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Change Can be a Blessing

Some people look forward to change in their life; others dread the thought. To each of us, it means something different that leads to either stress or relief. Before I turned 16, I was excited and looked forward to the day I would change from being a passenger to being the driver of a cool car that I could drive around whenever I desired. It was fun, but it came with a price tag, including gas, insurance, repairs and responsibility. This in turn resulted in less fun and more work to pay for this change in my life. Many of you I'm sure can empathize with a time in your life when you made similar decisions.

Another time in my life, I met a beautiful, sweet girl, whom I later married. This again, resulted in a major change in my life going from being single to being married. It was a joyous time, full of love, stress, happiness, tears, togetherness, babies and grandbabies. It has been for better or worse, in sickness and in health, till death do we part. This July 14th, we will have been married for 37 years, sharing thousands of changes in our lives. One year ago my mother died, a few years after my father. This is a change that is hard to

accept after knowing, loving, and respecting them for 55 years. It has taken the wind out of my sail and I've found myself drifting along, evaluating the meaning of life and what direction I am supposed to be headed.

In 1975, I made a decision to become a physician. This change in my life resulted in thousands of hours of studying, self and family sacrifice, financial debt and lots of stress over the next 11 years. Only by God's grace and encouragement through others, did we survive. After the fog lifted and I was able to use the tools that I was equipped with, did I realize the joy of caring for others.

There have been many changes in my life - some good, some bad, but the most significant change that ever happened was when I gave my life to Christ, so that I could serve Him and live forever with Him in heaven. He forgave my sins and changed me into a new person. I still experience difficulties in my life, and I am a work in progress, being refined each day. But the joy and happiness I experience through my Savior is overwhelming.

Soon, there will be another change in my life, as Dr. Rachel Dalton will be

joining me in practice, starting July 11th 2011. I feel this is a good change, since she shares the same love for Christ that I do and she desires to share this with others through the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I'm sure the old wine skin will be thrown away and replaced by a new one, as the practice expands and reaches out to serve a larger portion of our population in Bloomington/Normal and the surrounding communities.

As you go through the changes in your life, I encourage you to reach out to Christ and let Him help you, through the Holy Spirit, who will guide and direct you with encouragement and love. The greatest CHANGE you could ever make, if you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior and have not asked Him to forgive your sins, is to ask someone to lead you through the process of knowing and asking Jesus into your heart. This change may seem hard, but it is one you will not regret when the day comes that you stand before God in judgment, knowing that you have already been saved through Jesus Christ. Praise to the One who changed me,

Dr. Harold

Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 9-11

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



All nine of Doc's grandchildren --ready for summer.

A Year of God's Protection...Provision...& Grace!

– LoriJean Wood - Front Office Staff

I have always had a special Bible verse: Phil. 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Never did I think this verse would truly "lift me up" and get me through some mighty dark days. As a mother, you never want to receive the phone call sharing that your child has been hurt in a car collision. On May 23, 2010, my husband received just that call! We had arrived home from church and our daughter, Katie also was on her way home from church, in her own car. The only information the authorities shared was that Katie was hurt and we needed to get to the scene. We came upon the scene and my first words were, "is she alive?" By the grace of God, she was alive. Her car was damaged & barely recognizable, but she was alive and breathing. The medics arrived and flew her to St. Francis Trauma Cen-

ter in Peoria, IL. Immediately arriving at the scene were family, neighbors & friends who had arrived to comfort us & pray with us. Their arrival and help was such a blessing to us...angels sent to us by God for just this moment! They never left our side. When one family left, another came along and waited with us. What a blessing and honor for our daughter when both our pastor and her minister stood side by side in the Emergency Department, pouring their hearts out in prayer, asking for God's healing and comfort for her. Katie's injuries were extensive and required three surgeries. She had a broken arm that required a plate and nine screws, a broken acetabulum that took a metal banding and ten screws to repair her pelvis, a cervical spine fracture, bruised internal organs, and nerve damage to her left leg that has left her with foot drop. She was in the hospital for 28 days. Our daily needs were met by friends & strangers alike. On one particular day, I was out in the hospital hall-

way making phone calls when a gal happened to overhear my conversation. When I completed my phone call, she came to me and asked if she could add Katie to her church's prayer chain. I was amazed! God showed himself in so many ways! When Katie finally arrived back home, our house had been equipped with everything she needed...a hospital bed, a ramp to get in the entry way because she was wheelchair bound, a shower chair, and a commode lift. All these items had been supplied by family & friends to meet our needs. God provided, once again! It has been a year since Katie was hurt. She has made amazing improvement, and we trust God as she continues to heal! She is walking with a cane as she still suffers from foot drop. Her doctor shares it may take up to 1-2 years for the nerve damage to heal, if it does at all. We are so grateful to God for all He has done for our family & we believe God does perform miracles! Katie IS one!

Psalm 77:13-15

*Your ways, God,
are holy.
What god is as
great as our
God?
You are the God
who performs
miracles;
you display your
power among the
peoples.
With your mighty
arm you re-
deemed your peo-
ple . . .*