

## The Story of Myron

Author James S. Hewett tells the story of Myron, a mentally retarded adult who lived in the same small Midwest town where Hewett spent six years of his early youth.

It was during the Depression years, and there was no place for Myron to be “kept” but at home. He lived there with his mother and they survived on the work that Myron did as a gardener.

He had a proverbial “green thumb,” and the places where he did the gardening were easy to identify. The lawns, shrubs, hedges, flowers – all showed care, skill and loving attention. Myron also did volunteer work. He cut grass, raked leaves, and planted flowers in what would otherwise have been unsightly vacant lots. He was probably best known for his “oil can.” He always carried a small can of lubricating oil in his hip pocket. A squeaky door or hinge or gate always got a free dose from Myron’s oil can.

Never a Sunday went by that Myron was not in church with his mother.

The younger boys tried to tease him. But Myron always got the better of them because he refused to be anything but cheerful, full of good humor, and totally unflappable.

“Myron died a few years after I left town to attend college,” Hewett recalls. “It was not easy to arrange, but I went back for the funeral. I was not prepared for what I saw. It seemed that everyone in town had decided to attend the funeral and there were scores of others, like myself, who had traveled from distant places to be there.

“Without attempting to do so,” Hewett added, “Myron had patterned for us the kind of life that really matters. No, he had not achieved fame, fortune or honor. But he had been a worker, an optimist, an easer of tensions, and a faithful churchman. He was a man who ‘overcame’ a handicap that he didn’t even know he had.”

What about you? As you ponder the meaning of a successful life – as most of us do at one time or another – would you like to be remembered as a worker, an optimist, an easer of tensions and a person of faith?

It seems like the kind of life that the Bible has much to say about.

– Beecher Hunter