

One-Liners.....That Changed My Life!

1 “*Swim with the current!*”

I was about eleven years old, and attending a summer camp. I was about to have my own first-hand encounter with death.

Everything went well until Sunday afternoon. We were swimming in the river where they had dredged out the sand. Without realizing it, the current was taking us away from the sandbar where we had congregated. Suddenly it seemed the river was full of floundering, yelling boys who were trying to swim upstream and get back to the safety of the sandbar where we had been standing.

I still recall looking up and seeing a cloud and wondering if it was the last cloud I would ever see, and then hearing a voice call out from the bank, “*Swim with the current!*” After turning and going with the river, I could gradually move to the bank, and safety.

But one young camper did not make it. The next few days we heard them set off explosives trying to raise the drowned boy’s body. The episode climaxed by us all attending his funeral.

The experience left me with a new sense of my own mortality and provided a myriad of lessons I have pondered and used many times during later years—including listening to others, not fighting against God’s current in life, and the power of a simple statement.

I am eternally grateful to that man. I wish he could have attended our family reunion on my 90th Birthday last August and met all our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren he also saved!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin