



John takes a look at Life via Poems

THOUGHTS from JOHN



There is a poet in all of us.

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You Can Survive *and* Reach for that Star

The basic premise is, we all are equal. The fact is, we all do not start at the same place in life. Some are given a head start and some must work a little harder and smarter to catch up. But that's O. K. That is just the way it is. For those of us that weren't born with a silver spoon in our mouth or may have had a dysfunctional family or been placed at a disadvantage at the starting gate it is time to get over the pity party and get in the race. It is time to stop and take inventory of what we have to work with, what we need to reach the finish line in attaining our goal or star we are reaching for. But first each individual must define that goal or star they want to obtain. Sounds easy and it is. However, it does require some time, thought and above all honesty with yourself. You must understand that what you want you may get and that normally means you won't get something else. So be careful when you plan your goals in life.

Define what is really important to you and separate the nice to have or do things. They are secondary to your real goals. You must write down all your goals and prioritize them. Always work on the top goal first and stick to it, the fact you made it your top priority says no time or effort will be expended on the second, third, or fourth goals until you have reached your first goal. This first goal will more than likely have stepping stones or sub goals required to complete your first goal. By separating the sub goals out the task of attaining your first goal becomes much more attainable. They too must be prioritized and checked off as they are completed.

The rush of ecstasy you feel as you check off each of the sub goals will amaze you. You gain the confidence that you must have to keep on track. This is not to imply that the road will be straight and smooth, it probably will not. As a matter of fact if it is too easy you set your sights too low for your first goal, overcoming the obstacles or road blocks is half the fun and makes the goal appreciated when attained. So never give up on what's the top or first goal in your life. By the way some folks call the top goal your life's mission and classify it as a "mission statement" To attain that goal requires some study reading and listing on your part.

You probably have been told or heard that experience is the best teacher. I will tell you that is a great big lie. Experience is the most expensive and time consuming way to learn anything. Using other people's success and failure will put you years and dollars ahead of the pack. Taking advantage of knowledge is the way smart people get ahead and reach their goals in record time. I will tell you.

Now this is not to imply that you cannot put a slightly different spin on things or change the parody in your mind. On the contrary I highly recommend you do. When you do think it through and then beat it against others experience. All in all what I am suggesting to you



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is not easy. However, it really isn't that hard either. The bottom line is we must take time, make time or allocate time to do it. Most people spend more time and effort planning a two week vacation than they do planning their life. Stop for a second and think about the last time you planned your own life and the tracking you put in place to see if you were really on track.

Successful people do these, the question is have or do you? If not why not? Each of us is allocated a given amount of time in life. We make choices, not decisions. Each choice provides for something we will get or do and also something we won't get or do. Remember only you can make the choice. This should be completely understood..

Let me give you an example. Let's say based on what you feel an hour of your time is really worth. Multiply by $24 \times 365 \times 75$ x that dollar amount of your time being worth. Now divide that number by 75. The result is a years worth of dollars in your life. Now multiply your age by that number. This is how much you have already spent. Now subtract that number from the first number. This may represent the rest of your life's bank account. The question is how you will spend it? Now we are back to choices you will make, and how you plan your life. This is not to say your bank account could not go to zero tomorrow and you die. It can also accumulate some interest, depending on your choices, and you could live to be 100 or more.

If you have actually spent time to do the exercise above, I am sure you were surprised and will think important things out a bit more in the future. If not you probably didn't understand or really don't care about yourself.

The example provided was to get us to stop and think a little more about our life. My hope is it did, and also it helped you in setting goals and priorities. Always remember that you never see a hearse pulling a U'Haul-It trailer. All things accumulated in this life stays here on this earth. This included physical things and the good and bad memories we leave with others.

The Reference Book I use instructs me to help, share and love others. Friend, my hope for you is you have found an appropriate reference book to guide you through your life also. There is good in the worst of us and bad in the best of us. However, we are all important. Hopefully we can all grow the good in all of us each day.



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To this end the following poem was written for us all

Life's Prayer

Life's Prayer

Great Spirit and Creator of Heaven and All
Let me listen to you and not put up a wall.
Give me the strength and courage each day
to share and help others along their way.
May I learn from the old and the wise
and be a good roll model in children's eyes.
Put the sunshine in my life and face,
to reflect your love and time not waste.
Life on this earth is as brief as the firefly's light
and there is only time to do what is just and right.
Let me not judge others by what they may do,
until I have walked two weeks in their path too.
Make my speech soft as the wolf's fur,
may it be as gentle as the cat's purr.
Let me walk as quietly as rabbits feet.
May I be a soaring eagle and not retreat,
from things that are pure, just and right,
through all my suns in day and moons at night.
Oh great Spirit of sun, moon, wind, rain and all,
I beg of you to hear this souls burning call.
Prepare a place for this soul in your infinite love,
for that time will surely come when its called above.
May I be humble and listen each day
what you would have me do when I pray.

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If we can all try to put into practice what this poem suggests, no doubt; this world will be a far better place for us all. Thank you for your time and enjoy life.

JHR



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PREFACE



GRAYWOLF is a collection of thoughts and poems written by my husband, John Ryder, a part Cherokee Indian. The intent is to share his observations over the past 78 years. His work has been widely accepted as both meaningful and helpful to folks from Alaska to California and down to Florida and up to Maine, as well as several other countries around the world.

The wisdom and experience brought forth in his works should prove to enrich anyone's life that reads and feeds on the message presented.

John was born in the Tennessee mountains and has traveled the world. He is now retired with a heart problem and lives in North Carolina. However he continues to do volunteer work in the hospitals and is very active in church work. His free time is spent writing on his PC and enjoying his grandchildren.

