

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon
July 10, 2024
"Rocks"



Greeter Falls in Beersheba Springs, TN

In worship, I met a youth group headed to the Appalachian Service Project in Hazard, KY. The brief conversation took me back to my own experience on mission trips.

One summer, we built porches and repaired roofs with Mountain Top near Beersheba Springs, TN. At day's end, we would stop at Big Don's Market, get something cold to drink, and stand next to a 25,200-pound boulder. Big Don had this boulder moved from the Tri-county Stone Co. on Viola Mountain and placed in front of his store. "Why the Rock?"

Big Don wrote, "For a good portion of my life, I was very unstable, tossed like the waves on the ocean. See, I'm an alcoholic. I finally came to myself and asked God to help me stop drinking. In the mid 1970's, my prayer was answered. It was like God rolled away this huge stone from my life. As the years passed, I became more and more stable until a relative of mine labeled me 'The Rock.' The Rock in front of my store is symbolic of what I intend to be for the rest of my natural life."

The resurrection of Jesus began with a rolled-away stone. It was rolled away not to let Jesus out but to let us in. With the stone removed, nothing limited people from seeing and experiencing what God had done. We all have stones hindering what God wants for us. It could be a habit, attitude, or belief that is not good for us or others around us. The good news is that when we are ready, God can roll our stones away, too.

Blessings,

Darren