

# Another Birthday Awakens Life Lessons

By Becky Greenwell  
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Remember lying under the shade tree in the back yard with your best friend, bare footed and daydreaming about your future life? Spending an afternoon under a blue sky with clouds floating above and seeing images in each of the clouds? Drinking iced tea while lying on an old quilt and wishing the future would hurry up and get here?

Those were the hopes in every young girl’s dream. A little house with a white picket fence, a movie star inspired husband, a couple of perfect children, and a dog or two.

Well, maybe in the olden days that was how it was. Kids today probably have a really different scenario when it comes to wishing their future would hurry up and get here.

All those many years ago for me and my friends, we never thought about wars, terrorists, starvation, homes without both a mother and a father, or technology that would transport people to the other side of the world and through the stars, and instantaneous communication.

Then all of a sudden, those same dreamers are sitting in rocking chairs and recalling all those good old days and wondering how the time went by so fast.

Whenever I was a child anxiously waiting for an upcoming event while impatiently watching the clock, I couldn’t understand why the hands barely moved. My grandma would scold me with a “watched pot never boils.” I didn’t understand her gobbledygook metaphors and I would only get more impatient.

Now, I am astounded at how fast the hands of the clock turned whenever I only looked away for a few minutes.

This week I put another candle on my birthday cake causing my time clock to speed by a little faster. Now nearing three-quarters of a century of living, loving, and experiencing all the dreams a young girl hoped for is emerging in my mind.

Looking back, I am amazed at how the times I thought would never get here, have flown by. The sad times are still there, but more like fuzzy images in the background of my mind’s picture. The good times are the dominant colors on my canvas.

Thinking back over the changes that have taken place in my life and in the world, I realized how long the highway has been. The highway I leisurely walked down or sometimes ran quickly.

Along that highway I experienced hide-and-seek at dusk, jacks, hula hoops, kick the can, running through the sprinkler, laughing till my sides split, Saturday morning cartoons, climbing trees, and riding bicycles all day, and not carrying a cell phone.

I lived through sock hops, record players and vinyl albums, eight-track tapes, going to the A & W Root Beer stand only on special occasions, listening for the ice cream truck and racing to the corner until we were breathless.

I saw technology change with answering machines, computers, cell phones, and owning technology my grandchildren are still trying to explain to me.

I also learned life is not always the way we dreamed. It does not come with guarantees, and it takes an optimistic, faithful person to make lemonade with lemons life throws at us.

I learned to believe in miracles. I wish every child could experience the same fun, worry-free childhood I lived and not have to worry about where they might sleep at night or where their next meal will come from.

I believe after a long, hard life every man and woman should be able to spend their golden years in retirement relaxing and reaping the rewards of what they have sown. They should be able to enjoy this new life beside their children and grandchildren.

Then on a warm summer day they can sit, or lie, under the big shade tree out back with a wide blue sky, a gentle breeze blowing, remembering their dreams of the good life they had while looking forward to future dreams.

That’s what 70 years of living has taught me.

I also know that no matter how hard you try your kids will always make you burst with pride one moment and die of embarrassment the next.

My birthday wishes this year is for everyone to enjoy those children, grandchildren, and your life. Handle it all with prayer.

## These Are Ways To Make Mothers Day Extra Special

Mother’s Day is celebrated each May and marks a perfect opportunity to show Mom how much she’s loved and appreciated.

Mother’s Day has been celebrated for more than 100 years, and in that time mothers have grown accustomed to certain staples of the holiday. A bouquet of fresh flowers, Sunday brunch at a local restaurant and some gifts from a partner and the children have become standards each Mother’s Day.

While Mother’s Day standards may never lose their appeal, families looking to make this year’s celebration a little more unique can consider these ideas.