If you find his work helpful and meaningful to you, you are encouraged to send a thank you of \$2.00 to \$5.00 to him at:

John Ryder Sr.
2105 Adventure Trail
Durham, NC 27703

OR donate via PayPal to OKTIP@aol.com

Your contribution to help assist in his work will be greatly appreciated.

May the one and only great spirit be with you always and guide you in all that you do.

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A Day At Work

A Day At Work

The sun's coming up and my coffee I gotta get
Yes to get these old bones a motivating and yet
It's off to the bathroom and get ready for the day
Yea so I can get to my work and earn my pay
A smile or two from friends as the day goes on
It sure will help me a lot, what can go wrong
Two phones are ringing and someone at the door
The boss wants to know if the paper work is done
It's only 8 o'clock and I'm on the run
Just on and on this whole day through
What in Heaven's name am I going to do
Finally it's 12 o'clock and time for lunch
Eat and talk business with the same old bunch
I wonder if I can make it till home I'm bound
At last in my safe place to find, I must turn around
Go back to the office for work that can't wait
It seems as if I'm indispensable, a word I hate
Don't mind doing what's needed and my fair share
But sometimes it seems as if management doesn't care
Finally its done and home on the bed
I lie in wonder if another way my family can be fed
Seems business today requires your soul
Heck, I'm only 36 and really feeling old



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Another Chance

Another Chance

**What is going to happen to this land
If we don't work together and get things in hand?
Has history been all for naught
Why can't we learn what it has taught?
It makes me wonder just how we'll pay,
Will the great U.S. become another Pompei.
Under tons of ash and molten rock
Can the time be near and show on our clock?
How can we guide other lands
When our own country men have blood on their hands?
While greed and drugs and crime abound
Right here in our very own town.
Where is the family guiding light
To show the way both day and night?
Oh Country men, where is the pride we once know,
In our selves, our family and our country too?
Have we forgotten what our God has said?
Have we ignored what we have read?
We all must once again get on our knees
and ask our God to forgive our deeds.
Pray for the guidance to do right
and not wait until the missiles are in flight.
Remove our anger and our hate
long before it's too late.
Show the love and understanding to all
Before this great nation takes the fall.
Respect must be earned, we have all been told,
Look for the positive in others even if they seem cold.
If we all stop and take a global look
Maybe history will be kind in her book.
Stop and think of those who have gone before
To protect the freedom on our shore.
Did they give their lives in vain
Or is the whole country going insane?
We still have a chance to turn it around
And work together to let freedom abound.
Let's all start today to do our part
And show the world we still have heart.**



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Big Blue

Big Blue

**I didn't get a raise, had a heart attack and almost died
Company lost money, but a 3 million dollar bonus the CEO eyed
As a matter of fact 200 million was given out
To the VP, Directors and those with clout
Their answer to the short fall of income
Was to downsize and get rid of some
Problem was many of the employees that went
Were the very ones that worked to pay their rent
And took a positive and long term look
At where the company should be in the book
Of new and future technology to grow
The big shots couldn't steer and too lazy to row
This titanic of a company almost sank in the deep
Many big shots took a golden parachute without a peep
This once strong company has now lost it's glamour
The employee spirit has diminished in this clamor
The MBA's from Harvard have done it again
Destroyed the American dream of many, you can't win
Greed seems to rule in all business today
Only a few will make enough for bill's to pay
And have a little left over to enjoy their life
This is a bitter pill to swallow and tell the wife
I'll tell you now and I'll tell you true
You had better get your act together Big Blue
Take a look at what upper management cost
You had better share with the little guys before you're lost
What tiny bit of respect and loyalty remains
This is all too bad because nobody gains
Watch the workers and dreamers do their part
Learn to listen and follow through with your heart
Don't look at other companies and their greed
Share the good times, listen too, fill a need
Don't continue to forget those that once made you great
They are retired, growing old and just can't wait**

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Blessings

Blessings

Take time each night before you pray
to take pen in hand and record the blessings that day
Once a week read them all out loud
By yourself or in a family crowd
It will amaze you that's for sure
To see what God has done and is a cure
For those "down in the dumps" times on earth
If we could only see and hear them all from birth
We all make mistakes and aren't worthy you know
But even in our darkest days we can grow
We must cherish those wonderful and good
Learn from bad experience as we should
You have heard, "count your blessings one by one"
As you do you'll find each week at least a ton
Not one living person that God did make
Will lose his love and care at the wake
Close your eyes and feel the warmth now
Relax your body, unclutter your mind that's how
Now in this state don't talk, breath and listen with your soul
Guidance and answers will flow as you let God take hold
Each day a better and happier person you will be
With a purer spirit, that's really the key

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Close to Heaven

Close to Heaven

**Watching the whales play in the Sea
What a delightful place to be
See the horses run in the field
and the sail boats with a deep keel
Looking up at the mountains so high
And seeing all the birds in the sky
The warm sun and a gentle sea breeze
All this God has provided for man to please
This my friend is yours to fill your mind
It gives you a peaceful feeling and lets you unwind
Of all the wonderful things I have found
This one spot on earth will hold you bound
To clear you mind and let your worth unfold
If you are interested, you've been told
This one place if you would like to go
Its Half Moon Bay, just a few miles below
On California Highway One towards Santa Cruz
You should really try it sometime you can't loose
I'll warn you now, you'll never be the same
Cause it will change your mind to a better frame
It will lift you up and fill your soul
Just make you feel right and never be cold
Those special moments of time you spend at this wonderful place
Is as close to Heaven as you will get while part of the human race
Just fly to San Francisco and rent a car
Take California 101 South and don't go far
On passed Burlingame till you see that big sign
That says Half Moon Bay to the right, keep it in mind
You just drive just a few scenic miles through the hills
Past Pumpkin patches, the tall eucalyptus the air it fills
As you enter the little town of Half Moon Bay
Take a left on California One, That's the way
So if its at all possible before you die
Enjoy the wonders of this earth and sky**

