

## The Game of Life

By Steve Higginbotham

Have you ever played Milton Bradley's, "*The Game of LIFE?*" Probably you have at some point. This game has been around a long time -- since 1860! The object of this game is to cause its players to make several important "life decisions" and teach them several important "life lessons," while having fun all at the same time. Some of those decisions and lessons were:

Whether to go straight to work, or go to college first.

Paydays are typically better for those who go to college.

Whether to buy or not to buy health/life insurance.

Having children can bring benefits as well as liabilities.

Life has many unexpected setbacks, as well as serendipitous blessings.

And ultimately, the decisions you make in life will determine whether you will wind up in a "Millionaire's Mansion" or the "Poor House."

But one lesson this game didn't teach us; in fact, the most important lesson of all is this ... When the game is over, everything goes back in the box! No matter how good you were at this game; no matter how much money you were able to accumulate; no matter who you were able to beat; at the end of the game, you had to put everything you had accumulated back in the box.

Friends, now that's the greatest lesson you'll ever learn from "*The Game of LIFE.*" No matter what you're able to accomplish in life; no matter how much money you are able to earn in your lifetime; no matter how many people you competed against and over which you were victorious; when your life is over, it all goes "back in the box." You take none of it with you. Then you'll stand before your Maker.

So, how well are you doing at the "game of life?"

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“... *What is your life?*”

*For you are a mist that appears for a little time,  
and then vanishes.” - James 4:14 (ESV)*

*God grant me courage and hope for everyday,  
Faith to guide me along my way,  
understanding and wisdom, too,  
And grace to accept what life gives me to do.*

- Helen Steiner Rice -

Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans. - John Lennon

## News & Notes

**HOUSE FIRE VICTIM:** Joyce McKinnon (Scharlotte Jones' daughter).

**HOUSE FIRE VICTIM:** Brenda Vause, 232 George St, Chester, WV 26034.

**PANTRY:** Oatmeal (round container).

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *UPMC, Shadyside:* Linda Parkes. *At Home:* Pam Thompson, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. *Fox - Chester:* Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). *Elsewhere:* **Todd Grimes** (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), 3827 Gibson St, New Castle, PA 16101. **Janice Hutchins** (Marilyn Hadley's cousin), 130 N. Surry, East Liverpool, OH 43920. **Craig Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son), 63 Old Overlook Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28739. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

## HOW MUCH OF THE LORD'S TIME HAVE YOU STOLEN?

There was a story in a Rochester, Texas church bulletin about a young man who was working in a large department store, being told by his employer that he would be required to work on Sunday. It so happened that the hours assigned to him would have prevented his attending any of the worship services to which he had been accustomed to attending since childhood.

The young man informed his employer that he would not be able to continue his work under these conditions, and his employer told him he would have to go.

A few days later, the young man answered an ad in the paper from a bank that had advertised a vacancy for a teller. In checking the young man's previous employers, the bank president contacted the department store head and inquired as to the boy's record and whether he could recommend him. The store manager replied, "Why, yes, I will be glad to recommend him. He will make you a good man. I just fired him a few days ago."

"Fired him?" the bank president exclaimed. "Why would you recommend a man whom you just recently dismissed from your service?" The store manager explained the circumstances under which the boy was released, and remarked, "I know he will make you a good man for your bank because if he will not steal the Lord's time, he will not steal your money." (Author unknown)

"Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." Luke 12:31

- via "*Tonk TALK*", Mark Tonkery, Norval Park Church of Christ, Zanesville, OH -