

19 October 2023 Susan Update



The time passes quickly with Fall activities!

We just completed Apple Butter Making Days (THE National Holiday of Mount Vernon!) and it was a joy to have all the family in for the occasion! Susan (better known as 'Gigi') enjoyed quality time with all the grandchildren while the adults spent time at home and the square.

So good to see everyone during this special weekend!

We're in the season of "checkups" with dentist and doctors so there have been several trips to Springfield. One of the old Oak Trees had to be removed from the front yard this month... so perhaps solar energy will help heat the house this winter and grass will grow next spring. The daily routine can wear us out!



You may have noted FTD Awareness Week in September with more news stories about Bruce Willis and interview with his wife, Emma. This publicity is helpful to raise awareness and research funding. Great information is found at the <http://theaftd.org/> website.



I'm adding a feature called "Page Two" that tells more of a story about our experiences. Later there may be a section called "The Fine Print" is more of the daily observations regarding the disease. Here Goes...

Have a blessed week! GDG

Go to the next page!



I was using a screwdriver, but Susan nailed it!

A handyman I am not... no matter how hard I try! We had to replace a door to the house after a summer storm, and I finally got around to putting the alarm system back in place on the new door. But it was a bitter struggle.

The setup is simple. The sensor is attached to the door and a connecting magnet that completes the circuit is attached to the molding around the door. If the door is opened with the alarm on, the connection is broken, and the alarm goes off. Got it.

Wisely (so I thought), I taped the sensor and its magnet in place and tested the alarm. All good. So, I get out my power tools to install them permanently. But the fancy drill strips the screw, so it's now hand-power with a new screw. From down in the garage.

First, I put on the mounting plate backwards... then upside down. Many trips up and down my stepladder and two new screws (from the garage) and it's complete. The magnet is attached in the very same hole it came from. Easy and done. But when I test the system... it does NOT work! How can this be?!!

The new door hangs a fraction of an inch farther away from the molding than the original door did, and this micro-distance must be the culprit. So up and down, and hand-jam, and align, and test again... and still the alarm will not set.

My attitude is seriously slipping. Pastoral ministry does not have these problems... especially when I get on the ladder to find I left the screwdriver down on the counter. Or when the screw drops and rolls directly toward the heater vent on the floor. Or when every adjustment adds a new hole to the wood.

And, of course, I have been "thinking out loud" becoming irritated with every little annoyance plaguing this simple task that should go smoothly and have been done 15 minutes ago!! Preachers ought not feel this way. And I discover Susan, hearing the noise and appreciating the entertainment value of the moment, has been standing there watching and listening. My manly moments with tools are best experienced audience free and alone.

When the screw dropped and rolled again, she looked at me and said, ***"It's too bad you can't use bad words!"***

Nearly fell off the ladder laughing!

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Check out the blog page at <https://www.uschaplainservices.com/blog>