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Daddy

Daddy

**Most any male on the planet a father can be
But it takes a real man to be a daddy you see
A father may be good, bad or not even there
However, a true daddy is always around to care
A daddy will hold you close when fretting and walk the floor
Talk to you so soft and gentle with a loving voice and more
A daddy always is there to build you up in so many ways
You can be assured he is with you in all your nights and days
A daddy can make you feel better when you fall down
He takes and shares so many wonders and places around
Yes, a daddy will listen to your ever word
And teach you all he knows and good things heard
He hurts when you hurt and offers kind help
And when you stray he cries inside without a whelp
Yes, any boy can affect your birth
But only a man can be a daddy and prove his worth
So many children today seem to have only a father
If you're lucky, your father's a daddy be you son or daughter
Acknowledge your father but love your daddy
He'll guide you through life so you won't turn out ratty
He'll always be the best friend you can know
And stick by your side faithfully as you grow
You will always be very special to him
Until his very last breath and he crosses that rim
Let you be comforted for he's with his father and daddy above
And you're not alone for his Jesus will show you love
Be not afraid my child for you'll meet him again
You see your job now is other souls for Jesus to win
A daddy sometimes isn't your father for sure
He may be an uncle or grandfather that's loving and pure
If he taught you to say grace and pray each night
Taught you about his Jesus then you'll be all right
Praise God for the fathers that are a daddy too
Without them I wonder what a child would do**

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Emotional Rule

"Emotional Rule"

Well my friend have you ever been hot and not so cool
Then you may need to know about the "Emotional Rule"
First you gotta take a few deep breaths and just let it go
With a relaxed body and mind you'll do better you know
I really must say when you get all tight and upset
You'll make bad choices, choices you may regret
Yes in a state of anger, hate or just plain old fear
Your whole body reacts and the pipes draw near
Then the heart speeds up, that wonderful pump
Its gotta feed body parts oxygen, even your rump
These little bitty platelets so smooth get real rough
The adrenaline flows ready for battle, thinking tough
Platelets stick to the walls of your arteries and such
Comes along cholesterol even if you don't have much
It sticks to those platelets and life is never the same
Cause your heart will always have to work a bit more
Now the blockage has started, like a partially closed door
With each of these cycles you allow the body to go through
Guaranteed will sooner or later cause real problems to you
Yes you may want to consider being cool and playing it loose
so those miles of pipes in your body will continue to be of use
Take time and have some real fun
Don't go through life always on the run
Laughing, loving and living are part of it you know
Take time to enjoy today and smile a lot before you go

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Great Life

Great Life

**I have had a truly wonderful life
Being very fortunate and finding a terrific wife
She's been with me every step of the way
Regardless of the problems facing us each day
Also blessed with two fine children you see
Grandchildren so precious, yes life's been good to me
There have been times its really been rough
But when they were, together we hung tough
My only hope for the future of my children
Is they too will work thru each day when its bewildering
With outstanding support of each other
Do not forget for a moment, you are sister and brother
Never forget things their mother has done
Day in and day out for the children each one
Washing their clothes and fixing great food
Teaching them to respect others and not be rude
My beautiful wife has held us together
In all life's trials and all kinds of weather
Each of the family members owe her a lot
Kind and gentle, even when money we had not
My wife, your mother and a friend for sure
Has made this life very easy to endure
My children have made me proud as a father can be
They each mean so much and have been the glue
To get this family thru, every day something new
Yes, we have traveled this country over
Together we shared mountains, oceans and fields of clover
My job required me to travel and roam
around this country, but I knew what waited at home
Was a wife and the kids I truly love
So never look back when Jesus comes like a dove
Never forget the wonderful times we have had
I've had it all being a husband and a dad
Be thankful for what we were allowed to share
Having good times and knowing people that care
You never have to cry for me
Cause you should know, where I'll be
Just keep on giving your best each day thru
You are part of each other and I'm there too
Just don't fret, worry and fear
For I've had it all, you see dear.**



John takes a look at Life via Poems

Growing up

Growing up

As a young lad growing up in the hills of Tennessee
I never thought of other lands and going to sea
The biggest patch of water to me was Cherokee Lake
In my late teens and off to Sea on a Submarine I would take
To see the world and better understand
What a great country the USA around its land
We went to the Med and Caribbean too
Many people and sights, to me all were new
The Atlantic and in the North Atlantic's cold
Just frozen to the bone close to the North Pole
To protect our country from aggressors for sure
Could I ever get warm again, what's a cure
War games might be lots of fun
We kept those aggressors on the run
But it was great when the Captain would say
We've done our job, lets pull into port for a day
Walking around in France, England or Greece
Italy, Malta, Turkey or in the Town of Nice
Was truly a thrill for this kid from Tennessee
almost made it all worth it going to Sea
I wouldn't take any thing for the chance to go
But to be honest There is so much about the USA to know
Other Countries are nice and the people just fine
All of the wonders in the USA are on my mind
There's not one state in this Great Land
That I'd swap to take any other country in hand
We have so much right here you can't see it all
But it's sure fun trying we have a real ball
The irony of it is if you've been before
I'll guarantee the next time you'll see more
Constant change is all around us sure
Sometimes for better, sometimes not so pure
The long term trend seems to be right



John takes a look at Life via Poems

even though those folks in Washington put up a fight
How arrogant we are to think we affect this earth
We might kill all the people but new species will birth
The cock roach will always prevail I know
Even if we error and the neutron bombs blow
What happens to each person's life here
May only turn out to be how others he held dear

