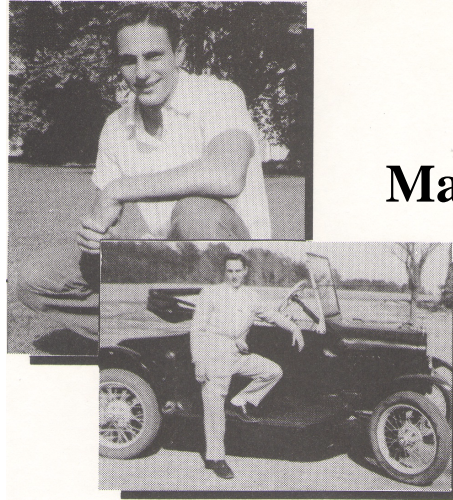


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Make Stepping Stone Out of Stumbling Blocks



A young boy was leading his baby sister up a rugged hill. “Come on,” he said. “Follow me. I’ll lead you in the path.” After awhile it seemed like the path completely disappeared and was filled with nothing but stones.

Stumbling and falling, the little girl began to cry and said, “This is no path at all. It is nothing but stones.” To which her confident brother replied, “The stones are for climbing.”

When some people run into stones along life’s pathway, they complain. They seem to think they’re the only ones who’ve ever had problems.

Others not only complain, they kick against the stones to their own hurt. Some get discouraged and refuse to carry on. They

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sit down and stop altogether.

And sad to say, some not only complain, kick against the stones and refuse to carry on, but go back, giving up all progress heretofore made.

But some precious souls discover that the stones are for climbing and one by one put the stones under their feet and rise higher and higher.

An old adage says, “We rise by the things we put under our feet.”

The story is told of a man’s horse which fell into a deep pit. The man tried everything he knew to get the horse out, but with no success. Finally he decided to cover the horse with dirt. One shovelful at a time he threw dirt down into the deep pit.

But instead of being buried, the horse shook the dirt off, and it fell beneath his feet. Little by little the horse began to rise; and when the hole was filled, the horse was standing on level ground. He had risen by the things he had put under his feet.

A preacher told the story of making stepping-stones out of stumbling blocks. He was pastor of a small

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church with hardly any facilities for Sunday school. The church grew so fast that they had no place to put the people. Scores of boys and girls didn't have chairs to sit on.

One Sunday, while the children were complaining, the preacher excitedly said, "I know what we will do! Let's have Japanese Sunday school." And he explained that in Japan people sat on the floor. Then he proceeded to demonstrate how they did it.

One by one the children all found a place on the floor. In a few minutes they were totally engrossed in the lesson.

The following week they invited their friends to attend their Japanese Sunday school. And until the church could afford chairs, they simply sat on the floor and listened to the lesson. And the teacher sat down with them.

Remember, the stones are for climbing.