

# THE H PPENING



An Annual Easter Publication - "The Village Years"  
By Todd Osterei, E.B.



## **-Easter 2021-**

Dear friends!

I love stopping at the Kessie's, and seeing the families you have become. I was talking with Horace several years ago, about what I predicted was the growing Kessie family. As we began to place the students into their language classes and process orders for where they would be going, I kept seeing indistinguishable facial features assigned to identical departments. The same leadership qualities, and great compassion for others, was also something that I noticed. Even though we are discouraged from looking too far into their files, I knew all these things as a Kessie trait. When your Popi, as you call him, used to sit with me, his biggest dream was a large family. Here in The Village, your family, or a family that is linked to you all, manages half the town. They say opposites attract, but not around here.

I have had much time to compose my thoughts this past year, because Earth quarantined *The Village*, except under "essential" business. Teeth still needed to be collected and toys distributed, but two-thirds of the *Dreamweaver Factory* was laid off, because Sedrick wasn't allowed to send out his nightly crew to distribute sleepers. Many people got insomnia, but we weren't to blame!

As I spent many sleepless nights myself, I thought about some of the past loved ones to leave *The Village*, and some of the more memorable moments that our *Rabbit-cam* caught on tape. Here is a sample of the top hits on VillageTube.

The first time Sawyer met Brielle, was a sweet moment. (He was one of the top guitar players *The Village* has ever had. He auditioned for the *Fall Festival of Lights at Novemberfest* and was chosen as the lead guitarist.) It was November 6, 2000, Gunner was backstage warming up for his annual drum solo, and Sawyer's band was on stage to kick the *Holiday Season* off. Sawyer began the intro to their third song, when the new arrivals bus pulled up across the street at the

Depot. All Sawyer could see from the stage, was this beautiful brunette step off the bus. She had a backpack and a bible under her arm. He could also see that Beau Jr. was making a move towards her. (It's rumored that Beau's ancestors are the Biden-Wang's, an American-Chinese corrupt dynasty. Since Sawyer services Beau's laptop at his shop, "*I.T. bytes*" he knows every rumor to be true.) Sawyer felt he needed to move quickly, so he unstrapped his guitar and handed it to his friend, **Jake Fisher**, walked off the stage and across the street. Sawyer took Brielle's hand, told "*Junior*" she was with him, and escorted her to a taxi. *(It helped that Sawyer tapped Titus while walking off the stage, the former Village bench-press record holder, his close friend Boone, beside him, was The Village A. D. A., and he himself was the Golden Gloves Village Champion)* He opened her door, and with a smile that melted all the hearts, told her she'd be safe with him. Learning English was easy with Sawyer as her aid, and as she often discovered, she felt most protected with Sawyer and his friends by her side. The two got coffee at *Messy Curls* that night, and he cautioned her, this stuff is addictive! They were best friends for nearly 20 years. She cried the day he was unable to say her name anymore.



Elijah was voted MVP in *The Village Basketball Playoffs*, and as a souvenir, the coach gave him the game ball. *(He had been hoping to get a lightsaber and stormtrooper helmet he saw on vBay. This game ball would sell for more than enough to buy what he wanted.)* Eli was on his way to talk with the press, when a boy in a wheelchair stopped him to tell him how good he played, and wished he were able to play ball. Eli sat down with him for about an hour explaining, that God handpicks us all to be who we are, and for him to never let anybody tell him he was unable to do anything. There are limitations that I have, and I wish I were better at some things, Eli explained, but God made us all for a purpose. Eli got up to hit the showers, when the little boy held up the basketball and offered to toss it to him. Eli told him it was his to keep. *-That young boy would become Dylan Alcott; an Australian wheelchair basketballer, wheelchair tennis player, radio host and motivational speaker.*

## Titus 'n Theo

After Titus became famous for saving lives, his life changed dramatically. No longer the loaner that worked-out by himself anymore, instead he was busy doing interviews, and promoting athletic equipment. When Theodore opened his ministry at Baker's Mill Reservoir, *(later known as T.H.E.O. Lake)* he contacted Titus to be the spokesperson behind the new push for heroism in dating relationships. Long gone was promoting physical strength, Titus now became the spiritual muscle for becoming a **HERO**, *the man she needs*. Sure he was known for saving a few lives in the past, but his focus now was on saving a lineage. Interesting how our life will touch others, as we become available for God. He never knew Theo was his cousin, and it wasn't my place to tell him.