- Whip up (or order in) some baked goods. If Mom is the family baker, surprise her this year with some homemade baked goods. An aroma of freshly baked goodies around the house can set a welcoming tone for the day, particularly if the treats are prepared in the morning before Mom wakes up. Partners and children whose baking skills leave a little to be desired can get some freshly baked treats from a local bakery and have them waiting for Mom when she wakes up.
- Take to the road. Another way to make Mother’s Day extra special is to make the celebration a weekend affair. A weekend getaway can be a welcome breath of fresh air for mothers and serve as a great opportunity for the family to unwind and celebrate Mom away from everything that reminds her of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. A getaway can be an especially ideal surprise for mothers whose children are full grown. Invite adult kids along and make their attendance a surprise for Mom.
- Book a unique experience. Experiential gifts have been wildly popular in recent years, so why not incorporate this trend into Mother’s Day celebrations? Book a tour of a local vineyard or winery, take Mom to a live theater performance, or take her out for a day on the water, complete with brunch and a champagne toast. Such memorable experiences won’t soon be forgotten and can provide an exciting alternative to previous Mother’s Day celebrations.
- Ensure Mom doesn’t lift a finger. A truly special Mother’s Day will give Mom a day off. Partners and kids can team up to take care of everything from the moment Mom wakes up until she returns to bed at night. Serve breakfast in bed, order in some lunch and then take Mom out for a nice meal at a local restaurant. In between meals, let Mom relax any way she sees fit, whether that’s curling up with a good book, dusting off her paint brush and engaging in some artistic endeavors and/or squeezing in a rare mid-day nap.

## Native Languages Save Many Lives During World War II

By Tommy Druen

When the United States entered World War II, it quickly became clear that winning wouldn’t depend solely on firepower. It would require something far more subtle: secrecy. Our military faced a critical vulnerability—not in troops or equipment, but in language. The Axis powers had proven themselves adept at intercepting communications and cracking codes. It is often said that knowledge is power, but in warfare, information means survival. Allied encryption methods were too slow. Codes were too fragile. What we needed wasn’t just security—it was speed and secrecy rolled into one.

The War Department knew it had to try something radically different. Fortunately, America had an asset our adversaries did not—our Indigenous peoples. In 1942, the Marine Corps recruited twenty-nine young Navajo men, fluent in their native tongue, and tasked them with creating an unbreakable code based on their language. It worked. The Navajo Code Talkers transmitted thousands of vital messages across the Pacific Theater. Not one was ever deciphered.

Other Native nations, including the Comanche, Lakota, and Cree, made similar contributions in Europe. There’s a certain poetic justice in that. For generations, Native languages had been suppressed, mocked, or forcibly erased. But in this moment, that same culture—so often overlooked—helped save the lives of thousands of Americans and win the war.

It’s a story I come back to often—because it reminds me how powerful and precious language can be. But I also know how language can exclude just as easily as it can protect. Words matter. Language can divide or unite, conceal or reveal, depending on how and when it’s used.

A while back, I read about a seminar offered to professional women, designed to explain the sports metaphors commonly used in corporate America. These were women with advanced degrees from top institutions—yet they were lost in meetings not because of lack of ability, but because of how things were being said. Phrases like “full-court press” or “swing for the fences” seem innocuous if you grew up glued to ESPN. But for others, you might as well be speaking Klingon. It’s not about intelligence; it’s about access. Intentional or not, language can become a gatekeeper.

And it’s not just sports. Every profession, every subculture, every group has its own dialect. Education, law, medicine, IT—they’re all full of acronyms and shorthand that turn insiders into a tribe and relegate outsiders to being observers.

But nowhere do I find this dynamic more troubling than in matters of faith.

As a Christian, more specifically a Baptist, I grew up in church, becoming fluent in the vocabulary of my denomination. Words like “fellowship,” “salvation,” and “communion” feel second nature. But I sometimes wonder how those words sound to someone who’s never darkened the door of a sanctuary. Do they land with warmth and clarity—or do they confuse, intimidate, and distance?

Nearly every religion and denomination say they want to be welcoming. And I believe them to be sincere in that sentiment. Yet too often, the language of faith serves as a velvet rope. Not because of what we believe, but because of how we say it.

There’s a quote attributed to George Eliot that resonates with me: “The finest language is mostly made up of simple, unimposing words.” It’s a truth we’d do well to remember—not only in our pulpits, but in our boardrooms, classrooms, and living rooms.

In times of war, speaking in code can save lives. But in times of peace—or at least, in the day-to-day moments of community and connection—we ought to aim for something else entirely. Not encryption, but invitation. Not mystery, but meaning. Maybe our challenge today isn’t to come up with the perfect words, but to strip them down. To stop speaking in riddles when clarity will do. To remember that the first rule of good communication isn’t to impress—it’s to connect.

