



God's Mysteries

How was I so "lucky"? How was I placed in a family headed up by my dad, a man of great moral and spiritual character once he met God?

I could have been born in darkest Africa, or the jungles of South America or the ghettos of Europe or the slums of the U.S. I could have been in a situation with no father and no moral guardrails, popping babies out every year or two, and having to support them somehow, or worse, aborting them.

Instead, through no merit of my own, I was placed under my dad, Ernie Gommel, who became my best friend until he passed on to be with God in November, 2012. I was never the perfect daughter, nor was he the perfect dad. But once he met God in Jesus the Christ by the Holy Spirit, he changed his life's direction, from an extremely talented, motivated, and successful worldly businessman to an earnest seeker of God's will for his life.

God ultimately used Gommel's background in construction and carpentry (as a kid, with my grandfather), civil engineering during the Second War and beyond, and attending seminary during the 60's, to create this store and shopping center as a service to this small desert town. This combination of talents was uniquely suited to this mission of the store. Why Lucerne Valley? Only God knows that, and someday, hopefully we can ask those types of questions of Him.

Along with developing and operating this market and shopping center, Gommel also led a small group of Believers to step outside the institutional church and meet together in order to seek and obey God's will open-endedly, with abandon. His years in seminary and pastoring in two churches showed him that the institutional churches

aren't particularly interested in open-endedly seeking God's will, so stepping out was the only option for Gommel who knew that he must give his whole being to God.

One of Gommel's favorite phrases was "Following God is something else." Think about that, and about how true it is on several levels. "Something else" means something other than the general direction of the culture. Or something other than common, habitual churchianity, where weekly attendance, a few dollars in the collection plate, and a nod to God are considered to be sufficient. Yes, we have the Bible as our baseline, but "something else" can mean how we are missing the point of the Bible's teachings so often, and God wants something other than the commonly parroted phrases and quotes pulled out of the Bible.

Sometimes Gommel used object lessons in his teach-



ing. He hated our own hypocrisy and used a Christmas tree decorated with foam apples to illustrate how we hang fake fruit on our lives so that it looks like we are producing God's fruit. The joke was that the tree was in our house so long that even the foam fruit rotted and split!

In one sermon, he used the example of charcoal, which glows with warmth and fire, and spreads the warmth and fire to the

other briquets. But if the briquets are just painted red to look like they are alight with fire, you can pick them up because they aren't hot, and they don't spread the light and fire to each other. "One foot on the dock and one in the boat" warned against half-hearted commitment to God. We may step off the dock of our uncommitted life and into the boat of our new life with God, but if we don't fully step into the boat, we find ourselves doing the splits and falling into the lake, where we may drown.

There are many more mysteries God is keeping from us, but this mystery of my placement so close to a great man of God is one that bugs me. Why me, Lord? I owe You so much for the kindness to me in this way! It also turns me to God in thankfulness. And I assure you, after 12 years since Gommel's passing, I still miss him terribly.

Happy Father's Day,

Father God

Happy Father's Day,

Ernie Gommel

And Happy Father's Day

to all you fathers who are

the heads of strong and stable families and who are taking the role of Father seriously and responsibly.

Linda Gommel



Left to right: Gommel, Sister Dorothy, and Sister Marge

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LVEDA Meeting
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, June 24th
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

Reports from our **County, State and Federal Representatives**. Progress reports from County Sheriff's Department, CHP and Code Enforcement.

SEE NEXT WEEK'S COMMENTARY PAGE FOR PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS.

FIREWORKS CELEBRATION
SAT, JUNE 29
5 P.M. - 9 P.M.
AT PIONEER PARK

Parking at Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware with FREE Hay Ride or bus to the Park.

FIREWORKS 9:00 P.M.

On The Porches

YOUTH BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS
June 15-16, 2024
Sponsored by LV Recreation and Parks District

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



We are living in a day when people are proud of what they should be ashamed of

