



Passages

Do you remember the TV show MacGyver from 'way back in the 80s and early 90s? At our house we don't watch TV and haven't for many years, so I never saw MacGyver at that time, and then Jason, who lives in my dad's little house, brought us the DVDs of all seven seasons, and after one episode, we were hooked. Currently we are about to start Season 6, so we are in pre-mourning that the end is coming soon.

The last episode of Season 5 is called "Passages", a name that suggests someone or ones are going to enter a passage, probably to the other side . . . of life and death. My suspicions proved true, and what followed became a surprisingly emotional experience that drew me into the complex emotions one experiences when confronted by the death of someone very close, like a family member.

In brief, MacGyver was a remarkable guy who could do almost anything to solve problems, including problems involving his own capture and near death at the hands of the Bad Guys. His main weapon is his trusty Swiss Army knife (I've always carried the smallest one).

MacGyver's grandfather Harry taught him how to think and how to do many things, and so he used those basics when learning about physics, chemistry, how things work, etc. He is extremely able to work himself or others out of just about any jam using his knowledge and ingenuity.

Early in MacGyver's life, both of his parents died, leaving him with a life-long load of rage and guilt that he wasn't there for them when they died. He was then raised by his grandfather but in his adulthood was separated from him by half the continent due to his work, adding another level of guilt at not being more present in his grandfather's life. At the beginning of this episode, Harry has had a heart attack and is in the hospital in Minnesota. MacGyver is going crazy trying to find a flight to go to him.

There are no immediate flights available, and MacGyver and his employer The Phoenix Foundation are committed to helping return a valuable artifact from an American museum to Egypt. At the moment the artifact is being handed off to the Egyptians, a Bad Guy manages to steal the piece before their very eyes, and MacGyver comes along just at the right time to chase him.

Normally that would end in MacGyver saving the piece after a chase, after some gunfire or knife cuts, or temporary captivity at the hands of the Bad Guys, but this time

MacGyver loses the fight and is thrown over the edge of a parking garage, from several stories up. He lands flat on his back on the roof of a parked car, and severely injured, ends up in a coma in the hospital.

MacGyver surfaces to consciousness just long enough to see the Bad Guy with the Egyptians. Even though he can't speak and sinks back into his coma, the Bad Guys know they have to eliminate him. They manage to inject a poison in MacGyver's IV, which causes his heart to stop.

As the doctors fight to keep MacGyver alive, MacGyver finds himself at the dock of a huge ocean liner, with people on board waving goodbye to people on the dock. MacGyver meets his grandfather Harry there, who bids him goodbye, but tells him his long-dead parents are also on board the ship. MacGyver just has to board and see his parents, but he is blocked since his name is not on the ship's manifest and it's not his time anyway. He is so insistent on seeing his parents that somehow his name appears



on the list, and he boards, with the warning that once you board you cannot leave. "So I'm dead?" he asks. "Yes, this is the nether world. Once you board, you cannot leave."

What follows is a touching scene with MacGyver reuniting with his parents and resolving his regrets and guilt with their help. They urge MacGyver to leave the ship and return to shore since there are people there who need his help and will die without him. When he realizes the truth of that warning, he decides he should return, but now the ship's crew won't let him. They lock MacGyver and his grandfather in an engine room, and he manages to free himself and Harry from captivity.

Harry then tells MacGyver that he himself cannot return with MacGyver because it is his own time to take the voyage on that ship. MacGyver must return to the dock alone.

During his time on the ship, the show switches back and forth between MacGyver's visit to his parents and the doctors working to save his life in the hospital. It becomes clear that the ship is a metaphor for death and the passage to the next life, the unknown. MacGyver himself is wavering between life and death - will he stay

on the ship? When he finally escapes the ship, it's because the doctors successfully identified the poison he was given, treated it, and resuscitated him. He returns to his earthly body and the show ends with him in a wheelchair, back with his close friends, preparing to fight the good fight again.

I can't tell you why this story hit me so hard. Certainly it touched deep emotions most of us experience when we lose people we love, especially the guilt that we didn't do enough or weren't there at the end for that person. We have no way to express our regrets and our love at that point, since we are separated by an impenetrable veil.

There was no reference to God or Heaven, no religious or Christian cliches, no cheap answers to those questions we all have about our ultimate destinations. I was glad for that. It was almost like the script writer said, "You fill in the blanks". Where was the ship headed? Who were the people on it? What WILL happen when I draw my last breath? Where will I go after this life ends?

It's scary to think of that unless one is grounded in faith in the true Living God through Jesus the Christ. He assures those of us whose names are written in His Book of Life that we will share eternal life with Him, without tears, sorrow, or pain. Beyond that, He lets us speculate about the details, but we won't know until our time has come and we are called to board the ship.

Please be sure that YOUR name is in His Book of Life by committing your life to Him NOW.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former

things have passed away." (Rev. 21:3-4)

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come."

And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Rev. 22:17)

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)

Linda Gammel

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, MARCH 31st
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State, and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

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TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**

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THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I CAN DO OR SAY



THAT WILL GET THESE PEOPLE TO ACTUALLY ROOT FOR AMERICA FOR A CHANGE

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

We're gonna have to paint potatoes this Easter ya'll.



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