

An Old Washtub

Can God use an old washtub to advance His kingdom's work? Of course, He can.

Shelia Teel, marketing director for Life Care Center of Copper Basin, wrote me in April to tell me how He did it. The center had a resident by the name of Bobby Pendley, who had resided there for several years following an automobile accident in which he lost a leg and was paralyzed. When he was admitted, he had many wounds and numerous other problems. He had been at death's door many times, but the Lord had spared his life.

Many of the local clergy visited and prayed with Bobby across the years. Recently, Bobby accepted Christ as his Savior, and requested to be baptized. "We all agreed to make this possible for him," Teel said. "This may seem like a simple request, but you would have to see Bobby to fully understand the severity of his condition. He has tubes and bags, and is paralyzed and unable to help himself. He spends his days in bed or on a stretcher, so we had to improvise a way to baptize him."

Bobby was excited about the upcoming baptism, his testimony to the saving power of Jesus. He invited all of his Life Care family, and all of his relatives from Atlanta, to attend and witness this milestone in his life. "We knew we could get a preacher and we could sing hymns, but how do we immerse Bobby when he is unable to place his entire body into a tub?" Teel said. "Being country folks, we came up with a plan. I have an old washtub which hangs on the outside of the smokehouse, and is only used during gardening season, but today (April 3) it was put to use when Bobby Pendley was baptized."

The staff of the center decorated the dining room with flowers, and placed the old tub on a low table and covered it with fabric to hide the marred metal. It was filled with warm water. Bobby's nurse played hymns, and the residents and associates sang praises to God. At 2:15 p.m., the therapy department placed Bobby in a lift and Preacher Delmar Davenport, the center's social worker, and Brian Hackerott, executive director, immersed Bobby into the water. He arose a new babe in Christ.

And in heaven, the angels sang when Bobby came up out of the water.

An old washtub provided a means for the baptism, and became a strange symbol of Bobby's hope of eternal life.

(more)

Last Friday, Teel sent me a brief message: “Bobby went to Glory yesterday (Thursday) afternoon around 3 p.m. His last words were, ‘I am not afraid anymore.’”

--Beecher Hunter