OPINION

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Sherry Brown

ENCOURAGEMENT THAT TAKES YOU HIGHER

Inspirational Stories for Thanksgiving

These short stories were taken from the internet and I pray they encourage your heart today.

1. The Grocery Line Miracle

Mara stood in the grocery store line clutching her small basket of ingredients for a modest Thanksgiving meal. Money was tight this year, and she had calculated every cent, hoping her total wouldn't exceed the cash in her pocket. As she approached the register, her heart sank — the price was slightly over her budget. She quietly began removing items, embarrassed but determined.

Behind her, an elderly man gently touched her shoulder. "Leave it all," he whispered. "Let me cover the difference. We all need a little help sometimes."

Tears welled in Mara's eyes. She insisted she couldn't accept such generosity, but the man simply smiled. "Someone once helped me. Now it's my turn."

That small act shifted her entire holiday. It wasn't about the groceries. It was the reminder that kindness still existed, even in difficult times. Mara went home that day not just with food, but with hope — and a promise to pass the kindness forward.

2. The Forgotten Neighbor

Mr. Daniels had lived alone since his wife passed. Every Thanksgiving, he spent the day reading old letters, trying to fill the silence of his empty home. This year felt especially heavy.

Next door, a family prepared a large Thanksgiving dinner. As the aroma filled the neighborhood, their youngest daughter, Lily, asked her parents why Mr. Daniels never came over. "He might be lonely," she said softly.

Without hesitation, the family prepared an extra plate and knocked on his door. At first, he hesitated, unsure if he wanted to intrude. But Lily smiled and said, "It's not Thanksgiving without everyone."

Mr. Daniels joined them, expecting polite conversation. Instead, he found laughter, stories, and a sense of belonging he hadn't felt in years. That evening changed his holiday forever — and reminded the family that kindness doesn't require grand gestures, only open hearts.

3. The Woman on the Bus

A crowded bus rumbled through town on Thanksgiving morning. Commuters were quiet and tired, each lost in their own thoughts. At one stop, an older woman climbed aboard carrying heavy grocery bags. She struggled to keep her balance as the bus lurched forward.

A teenage boy stood up immediately. "Take my seat," he said.

The woman smiled gratefully and sat down. The simple act inspired others — one person helped steady her bags, another struck up a friendly conversation. In minutes, the bus transformed from silent and tense to warm and connected.

The woman looked around and said, "You never know how much kindness can mean to someone."

Her words lingered, reminding everyone that compassion can spark change even in the most ordinary places.

Inspirational Reflections for Personal Growth

These stories remind us that Thanksgiving is not only about abundance but about awareness. Gratitude grows when we notice what we have, not what we lack. The kindness we share with others often comes back to us in unexpected ways, strengthening our sense of purpose and connection.

When we reflect on these stories, we are encouraged to live more intentionally to slow down, listen, and acknowledge the beauty in everyday life. Whether through offering help, expressing appreciation, each of us can add warmth to someone else's world.

Verse of the Week

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. KJV

A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a lot like Kentucky

The lucky ones, and the concept of duty

First published April 2, 2008

This week, Mr. Bond, our Publisher, assigned me to the position of regional news editor for the Robertson County News, The Carlisle Mercury and the Bath News Outlook.

I continue to learn and discover beautiful and wondrous things about the three county area I cover.

It is my duty to bring you the information that will have the greatest impact for you and provide you with 'need to know' information, dear reader.

Some do not comprehend the concept of duty, but it rules my world.

When I think of duty, I also think of accountability.

I believe that if you are in a position of accountability, especially if you are paid a salary that comes from taxpayer dollars, then you should expect to be held accountable.

I occasionally ask tough questions to a few folks in positions of accountability that don't like tough questions asked of them.

It is not the first time I have encountered the problem.

I've been around the block a time or two and I've seen the elephant, as the early settlers used to say.

Seeking and sharing the truth for the benefit of an entire community, rather than turning a blind eye to certain activity for the benefit of a select few, or catering to a select few, begets rewards and consequences.

I've seen corruption and deceit and the ugly side of human nature just the same as the good. I don't like corruption, especially blatant corruption or the misappropriation of taxpayers' money.

"You like to stir it up don't you, Charles?" A friend asked me the other day.

A smirk slid across my face and then faded.

I explained the dreaded task of latrine duty practiced in Southeast Asia by American soldiers in the 1960s and early 1970s.

It amounted to taking empty diesel fuel drums, which had been sawed in half and situated for receptacles in the field latrines. When they were full, those assigned to latrine duty had to empty the container. This was done, in a proper military manner, by pouring a little diesel fuel in and then stirring the contents while it burned away.

It's a time-tested method that works, but it was fading back in the early 1980s when I became a soldier.

If you lasted, it wouldn't.

When I think about it, I always think about my heroes.

Some were military men and I write about them from time to time.

None ever feared stirring it up when it was required.

I visit the grave of Confederate Infantry Officer. Lt. Lott Dudley Young in the Carlisle Cemetery, as often as I can.

