

## WHAT REALLY MATTERS

If you read this commentary regularly, you may remember that American Thinker is one of my favorite websites for thoughtful commentary on politics, culture, faith and morality, and based on current events for the most part.

The short article below appeared on Sunday, Feb. 4, which I am compelled to share with you. We live in a time of stress, if we are at all alert and aware of the implications of all that we see happening around us. This little article provides a break from that, a moment of inspiration, a point of light in the darkness.

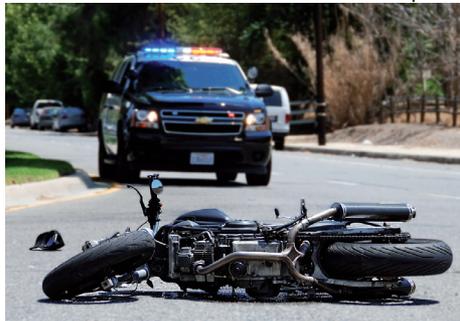
I hope it inspires you as it did me.

*Linda Grumold*

## WHAT REALLY MATTERS

By Mike J. Kirkwood, 2/4/18

In November of 2017, I nearly died -- twice -- in just over two weeks. The first, a motorcycle crash, left me with massive internal injuries and profuse internal bleeding. I survived that -- barely -- and some suggested I made it through because of how tough



I am. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We know this life is finite. Every year on Ash Wednesday, Christians commemorate the truth that we are from dust and to dust we shall return. At the end of that service that begins the season of Lent, we

wipe away the ash and return to our daily routines, with little or no further thought to our mortality. But as I lay on that roadside, the sand on which I lost control blowing across and pelting my face, my life was literally bleeding out. Paralyzed by pain beyond comprehension, unable

to speak, unable even turn my face away from the sand-blasting wind, the reason I survived had nothing to do with being tough. Rather, it had everything to do with the God who at his birth as man was named Immanuel, God who is with us: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)." (Matthew 1:23).

Miles from cell service and even further from a hospital, my head cradled in the lap of a good Samaritan named Paul, I lay for over an hour on the side of that Colorado mountain road, drifting closer to death. In the deepest prayer of my life, I prayed scripture from the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if it be possible, let this pain pass from me: nonetheless, not as I will, but as you will." I prayed it over and over and over.

And He was there.

During the 45-minute ambulance ride to the hospital I prayed. When the trauma surgeon at the hospital explained that the category 4 laceration to my liver might not stop bleeding and since livers can't be stitched, he couldn't save me, I prayed. And when time slowed to a stop and the room went silent, the surgeon and nurses moved in slow motion, then stopped moving at all and stared at the monitors above my head,

I prayed. I don't know how much time passed as I watched them watching the monitors. Then one of them smiled. Another fist pumped. When the third clapped his hands, it was as if the "play" button had been pushed, sound "turned back on," the slow motion revved up to

normal speed, and everyone went about their tasks. I prayed.

And He was there.

More now than ever, how unworthy I am frightens me. What I know pales before the complete knowledge of this God who created the heavens and the earth -- He knows the true depths of my unworthiness. That terrifies me.

Yet still, He was there.

I was airlifted from the trauma center in Pueblo to a hospital in Denver where I spent a few days in ICU and then a couple of more days before being released late that Wednesday, five days after the wreck. But just two weeks later, I nearly died again in my home, when I went into septic shock. While the friend caring for me dialed 911, convulsions wracked my body so violently that the couch shook. At the peak of those potentially fatal convulsions, I hoarsely whispered the words, "Father, please help me. Father, please help me..."

And He was there. The God of the Book of Genesis -- the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph -- the God promised by the prophets and incarnated by the Holy Spirit of the Blessed Virgin. He is God the Son, given for us by God the Father that all who believe in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life. He was, is now, and always shall be Immanuel, God among us.

For that, we should all be eternally grateful. And of that, ever mindful.

Mike Kirkwood has authored What If..., a collection of short works and Fathers, a novel. Both are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). American Thinker, 2/4/2018

\* \* \* \* \*

## BE GLAD, LINDA!

Lately (which means for several years, but especially recently) some of us running the store have felt much stress at the difficulties we face. The wolves of government micro-management and all that that entails are coming ever closer, snapping at our heels and much

more. It's hard not to become depressed and overwhelmed.

Then I remembered these wonderful passages, one from the Bible, the other from the devotional book, "Jesus Calling". I need to read these every day! Maybe they can help you, too. *Linda Grumold*

## A Prayer for the Ephesians

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)

\* \* \* \* \*

FOLLOW ME ONE STEP AT A TIME. That is all I require of you. In fact, that is the only way to move through this space/ time world. You see huge mountains looming, and you start wondering how you're going to scale those heights. Meanwhile, because you're not looking where you're going, you stumble on the easy path where I am leading you now. As I help you get back on your feet, you tell Me how worried you are about the cliffs up ahead. But you don't know what will happen today, much less tomorrow. Our path may take an abrupt turn, leading you away from those mountains. There may be an easier way up the mountains than is visible from this distance. If I do lead you up the cliffs, I will equip you thoroughly for that strenuous climb. I will even give My angels charge over you, to preserve you in all your ways. Keep your mind on the present journey, enjoying

My Presence. Walk by faith, not by sight, trusting Me to open up the way before you.

Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence by Sarah Young.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

## HEARING BETTER NOW?

An elderly man was having hearing problems and went to see a specialist. The doctor fitted him with some hearing aids that brought his hearing back to full strength.

After a few weeks the man came back to make sure the new equipment was working properly, which it was.

The hearing specialist said, "It all seems perfect. Your family should be delighted you can hear everything now."

"Oh no," the man responded. "I haven't told any of them. I just sit quietly, listening carefully. I've changed my will four times."



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, March 8, starts at 5:30PM.

At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Aliento Rd up Highway 18.

website: [lucernevalleymarket.com](http://lucernevalleymarket.com)

### LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

## ECHO RECYCLING

760-617-5404

On the Northeast side of the parking lot.

Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM.

Closed Sunday

Aluminum CRV ..... \$1.70/lb

#1 Plastic CRV ..... \$1.23/lb

Pricing good thru Feb. 21, 2018

