

# JAVONDA'S JOURNAL

Entry #22

March 15, 2015

Hello Friend!

Greetings from the South. I am composing this twenty-second edition of "Javonda's Journal" snuggled up in a fleece blanket. Yes, contrary to popular belief, Florida has its chilling moments; still, I know it is mild and mellow compared to the gelid conditions farther north. Since I am turning twenty-one, I thought you might like to join me for a jog into some past happenings of my existence.

**IT'S A GIRL** . . . and though nobody saw that coming in the boy-dominated demographics of our family, Grandpa Merrill held out hope, wearing a pink suit coat into the Bradenton, FL hospital on March 15, 1994.

**AGE...**

**1** The top of my entire right hand was severely burned. Apparently I thought ironing the clothes would be helpful, so I pulled the just-put-away iron back out of its place with my little left hand. Because of its weight, it fell on top of my right hand, sustaining a third-degree burn. The permanent scarring from this accident is a marvelous reminder of God's faithful and tender mercy in my life (Lamentations 3:22-23). I am also thankful for the line of communication it opens as I swap "burn stories" with people I meet.

**2** On my second birthday our family purchased a "new" eight-passenger conversion van to haul our travel trailer.

**4** I trusted Christ as my Savior on October 9 while we were ministering in New Brunswick, Canada. Praise the Lord for a godly heritage and parents who faithfully shared salvation in hope that I would personally choose by faith to repent and believe the Gospel. I will never forget that day!

**5** My name/birthday was announced over the loud speakers at a Cleveland Indians Spring Training game in Winter Haven, FL that we were taken to by American League Umpire Durwood Merrill.



**6** As my mom continued teaching me the "how's" and "why's," my love of all-things-kitchen-work was ignited. Also, I began playing keyboard percussion on a one-octave vintage xylophone my mom found at a garage sale for fifty cents. Grandpa and Grandma Merrill later gave me a set of orchestra bells, and now I play four-mallet percussion on a vibraphone that has been in the family for about one hundred years.

**12** This is the age that singing harmony finally clicked when I began to "hear" parts as we sang hymns while driving down the road.

**16** When Jerrill left to begin his ministry in Port St. Lucie, FL (teaching and eventually becoming an associate pastor), I took over his VBS position of heading up registration. I continue to fulfill this post every summer, and thrive in the fast-paced, interactive environment with children (like Jalyn from Greencastle, PA), their parents, and VBS workers. Also, this is the year I was baptized and became a member of my home church, Ripley Baptist Temple (Ripley, WV).

**18** I graduated from our Washington Academy after twelve years of home schooling. I also began driving our rig as Dad permits.



20

In April I completed five online courses in biblical apologetics from Answers in Genesis. This was an invaluable learning experience of establishing stronger biblical foundations and becoming better equipped to give a defense of the faith (1 Peter 3:15). God also used it to inspire me to pursue higher education. As a result, I took an ACT June 14, then applied and was accepted to Verity Institute, an institute that assists one in completing a fully accredited bachelor's degree in twenty-one months. The traditional four-to-six-year college experience never appealed to me; rather, I sought to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16). The intense speed and flexibility afforded is what drew me to the Verity distance program. I started in September and began earning a plethora of my general education credits through college level exams. Locating testing centers and scheduling exams is a never-ending job as we are always on the move. Passed tests include analyzing & interpreting literature, technical writing, English literature, American government, humanities, U.S. History I & II, macroeconomics, and microeconomics. I am constantly studying, and will, Lord willing, graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in communications by May 2016. (I have 42 credits of 120. Please pray that I can reach my goal of 75 by the end of May so that I can be participative in our summer ministry.)

My heart abounds with gratefulness for the way in which God is enabling me to acquire tools for future service as I travel with my family. The specific way of putting the skills I obtain into practice is yet unknown, but I am ever-leaning on the everlasting arms of God for guidance. I do not want to *go* anywhere. I want to *follow*. I want to follow God. And I want to follow those that follow God. God has been teaching me to lean on his will and trust him moment by moment. As my plans are frequently splintered and rearranged, God's perfect paths are revealed. The last line of a song a friend wrote often comforts my mind, "In the end there is victory through the blood of the Lamb. The struggle is worth it, 'cause we already know the end." We all have struggles, don't we? But, thank God, "we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).



In February, I had the opportunity to visit with dear friends in West Virginia for a week. Lydia showed me the "ropes" of pretzel making, and I made this batch once I got home. What a blessing to share sweet fellowship with kindred spirits and like-minded followers of Christ! I praise God for the remnant of young believers in this world whose hearts, no matter what the cost, seek to serve Him.



To think I admittedly used to abhor writing, and now I only wish I could invest more deeply in the nuances of every word. Anyway, enough about me. Let's talk about you. What is happening in your life? What have you gained from God's Word this week, and how have you grown spiritually over the last year? Please keep in touch, and let me know how I can be praying for you. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Thanks for reading and thanks for praying,

*Javonda Wyler*

Javonda Wyler  
PO Box 101  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
[www.wylersonwheels.com](http://www.wylersonwheels.com)

Find us on Facebook and check our website for updates and an itinerary