



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 13, 2018

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THANK YOU, MOM

“Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth” (Ephesians 6:2-3).

In a little town in Taylor County West Virginia Anna Jarvis in 1907 began a campaign to establish a national Mother’s Day. The special day would fall on the anniversary of her mother’s death. So on May 10, 1908 the day was observed in Philadelphia Pennsylvania where Jarvis had recently moved. It wasn’t until 1914 that President Woodrow Wilson made the official announcement to the nation that every second Sunday of May would be a national day of observance.

Mother’s Day is a special day in which we take a moment to honor the women who make a difference in our lives. In my years of Christian service I had the privilege of interviewing senior statesmen, great community leaders and church leaders who are making a difference in all of our lives. In our first few weeks after moving to Logansport Indiana, I was given a personal invitation to meet with Mayor Michael Fincher. Mayor Fincher impressed me as he spoke in tears about his mother. I am convinced that the world is a better place because of all mothers that were readers, teachers and fitting examples. Dedicated mothers produce determined children. We all know that it takes a considerable amount of determination to make a difference in today’s world.

So take some time this Mother’s Day to remember Mom. The apostle Paul reminds his *“son in the faith”* (Timothy) where his personal faith originated. *“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also” (II Timothy 1:5).*

This is dedicated to my Mom who has made many sacrifices and uttered many prayers that have made a tremendous difference in many of my major decisions in life. Thank you Mom.

Rick Woodall

‘A TIME TO EMBRACE’

I had not heard of the “hug lady” until this past Saturday, January 2, 2016. Because of the political nature of most stories, I usually avoid the national news shows as much as possible. However, that day I happened to be watching the last segment. The news was that the hug lady had died.

Her name was Elizabeth Laird and her unique relationship with the service men and women of Ft. Hood began in 2003. It started rather simply. After one young man hugged her, another wanted to do so, and then another, and so on. It was estimated at her death that she had given over 500,000 hugs. She wanted each soldier to feel loved and appreciated, so she made her way to the base to greet groups, whether large or small. For much of the time, she was in the midst of her own battle with breast cancer.

Elizabeth died Christmas Eve, 2015, at the age of 83. However, that did not occur before she had been visited and hugged by many of those whom she had helped previously. Glowing tributes were offered at her passing, and many people attended her funeral. All of this because of one simple gesture which anyone can offer.

The hug lady’s story reminds me of a couple of things which are so important in living for God. First, we are to appreciate one another. When we are told to love (**John 13:34-35; I Corinthians 13:13; 16:14; I John 4:11**), we are not commanded to embrace. But, hugging is a very clear demonstration of love and appreciation (**Acts 20:27**).

Secondly, hugging is something any Christian can do. Public speaking ability, in-depth Bible knowledge, as well many other traits some desire, are not necessary. It is a simple, universal gesture of acceptance and appreciation. You may not be as eloquent, or as wise, or as talented as you would want to be, but you can do something for a brother or sister in Christ that will affect them for many years – hug them. It is a gift that will be returned to you several times over. Truly, there is “*a time to embrace*” (**Ecclesiastes 3:5**).

Lance Cordle