

## Two Sheets of Toilet Paper

In the last year I have had the rich blessing of assisting and tending to Grandpa McKay and Grandpa Stevenson while they were in circumstances that required someone to help them in such basic things as getting dressed, taking a shower or using the bathroom. Grandpa McKay of course was dying from cancer. His health got to the point where he needed some one to help him get out of bed and take him to the shower or to use the toilet. While Grandpa Stevenson was in the hospital for his heart operation he needed similar help during his recovery. I was grateful for the opportunity to be there and to help where needed.

I noticed something very curious about both of these two great men while tending to their needs. When it came time to perform their normal, bodily functions, they would only use about two or three sheets of toilet paper. I wondered at the time why they were so skimpy on the quilted, soft Charmin. Later it dawned on me that we come from a very different generation than they did. We come from a time period where there was and still is wonderful prosperity, where we have pretty much anything we want and as much of it as we want. Both our grandparents come from times when money and material possessions have been very, very scarce.

Grandpa McKay grew up at a time when farming was hard and underpaid work. Additionally, his father passed away when he was age 16. Grandpa Stevenson lived during the depression and still remembers the lines of unemployed men looking for any type of work at all. Food was hard to come by. I think both of these men and their siblings and wives learned to appreciate what they did have and to be frugal. "Waste not, want not" was a way of life for them.

We have had it so good for so long, we just can't comprehend what their generation has been through. We have taken for granted the incredible temporal blessings we so abundantly enjoy. I had to use the term because of self-incrimination, but, we have become fat and lazy. I believe there is plenty of room for all of us to cut back a little and conserve. We need to incorporate some of the frugality that our older generation has exemplified. We can do a better job of making our priorities and determining if we are considering a "want" or a "need".

President Harold B. Lee came from some very humble beginnings. To quote him, "Our home had everything that money could not buy". Those of his time learned to not waste yet have had some of the most joyous and happy times available to anyone.

We all have to start somewhere. I don't know about you, but I think I am going to cut back to about four or five sheets from now on and just be plain grateful we even have toilet paper in the first place.