

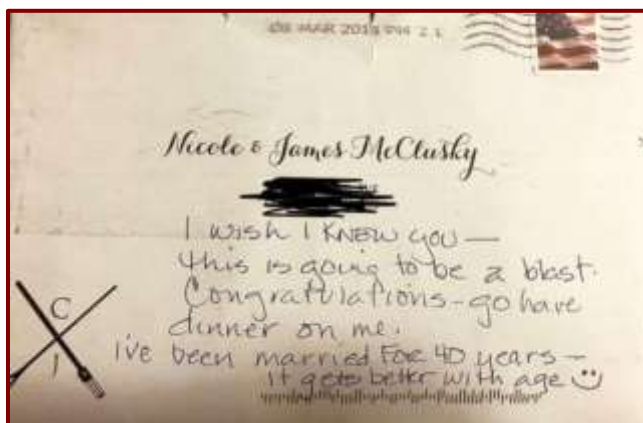
## Accidental Wedding Invitation

Have you ever been involved in planning a wedding? No doubt, by now – whatever your age – you have attended any number of weddings, perhaps, even, your own.

Have you noticed that there are so many details involved in planning a wedding that brides and grooms tend to get really stressed out in the weeks leading up to the big event?

I read about one bride-to-be, Cassandra Warren, who was so hurried to get things done that she accidentally sent an invitation to her wedding to a wrong address. The wedding was to have a *Star Wars* theme, and she was excited about it, but this one invitation went astray.

A week later, the invitation came back in return mail. The mistaken invitee had included a \$20 bill in the envelope, and had scribbled this message on the outside: “I wish I knew you – this is going to be a blast. Congratulations. Go have dinner on me. I’ve been married for 40 years; it gets better with age.”



Warren sent back a gracious thank-you note, saying, “I am thankful for people like you still being in the world.”

We all know what it’s like to get a phone call or text from a wrong number. We usually ignore it, or we text back a quick “wrong number,” and we go on with our lives. But a few years ago, a story about a wrong number and a mistaken invitation went viral and touched many lives.

On Nov. 15, 2016, Wanda Dench sent a group text to her family reminding them what time they would be celebrating Thanksgiving dinner at her house. She didn’t realize that one of her grandsons had changed his cell number, and so she accidentally sent the text to a teen named Jamal Hinton, 17, in Chandler, Arizona.

Hinton was surprised and amused when he got the Thanksgiving invitation. He texted back and asked who it was from. Dench responded that it was from “your grandma.” Since Hinton’s grandmother doesn’t text, he knew Dench had the wrong number. He asked her to text him a picture. She did. Then Hinton texted her a picture.

(more)

After sharing a good laugh about the mistaken invitation, Dench then texted to say that Hinton was still welcome to join her family for Thanksgiving dinner. And so he did. For the last few years, Jamal Hinton has joined the Dench family for Thanksgiving dinner.



A mistaken invitation turned into a great friendship between the two families.

A sense of humor and a heap of kindness can go a long way in establishing relationships and building on them. We all make mistakes; it's our human nature.

Look for the good side and make lemonade out of lemons.

*A man who is kind benefits himself* (Proverbs 11:17 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter