks to wide open opportunities, everything prepares us for the future.

In the wake of several natural disasters, fires, flooding and hurricanes, it is hard to imagine anything good coming from these events. Yet, I have seen via media reports the extension of compassion toward one another where only weeks earlier there had been separation based on our differences. Can these tragic times teach us something? Can they prepare us to look beyond our differences toward those things we have in common, our desire; to love, to be healthy, to have meaningful work, to have friends, to believe in God or a higher power?

Clearly my simple little story about learning to swim might seem insignificant for the bigger point I am trying to make here, but imagine what the world might be like if everyone of us sought out the desires of our heart, our inner spirit, simply trusting we would know the reason sometime later?

Questions to ponder:

- What have I been called to do that seemed silly at the time, but proved valuable later?
- How has God called me to trust in his plan for my life?
- Who can I share my personal journey with as a way to inspire them on their journey?
- How can I reach out to those in need, being for them a hope for the future?

May God's Peace be With You,
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