He survived the American Civil War while serving with Company H, 4th Battalion, 1st Kentucky Infantry Brigade: The Orphan Brigade.

He was one of the lucky ones.

Most of his companions perished in the many battles the soldiers of the Orphan Brigade fought in. Young was buried with full military honors in his uniform. The Confederate Flag was placed in his left hand. The American Flag in his right hand, just as he had instructed his pallbearers in a written statement that he prepared a few years before his death.

Charles Column
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Bread of Life

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus died for us and was raised for us. Jesus went to hell and stripped the devil of everything. He left him with no weapon except fear. Jesus took the keys to death, hell and the grave. Philippians 2:9-10 That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow of things in heaven and things in earth, things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Name of Jesus is a strong tower the righteous runneth into it and are safe. Glory to God. Proverbs 18:10 Jesus name is a weapon in the hands and mouth of the Believers against all wickedness, the devil and everything he stands for. As Believers we have the power of attorney to use the Name of Jesus. He is the answer to all things life throws at you. The Bible has the answers to every situation in your life. Find your foundation scriptures in the Bible then meditate until you get a revelation of God's word and you will see manifestation. Meditation on Father's word with expectation will give you a revelation and you will see a manifestation. God loves you. He wants you well and blessed, spend time meditating those verses and confessing them. As He is so are we in this world. The Love Walk is free from fear. Only satan has fear. Jesus wants you to walk in love. It's the mother of faith. God is more than enough. Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success.

TRUST, BELIEVE & OBEY GOD'S WORD

LEGAL NOTICE
MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

The Acting Master Commissioner of the Nicholas Circuit Court will sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder(s) at the Nicholas County Justice Center, in Carlisle, Kentucky, on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the following property listed below:

1. Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Nicholas Circuit Court on October 23, 2026, in Civil Action No. 26-CI-00062 styled **Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, vs. Samuel Hanson; Jennifer Hanson; United States of America, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Unknown Spouse of Ricky Willoughby as of 8/6/2001, Defendants:**
327 East North Street, Carlisle, KY 40311
Parcel ID# C03-42-005.00
See Deed Book 150, Page 443.

The property is being sold to produce a sum sufficient to satisfy the judgments and liens as follows: (a) The costs of this action, including the Master Commissioner's fee, appraiser's fee and advertising costs; (b) Judgment for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, in the amount of $205,467.06, plus interest at the rate of 7.25% per annum from August 24, 2026 until paid, (c) Real estate taxes, plus interest and penalties, if any, for taxes assessed for the year 2025 and previous years. (d) Plaintiff Court costs and attorney fees.

Attorney for Plaintiff: Hon. Melissa J. Whalen

Terms of Sale:

All properties shall be sold upon the following terms and conditions unless otherwise noted: (1) The property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and claims of the parties to this action; (2) The purchaser shall be required to pay the sum of 10% of the purchase price in cash, certified funds or by other immediately verifiable collectable medium of exchange acceptable to the Commissioner, on the day of sale to apply on the purchase price; (3) The balance of the purchase price shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days after the day of sale; (4) The purchaser shall be required to execute a bond with good and sufficient surety thereon as approved by the Commissioner to secure the unpaid portion of the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate the judgment bears, from the day of sale until paid, the bond to have the same force and effect as a judgment and shall remain a lien on the property as additional security until the purchase price is paid in full; (5) The purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all or any part of the purchase price or paying the bond before maturity by paying the balance of the principal together with all accrued interest thereon until the date of payment; (6) The purchaser shall obtain possession of the property upon confirmation of the sale by the Court and payment of the purchase price in full; (7) All ad valorem taxes on the property for calendar year 2026 and all subsequent years shall be assumed and paid by the purchaser. All real property taxes due and owing to Nicholas County or the City of Carlisle, if applicable, for 2025 and prior years will be paid from the proceeds of sale. (8) The property shall be sold subject to any assessment for public improvements levied against the property and subject to all rules and regulations enforced by the Nicholas County Planning and Zoning Commission, if any, all applicable health and safety regulations, all restrictions and easements thereon appearing of record in the Nicholas County Court Clerk's Office, governmental laws and regulations affecting the property, and shall be subject to any unrecorded easements, discrepancies or conflicts in boundary lines, shortage in area and encroachments, if any there be, which an accurate and complete survey or an inspection of the property would disclose; (9) The purchaser shall bear the risk of loss on the improvements on the property and the risk of loss shall pass to the purchaser as of the day and time of sale; (10) The property shall be sold with any improvements thereon "as is"; and (11) The property shall be sold subject to such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America pursuant to 28 USC Section 2410, and the right of redemption of the Defendants, if applicable, and any rights or requirements imposed by Civil Rule 4.11, if applicable.

All bidders will be prepared to comply with these terms.

Hon. John Lair
Acting Master Commissioner
Nicholas Circuit Court

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 11.18 & 11.25 of 2026

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