



Abilene Eagles “A” Association Reunion, 2019

By Gerald E. Cumby

Thank you guys for showing up today. I appreciate everything Gerald and Christie have done for our “A” Association over these last few years. It is not easy to host a reunion or gathering like this. Sherry and I have done this for years for our church and family. Sherry is truly a helpmate and I know Christie is for you, Gerald.

Again, thank you, Andy...for all you do. You go out of your way to represent us at funerals and other reunions of the “Old Codgers” of Yesteryear. You are sincerely appreciated for holding the fort down and keeping us from mutiny.

We are getting older. No...we are getting old...but, we just don’t want to admit it. LET’S GET OLD WITH STYLE.

Speaking of “getting old with style”...An 86 year old man walked into his doctor’s office...with an earring in his ear and a beautiful 25-30 year old girl hanging on his arm. The office lady was shocked to see Joe, one of the doctor’s older patients with such a young, hot woman arm in arm with Joe. The office lady went into the Doctor’s office and said, “Dr. Cook, Joe Jones is out in the office and I think he has gone off his rocker. He’s with a 25 year old young blond. I think you need to talk to him.” The doc looked out into the waiting area and saw Joe and the blond and nearly fainted. He called Joe back into his office and said, “Joe, what in the world are you doing with this young blond?” Joe looked at the doc grinning and said, “You told me last time I was in here to get out of the house, go get a hot mama, come

back in two weeks, and be very careful!” The doc said, “Joe, I didn’t say that...I said you had a heart murmur and you were too week to get out of the house...and that you need to be very careful.”

Texting can be hazardous to one’s health: One spelling mistake can destroy your life. I am just proud to have a wife who knows me and puts up with me. I recently went out of town on a business trip. I don’t like to text. Here is the reason why! This is what I texted my wife. “Having a wonderful time. Wish you were her.”

Andy Springer told me several years ago that he wanted me to conduct his funeral services if he passed away before I did. I have told him I would. Andy gave me a note last night. The note read: Gerald, I want a closed casket funeral. However, at the end of the service I want the organist to play “Pop Goes the Weasel” over and over until everyone in attendance is staring at my coffin with silent, horrified, anticipation. With Andy that might happen.

An elderly man went to the local Gun shop to get a Colt 9mm handgun for personal protection when he takes a walk in the neighborhood. When he was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the female cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Seeing the serious look on her face, he did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking from the woman stopped and the Store Security office arrived, the elderly man found out she was referring to how he should place his credit card in the card reader!

He made a statement to the local newspaper, “As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me a while to get my pants back on. I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.”

They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear.

He said he still doesn't think he looked that bad and that he just needed to wear underwear more often.

I want to hear from you...what has happened to you since we met in Waco and honored the late Coach Moser?

I had a triple by-pass and I am doing well. God is good.

Grandmothers and Grandfathers, Nonnis, Poppis, pawpaws and memaws...know what I mean when I tell you the next story...because you have been there. You have had to read Children's Books to your grandchildren over-and-over again...In those readings you will notice if you haven't already, there are some messages to adults as well as children. As you read some of the quotes in the books, you wanted to say, "Listen close kids, because this is really true."

The quotes can be life-changing and surely can remind us as to what good living is all about!

Quotes from Children's Books that Can Effect Adults as Well as Children.

- We have this book of which is one of many that the children love. It is about an elephant who helped Lazy Mayzie, the bird, sit on her egg...She wanted to take a short rest and asked Horton to sit on her egg until she got back. After first refusing to do such, Horton told her that he would sit on her egg until she returned. She didn't return and Horton sat through a rain, hail, and snow and sleet...and did the thing Lazy Mayzie was supposed to do. Other animals told Horton to leave the egg, it wasn't any of his business anyway, and Horton stated, "I meant what I said and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful 100%." Horton Hatches the Egg, Dr. Seuss***

Now, I wonder if we turned this saying around a little bit, and said, “Cumbys are faithful 100%...or Cozbys are faithful 100%...or a Christian is faithful 100%.” Would we truthful if we said, “Yes”? What about making this statement as you marry, “I meant what I said, I said what I meant, this is faithful 100%.”

People are watching you...they are watching to see if you mean what you say...and are you faithful in what you have said you would do?

Luke 16:10 *“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”*

Proverbs 3:5 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

Hebrews 10:23 *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”*

- *“A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked chin and stick out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.” —Roald Dahl, The Twits*

Some of the most treasured people I know are handicapped and retarded in looks...but in their countenance and smile, they win the approval of children and adults. Good thoughts by people never are unnoticed. Let me be clear, it is wonderful to have a soft, tender heart before God. But.....some people have softer heads than hearts. Know what I mean.

