

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday August 10, 2026 - Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Read Hebrews 13 for meditation and inspiration.



THE STRANGLERS AND THE WRANGLERS

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Many years ago, at the University of Wisconsin, there was an undergraduate literary club — a group of brilliant male students who had demonstrated considerable writing talent. They met regularly, and at each meeting, one of the members would read aloud a story or an essay he had written and then submit it to the criticism of the others.

When the criticism got underway, no punches were pulled. The group held nothing back. The material was mercilessly dissected, almost line by line. So brutal were the sessions that the members called themselves “The Stranglers.” Then a similar club was formed. It was called “The Wranglers,” and its membership consisted of female undergraduates who had demonstrated considerable literary talent. They, too, read their manuscripts aloud at their meetings and then submitted them to the other members’ critiques. But there was a significant difference in the criticism. It was exceedingly gentle. In fact, there was almost none. The Wranglers tried to find kind things to say. They spoke in tender, positive rather than negative terms. The key attitude was encouragement, even for the feeblest efforts.

About twenty years after “The Stranglers” and The Wranglers” had been born, a university alumnus analyzed the members’ careers. She discovered that not one of the bright, young talents in “The Stranglers” had made a literary reputation of any kind. On the other hand, “The Wranglers” had produced half a dozen prominent, successful writers. The essential talent in the two groups had been much the same. The Wranglers uplifted and encouraged others to believe in themselves, esteem themselves highly, and aspire to their true worth.

You are first and foremost a son or daughter of the Most High God, child of the Covenant, an heir to the promises of Christ Jesus. Never, never, never forget that and you will succeed in His dreams for you and that will always be ENOUGH!!

In your Calling,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger