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"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

– 1st Thessalonians 5: 18

Archer's Pond

Dear friend:

Because there is so much talk about vaccines right now, I want to tell you this story. In June 1961, my brother Dave and I skipped school, and went swimming in Archer's pond. I was in grade ten; Dave was in nine. Both of us had high marks, and the school told us we didn't have to write exams. So, we skipped school, and went swimming.

After a couple of days, both of us were as stiff as a board. Neither of us could bend our necks. Doctor Lang was called, and told us it could be polio, though a milder dose because we had the Salk vaccine a year earlier. We were to stay in bed until we could bend our neck so our chin would touch our chest. That took the rest of June and three weeks in July. All we could think about was how much fun we were missing. What a summer!

The terrible truth soon became apparent. Before the Salk vaccine came out, many youngsters did get polio, and were either crippled or died. Our older brother Paul, did get polio before the vaccine was available. He was the first youngster in Hamilton to be put into an iron-lung which assisted his breathing. Paul was lucky and recovered, though his one leg was somewhat smaller in diameter. Later in life he developed post-polio symptoms which seriously affected his mobility. For others, less fortunate, their lives ended, or changed completely.

I am so grateful that others decided Dave and I were to get the polio vaccination. If Dave and I had gotten the full brunt of polio, we might not have been as lucky as Paul. We might not have survived. We might not have been able to go on to school. I might not have met my beloved Trish. I might not have become a Minister, a teacher, or known our wonderful daughter, Merinda. And ... I might not have met you.

Much love to you and your whole family.

Until next time.

Peter

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