“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.” —Antoine de Saint-Exupery, The Little Prince

- *“The more he gave away, the more delighted he became.” – Marcus Pfister, The Rainbow Fish*

Luke 6:38, *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

- ***You can't pick out the pieces you like and leave the rest. Being part of the whole thing, that's the blessing.*** —Natalie Babbit, *Tuck Everlasting*
- ***"So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible."*** —Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*
- ***This one hits home to we seniors... "By the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."*** —Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*
- ***"You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing."*** —E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*
You are my friends. I appreciate your friendship and that is a tremendous thing.
- ***Promise me you will remember, You are braver than you believe, Stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think!*** Winnie the Pooh
- ***"You must never feel badly about making mistakes ... as long as you take the trouble to learn from them. For you often learn more by being wrong for the right reasons than you do by being right for the wrong reasons."***

—*The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

Reach for the Finish Line and DON'T LOOK BACK!

One of the most emphatic statements made by every track coach, and some football coaches, is "Don't Look back."

The sprinter does not have a problem with this...but, the long distance runners do.

Looking back will cost you in more ways than you can imagine.

As I reflect and remember very emphatically an incident where "looking back" cost a young man the gold medal, the "Looking Back Syndrome" has made its mark on the lives of many individuals.

Reflections of the event, regrets, reminders, and reminiscing about that last 5 yards has cost him at least 5 decimals on his lifespan.

In speaking with other people in my casual time with them, I hear the same words repeated:

"Gerald, have you ever looked back on your life and thought – If I only knew then what I know now, I would have done a lot of things different? As I look back on my life I have a lot of regrets. I have done a lot of stupid things in my lifetime, and I made a lot of mistakes. I wish I could go back and change things...but I can't."

Luke 9:62 says, "Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.'"

We have got to learn to let those things go and live for the Lord today.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come!"

Remember:

- **All regret does is waste the present.**
- **WE can't be useful to the Lord today if we're feeling sorry about the past.**

The Truth: God has used our past to help us become the people we are today.

He uses those past hurts, failures, and mistakes to strengthen us and to make us useful for His Kingdom.

Harry Truman (President of the United States during the end of WW II) said,

"Men who live in the past remind me of a small wooden bird called the 'Floggie Bird.' Around the Floggie Bird's neck is a label reading, 'I fly backwards, I don't care where I'm going. I just want to see where I've been.'"

Do you know why the past is called the past?

- ***Because it's passed...it's gone, you can't live it today.***
- ***There are people that spend a lot of time looking back at their past; some with joy, some with regret.***

God doesn't want us to live in the past.

The past is past, we must live life today.

If we want to truly experience the better life we've got to learn to live life today and take advantage of the opportunities we have today...or tomorrow we're going to regret today.

Let's look at what the Bible has to say about the past:

1. Don't Look Back On Past Sins

- ***1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***
- ***Psalms 103 says, "He casts our sins as far as the east is from the west."***
- ***Isaiah 43:25 says, "He remembers them no more."***

The Evil One (Satan, the Devil, the Destroyer) wants us to remember and reflect on our past sins.

He wants us to be overcome by the past instead of

OVERCOMING the past.

- *He wants to cause us to blame God and others for our shortcomings.*

- *He wants to keep the one who is away from God...from knowing God and His promises.*
- *He wants to hinder the Christian's service to the Lord.*
- *He wants us to feel unworthy to live a life in the positive. He wants us to ask ourselves, "How can God use me when I've been so sinful and bad?"*

The positive thing about remembering: Remember from where God has brought us.

2. Don't let your past sins hinder you from serving the Lord.

Hebrew 12: 1-2, ((Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfected of our faith."

Ungodly actions for a better and more productive life is never the plan of God for you and me.

- **When we fail, God starts working to get us back in the race**
- **Use your past to help minister to others.**

3. Don't Look Back On Past Defeats

We all have had some past defeats. We have all failed.

- **We have all tried to accomplish something only to fall short of our goals and objectives.**
- **Sometimes because of our past defeats we feel miserable, alone, and worthless.**

We look around and we can see people that have accomplished great things and had great successes and we wonder, "Why I am such a failure and they are such a success?"

The truth is successful people have failed just as much if not more, but they get back up and try again.

Unsuccessful people are the ones who refuse to get up and that's when they are defeated.

Philippians 3:12-14, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Defeat and discouragement come from dwelling on the past.

The past has passed...so we must ...get past it.

***Run your race to the finish line...and
don't look back!***

***2 Chronicles 15:7, "But as for you, be strong and do not
give up, for your work will be rewarded."***