

Family Joys Family Ministry Notes March 2009

My grandfather just turned 80 years young on Sunday! I remember a time, about 20 years ago that I told him that he was “ancient.” Now, I didn’t say “older than dirt,” which is probably what I was really thinking. Almost every time that I see him, he will remind me of that conversation and tell me that I am getting a little closer to “ancient” myself.

Living over nine hours away from my family it is hard to keep up with everything that is going on at home and with my grandparents. But the night before my grandpa’s birthday, I got the scoop on what was taking place. They would be going to Bismarck for dinner and to meet up with the rest of the family. My mom was making my grandma’s famous chocolate cake for my grandpa and they were all going to be together. Oh how I wished I could have been there to celebrate and to hear the many stories about my grandpa’s childhood.



I have to laugh when thinking about our most recent conversation on his birthday. After trying a couple of times to get a hold of my grandpa, I finally reached him. It was good to hear his cheery voice, and you could tell that he had had a wonderful dinner with family. I asked how the trip to Bismarck went, how the family had been, if he enjoyed his dinner at Famous Dave’s and if he enjoyed the chocolate cake. Without a moment’s hesitation, he asked how I knew about all of that. All I said was, “I have my ways.” And then there was there was a big chuckle.

Missing special occasions with family is hard, but making the most of the time we spend together is the key. Spending time with your family is so important and something that we often take for granted. I have come to realize that special phone calls, walks around the block, and snuggles before bedtime are the things that make our families special. When I was home over Christmas, I also remembered the many times that my family sat in church for special occasions. Witnessing the baptism of a cousin, confirmation of my brother and weddings of numerous cousins all were special times. As a family, we spent time in the Word and celebrating the many gifts that Our Father has given to us.

Making those special memories with your family is something that will never be forgotten. Take time to pray with your children, read Bible stories to them and teach them songs about our Lord. These activities are more than memories. They are the building blocks of faith. I remember vividly the Bible stories, prayers and songs my grandparents and parents taught me. These special moments have molded me and so many others. Praise God for the special memories that you instill and share with your family!