



The Conifer church of Christ is currently meeting at the Mountain Resource Center in Conifer.

We're On The Web!
Conifercoc.com

Preacher: Will Hanstien
Evangelist: Andrew Lemus

Contact Us
303-816-9212
conifercoc@conifercoc.com
25587 Conifer Rd
Suite 105 #410
Conifer, CO 80433

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MOUNTAIN RAMBLIN'

Provided by the Conifer church of Christ

Number 7

Was It "Bad" Or Was It "Good"? by Neal Pollard

Darrell felt pretty unlucky on the morning of July 31, 1976. The day before, they had rented a cabin in the Sleepy Hollow Resort that turned out to be a real lemon too shabby to stay in for even another day. Darrell and his family felt was too rustic and in need of repairs. So, with some grumbling and inconvenience, the family from Oklahoma repacked their stuff and came to Denver for a day at an amusement park and lunch at the "renowned" Casa Bonita. That vacated cabin, along with 417 other houses, was washed away in the Big Thompson Canyon Flood that killed 144 people. Would Darrell Johnson and his family have died had they stayed? It is hard to say. But, as his wife and two daughter's names were not with his on the guest register, he was listed as number 145 for twenty-five years. His official status, according to Big Thompson Canyon, was missing and presumed dead. But, as scores of Coloradoans awoke to mourn the loss of friends and family, the Johnson family was driving back to Oklahoma where Darrell would spend the intervening years as (ironically) a funeral home director.

Johnson was tracked down this past week and has been somewhat in the

limelight, being interviewed by newspapers across the country. He had no idea he was thought to be dead in an adjoining state. Thinking back to that day he left Sleepy Hollow grousing about getting the short end of the stick, Johnson says, "Sometimes bad things happen to you, but this was one of those things where the bad turned out to be for the good" (Christopher N. Osher, The Denver Post, mobile edition, 8/3/08).

Sometimes we cannot understand why things happen as they do. We serve a sovereign God who works through time and events in a way that best accomplishes His will. Concerning that, though we can influence His will through prayer, we ultimately have no say.-----Continued on pg. 2



Darrell Johnson, interviewed by CBS 4,

Was It "Bad" Or Was It "Good"? Continued.

Yet, how many times have we felt as though something that happened to us was terribly unfair only to live long enough to see how God turned it into a blessing in our lives? How many accidents, natural disasters, and other tragedies we have avoided by the fortuity of time or circumstance is an unknown, but we do pray for God's travel mercies. How many unhealthy relationships, temptations, and bad choices we have avoided by generally striving to walk in the light is a secret known only to Him. Be careful before you complain about how things have not gone your way or what a raw deal you have been handed. Wait a while. You may find yourself thanking God for the way things went. Darrell Johnson did!

Friendship by Andrew Lemus

Discerning who our true friends really are.

Who are good and true friends?

The Bible teaches us that a true friend loves at all times, even in adversity (Proverbs 17:17). Someone who is a friend because of wealth is not a true friend at all (Proverbs 19:4). True friends are willing to tell the truth even if it wounds their close friend (Proverbs 27:6). A person who is unwilling to shine the light on friends' blemishes is not a friend (Proverbs 27:6). A true friend gives good counsel while a bad friend gives bad counsel (Proverbs 27:9). A true friend is more interested in another's well being before their own (1John 3:16).

Christians are good and true friends.

We are willing to love at all times, even through our struggles. We love even when sin is present, trying to Biblically help our friends out of their transgressions. We are not friends because of wealth. The Conifer church is willing to tell each other the truth even if it might hurt. The Conifer church does not attempt to hide and cover over sin but rather shines the light to expose it. Our counsel is directed by the word of God and not by our personal feelings and emotions. The body of Christ in Conifer is willing to put others above themselves and is willing to lift up those around them.

