

September 7, 2025

## TELL ME A STORY

If there's anything that is true about older generations, it's that they love to tell stories—stories of good times, stories of how the world used to be, stories of laughter and of tears. There are funny stories that you will hear over and over again. There are stories of the past that will blow your mind as you try to comprehend what it would have been like to live in such a world. There are stories of fish caught and deer shot that seem to grow bigger with every telling.

In the family of God, the stories people seem to love telling the most are of when God came through. One of my grandfather's favorites is how he grew up in a very poor family in southern Iowa, and yet God provided for his impossible dream. The family of seven lived in a tiny little house that still had an outhouse all the way to the 1960s. Their car was so old that there were holes in the floor they had to make sure they didn't fall through. But this country boy felt the call to the ministry, and that meant something that had never been attempted in his family before: college. He knew there was no way he or his parents would be able to afford it, and a big part of him just wanted to give up.

But at a backyard Bible program, he heard of an organization that would pay tuition for college for any student that could memorize 500 verses in a year. My grandfather managed to find a way to Moody Bible Institute and four years later graduated with a bachelor's degree and 2,000 verses committed to memory. He later went on to get his master's degree, served in the ministry for many years, and then served on the Tri-State Central Board for the Evangelical Free Church, where he is still remembered as a man of God and of the people.

God provided for my grandfather's needs in a way that went above and beyond his wildest expectations. And God has done the same for countless people across the generations. Great is His faithfulness.

What is your story? How has God provided for you? And what about the stories of the older generations in your church? Sit at their feet and know that the God who provided for them will also take care of you.

Mrs. Leeanna Lunn  
AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education  
Upsala, Minnesota

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