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HEALING

HEALING

**It's time now that all humans should understand
a wonderful healing spirit lives within every man.
With a positive attitude of both body and mind
look to the future, learn to be caring and kind.
For the thinker of thoughts is surely our soul
and has the power to unlock things yet untold.
The body responds to the stimulus in our thought.
When the mind is not cluttered and we have fought
those negative feelings and stress we may feel.
Let your soul guide you and allow the body to heal.
You should lighten up and be sure to laugh a lot
and don't concern yourself for what you have not.
This does not mean we should not learn from the past,
on the contrary, we must for this earthly life to last.
A sweet and eternal spirit surrounds us all, to assist our soul.
It will guide us and help in many ways as we strive for our goal.
Be silent, Oh my mind and listen intently to the spirit,
anger, hate and distrust must turn to love in order to hear it.
Remember, your doctor is trained in prognosis giving,
however the state of your mind truly determines living.
Be kind, loving and understanding of all you may meet,
follow the doctor's suggestions and you'll soon be on you feet.
However you choose is a choice you alone must make,
should you allow your soul to be guided by the spirit and not wake.
Your life will live on through the others you have met
your soul will live forever, there's no reason to fret.**

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Hope

Hope

**In my bed at night I lay
Talking to my Jesus as I pray
For blessings received that day
Thanking Him for the price he did pay
As he traveled on this earth's highway.
Knowing well when this body will decay
But that's really OK
I'll be with Jesus on that day
He promised me that
This life no more will be combat
No more pain or struggle to survive
In His presence I'll truly be alive
The wonders of Heaven to comprehend
When this earthly life will end
Oh, Sweet Jesus as I cry
Please guide me as I try
To do what you want my life to be
Until that hour your glory I will see**

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It's Time

It's Time

Whenever I take time to check my weight
I always wonder if it was something I ate
If I could loose some body fat
I'm sure I would be a cool cat
Maybe if my body would be like my billfold
And my billfold would store like my body I'm told
I could share with others in the future
And spend many wonderful hours and grandkid's nurture.
But, alas, what a ham biscuit will do,
Just savor the flavor and some red eye gravy too
Or maybe a big helping of fries
I can see them now, right before my eyes
Maybe some scrambled eggs and cheese
Yes, I'd like some butter and bacon, if you please
A big glass of good old whole milk, too
No, I better not, just fruit and cereal, I'll make do
You know I've gotta start today
And learn to conserve my limited pay
To reverse this trend over many years
Or the doctor says I'll realize my worst fears.
Yes, I can do it and I'll start right now
No body wants to look like a big old cow.
I'll have money in the bank and time to spend it
You see helping my grandkid's to adults is how to end it.

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John in the Pond

John in the Pond

**A precious little boy named John
In a hurry and starting to walk fell in a pond
Me-Me and Pop-Pop viewed it with horror
Please, O Lord, let him have a tomorrow
Pop-Pop ran as fast as the light
Pulled him from the pond and held him tight
There on the bank with little John OK
We held a prayer meeting, How we did pray
This young lad was scared and soaked, you see
He realized what had happened and held his Me-Me
This day will never be forgotten, bless his soul
He's full of life and a wonder to behold
Me-Me's and Pop-Pop's prayer was answered for sure
Proving that God answers when motives are pure**

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JENNY

JENNY (6/18/94)

PC Applications Class 201 began Nineteen and Ninety four March nine
The students were there and ready to go, I was happy this class was mine
PC, DOS, Word Processing, Spreadsheets and Data Base I was to teach
My goal was much more than computers, for the students I wanted to reach
They were each different in their own way, each a very special person to me
Bright eyes, excited and anxious to learn, just what was this thing called a PC
It happened that very first night, a young lass named Jenny brightened our soul
She was bubbly, fresh, and honest, no doubt Jenny would be on the honor roll
Bright as a star, this young girl was, I just knew her contributions would be many
To this old world she would freely help, giving of herself and not asking a penny
Jenny was quick with her mind you could tell, there was an artist inside I know
As the weeks went by and she worked in class, it was delightful to see her grow
Something was not quite right, it appeared one night and it bothered me no end
My prayers were with her, but I had to do more, just let her know I was her friend
Jenny has so much to offer and is truly smart, not only that she has a really big heart
Knowing and believing just how important, she just had to know before I would part
May 18 was the last night of class, after grading the papers she made a high B
The end of May, Jenny my prized student, my wife and grandson got to see
In my plans were for her to visit with us on Leesville Road at some future date
Sometimes it is so very hard to understand that we may never control our fate
The pain was deep when today I was told, about my friend Jenny and she was gone
For she was like a rose bud growing and getting ready to bloom, it seemed so wrong
Could this be true or was it just a prank of some cruel persons twisted mind
My thoughts were spinning , I must go to Wal Mart and see what I would find
They answered my question, with what I just didn't want to hear
The call received had been true, coworkers confirmed my worst fear
It's now 2:00am this Sunday morning, tears flow, the words will not come
To think of all that she touched along her way with her special beat of the drum
Even though it was so brief this little girl provided us all a friendly smile each day
Jenny, you were a special child to me, I will always remember you in each sun ray

Your friend John

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Life on Earth

Life on Earth

**Life on this earth is only so brief
It's full of joy, trials and grief
Like a flash of lightening in a storm
And then it's gone and loved ones morn
If in that brief time you've made a dent
To make things better for others, before you went
An infinite and wonderful new life you'll enjoy
For my Jesus promises every girl and boy
All things will be opened to you and understood
This is true my friend, He promised He would
Provide light and understanding to all
That followed His teachings and His call
Profess His wonderful love and you will see
That glorious day with Jesus you will be
Guard your thoughts and your soul
Always, be you young or old.
Your road may be bumpy and rough
Study His word, you'll see through the devil's fluff
Because Satan will tempt you I have found
But with Jesus in your heart he won't stick around
Its a daily battle we all must fight
Between eternal darkness or eternal lasting light**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Life's Highway

