

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

42 ***“We have time! Isn’t that wonderful? We have time!”***

I was looking for new direction in my late forties. Since I knew no older spiritual grandfather figure locally, I decided to call Dr. Elton Trueblood, (who was probably in his seventies at the time), a widely known writer, speaker, pastor and professor at a small Christian college.

Although I was totally unknown to him, he welcomed my call and invited me to come for a visit. I’ll never forget his opening comment which was so unusual in our hurried, harried world: ***“We have time! Isn’t that wonderful? We have time!”***

He gave me his undivided attention that day, and several other times over the years. He was the first to encourage me to write and offered to critique my work which began my effort to relate the teachings of Jesus and the Bible to everyday life. He helped me comprehend the power and lasting effect of writing, saying, “You can walk with the ‘greats’. All you have to do is to take them off the shelves.” And he challenged me head-on when I said *the* minister, as he pointed his finger at me and said emphatically, “Don’t ever say *the* minister—every believer is a minister!”

This wise older man’s openness, wisdom and gracious pouring out of himself into a younger seeker gave me a model I had never known. It also gave me confidence to seek out other, wise older men who had time and wisdom they were willing to share.

And it made me want to be that same kind of older man!

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. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin