

## **ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS** **ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS**

Sometimes a story needs no explanation. This one touched my heart, and I believe it will impact yours as well.

### **RUNNING IN THE RAIN**

She had been shopping with her Mom in Wal-Mart. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red-haired, freckle-faced image of innocence.

It was pouring outside -- the kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth that it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the Wal-Mart. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day.

I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child, came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

Her voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in. "Mom, let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mom asked. "Let's run through the rain!" she repeated.

"No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied. This young child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain." "We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said. "No we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm. "This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?" "Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. You couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood quietly. No one came or left in the next few moments. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life; a time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith. "Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD lets us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing," Mom said. And off they ran.

We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. Then they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

Yes...I ran too. And I got wet. I guess I needed washing.

—Story by Bob Perks—

Life can be hard and cruel, especially to a child. And anytime we can follow their example of innocent faith, we need to do it. Anything we can do to help nurture that faith in a child is a serious responsibility that we should gladly accept. Remember that it is always God that gets us through the pain that comes in life. So face your challenges with faith. And take time to run through the rain!

*Robert*