

LUBBOCK

Senior

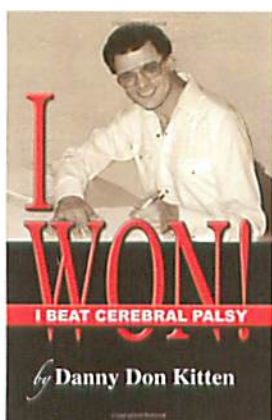
Link

HONORING SENIORS

Local Authors

SL
∞

To Belong...



It wasn't until my late 50's that I begin to ask, "What am I going to do when I retire? What could my physical strength be able to do? And what can I do that really make me feel good about myself?"

The Webster definition of "belong" reads, "In the right place, to be in a relationship within, to be proper, appropriate." That was the question that I would

always ask myself, as I was growing up. Where do I fit in? Where do I belong?

I was put aside, labeled, moved to this corner or to that corner, and while I was growing up, I would remain in back of the line because I knew that I would be the last to be chosen. At the end of the line, or in the corner, I wondered, Where do I belong?

Because I was born with cerebral palsy, I thought I was the black sheep of the family. No, I wasn't the fastest, nor was I the strongest, or the best looking. It wasn't until my teens that I saw myself on a screen that I realized what others saw. I shook my head, tears flowing, and bowed my head in shame. What a dork, what a retard, I belong in some institution where they wear white coats.

I guess I could have gone in to a deep depression but, because of my strong faith in God, and the support of my family, I managed to "fit in." I became a young man who went on dates, drove a car, and graduated from high school and later became a husband and a father. I also received a good education and a college degree, and became a teacher.

Together, my wife and I have six kids, fourteen grandkids, and one great grandchild. We rarely hear from them because they live far away. And too, this generation seems to be so high tech that the older generation is in the history books.

One day I decided to write a history of my life, just in case one of my grandchildren would wonder, What was my Grandpa like? Where did he meet Grandma? What was his Grandpa like? How come Grandpa was so different from the others, and how did he succeed despite those differences? What can I learn from him about how to truly belong?

I began to write one story, then another, and another, and soon I was able to put all these stories into a book. It started with my birth and continued until the day I finished my book. While I was writing I would remind myself who would be reading these stories, and I hoped it might hold their interest.

I included some of the things that my Grandpa told me, and what he taught me. I found a written history of his family and put some of his stories into my book. The book is entitled *I Won, I Beat Cerebral Palsy*.

I speak of patience in my life history. Family was also very important to me, because without them I would have nothing. And the most important thing of all is my faith in my God, who brought me into this world to love and serve Him. I hope my grandchildren and anyone who reads my words learns this on a very deep level: In Him, I belong. And so do you.

by Danny Kitten,
author of "*I Won! I Beat Cerebral Palsy*,"
pictured right with
wife, Petra.



Only as a Mother can...

Only as a Mother does...



aimbankonline.com

Group sessions are designed to meet the needs of individual participants where the group provides a supportive environment.

Team-building and Leadership Programs are also available for professional groups and leaders.

Workshops can be tailored to the needs of your group.

for more information, go to:

www.gallopingtogreatness.com

or contact Margo at

806.632.8309 | 806.795.7555

email: margo@gallopingtogreatness.com

work in your day to day life. As a caregiver it's vital that you understand the need to care for yourself first. You cannot be of use to those you care for if you are tired, stressed or become ill.

Taking time to nurture yourself is absolutely necessary if you are to care for the needs of those around you. Whether you are a parent, an adult child caring for a parent, a spouse caring for a mate, a grandparent caring for grand children, or a professional caregiver it is important to recognize that making time for yourself is actually a selfless act and allows you to give your best to the person you care for.