Because if our words build walls instead of bridges, then we’ve forgotten what language is for in the first place.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE  
Pursuant To Application Number 913-9010 RN-2

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that UC Processing, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington, KY 40515, has applied for renewal of a permit for refuse disposal coal mining operation located 0.78 miles south of Waverly in Union County. The proposed operation will disturb 524.0 surface acres.  
(2) The proposed operation is located approximately 1.21 miles southeast of State Route 141 junction with KY 2094 and 4 miles southwest of the confluence of Casey Creek and Highland Creek near Waverly, Kentucky.  
(3) The operation is located on the Waverly U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute quadrangle maps. The surface is owned ALLIANCE RESOURCE PROPERTIES LLC.  
(4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE  
Pursuant To Application Number 913-5023 RN-6

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Rough Creek Mining, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Lexington, KY 40513, has applied for renewal of a permit for an underground coal mining, and refuse disposal operation located 1.5 miles southeast of Dekoven in Union County. The operation will disturb 316.45 surface acres.  
(2) The operation is approximately 0.7 miles southeast from KY Route 492's junction with Davis Mine Road and located approximately 0.5 miles northwest of Tradewater River. The operation is located on the Devoken and Sturgis USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps.  
(3) The surface is owned by Heine Robert Donald Jr. Et Al, Alliance Resource Properties, LLC, and Davis R. Eberly & Margaret R.  
(4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The second reading of Ordinance No. 25-02, An Ordinance Reducing the Speed Limit on Salem Church Road will be held Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in the Union County Fiscal Courtroom at 9:00 a.m. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

KIM NANCE  
Fiscal Court Clerk  
5/6c

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT AND SUMMARY OF BOND ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$3,900,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF CITY OF MORGANFIELD SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025, CONSISTING OF \$2,240,000 OF SERIES A BONDS AND \$1,660,000 OF SERIES B BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE COST (NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED) OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSIONS, ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING SEWER SYSTEM OF SAID CITY; SETTING FORTH TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPON WHICH SAID BONDS MAY BE ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING; PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES OF SAID SEWER SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN ADVERTISED, PUBLIC, COMPETITIVE SALE OF SAID BONDS.

AS REQUIRED BY KRS 83A.060(9), I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT AN ORDINANCE BEARING THE ABOVE TITLE WAS GIVEN FIRST READING (BY TITLE AND SUMMARY) BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY, AT A DULY CONVENED MEETING OF SAID BOARD HELD ON APRIL 17, 2025, AND WAS GIVEN SECOND READING (BY TITLE AND SUMMARY) AND ENACTED BY SAID COUNCIL AT A DULY CONVENED MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24, 2025, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF SUCH ORDINANCE PREPARED BY W. RANDALL JONES, AN ATTORNEY DULY LICENSED IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, OF THE FIRM OF RUBIN & HAYS, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY. (SIGNED W. RANDALL JONES)

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE  
SAID ORDINANCE AUTHORIZES THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,900,000 OF CITY OF MORGANFIELD SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025 (THE "BONDS"), FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE COST (NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED) OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT REFERRED TO IN SAID TITLE; AUTHORIZES INTERIM FINANCING TO PAY THE COSTS OF SAID PROJECT PENDING THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; DESIGNATES ENGINEERS FOR THE PROJECT AND THE DEPOSITORY BANK OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS AND OF CERTAIN FUNDS TO BE MAINTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE BONDS; PROVIDES FOR A SINKING FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS, AN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND, AND A DEBT RESERVE FUND; PROVIDES THAT SAID BONDS ARE SECURED BY A PLEDGE OF THE GROSS REVENUES OF THE SYSTEM; ESTABLISHES THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS, AND THE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS RANKING ON A PARITY WITH THE BONDS; PROVIDES CERTAIN COVENANTS OF THE CITY FOR THE FURTHER PROTECTION OF THE HOLDERS OF THE BONDS, INCLUDING COVENANTS AS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED; AND PRESCRIBES TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPON WHICH BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BONDS.

A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF SAID ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. (SIGNED) SCOTT CLEMENTS, CITY ADMINISTRATOR, CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY.