



September 2009



The Masquerade

How many times have you run into a friend and made the comment, "How's it going?" only to have that person respond in the common manner, "Oh, fine, and how are things going with you?". Nothing more is said and then you are on your way.

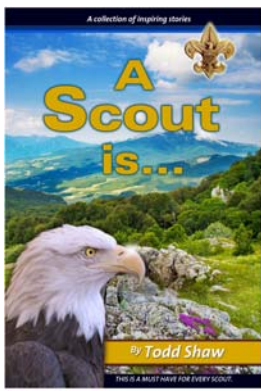
That happened to me recently when I greeted a friend, but I knew deep in my heart that he was not being totally honest with me even though he said that he was fine. He was only playing the game that many of us play each and every day as we masquerade our way through life putting on a mask to hide our hurts and struggles.

Why do we choose to play this charade? Maybe we have been playing the role of the pretender for so long that it has become a routine in our lives. Maybe our ego and pride will not allow the mask to come off. Could this be the problem? Whatever the reason (cause), it produces a lack of growth in our lives (the effect).

I finally approached my friend and boldly asked him to tell me the truth. When the mask came off, a great burden was lifted from his life. We talked, shared past experiences, came up with a plan to correct the situation, and then we prayed together. We followed the advice from the Apostle Paul who wrote, "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Let me encourage you to stop playing Superman and living a "do-it-yourself" approach to life. You gain real strength when you allow others to team up with you as you experience a heavy load in life. As Christ followers we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and share the load in life. Next time, be real when someone asks, "How's it going?"

The real life,



COMING SOON!

Why has the Boy Scouts of America had such a huge impact on our society for almost 100 years? Todd Shaw explores the impact of Scouting and the life changing principles that are found in the Scout Oath and Law.

You will be challenged and moved by this collection of inspirational stories as Todd shares stories from Scouts from all walks of life including his own experiences as a Scout.

Books will hit the stores in less than 75 days, but you can preorder your book today by visiting www.ascoutis.com.

Upcoming Dates



October

3-4 Cub Scout Spookoree, Chapel Service
9-10 AKRA race, Richmond, VA
16-18 BSA Fall Camporee, Chapel Service

November

6-8 WKA Manf. Cup Series, Lowes Motor Speedway, Concord, NC
12 On Track Ministry Banquet / Fundraiser, Galax, VA



Lisa's Lines....

“What’s Falling in your Life?”

As we approach the fall season, there are many things falling around here. There are leaves on the ground, wind is blowing branches out of the trees, and temps are falling. What about the things falling into our lives? Are you dealing with trying circumstances, unwanted encounters, financial strain, job loss, death, etc.?

But what about the good stuff? No one seems to mention those things. What about good fortune, new relationships; revelations that change our outlook? I've been on a quest recently. It's a quest to identify the things that are falling into my life. Whether good or bad, I've been trying to identify, evaluate, and appreciate anything that falls around me. What aggravates, I try to think about a lesson I can learn. What blesses, I've tried to acknowledge and appreciate it.

Psalm 69:30-34 says, *“I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving. ... The humble have seen it and are glad; you who seek God, let your heart revive. For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise His who are prisoners.”*

Imprisonment holds many forms. It's not just something experienced by those in barred cells & a compound encircled with razor wire. We can be in bondage to many things and a bad attitude can be a chief culprit. Join me in a day of thanksgiving? How about a week or month? Let's share what's falling into our lives in respect to how it enriches our lives and makes us better for the Kingdom. Stories welcome; email or write how God is working in your life!

Falling Up!

P.S. Here's the latest thing that's fallen into our lives (someone dropped him off a couple weeks ago). If you would like more info on "Shadow", please contact me.