



DAY 27

SKATES AND A SKATE KEY

Deuteronomy 4:9 - "Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen, and so that they do not slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and grandchildren."

Have you ever had someone say the most innocent thing to you and suddenly you are transported back to your childhood? I don't remember much of my childhood but, it happened to me the other day. I was talking to a friend and she began remembering about when she was a child and how they would roller skate in their basement – in winter – at night – whenever they couldn't skate outside. I was immediately transported back to sitting on the next to the bottom stair, putting on my roller skates, tightening them with the skate key, and seeing what seemed to be an endless basement (probably about 40 x 60 feet) to skate in. I would race from one end to the other and grab the support pole to swing around so I didn't have to stop. What an amazing, fun-filled memory! And this memory began my journey through time back to some other childhood memories.

My memories led me to when my sister and I used to walk to Sunday school, church and then Summer Bible School. We'd hop-scootch, and do the "don't step on the crack or you'll break your mother's back" on the sidewalk all the way there and back. At Church, we had wonderful times being with friends. But, the best times were Bible School. We gathered with our Methodist friends, from down the street, so there were more friends, lots of Bible stories, and crafts and **THE SNACK** — the proverbial sugar cookies and red kool-aid in the wax Dixie cups – which actually tasted more like wax than cherry!

Another memory followed — the Jesus pictures that were hanging on the walls in the Sunday School rooms – my favorite – Jesus with the children gathered around him. I always felt comforted and loved by that one.

I guess it doesn't really matter why my memories came — the simple skates and skate key, cherry kool-aid and sugar cookie snack, or a picture, our minds give us special gifts all of the time. Teaching us.

I hope that this time of reflection provides me with some additional memories – perhaps instigated by smells or tastes or just a simple picture. I hope that your time of reflection brings you happy memories too.

Gracious and loving God – we thank you for our memories – whether they be happy or sad, they are a special gift connecting us to you and to each other. Help us to enjoy whatever gifts of memories we are given. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

– Nancy Humes