

Shut the Front Door!



It was a fine door as far as doors go

Having just been painted after living in gray primer for three years, this door was perfect. Until somehow, over time, the door had warped and now, when you shut the door, you had to push on it to make doubly sure it had latched. I knew there was a problem because it had happened to me on a couple of occasions. I had shut the door only to go back and find it open. Unfortunately, I hadn't really communicated this "door problem" to the others in the house.



It was January 1, 2013. I had gone upstairs to go to bed around 10 pm. That's early for me, but alas, I was tired. My husband followed at around 11:00. It was extra cold that night, so we had the furnace cranked and the vent in our bedroom was wide open. To save energy, we shut all the doors upstairs including our bedroom.

I awoke at around 5 am because of the heat. I was actually sweating, my dog was panting, and my husband was stirring-mumbling incoherently about something. It had to be at least eighty something degrees in our room. I got up, shut the heat vent and went back to sleep.



It was a chilling discovery:)

At around 7 am I arose to meet the day. By the time I got to the bottom of the stairs, I knew something was wrong. The wave of frigid, cold air that hit me told me that something was horribly amiss. "Man,

there must be a window open or something," I thought to myself. My son was fast asleep on the couch, and his little dog wagged her tail when she saw me. What a temperature contrast to our upstairs bedroom as my bare foot touched the cold, wood floor. It must have been no more than 50 or 55 degrees on the middle level of our house. My highest priority was to find the source of the problem. As I turned the corner, I couldn't believe my eyes. There it was, the front door was wide open...for the entire night! The furnace had been in a heated battle (no pun intended:) with the freezing, outside winter air for seven hours! I rushed to shut the door (which I noticed was locked, by the way). I then proceeded to see if there were any critters that had come in during the night. After a short search, I found that our two cats and two dogs were accounted for, there were no wild animals in our house, and we had not been robbed! (Of course, everyone in this area knows that you have more chance of being attacked by a wild animal than you do of being robbed:) Thank God!

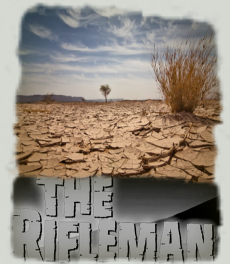
Visions & Dreams

Later, when we had time to discuss it, we realized that it was an honest mistake. The door looked like it had been shut and locked at around midnight, but in reality, the door had not latched. I don't know what my son was dreaming about, probably being in an igloo in Alaska without a blanket:).



My husband, on the other hand, had been dreaming that he was in a desert

desperately trying to find water. When he told me that, I couldn't help but laugh. He woke up with chapped lips, a dried out nose and a parched throat. He dreamt that he was in an episode of the "Rifleman." (It still makes me smile when I think about it).



We've only just begun

We've only just begun a brand new year. It's a clean, new slate that the Lord can write on. Let's make sure we have truly shut the door to evil; closed the doors to past regret, cold indifference, and the torment of unforgiveness. Let's not waste our energy battling things (or people) that the Lord isn't calling us to fight. Finally, let's not be asleep when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. Time spent with Him in prayer, in the Word, and in living out our faith is the whole point of every Christian's life. Jesus is our source. Jesus is our strength, and Jesus is coming again. His question two thousand years ago in Luke 18:8 remains the same today, "*...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*"

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"As for me and my house, we will (definitely) serve the Lord!" (Joshua 24:15) Oh, and from now on, we're going to make sure we shut the front door!

**Shalom from Big D in 2013!
& Thanks so much for reading!**