

View from Menzies Mountain
By Bruce Menzies

“Springtime in the Ozarks”

Springtime is here and it's time to shake off the hazy shade of winter blues and celebrate more moderate weather. There's not a better place to celebrate spring than in the Ozarks! Springtime in the country means nights that are full of stars and refreshingly brisk but days made perfect by the warmth of the sun.

Springtime in the lakes country offers a proven remedy for cabin fever and escape from the inside confines to freedom of the outdoors. The promise of adventure and discovery lies ahead. Spring Break from schools offer a chance to bring grandkids to the Ozarks to discover everything from Dogwoods and Redbuds blooming to all of Branson's 2013 season of family-friendly entertainment.

I hope you were inspired by President Reagan's speech (from page one) he gave before a joint session of congress back in 1984—otherwise known as the State of the Union speech. You'll remember President Reagan was known as the “great communicator.” He could connect with ordinary Americans. Others have said he could look *through* the camera as if he was talking to you alone. Another said President Reagan became one of “history's heroes long before his death.” Finally, one of the best tributes was from his son Michael Reagan saying, “He played an important role in pointing me to God. I am secure in the knowledge that he is with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven. The greatest gift my father ever gave me was the simple knowledge that I would see him in heaven one day.”

Are you ready? People from coast to coast are preparing for the unexpected, whether it be a natural disaster, a man-made calamity, or even—dare I say--*the new world order*. Being ready can include little things like simply having a snow shovel in your trunk to storing rations and ammo to ride out The Great Tribulation. I have noticed a surge in interest on this subject. There are emergency preparedness trade shows, magazines, Websites (galore), and television shows to help you buy your emergency supplies of food, water, communication devices, etc. Beginning this issue on pages 8-9, we will start providing useful information on the subject. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), “Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disaster, and sometimes avoid the danger completely.”

Most emergencies don't allow time for people to assemble even the most basic items, which is why folks are becoming "preppers." Like the Boy Scouts have encouraged for years—Be Prepared!

Several readers offered nice comments on last issue's article on Ozark Airlines. Ozark served our region well for many years. After a little arm-twisting, my friend Michael Hamilton reluctantly gave permission to publish a wonderful testimony of divine intervention concerning Ozark Airlines Flight 809. Read the story for yourself on page 5 and feel the hair rise on the back of your neck.

I hope you are enjoying reading the pages of Senior Moments newspaper. I am having fun publishing them. I usually don't know how the pages will turn out until I set down at the computer and begin. Often pages will be redesigned more than once. In the future when the budget permits I'll have a professional graphic artist with an eye towards color, balance, scale, etc., but for now I'll have to wing-it and change things on the fly. If you have suggestions, comments, or questions, please Email me at bjmenzies@msn.com. As always, if you find something factually incorrect or a misspelling, please Email me and point it out to me, I'd appreciate it.

I hope this spring you feel a sense of expectancy. In spite of all the negative news published I hope you feel something good is going to happen. I've read the last page of The Good Book—we win! I hope you too feel that an Unseen Hand is guiding our lives towards a golden day. Maybe this year will be the year that even unbelievers will come to believe an eternal truth—God is a good God and He loves you!

Until summer arrives and we meet again on this page, I'd like to offer a soft of blessing written by Meredith Wilson in 1950:

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You

May the good Lord bless and keep you whether near or far away.
May you find that long awaited golden day today.
May your troubles all be small one, and your fortune ten times ten.
May the good Lord bless and keep you 'til we meet again.

May you walk with the sunlight shining and a blue bird in every tree.
May there be silver lining back of every cloud you see.
Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows. Never mind what might have been.
May the good Lord bless and keep you 'till we meet again.

Have a nice spring—Bruce Menzies

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