

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Gone Country

My Christmas Ramblings

By Mikie Baker

The Bandera Prophet

I have a Mission Statement. Yeah, I'm that weird. My life's mission (which I probably figured out in my 40s thanks to Tony Roberts' cassette tapes, a notebook and a bottle of wine) is to Spread Laughter Throughout the World. Heck, plenty of comedians have lived to be 100, so I'm no dummy.

I really think it's important to laugh more in life than complain or cry. The glass should always be half full, but the other half should be filled with laughter.

Taking care of Dearly Demented Mom for seven years taught me how much love comes back to you if you have the right attitude about the whole situation. Laughing your way through caregiving, I've found, is the best medicine.

This year has been a particularly hard one for My Future Husband and me. He was a strong man who could take care of a 22-acre ranch and me as well. He wasn't letting the Old Man in until the Old Man kicked in the door and took over our lives.

I have never mentioned any details in my columns this year because you really don't want to hear me whine or worry - you want a giggle, a smile, or a story to pass on. And that's what I want, too.

Trust it to say, we've seen enough emergency rooms, hospitals, rehabs, therapists, and EMS to last the rest of our lives. MFH never thought the day would come he wouldn't be able to handle this whole ranch and me as well.

We've managed to wander down this road while I still found funny things in everyday life. In fact, that's the only thing that's held me together, other than being a damn fine caregiver. I was trained by the best, Dearly Demented Mom.

So, I guess my point is that if you've ever found the humor in something to just keep you going, those are the moments that are most important in this world. As dire as things have been the last couple of years, we've all come out of it loving, celebrating, and most importantly, laughing.

If you'd also like to give something to make someone else's day bright, please consider giving to your local nonprofit which makes a huge difference in people's lives. My everyday job is raising money for our local Meals on Wheels program, which does amazing things for seniors. Every time I open a donation envelope, it's another Christmas gift for our seniors – just as most of us are now becoming.

Or just make a gift to someone you know who needs help, even though they'd never ask for it. Sometimes all that's needed is a helping hand to get through a tough time. We all have that gift inside of us.

As we look forward to a New Year (boy the two of us could really use a new one), remember to laugh, help others less fortunate than you, and to hold dearly those you love because you just never know when the Old Man is going to come calling.

And thank you so much for sharing a laugh with me this year. Let's keep laughing together through all the years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!