Life's Highway

As you pave your life's highway
Try to make someone a brighter day
For acts and words are your cement
Time is the water, don't you regret
Because as you know the water will evaporate
The combination turns to stone, it won't wait
When we pave our highway right
We find it easier to sleep each night
Just to know the our each days little strip
Will make it better for someone on their trip
Your life's road you pave may be short or long
It will end, know your brother you didn't wrong
So if you have some wet cement on the road
Make it right with your brother, ease your load
It will make your highway easier to travel
And keep it from turning to dust and gravel
Patch those ruts and soft spots very fast
You'll find your road secure and will last
The road you laid through out the years
Will provide others a path and relieve fears
It will be used over and over for those yet to come
Try to make it a smooth ride, don't be a useless BUM

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Memories

Memories

When I was growing up in Tennessee as a boy
An old tobacco stick with a string was my toy
It was my trusty old horse or a fine sword
To ride the Old West or fight off a hoard
Throughout the chicken yard I would ride and play
Just having fun and pretending the whole day
As time went by and it was off to school
And learn the three R's; then to church for the Golden Rule
Some of the teaching must have taken root and stuck
Enough to fill a wheelbarrow or even a truck
For off to college I just had to go
To gain more of that knowledge if I was to grow
Excited and dumbfounded about how little I knew
A lot of midnight studying and soon I wore Blue
Yep, off to the Navy and under the Sea
An Electronics Enlisted Officer on a Submarine I was to be
The Atlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean and North Atlantic too
Were a real challenge and visiting the seaports to me were new
To this little sailor from the Tennessee Hills
They are memories to me full of opportunity and frills
Then one day while returning from a Med Cruise
One of my shipmates told me of a girl and a number to use
Why not to go to Richmond, call the girl, I could at least try
After a brief meeting on the phone I know she caught my eye
A few dates and some letters were passed in the mail
We got together and I asked for her hand, Don't let me fail
That was 36 years ago and wonderful years they have been
She has not only been a wife and a mother, but my best friend
Two wonderful children she gave me and raised them right
It makes me proud and so happy she said yes that one night
We all have memories and you have some I know
So hold them with you when the going is tough, don't let them go
Yes, we have wonderful grand kids for sure
My bride is hard at work to keep their thoughts pure
'Cause This old world has changed a lot
I just couldn't bear to see them go to pot
They won't I know for the love and teaching
Both at home and in church, honor they are preaching



MIND FOOD

MIND FOOD

**Have you ever heard a whisper in the night
Did it make you feel good or get you up tight
As you gaze at the stars and moon so bright
Did you ever wonder what a bird saw in flight
Or just sailing over the earth like a kite
Is your mind concentrating on things that are pure
Or are you looking at things wrong and need a cure
Life is so brief to be negative, worry and blame
Control your thoughts, keep the mind in the right frame
For when we don't exercise our mind each day
It's a known fact, sooner or later we must pay
Be kind and don't put yourself or others down
Only those who do not are ready for the ground
Others remember the things you've said and done
And when it's all over who do you think will have won
So keep your thoughts on a high plane
And when you're gone, my friend, you'll remain
In the hearts of all that you have touched along the way
Give folks a smile and encourage them, be it sunny or rainy day**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Mom

"Mom"

Many years ago I meet a lady named Mrs. "D"
She was the mother of my lovely wife to be
Three fine daughters she had raised
Each she was proud of and each she praised
Life not being easy for her, sometimes it was rough
Hard working providing their needs, she was tough
It didn't take long to find her real name was "Mom"
Downing her family or a Democrat, you just set off a bomb
"Mom" always has reminded me of a mother hen
About the family or politics, you just couldn't win
She looked at the world with a great deal of vision
No doubt, bringing up her family was her true mission
Washing a dish or cleaning about, she was always at bat
Helping and teaching the family, she was always doing that
Reading the Bible cover to cover, all the way though
Several times each and every year she would do
"Mom" was involved from dawn to dusk
As if she stopped for a moment she would rust
The Love that she showed each family member
Is something we all will surely remember
The grandchildren and great grandchildren too
Were each precious to her, showing pride in this crew
Shown through each time she spoke of them
As if they were Kings or Queens, high on a rim
A very few programs she'd watch on TV
She was always there to listen, even to me
Giving of her wisdom from many years on this earth
To each of her children from their day of birth
When she had done this and done her best
Jesus called her and said, "Mom" its time to rest
Thank you Dear Jesus for her long stay
We needed her to guide us on our way
"Mom" will never be forgotten by children and others
She taught us how to work together as sisters and brothers
Teaching us to never call anyone a fool
Another bit of wisdom, one more golden rule
There are pages and pages to be put down
"Mom" doesn't need them, she's wearing a Crown



John takes a look at Life via Poems

MUSIC LIFE

MUSIC LIFE

**My good friend, music is where its at
Just look around, no doubt about that
Nice and smooth it'll help you along
Nasty or hard can make you go wrong
The right words though, can pick you up
Incorrectly used can make you corrupt
The mind is like a stereo tape recorder
It'll generate pictures too in a border
In automatic it's working without even trying
Results will be yours, either happy or crying
Watch very carefully what your ear will hear
Concentrate on the things you do hold dear
Speakers are going at home, in the car or on your head
They will train your mind just like things you have read
I will tell you , my friend, it doesn't take long
The songs can change the path you may be on
Now there's nothing wrong because the tempo's upbeat
Times come when we get down, and up tempo's a treat
Upbeat can perk you up and get you going
You see those times are just part of growing
But your mind needs a real rest from that rush
Of all that information it receives from that push
It seems just a little loud and fast music is like salt
Adds to life's flavor and it's time to bring it to a halt
You can find a good mixture of music that's right for you
A little Nashville, mood, church, and a touch of rock too
But be careful, if the words are not real fine
You may be recording the Devil in your mind
If the music is suggestive and real tough
Later on your future can turn out rough
Listen for the music that makes you feel OK
Lifts you and your brother up that's what I say
The jail is full of folks who listened to the wrong songs
It twisted their minds, and contributed to their wrongs
You should understand when the songs are just right
They can bring you close to Heaven like a bird in flight
The Music heard can pick you up or put you way down
It can pick you up like a king or slam you to the ground**



