

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 4, 2023 - Isaiah 40: 31

31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Read Isaiah 40 for meditation and inspiration.



FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

A wonderful story out of the arena of golf speaks of what having vision can accomplish. It goes like this:

Major James Nesmith was a man who had a vision for improving his golf game. Just an average player, he developed a unique method of transforming his vision into reality. But for seven years he didn't play even a single hole. He didn't touch a golf club or step onto a course. Ironically, it was during this seven-year break that Major Nesmith came up with his amazingly effective technique for improving his game — an approach we can all learn from. And the first time he set foot on a golf course after his seven-year layoff, he shot an astonishing seventy-four. Using only his mind, he slashed twenty strokes off his previous best of ninety-four.

While that accomplishment alone will pique the interest of the golfers here today, the truly remarkable part of the story is that Major Nesmith spent those seven years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. During those seven years, he saw no one, spoke to no one, experienced no physical contact with anyone. And during those dark, dark days he realized he needed to occupy his mind, or he would lose it. So, he learned how to visualize.

In his mind, he had a vision of a splendid golf course and began playing a full eighteen holes every day -- right down to the smallest detail. He dressed, smelled the grass, and surveyed the trees. He experienced different weather conditions, and, in this creative mode, he followed the course from hole-to-hole. He felt the grip of the club. He practiced his downswing and his follow-through. It was as though he were physically on the course. And it took him just as long to play the virtual course as it would in reality. Seven days a week, four hours a day, eighteen holes, for seven years! In a very real sense, we can say Major Nesmith was a true visionary who spent seven years in a penitentiary preparing for the day he would be released from captivity.

One way to prepare appropriately for the coming of Christ in this Advent Season is to move away from all the glamour and glitz and into a deeper commitment to the Christ Child. To rededicate your life to His will and way. After all, that is what this Holy Season is all about.

Expectantly,



Roger

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



ADVENT IS A TIME OF ANTICIPATION, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

What happens when the Christmas Pageant gets scheduled in mid-December.

