

Take an AWE journey today

*Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders.
From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy. Psalm 65:8 (NLT)*

What God created and continually enhanced by natural wonders allows human imaginations to run wild. Believe that all human beings are invited into nature to experience the peaceful easy feeling that comes from sunrises, sunsets, rainbows, rose bushes, mountain peaks, and the amber waves of grain. Inspiration for this talk started when I recently found a picture of a thirtyish year old me standing atop Wilson Peak near Telluride, Colorado.

The picture made me happy. It sent me on a journey back in time to a vision my friend Dave and I caught while having lunch in the company cafeteria. The idea of climbing began during our usual lunchtime chat on November 4, 1979. I remember the time specifically because it was the day we awoke to news that some seventy people were held captive by Iranian militants in the US Embassy in Tehran. The more we talked about it, the more anger, sadness, and ultimately frustration entered our conversation. Soon the direction of our conversation changed.

Dave said, "Wanna' do something *awe*-inspiring?"

Quick answer from me, "Absolutely! Like what?"

Dave's reply, "Climb mountains." Quick response from me, "Awesome! Really?"

Dave said, "Yes really!!" My question, "When do we start?"

Okay, I'll admit, Teddy the flatlander was a bit unsure about the discussion that day. Where I grew up on the Caprock of Texas, the elevation is 3,238 feet at the sole of my boots. The highest points in Kingsmill were the five-foot mounds of dirt stacked around the earthen stock tanks formed with the help of a front loader on a farm tractor. The human made stock tanks yielded a place to catch rain for cattle and horses to have water to drink. So, highest points in Kingsmill Texas made a fourteen-thousand-foot mountain...*frightening!*

The picture that captured my AWE moment was snapped on a Spring day in 1980. Only moments after reaching Wilson Peak's pinnacle. It was an exhausting first ascent. I handed Dave my camera and said, "Take the picture." At that moment it seemed important to record evidence of my first peak ascent. Happily, I can say I was much more prepared for the twelve mountain tops that followed that happy day atop Wilson Peak.

That realization reminded me that after those beautiful mountain top views, my quest for being in the beauty and majesty of God's creation did not stop at a 14,023 elevation. My personal memories are recorded in this Talk. Now, I encourage you to find AWE moments in your own picture or memory to make you smile and be in love with God's creations.

Peace always

Ted