MY OLD VAN

MY OLD VAN

**When I started looking for something to drive
I looked to my left at the stop light I'd arrived
There it was conversion and all, it was really nice
If they would just come down on the asking price?
Kicked the tires and talked a bit
Told the man it was a good fit
Offered him my best deal, thought he would flip
He groaned, but said OK, he was going on a trip
In very short order I drove away
As a matter of fact, I drive it today
Better than 180 thousand on my Dodge Van
It will still giddy up go and keep oil in the pan
This old van has been all over the place
It may not be perky and not win a race
But it'll take you there and get you back
Carry a load with all the folks you can pack
Could use some work and a cleaning up too
But for now and a little while longer, it will do
It's for sure I know some day it'll give up and die
Probably going down the road that engine will fry
But for now it's got on some new shoes
Most everything is working, I see no clues
It doesn't have air and the tape player is gone
You see that's about all I can say is wrong
Please old Van, don't give up, give it your best
Cause when you stop moving, I'll put you to rest**



New Business

New Business

Here I sit in a Burger Hut
Feeling life's pressure and in a rut
Just enough money for a burger and coffee too
Thinking about just what I should do
Gotta be a way to make some bread
And have a little fun for I'm dead
And all of a sudden it came to me
With a little more effort what I could be
What it was you'll never guess
It would astound most folks more or less
How could I have ever thought of it?
Catching all the sneezes and storing in a pit
Mix them up and color them just so
Sell them by MLM, it would make some dough
Market big ones and little ones for sure
Red, blue, green and yellow they'd be pure
Money in the bank from folks all around
And the raw material is free in every town
Wouldn't cost much to get a warehouse full
I could box them up and advertise this bull
Somebody would buy them I know
So when they had a cold they wouldn't blow

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Off to the Mall

Off to the Mall

When I get weary and down in the dumps
Yea, when I am tired of just taking the lumps
I know how to get myself fixed for sure
I know how to pick me up and get a cure
Just jump in the car and off to the mall
No doubt the dumps will go, I'll have a ball
And just because I've got no money to use
I've got lots of plastic to drive away the blues
Even though I know there's a reckoning day
And deep in my mind sooner or later I'll pay
It sure feels good going from store to store
I just can't help it and just buy more
Cause the sale is today and I saved a ton
It's as if some fantastic prize I've just won
Maybe you too have experienced this feeling before
To just shop and shop till they close the door
Then the bill comes and your stunned to say the least
To realize just how much you spent on that mall feast
So you say to yourself I'll never do that again
But later you find you're off to the mall with a friend
The cycle goes on until you find yourself in so deep
Some folks find it's too late and it's no good to weep
For all the things you bought are nothing but stuff
And it's time to work like a dog, it may even get rough
And when you finally get all the bills paid off in full
Don't take plastic to the mall when you feel that pull!



John takes a look at Life via Poems

Patience

Patience

I wonder if you would mind and it would okay
If Jesus had the patience we show others each day
Thinking of the little people, children you know
Do we take time to listen and be gentle as they grow
Or are we so caught up in our own life
And mostly ignore their questions and strife
The sad thing about the whole thing can be
They will treat others the same and mirror me
Will it cause them to remember and be up tight
If that happens they will be quick to anger and fight
Who can we blame, no one but ourselves
That's what they learned as the toys go on shelves
It's only a very short window of time to teach
Each new child the right way to go and goals to reach
Let's all take the time to listen and understand
What the little people try to tell us the best they can
They are people too and trying so hard to find
All the love and understanding and improve their mind
Spanking must be reserved as a last resort
Or the limited patience may draw the court
To quick it happens and there out with a group
With classmates throwing a ball through a hoop
Learning how to get along with others, the right ones I hope
Because when they stray or do bad, you know it's hard to cope



Pear Tree

Pear Tree

**As the pear tree grows with branches and all
It bears fruit so plentiful and if some does not fall
It's branches bend and if all the fruit holds tight
They feel the strain, but hold on with all their might
If some fruit is not picked or branch provided support
The branch will break, a fact I'll report
It dies and is no more a part of the tree
For all dead branches must be set free
Even if it's propped up via external source
It's all bent and warped by internal force
The only part of the tree to survive
Is the Center staff strait and tall, It's alive
To each of us it's a great lesson to learn
Grow your branches strong before you yearn
To enjoy the fruits of your daily task
Share those fruits with others when asked
The branches of life will grow lasting and strong
Your fruit will be sweeter you can't go wrong
It's all about sharing and being a friend indeed
Others will share with you when you're in need
If we don't our branches will break and the fruit will rot
Be thankful for your life's fruits and you'll want not**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Reach From The Grave

Reach From The Grave

My life's desire is while I'm here
To let others know I hold them dear
Can I in some positive manner show
A few million folks the right way to go
Are the things each day I have said and done
Been very worthwhile to help others one by one
Will the actions in my life reach from the grave
Be of value to provide hope and let them be brave
Showing the love and caring now, then when I die
Let warm memories flow like a sun as looking at sky
With each thing that I do will the memories be pure
Can't a person's life continue in others and endure
With this new age of networks, computers and such
Will things we've done and written help others much
Are the people yet unborn going to use this ability
Will it provide them needed data and tranquillity
There is not a problem or feeling that one has had
That a million others haven't experienced and felt bad
So we must use the history of those and find a way
To get through it, take heed, and have a better day
Our brief time on earth is full of change and things new
But in reality they remain the same and the sky is still blue
So treat every man, woman and child with tender care
Always attempt to walk in their shoes and be very fair



