

A 50 Gallon What?!

That's the nuttiest list I've ever seen, thought Al. The note next to his breakfast bowl said Mom and Dad had to get right over to Aunt Clara's this morning, so he would have to have his older sister Barb provide transportation for his errands. Saturday's nutty looking list noted:

1. Get an inexpensive light bulb from the hardware store and paint it pink with spray paint from the garage.
2. Buy 200 sturdy plastic spoons from grocery.
3. Get the borrowed outboard motor from the sports store (Mr. Hanson) with its charged battery. Be very careful not to tear the wrapping paper because the motor has been sterilized.
4. Confirm with the freezer plant that two clean 55 gallon drums will be available by next Friday.

Right from the very start, Al wondered if some of the items might be wrong. As he and Barb started working on the list, they both tried to figure out how all this was supposed to fit together. The only strange event coming up that they knew about was next Saturday's Splatter Light Youth Rally. If it's anything like the last rally, it should be a real blast!

Each time Al checked off an item on the list, he'd wonder if Mom and Dad had written down the wrong things. Oh, well! There were only two things anybody could find out about the surprise rally: who the featured speaker was to be--- a light bulb changer, of all people. So what's he going to do... show everyone how to change a pink light bulb? Barb also found out that one of the other teens was to bring three cookie sheets of squiggly gelatin. This is going to be a really weird rally!

The next Saturday, the rally started outside with the stickiest battle you ever saw. The spoons became the catapults for the blocks of gelatin – boys against the girls. Then everyone sat on a clean spot on the grass in front of some statue with a big tarpaulin draped over it.

The Christian "light bulb changer", Dave Phillips, came out with the pink light bulb in his hand. He described his job to the kids. Many people would think his job to be an unimportant one... that is, until he described where it was. The airport has lots of lights and bulbs to maintain, but the one at the top of the beacon tower is the most important. He told of several foggy instances when pilots of small airplanes staked their lives upon the output of that one light bulb... Dave's light bulb...to get them onto the runway and safety. Dave explained how many times other people had been an inspiration to him and helped him get his life "onto the right runway". He told about Jesus Christ and how He is our guiding light to direct us to salvation and a God-honoring life through His shed blood on the Cross.

Al's sister, Barb was listening very closely to the message of salvation and assurance. She admitted to herself that the assurance of salvation in her life was uncertain. Her feelings about decisions in her life left her guessing many times.

Al saw Barb go forward during Dave's invitation to get things nailed down for sure. While Barb and others were being counseled in another area, the "statue" was unveiled. There stood two steel drums, one on top of the other. Painted on the front of them were the words, "50 Gallon Milk Shake". At the very top of the drums was the ELECTRIC outboard motor which Al and Barb had picked up that morning. Many large blocks of ice cream were dropped into the top of the shake while milk was added. Then the motor was turned on and began the transformation of the ice cream and milk into milk shake.

On the very bottom of the outboard motor was a fin designed to keep weeds out of the propeller.

Tonight it was used to poke holes in the blocks of ice cream. No one is sure of this, but the fellows holding the motor would lift it just a little too high sometimes, and the propeller would break the surface and make the biggest fantail of shake you ever saw, splattering two hundred kids.

Later Barb told Al about the verse she'd learned about. "*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God*". 1John 5:13. No second-guessing, no second opinion needed, and it's right there in black and white, forever. (End of Story)