



AHS Eagle "A" Association (2020)

Sherry and I sure hate to miss seeing all of you this year. You are and always will have a special place in our hearts. I want to thank each one of you for your support as I have given the Sunday morning devotions since 2012 as we gather as a special group of athletes from yesteryear.

I am sending a devotion (attached) for you to read if you feel you have enough time during this "stay-at-home" order for the 65 and older crowd.

Blessings,

Gerald



Not All Superheroes Wear Capes!

By Gerald Cumby

One of the most vivid memories I have of my childhood and even through my early teen-age years were the heroes of the silver screen; oh, yes...Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Allen Ladd, Randolph Scott, Lash Larue, and many others. The "shoot'em ups were the best (we could even tote cap pistols on our hips and play cowboys and Indians). Shooting that next door neighbor out of the tree and watching him take a tumble like he had been shot was just the ordinary late evening play days for us "gun toting" kids on the block. Where did we go wrong with our kids of today?

Going to the movie theatre on Saturday in Abilene, Texas was the best part of the week. We would go to the Queen theatre or the Metro (we couldn't afford

the Majestic or Paramount) and watch a double feature, an episode of The Green Hornet, and at least one cartoon. I believe the cost to go to the Metro on Butternut Street was 9 cents. For a quarter you could see the movies (plural), buy a coke and a Holloway sucker and put two cents back in your pocket. What a treat...the good old days!

The movie heroes back then were not just the cowboys who could sing, pop a whip, ride like the wind, and woo all the girls. Some of the heroes were Super Heroes (just like they are today). **They wore capes**; i.e. Superman, Batman, Zorro, Wonder Woman, Captain Marvel, and...Mighty Mouse. **Why did they wear capes? Gosh...I don't know!**

I guess maybe we see that images do more than portray the good, the bad and the ugly (even Darth Vader wore a cape). They sometime place within our minds the character of a stronger, more aggressive, and probably smarter than the average person. The cape, however...didn't mean anything. In fact, my cape got in the way when I jumped from the roof of my house playing Zorro. I nearly killed myself thinking that stupid cape was going to help break the fall. I was 45 when that event happened (just kidding!).

Today, we are experiencing a new episode in our life. None of us have ever had to close down shop and shelter in place, wear masks (not capes), and not be encouraged to go to church (just watch a service on television), shop in the local store, or get tattoos when and where we wanted them until recently...the last 45 days (I have no tattoos).... The stay-at-home order has been a new experience for this 78 year old man. I don't like it; but, Sherry and I have made the best of it. I bet most of you have, too. We are the "disgusted, but adjusted" members of society. We are the "65 or over with under-lying health issues" group. I am so tired of hearing that terminology I want to throw something at the television set; but, I can't raise my arm past my waist...so that won't work. Oh, well, if you can't change them, join them.

I got the idea for this devotion from a statement and a picture on a large sign near where we live (Burleson, Texas). It stated “**Not all superheroes wear capes!**” and it showed the nurses, doctors, first responders, policeman, fireman, etc. as the superheroes of today. The term “Superheroes” are just who and what they are! They are in the line of duty dealing with a dreaded disease while we are in our homes painting closets, cutting down bushes, putting scrapbooks together, and all of the things we normally would not do if we could just get out of the house. This is the first time I have ever had a pony-tail due to not being able to go to the barber shop. It is really getting to bother me when I try to eat soup or oatmeal.

I thought about the quote, “**Not all superheroes wear capes,**”...and so many images came to mind of the large number of superheroes I can remember who shaped my life. As most of you know, the first book I published, *The Bridge Builder*, talked about my family and how much they encouraged me through the years. They truly were Superheroes. However, I am not speaking of my family when I talk about the ones who impacted my life and probably never knew it. Sometimes I regret not going back to tell those special people, the ones who pushed me to the next step or level of success in life, or how much their encouraging and sometimes hard truths they would tell me that impacted my life...then and now.