Liam coached dodge ball and kick ball in the spring. Every afternoon he would watch the kids play in the vacant lots near *Bunny Acres*. Several of the older kids thought it was fun to play "keep away" from some of the younger ones. He could tell, that as this went on for several afternoons, the younger ones would leave the playground looking very sad. One afternoon he walked over and asked if he could join in. He was popular and well liked, so of course everyone wanted him to play. As Liam let several easy passes slip through his hands, a young one

# Liam

quickly snatched up the ball. By continuing this, Liam saw grins begin to form among the smaller ones. It wasn't long before the older ones knew what was happening, and they too joined in to let passes slip through. They were walking back to town, when one of the older kids thanked Liam for teaching them, that people are more important than winning a silly game.

Ava came to me one afternoon and nursery rosters, and some of the She asked me. I said, "*well as much leave The Village with one parent, parents that will raise them. Sometimes we can cross reference candidates and help guide them to adoption*". Her heart was broken that some of the friends she has grown young with might not enjoy the hug of a father. She asked to be a volunteer to help train the spirit's of these children to learn the importance of family. Over 1 million students studied her curriculum, and it's been made available in 10 languages.

Ava

told me she was looking through the babies only have one parent listed. Why? *as we hate to accept it, some children will and sometimes, for different reasons, no*

After praying for the accident at the factory, and seeing her prayers answered so quickly, Canaan began to pray daily for God to use her. She held prayer meetings throughout *The Village* and one day befriended a little girl climbing a tree next to the Courthouse. The little girl confessed she had never seen a miracle, but believed what Canaan said was true. They became close friends, as they prayed daily that God would use Anna to show others that *Miracles come from Heaven*. That little girl grew up to become *Annabel Beam*.

Canaan

As the General Manager of *The Village Library*, Arrow got to know most everybody by his or her first names. When Curtis came up to him one afternoon, asking if there were any books on braille, Arrow said, "*Absolutely, follow me.*" When asked, "*why?*" Curtis said that he wanted to ask

Alice, a girl he has liked since 12th grade to the homecoming, and since she was blind, he wanted to hand make an invitation.

Arrow helped him create the invitation together and asked Curtis to be at the gym no later than 3:30pm on Friday with Alice. Banner was the quarterback for *The Village Bears*, a name that stuck, since Titus was defensive tackle. As team captain, of the #1 ranked high school football team the last 3 years running, Banner took a moment to quiet the students. "*It is my privilege this afternoon to welcome Arrow, Liam, Theo and Eli as they escort Curtis and Alice to the center of the gymnasium floor.*" In front of the entire student body, and former student alumni, Curtis made Alice feel like a queen, as he presented

her invite to be his date for the game. To complete the moment, Canaan, Sawyer, Brielle, Titus, Ava, Rose and a few close friends, all convinced their classmates to vote Curtis and Alice

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***Homecoming King and Queen 2004.*** That video got over 20,000,000 hits by the time the Bears beat the Wildcats 30-19.

Arrow & Banner

Well kids, those are a few of the memories that I hold dear to my heart of your moments with me. All of us here in *The Village* are proud of the people you have become and the difference you have made in many lives. My only regret is that the lives you have changed can't thank you personally. Sometimes life can be hard, but watching each of you look for a positive solution to change the outcome makes our jobs here easier and more fulfilling.

As we celebrate Easter, remember that it's not the candy I left for you, or the eggs I hid, that make today special, it is Jesus who loves you more than any of your friends here in *The Village* ever could. We have been gifted with the opportunity to mold some lives for Christ, and we understand the magnitude that responsibility holds. You don't have a memory of time spent in *The Village*, so the mistakes I have made, and there have been many, are not quickly recalled. This is God's intention, for everyone that shares the responsibility of seeing children become, what God plans for them to be, will make mistakes. Families are forever, and some friends are as well!

Happy Easter!

Your forever friend,



Todd