

Story Time

by Delores Campbell

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Laughing and Singing and Chasing Flies

Back when I was working at Century, there was a woman named Judy, whom I shared morning devotions with before we began working. One morning, someone talking to us asked us, "Who was Jeremiah? Judy replied, "He was a bull frog!" (According to Three Dog Night's *Joy to the World*)

Later, I said something about Ebenezer Methodist Church and she said, "Well, that is where Gerald Frye goes to church." She went on to say that Gerald was a nice fellow. Carolyn was sitting at her sewing machine, and I said, "I guess you know that Carolyn is his sister." Judy said that she didn't know that. She turned around and asked Carolyn why she hadn't told her that she was Gerald's sister. Carolyn said, "Because you didn't ask me." She went on to say, "I'm not at all like Gerald, am I?" Judy said, "No."

Mary Lynn, Gerald and Billy Wayne are trying to practice a song called, "When It Comes to Love, You Don't Count the Cost." The first day Mary Lynn didn't show up, so Billy Wayne and Gerald tried to play and sing the song on their own. Billy Wayne said Gerald picked the song up on his guitar right away. Mary Lynn was back the next time, and I decided I would go down to hear them play. Mary Lynn had never heard the song before and had a hard time playing it. Before that though, Billy Wayne asked Gerald if he wanted to take the tape of the song home. Gerald said he didn't have anything to play it on, so Bill Wayne sent him a tape player. Gerald told him later, "I had the player, but you didn't put the tape in it." Billy and Gerald had a good laugh over that. Billy Wayne said, "I can't believe I did that." After he finally gave Gerald the tape, Gerald listened to it and returned it. Billy Wayne then asked Mary Lynn if she wanted to take it home to listen to also, so she could play the song better. She agreed and Billy Wayne said, "Let me first see if I have it in its case." This caused more laughter.



I sure hope all those pesky flies are out of the church the next time they try to play and sing that song. I told them I came to be a critic, but there was a fly buzzing around my eyes and trying to fly up my nose and into my mouth. When they finished playing another song I said, "I hope you all do not swallow a fly." I hadn't much more than said that, when I saw Mary Lynn playing the piano with one hand and waving flies off with the other, while Billy Wayne chased them with a fly swatter. Gerald said he thought they were singing and playing so badly that I was back there motioning them to go home. I told them I was just trying to knock off a fly.



Kim Knepp had been practicing, "You Were Always on My Mind" with Mary Lynn and Gerald, when Billy Wayne and I came in a little late one evening. I hope I didn't cause her to leave early after I told them to sing the song a little louder, because I couldn't half hear what they were singing. I had never heard Gerald sing so loudly before. Billy Wayne left the room to get a drink of water, while the others ate a piece of peppermint candy. Mary Lynn thought it was good that I was criticizing their singing, but I

got no comment from the others. She gave me an OK sign that she would be playing what she calls “Billy’s song” the next time, even if she had to take a nerve pill. I came looking for a story and I think I found one.

