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FAITH TURN AROUND Michael B. Beough  
Acts 9:10-19; II Cor 5:16-17 August 9, 2009  
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**Not one of us got to where we are today without the sacrifices, encouragement, and help of others.** The movie *Something to Sing About* is a story about a young man whose life changes because someone cares about him.

The main character in the movie is Tommy. But, for me, the key character is Meemaw. Without her, or someone like her, Tommy would have been just another victim of the streets. I like Meemaw. She's feisty. She tells it like it is.

In this first film clip, she has just met Tommy for the first time in a grocery store, She has invited him into her home to cook a meal for him. We discover what drives her to do such a foolish thing.

Clip #1 - 00:09:10

"Turn everything over to God." And that's just what Meemaw helps Tommy do. Besides helping him get a job with a recycling company, she gets him to church. He hears the gospel and gives his life to Christ. But she doesn't quit there. She gets him into the church choir where he astounds everyone with his magnificent talent. And she begins to disciple him.

In this next clip, we see Meemaw helping Tommy as he tries to read the Bible. She discovers yet another need of this young man, and she believes she can help him.

Clip #2 - 00:27:50

Tommy can't read. So Meemaw sets him up with a tutor, her granddaughter, Lillie. Of course, they fall in love.

But learning to read isn't his biggest challenge. When a customer on his new job calls him stupid, he has anger control issues. His boss tells him he has to learn how to deal with that as a Christian. The way you deal with difficult people is through love.

And then there is his street friend, G Smooth. I love that name, G Smooth. G Smooth has other plans for Tommy, to become a partner in dealing drugs on the streets.

In this next clip, G Smooth has a showdown with Tommy. He reveals a secret that explains how Tommy ended up in prison for stealing a purse. It will test Tommy's newfound commitment to Christ.

Clip #3 – 00:48:20

It is a parable of real life. Just as soon as we decide to follow Christ, to give our lives to his purposes, a tempter comes along to pull us away from God. The Bible warns us of this. It says in I Peter 5:8-9, *"Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith."* The Christian life is like a tug of war. It is what all Christians have to deal with. God gives us Meemaws who love us into a relationship with God. They show us the way, the truth, and the life. And all the time, there are forces pulling us the other direction, trying to get us to forget Meemaw, to forget the church that loves us, to forget Christ. We must resist.

In our movie, Tommy does resist. He resists almost to the point of losing his life. He comes out a winner and the only reason is because Meemaw stepped into his life and showed him the love of God.

**As I watched the movie, I thought about the Meemaws in my life.** Where would I be without them, my parents and others who took me under their wings and sheltered me and taught me about God? I realized I need to be more thankful for the Meemaws in my life.

**I realized something else, too - that God wants me to be a Meemaw.** That is a tall order. So I searched the Bible and found someone I thought could give me some insight and courage. He doesn't get nearly enough attention. **His name is Ananias.**

You'll never guess where I interviewed him. It was at his shop where he sells glasses. Like you see through. I introduced myself and expressed my surprise at his line of work.

He just studied my face. I could tell he was looking at my glasses. "Nice frames," he said. "But I can see you need to change your lenses."

I thought to myself, "How does he know that?" But I said, "I can see okay."

"Then why are you here?" he asked.

I said, "I don't think you get enough credit for what you did for the Apostle Paul. He was a dangerous man before he came to know the Lord. He was persecuting Christians, putting them in prison. When you went to him in Acts 9, you were putting yourself in jeopardy. I can't even find enough courage to speak to people I know about the Lord."

Completely ignoring my complement, he asked, "Why is that?"

I said, "I honestly don't know. Fear, embarrassment, shame. But why am I like that?"

Ananias handed me a pair of glasses and told me to put them on. I told him I really didn't come to buy glasses, but he insisted. So I put them on. Before I could look in a mirror to see what they looked like, he grabbed me by the arm and headed me toward the door. "We're going for a walk," he said.

As soon as we were on the street, he said, "Let's test your new glasses. You see that man over there mowing his grass?" I looked and nodded that I could see him.

Ananias said, "Do you really see him? Look again."

So I looked again. I am not sure I can describe what happened next. It was like I had on X-ray glasses or some kind of super polarized glasses that change the colors of things. I not only saw a man mowing his grass, but I saw more than that. The only way to describe it is that I saw him, the real him, the true him, the essence of him. Have you ever had your life flash before your eyes? His life flashed before my eyes, not all the events and happenings of the past, but – and here is where I stumble in my telling – it was like seeing his future life, what his life could be. Here is what happened. I saw someone leading this man into the presence of Christ. I watched as the man fell to his knees. I saw Christ pick him up. I saw what looked like a huge sigh of relief as Christ reached out and took his hands. From out of his house, his family came all smiles, children and grandchildren, calling him blessed. I saw his co-workers gathering around him and clapping him on the back. I saw neighbors surround this man giving him words of congratulations. And then the strangest thing. He turned and pointed at me and sort of waved. Then all of them standing around him looked my way and started clapping.

I said, "What the heck?" and jerked off the glasses.

Ananias said excitedly, "Did you see him?"

I said, "Who? Christ?"

"No, the one who led that man into the presence of Christ. Did you see his face? Put the glasses back on and look again."

I did as he said and looked, and it was as if scales fell from my eyes. I looked and I saw the face - of me.

I think I said something like "Awesome!" Ananias let go of my arm. As he headed back into his little shop, he looked back over his shoulder and said, "Keep the glasses."

I then knew why Ananias risked his life with Paul. It wasn't because of his courage. It was because God opened his eyes to see the essence of a man named Saul who did evil things but who by the grace of God and the ministering of Ananias would become a powerful man of God. Ananias saw the future for what it could be and would be by the grace of God.

**Can we see? Are we willing to look? God put us here to be the Meemaws of the world.** They are the ones who can see past their fears and past the stereotypes because they can see what's possible when God's love crash lands in a person's life.

Tommy finds joy and accomplishment because of Meemaw and because of his church. In Christ, he had something to sing about. Then Tommy could see. And Tommy becomes a Meemaw for his friend G Smooth.

In this final clip, Tommy goes to visit G Smooth in the hospital. G Smooth has been beaten up by his drug boss, Creedo, almost killing him. In fact, Tommy saves G Smooth's life and puts his own life at great risk doing it. In the hospital, Tommy reaches out to G Smooth.

Clip #4 - 01:21:00

What does God want to do in your life this morning? Perhaps something is pulling you away from God and from His church. You need to resist it, whatever it is. Perhaps there is someone in your life who needs a Meemaw just like you. Perhaps you have never known the joy of giving your life to Christ. Here is one thing we can be sure of. Whatever God wants to do in you, He will help you do it if you ask Him.

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (II Cor 5:17)