

BFOB Witness: Our Turn

In the early 80's dad retired from a career as a painter and paperhanger, and in a coffee-infused conversation a few weeks later he remarked about the great career he had, noting that he was paid \$27,000 in his last year of work. We had a stay-at-home Mom, which at times probably had the career attraction of a prison seamstress, or perhaps the lead coal shoveler on an ocean going steamer.

Dad and mom raised eight of us with that recipe, and although we may have appeared to be somewhat malnourished (we had the physiques of a juvenile egret) we never lacked for anything: food, clothing, faith, and love. On that income they also supported the building of an addition to the school, and a refurbishing of St. Peter Church in the late 60's.

I wasn't aware of nor did I appreciate the scale and scope of those sacrifices until many years later when my generation started paying the bills. It takes some wisdom and some faith to recognize and accept that it's our turn, so we have supported BFOB financially and will continue to do so. The fact that it's over budget and we've had some surprises along the way merely proves that humans are at the helm, and that we're imperfect. While I have no doubt the various committees have done their best to make this work, it all serves as a reminder that God is in charge and that the big things will always be up to Him.

At some point in our lives most of us surrender to Him, entrusting the day-to-day to His will and recognizing that He'll always be on our side. Worrying about money or what might happen tomorrow becomes unnecessary. The truth is we may leave this earth with a mountain of dollars only to discover that Heaven has converted to bitcoin, so why worry?

Set aside some savings for your kids, meet your obligations, and share some with Him. We wouldn't have any of it without first having His abundant blessings anyway. It really is our turn.

Jack Hanks