You know them, the neighbors who were interested in your future and talked to you about the good, the bads, and the uglies of life. The teacher who read to you and the class “*The Ransom of Red Chief*” and took on the role of each of the characters. The teacher who stated, “You can make something of yourself if you give it 100% in all you do,” the coach who pushed you to be all that you can be and then some, and the team member who stated, “we need you to get up and give it the best you can for the team. We can’t win unless we do it as a team. We need you.”

Those friends and long-gone, special “superheroes” might not have their picture on a billboard, but they have their pictures in our minds as we head for the finish line of life.

With that, I give the following truths to think about as we head for that finish line:

- **Think About the Marvelous Works of God**

Three of the wonders of the world (in my estimation) are the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, and Bryce Canyon...right here in the United States. Sherry and I visited these wonderful creations two years ago. With this COVID-19 scare, I guess we might not be going there in the next year or so. Those beautiful places are great gifts created by no one but God Almighty. What a wonderful and great God we know and appreciate. No man can match God's creation. God is just more than what our minds can comprehend...but, we at least get a glimpse (a preview) of what heaven might be like when we see God's wonders recreated in real life as we travel and explore His world.

The Word of God says this and it comes from the writings of Solomon and the Apostle Paul.

Ecclesiastes 8:17: *"...then I saw all that God has done. No one can **comprehend** what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really **comprehend** it."*

1 Corinthians 2:9: *"As it is written, "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"- the things God has prepared for those who love him."*

If I could give you a look into heaven, I would.

If I could give you a look at all of the wonderful works of the Lord, I would.

There is one thing I can do...and that is to say...

- **The heavens declare His glory...and we are creatures who look on the majestic works and marvel. And,**
- **We can look at a new born baby...and say, "To God be the Glory...Great things He has done!"**

The forming of a baby in the mother's womb cannot be duplicated by man. God uses man to accomplish His great plan. Man can refuse to be used for the benefit of humanity; but God is the One to place within us a desire to accomplish His work. If we choose not to be part of that plan, God will choose someone else to fulfill that which was supposed to be accomplished by you.

I want to be in that plan from start to finish. I have chosen to do that by giving my life to Christ Jesus and let Him live through me. The Holy Spirit is residing in me as I seek to do God's will. When I refuse or choose not to obey the Holy Spirit's will, I will fail in God's plan for being all that He wants me to be.

- **As We See and Marvel at What God Has done, Let Us Remember the Five (5) R's of Achieving God's Will for our lives:**

1. Reflect on and enjoy God's creation!

The idea of God giving us a glimpse of heaven by creating on earth a view of paradise in the Word of God is enough to look at God's wonders on earth in which we can see and be blessed.

2. Remember the good things God has provided us!

Wow! A wife, a family, a home...a job, time with our children, and a church in which we can hear the gospel taught and preached. These are just a few of the good things God provides for us...if we choose to accept.

3. Respond to God's plan of salvation!

The Word of God states, "You must be born again." If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."

4. **Remind yourself of God's love for you!**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

5. **Rejoice in the Lord always...and again I say rejoice!**

This merely tells us to be thankful for what God has done for us. It also tells us to not just rejoice about it once, but be thankful and grateful again...and again!

Our prayer for you, my SUPERHEROES of yesteryear:

"Heavenly Father, you are a good, marvelous, and loving God. There is no one that can fathom your great love for us unless we look at the works of your Son as He walked this earth, died for us, resurrected from the dead, and left this earth to go back to heaven to wait for all who believe. Hear us, Oh Lord, as we honor you by doing what you told us to do. Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you as we continue to praise you and live our lives in reflection and inspection of your good works achieved through your children. Thank you for adopting us as "children of the Most High God." Also, God...will you bless my friends from yesteryear...friends from Abilene High School. These friends (EAGLES forever) helped shape and mold me into what I am today. I am a grateful and thankful partner in life with these SUPERHEROES.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Written by Gerald E. Cumby

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