

Life Like Flowers

My wife and I received this great gift this year from grandma. It's called an Amaryllis. It came in this little package that included a pot, a little ball and some dirt (yeah!). Complete with instructions, my wife followed them to a "t," as she meticulously prepared the dirt to just the right height and then placed the little ball in the top of the dirt. I would have buried the thing, myself. I mean, isn't that what you do with stuff that goes in dirt? But not with this. This was placed in the dirt with part of the ball still protruding from the top. Then we waited. And we waited.

We moved it from one place in the house to the next. Was it getting enough light? Was any window sufficient? If so, which one? Then it happened! We awoke to a little green shoot coming out of the top of that ball! Oh the joy! The next morning we got up, anticipating great things from this little fellow. However, great things seemed not to be in the cards, for the little green thing shot up a couple of inches and then just seemed to sputter to a halt.

Somewhat disenchanted with the whole thing after a day or two, we moved it from the kitchen table to a spot on the counter which happened to be under a fluorescent light. That's when it took off. The next morning that thing must have grown 5 inches. And then there was another shoot. And another 5 inches. Within a few short days, the stems had grown to about 20 inches. They shot up so fast that you could practically see them grow. And then we hit pay dirt; four big, beautiful flowers at the top of each stem. Each flower looked like a giant orange trumpet. It was the beauty of a Kansas sunset all wrapped up in the petals of a flower. We looked. We wondered. And we praised God for His beauty, His creativity and His power!

And just as fast as they seemed to appear ... they began to die. Maybe they began to die the moment they appeared and we just didn't see it. They grew weak and began to droop. Their beauty had come in force. It had come with strength and power. But now it was gone. Its time had come.

The Bible says that our lives are like that flower. Regarding man, Job 14 tells us "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain." Psalm 103:15-16 says, "As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more..."

As you read this column, 2013 lies before you. You don't know how much of it you have, but you have "now." Redeem the time. Make it count. Love. Forgive. Be thankful and live your legacy out loud!