

## **U – Turn Lavern** by Cory Collins

For many years while I lived in Nashville, Tennessee, I would hear the familiar voice of “U-Turn LaVern.” She was the radio traffic reporter. Little did I know then of the major gender crisis that had gone on in her life. Through junior high and into high school, LaVern wished she had been born a boy. She did boy stuff and had no interest in more typically feminine activities. And she grew into a very large woman.

In her own words:

“You see, I am over six feet tall and very large framed. I wear a size thirteen shoe. My hands are as large as any man my height. I was always told I had a pretty face but the fullness on my frame tended to make me look less pretty and just attractive.

“So for many years I wondered. Did God make a mistake?

“Life was very difficult at times and the scars of adolescent taunts, a very low self-esteem and deep, deep loneliness took its toll for many years but that was the journey God had for me. “I am so thankful I was not approached by anyone that might have worked to convince me I was not what God made me to be and I wonder often, what if?

“It’s a journey I am thankful was accompanied by parents, peers and mentors that taught me God does not make mistakes.”

Think about it. If LaVern were growing up today, secularists would likely urge her to explore her gender identity and to consider a change. With her doubts about being female, her desire to be male, and her low self-image, she might have been drawn to become trans-gendered. Instead she believed what Moses wrote in Gen 1:26-27 and Jesus affirmed in Matt 19:1-9. It is God the Creator who makes a person male or female. He does not make mistakes.

So LaVern chose to make the most out of being what God made her to be: a woman! As a result, now in her 50s, she has been married well over twenty-five years and is the mother of four.

Did LaVern make the U-turn? She did not!

As a result, she has found joy in God’s creation and design.

She goes on to write:

“I am so thankful my path was exactly as it was.

“I am so thankful that eventually it was a path that led me to a man, my husband that filled the deep loneliness with a love so complete I can’t imagine life without him.

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That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

June 26, 2016

### **WELCOME!**

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

*The flowers appear  
on the earth,  
the time of singing  
has come*



### **Today’s Sermon: Where Does the Ark Belong?**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org**  
**aicoc.org**

**Scripture: Psalm 132:1-9**

**Hymns: 119** Behold What Manner of Love; **123** The Steadfast Love; **136** Love For All; **139** In Heavenly Love Abiding; **117** God Is The Fountain Whence

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class Summer Party, Tuesday, June 28 at 12 noon.** This will be the last meeting of the summer, at Sandy's house, and will include a dish-to-pass meal. Sandy will provide meat and drinks.
- **Next Potluck- July 17<sup>th</sup>.**



- **Dave and Lynne Laton** from the Prattville, AL church are spending another week in their camper in Tunkhannock while Dave preaches in the Endless Mountains church. There are 23 people from AL that have come up to help them with a VBS this week. Don and Judy Myers and the Tim Mann family will be coming in early July to help with the preaching there.

### Cont'd from back page:

"I am still a tomboy. I struggle to identify with many of the women in my life.

"I had a conversation with a co-worker just last year. I was concerned about my inability to connect with a couple of the women I was working with. I told him I could not understand why they seemed to not like me, why they almost seemed uncomfortable around me. His response still makes me laugh. He said, 'Well LaVern, you're basically a dude! You're intimidating.'

"So still, as basically a dude, I am completely and fully a girl, a woman.

"Fully and completely comfortable with who and what God made me to be.

"I still detest dressing like a woman. I hate dresses and frills.

"I spend as much time as possible in my favorite muck boots and weathered tattered clothes working outside, getting as dirty as possible.

"I'm proud my hands look like hands that work, not like a man but like a woman.

"A woman that may be a bit rough around the edges but make no mistake, "I love working with my hands till they are rough and worn.

Still one-hundred percent woman.

"The woman God made me to be.

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"Perfect but flawed.

"And praying without ceasing for those still on the journey to find peace and understanding of their own flawed perfection and the perfect plan God has for them."

Thank you, "U-Turn LaVern," for showing us that some U-turns are the wrong turns, and for reminding us that God's path is always right.

## PRAYERS...

- Pray for Lori Kashorek, who has lung cancer and is being treated with chemo.
- Darlene Elsbree gives a prayer of thanks that she got a job!
- Pray for success for Emily Barry in getting a good job.
- Please pray for the continued outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA.
- Patty and Ruthie Albro ask for prayers for their stepmother, Claire, who is receiving chemo and radiation treatments for lung, stomach and kidney cancer.
- Lift our family and friends up in prayer who need to be saved or restored to faith.
- Pray for our country, the upcoming election, and our Christian example to the rest of the world during these times. Help us to take advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel.
- Prayers for the victims and families of victims of the wildfire in CA and the floods in TX and WV.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

**barncat7237@gmail.com** or text or call (607) 261-0911.

Peace is the presence of God in our lives,  
not the absence of trouble.