John takes a look at Life via Poems

Rope Climbing

Rope Climbing

Never give up hope
You're not at the end of your rope
Just look around
In any little town
Many would love to take your place
They are missing and a dream do chance
Might be an eye, leg or an arm
You can see they offer you no harm
Could they be missing a family to love
They keep on drawing strength from above
Might be they don't have a place to live
Or a dollar for food but still a smile they give
Many through not fault of their own
A company downsized and they lost a home
Or born with a defective or missing part
However, they hang on and give their heart
To others they pass on their way
Keeping hope that tomorrow's a better day
Take a deep breath and work on a plan
To help a brother in need, give a hand
Find a little humor in each day
Very quickly you'll see how it will pay
You can climb back up that rope
Keep on trying and never give up hope

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Sharing

Sharing

It's not working any more
Not for the working people, they are poor
Big boys at the top of the heap
Seem to be the only ones to reap
I'll tell you now and I'll tell you true
That day will come when everyone is through
The reward is coming to all for sure
When it's all over there isn't a cure
Ya better take a look at your roll
Or you may never get to see Streets O'Gold
All we need to do is love and play fair
Show a little kindness and you care
Don't keep on keeping and showing your greed
Share with others in their need
There are things better than money and stuff
Too many good folks are having it rough

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

Soul Medicine

Soul Medicine

Humor is medicine for body and soul
It will surely keep you from growing old
Humor protects you from disease and such
It's free and doesn't take much
Humor can diffuse anger and hate
So go ahead; try it, please don't wait
Laugh at the little things in life.
It will reduce those things of strife
Those things that offer you stress
Will turn into fun and affect you less.
It's for sure your immune system will improve.
You'll gain energy and stay on the move.
Don't be so serious about your life
Spend those precious moments with husband or wife
Others remember people that made them feel good
And I know you can if only you would.
A good old deep down belly laugh a day
Will pick you up in a very special way
Make the world a better place for you and me
An open mind and a positive attitude is the key.
Just do it, before it's too late
And you meet St. Peter at the Gate.

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

The Child

The Child

Look at the sunshine in a child's face
When the child is happy regardless of race
John, Bill, Susan, Ann, Paige or whatever their name
Black, white, red or yellow it's the same
Full of life, energy and delightful hope
They can make a toy with a stick or rope
Money and the things adults seem to like
Aren't as much fun as a homemade kite
What lessons can we all learn
From a happy child, that's what we yearn
But, Oh how many times we fail to understand
The needs of a little girl or little man
Many times our answers are in haste
And results in a sad expression, such a waste
The children try so desperately to get through
And in our adult wisdom we seem to do
A covering of the sunshine they warm us with.
Please listen to a child with imagination and heart
For soon they will grow up and you will part
Make sure you have learned and taught them right
And they will always remember and hug you tight
The love of a child you cannot buy
They demand your time and in return will always try
To respect you and your wishes for sure
That child will grow to be honest, helpful and pure.

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

THOUGHTS

THOUGHTS

If other people could look in your mind
Would they be surprised at what they'd find
If they were to take a look at each little thought
Would it be indicative of what your were taught
Just letting someone take a peek inside
Would it be OK, Is there nothing to hide
Are pure thoughts and high goals in your head
Or maybe a few that would be better off dead
This is a good news, bad news story for sure
Cause if you find some problem, here's a cure
Play the bad thoughts back like a picture show
Reprogram them all, erase some too, let them go
Others and your body will see you in a better light
You can now move forward and not be up tight
The life you now live will be more fun
Cause bad thoughts can be a loaded gun
Each tick of the clock can be more productive
And keep your life from being disruptive
Every morning will bring a time to excel
The Father has given, why worry about hell
He will give you everything you may need
Don't ignore Him, and grow up like a weed
We've all been given some rules to follow
If we don't get in the hog lot and wallow
Deeds and thoughts will be recorded and read
He taught how to keep pure thoughts in our head



John takes a look at Life via Poems

Time

Time

We only have now and nothing more
Both the future and the past are another door
It's how we use each moment in time
That moves us forward and through the prime
Each of us is allotted a special amount
How we use it is what really will count.
We can shorten this time by action
But never add to it even with traction.
If your life clock was to now stop
Are you ready, what was your crop
Was it beautiful like a flower
Or will it be wasted and non-existent power
remember when others walk over you today
Sooner or later they will have to pay
Kind, loving and caring is how to go
Knowing others you have helped and seen the glow
In their hearts you'll always survive
Within them you are sure to be alive

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

The Time is Now

The Time is Now

**God is real
Here's the deal
He sent His Son
To die for everyone
His name was Jesus
He still lives in each of us
He died in an awful place to save us by His Grace
Though His tomb is empty space
He ascended to heaven to take his place
Oh the horror that shows on His face
The suffering he endured to save the Human race
The very people he loved did betray
This precious gift on that very day
His entire life on earth did convey
How we are to live and show others the way
For those that will listen, don't delay
Let His teachings through us display
Travel along life's highway
Listen to the Spirit and obey
Give your life to Jesus
He will show His love and use us
A special place he'll provide
And we'll live forever by His side**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

