

Reflections on 2010 and looking ahead

Each New Year's I have a ritual of reading my journal from the previous year, documenting my successes and the areas that I still need to work on, and taking time to reflect and thank God for the blessings and the lessons.

As I read my journal this year, a few events really struck me as significant. January 12, 2010, was one of those days and was truly a gift.

I was at the township when I was notified that one of our Meals on Wheels Volunteer's funeral was that day. Normally, we'd have sent flowers, but we hadn't so I said I would attend the funeral.

I didn't know the gentleman, but wanted to make sure the family knew how much we appreciated him and his wife and his service to our community.

As I sat in the pew, this is what I wrote in my journal that day:

TWP. SUPERVISOR



BY *CHERI DITZIG*

"One of a kind, unmistakable mark on the world, wise, wealthy in spirit, at Peace with God, person of influence, made the world a better place, built bridges among people, really cared about relationships, gave out nicknames as a badge of honor, their home was an oasis for the Davis brothers, servant of God."

The funeral ended but I wasn't ready to leave, as I was so overwhelmed by the many people that this man had affected so deeply.

Later in the year, I

witnessed the celebration of life for Mary Lynn Stried. My notes read, "friend, supportive, ALL she did to make it a better world to live in, wise, gift of laughter."

I also was able to attend Brian Williams' service. He received the most heart-felt standing ovation! My notes said, "worked hard, played hard, all or nothing, laughed the loudest and hardest - totally embarrassing, but he was contagious!"

One of his quotes was, "What is money anyway, just dirty green paper with dead people's faces on it."

Also, Peg Turner passed, what a celebration of life THAT was! And then, not to be forgotten was Papa - Richard Molidor, whose life was compared to a quilt made of love.

Attending these funerals guided my days for the kind of life I wanted to live in 2010. And as I re-read those words tonight, I know it will impact

my 2011 also.

Have you ever pondered the difference between those who you can't imagine living without and those who you wonder if they will EVER die?

I had taped Mr. Gerald W. "Bud" Bakken's memorial card in the inside cover of my journal.

Normally, I take a few notes and place last year's journal on a shelf, but this year, I slowly release the glue from the back of the card, and glue it into the inside cover of 2011's diary. And make the resolution to do all I can to make this world better, carrying on His work, just as Bud so joyfully did.

This life is passing by so quickly. I encourage you to set your intention for the year. Be the kind of person that this world can't imagine living without. If you are at a loss as to how to do that, there is always a pot of coffee at Zion Township and an ear to help you figure it out!