

Virginia's Soliloquy @ funeral ?

When Virginia and MJ were married in this church on Christmas Day 1936, They were both convinced that they were prepared by the Lord for a life of togetherness in His Perfect Will. They had no doubts, and seemingly no one else did either. She was an X-Ray Technician and bookkeeper, a wonderful Sunday School Pianist and Church organist as a child and very well organized. MJ's talents were not as plentiful nor obvious, except he was convinced after a struggle that God had called him to preach

The one flaw was that he thought he knew where, and therein lies a great problem. He could consider no place to prepare for a pastorate in Seminary except Florida, and preferably if you asked him in the Daytona Beach area.

Another great talent that Virginia had about which MJ had never thought. She could handle money, was a bookkeeper and had held down jobs as an X-Ray technician and salesgirl, and saved her money and owned a second hand Chevy. MJ had none of that. OH HE HAD PREACHED ALL OVER CENTRAL FLORIDA BUT HAD NEVER HAD A CHURCH. He was a preacher BOY! And hadn't finished his Seminary education. Virginia was going to take care of that, financially and loyally. Thank God she did!

MJ had never had a job or handled money except occasional gifts from country churches where he had preached, and when he surrendered to a call to preach; he had made a strange covenant with God. It was that he would never handle money in any way.

Somebody should have counseled Virginia, and we suspect her father would have liked to, but he was too kind.

In the 1st 50 years of their marriage, Virginia wrote every check, paid all the bills, bought ever car, and every house they lived in. He took 20-25 dollars from the Navy and had all the rest sent to her in an allotment.

Something happened about this time that no one understands completely.

MJ accepted a call to the County Seat of Nicholas County, Kentucky "to preach a trial sermon" and since it was sorta on the way to Florida, He agreed. (He can't prove that Virginia was consulted). The afternoon of the Sunday church service Virginia had a very serious problem and fell right in front of the church. She had played the little organ and charmed everyone and was glowing with all the evident love displayed. They had to stay in the home of the Godly Chairman of the Deacons and their lovely family, and God worked His Magic of "Love at First Sight and sound".

That's how we were in what MJ considered "the wrong place" when the call to military service came to Baptist Preachers in 1941; Looking back he feels that was the **First Stroke** Virginia suffered. She also commenced her 1st pregnancy, and 2 years later became pregnant again.

Perhaps God sent a Divine message that ta Like Jonah, who had run away from God's perfect will that Jonah just couldn't see, who ended up in a great fish far from the Will of God. Chaplain Bouterse 2 years after Carlisle in a long night battle at Guadalcanal ended up wounded and alone sitting on the fantail of a burning sinking exploding heavy cruiser...and it took him years to understand the message from God, even though he wrote in his pocket diary that night "O God O God"

And when Virginia 7 yrs ago had her big "stroke" then God gave him an opportunity given by God to be retired to devote all his might and love and tenderness to stroke and stroke and stroke her hair and her tired body and attempt with so many helpers to ease all her problems forever, till they meet at Jesus' feet. God is so Patient and so Good!