VIP

VIP

You too can be great
You make the choice to determine your fate
Put high goals in your mind
And you'll be surprised what you'll find
Spend your time helping your fellow man
And your dreams will fall in your hand
Be kind and gentle and hard working too
You'll be delighted what happens to you
I'm not saying its all sugar and spice
Because some folks will not treat you nice
If you always look to the positive side
Your life will fair much better on its ride
The love you show to all you meet
Will some day prove the right way to defeat
Even those that hurt you on your way
They just might turn around and be a friend some day
Just keep on trying with the real you in control
Look to the heavens and wonders can unfold
Don't let others pull you into the dirt
For if you do you'll surely get hurt
Take a good look around and see where you are
Do you really need a Rolls Royce car
So many others are in real need
You can help, do a good deed
The pay back is many times over
The feeling you helped will put you in clover
You are such an important person you see
To everyone you meet, including me
You're important to the plan that has been put in place
Keep on track and don't just become wasted space



Volunteer

Volunteer

**There is a time in everyone's career
To show your love for others and volunteer
You don't really have to look far
Just look around, you don't even need a car
So many need your attention and help
Most do the best they can with never a whelp
Just a word of encouragement may do the deed
Some only require your love, some you must feed
The winter when it's bitter and cold
Some can't find real warmth when sick and old
Some require someone who cares to guide
Some need groceries or just a ride
Some want to go to church to pray
Do you think you can help them on that day
Have you ever felt the pain and been alone
Have you ever been cold, hungry and had no home
Do others treat you with great respect
What do you think your maker would expect
All people are precious souls to God
On these down and in need we better not trod
The time will come when you'll cry out
Then, my friend, you'll know what I'm talking about.**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

"What Then"

"What Then"

With Government taking more and more each day
With fewer and fewer jobs, who's going to pay
Both Companies and Government lost their loyalty
They both seem to think they are Royalty
Why do the Company and Government officials
Feel their job deserves such pay for their credentials
Why not be realistic and use a ten to one Rule
Ten times the lowest salary is a better school
Today the man on the bottom never gets a chance
To really do the basics and have time for romance
Some must work three jobs at minimum pay
To support his family in a very meager way
Something has happened to us indeed
When we turn our heads to those in need
My friend, that's always been called greed
When some cannot their family's feed
While the officials bask in the sun at a foreign beach
With money they have sucked from us like a leach
We have all been told each child on this earth
Was supposed to be equal at birth
But equality doesn't apply to some it seems
Hard and honest work, Yet never see their dreams
I guess it will all come to a head
That's for sure, when we all are dead
Of all the hearse I've seen on the road
I've never seen it pulling a U-Haul It with a load
If you are one of the officials mentioned above
Stop and think about what you can do to show love.



John takes a look at Life via Poems

Seeds in the brain

Seeds in the brain

If it doesn't go in your mind, it can't come out
Moral, healthful training is what its all about
The mind contains many dormant seeds
Some beautiful flowers, some are weeds
Cultivate those that are pure and right
They will help you through a stormy night
Let the many weeds in your mind die
Cause in the future they could make you cry
Choose your friends in a careful way
You'll see in the long run it will pay
Everything in life is not black or white
There are many shades of gray in the light
As your life may be as waves in the ocean
Steer a straight course, avoid the emotion
Hold the great times and fun times dear
So you can call them back year after year
Fear not the storms that may be ahead
You can weather them, hold to the one you wed
Just stop from time to time, examine your seeds
Have they grown as you have, or are there still weeds
Watch and enjoy the garden in your head
I hope its full of roses yellow, white and red.

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

A New RV

A New RV

**If I can have one wish in heaven, it would be
To have a brand new RV to drive and to see
All the ones before me I never have met
Take my grandparents, mother and Mom and let
Them enjoy all the majestic wonders to behold
We'd pick up Aunt Pearl, have a Rook game untold
Yes Juanita, Uncle Arch and Clifford could go
We will have a time in the mountains and valley low
Yes, there will be pickin' and singing' day and night
We wouldn't miss a note and get it right
My RV wouldn't need gas or oil to run
It'll run on love and the joy of such fun
We'd go to the river for Aunt Pearl to fish
Uncle Bill will clean them and put in a dish
Uncle Ralph and I would go hunting I know
Get some rabbits, ducks and squirrels with our bow
Maw-Maw would have a big watermelon in the creek
To cool just right and have ready for us to cut and eat
Our million year ride would be only a start
Cause in Heaven we'll be together and never part
As those left behind come to join us there
It can only get better; God answers our prayer
But for now, we all have things to do down here
Accept His grace and believe, there's nothing to fear**

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

WORDS

WORDS

The most powerful thing around is words
We all use them everyday, even the nerds
The very context we use our words in can be key
The facial expressions change the meaning you see
The brain will not only record the word that is spoken
How you say it can be mending or a friendship broken
The words used as we speak can be humor
or imply some bad deed and start a rumor
Words unsaid can change what we mean
and make someone else look like a fiend
We should always use enough, but not too many
Or what we say may not be worth a penny
Words can build folks up or tear them down
Those words we say seem to get all around town
Gossip is like a real hot meltdown in a reactor
Once said, it can't be pulled back with a tractor
Those words are like atoms and fusion in time
Their half life is infinite, non-stopable in brine
Good things said seem to have a much shorter half life
So use them freely, they will act as a lifelong cooling pipe
Share the more positive things we find to expound
Will put you in a better light with all those around
Many of those folks will return the favor you'll find
Regardless, you'll feel better and have peace of mind

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John takes a look at Life via Poems

GOOD NIGHT

GOOD NIGHT

A very silly poem I had to write
To free your mind and let you sleep tonight
I always wondered why
That bumble bees can fly
They really can't you know
They just fan those wings and go
Chet Atkins plays 3 parts on the guitar when he plays
Nobody told him there were 3 people playing those days
He just listened to the radio and heard the song
Little Chet just practiced until he got nothing wrong
So good night, go to sleep and get some rest
Tomorrow's another day, you can do your best
You have it in you to do great things and excel
Just try a little harder tomorrow at the sun's bell.

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John takes a look at Life via Poems