

A Great Day in the Kingdom – 2/24/23

Have you ever considered Cheerfulness is a gift from the Almighty? When someone has a cheerful face, it encourages those around them. Cheerful people are a pleasure to be around. Their conversations are usually full of humor or encouragement. This week, I want to share a story about Ed Otwell. He was my pastor as a six-year-old boy. The year was 1973, as the Viet Nam war was just ending. My family had moved to Cleburne, Texas.

I remember actually looking forward to going to church to see Ed. He was always glad to see me, as well as everyone else. He had children's sermons that I remember to this day. One of them involved Ed speaking about generosity. He took his pocket knife out and sliced off a thin piece of chocolate from a Hershey's Kiss. His lesson was about sharing with others. He then took out a giant bucket of candy and dumped it all out, down the chancel steps.

Ed yelled, "This is how much God Loves You!" It has been 50 years now, and I recall it just like yesterday. Years later I would get to thank Ed for his wonderful ministry to me, my family and his congregations. Ed told me that we, as the congregation, always cheered him up when he saw us. I never understood that, until I came into pastoral ministry. Church, you are cheerful inspiration to be around!

Proverbs 15:13a A glad heart makes a cheerful face...

My prayer for you this week is that your glad heart influences someone else to see the joy of Almighty God, through Christ your Savior! Have a Blessed Week, Church!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I ask that you help me to encourage others, just as your Holy Spirit encourages me. Help me to represent Your joy for me. Guide my will into Your will and way. May people see the Joy I choose to place in my life. In the name of the Risen Christ Jesus, I Pray! AMEN!!!