

ROBBY HERBERT
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

I really wasn't sure what to write about at first. My mom and dad say that I bring a smile to their face but my sister disagrees. There are two times when I brought a smile to someone's face that I remember well.

One of those times was when my dad accidentally cut his hand with a saw. It was three years ago in October. My dad was outside sawing wood for the new porch that he was making for our house. It was late in the night, around nine o'clock. He had plenty of lights on so that you could see clearly. I had just gone to bed after finishing my homework. All of a sudden I heard a scream and I recognized it as my dad's. I jumped out of bed and I heard my mom run to the door. At the same time I heard my dad run up the porch he was making. The door opened and I heard my mom on the phone saying that she needed an ambulance because her husband had just cut his hand with a saw. As soon as I heard that I knew that my dad was really hurt. Within a couple of minutes, an ambulance, a fire truck, and a SUV with "Hand Specialist" on it stopped at my house. People from the ambulance and the SUV ran into my house. I heard them talk to my mom and dad. My mom then came up stairs to get her shoes so that she could leave with my dad. As she got her shoes on, she called our neighbors who came over to stay with me and my sister. The paramedics then escorted my dad out of the house. One of the paramedics was holding my dad's left hand which was wrapped in towels. The ambulance and the SUV left. My neighbors came up to watch us. My mom then called to tell us that our grandparents were coming to watch us. When my neighbors came over, my neighbors and I went outside to turn off all the lights that were on. When my grandparents got to my house, my neighbors left. My sister and I then went to sleep and woke up to go to school. After school ended, my grandparents took me to their house in Kentucky. My mom then came to take us home at about eight o'clock. My dad was in the hospital for one week. During that time I did not get to see my dad because he was in the intensive care section. After one week had passed, my dad was let out of the hospital. The saw had cut deeply through his hand, almost completely cutting it in half. Luckily they saved his hand by performing surgery. To recover, my dad had to go to therapy often. It took a long time for his hand to completely heal. Since my dad could not work for a while or do any

kind of hard work at the house, I had to help a lot more than I was used to doing. Although it was not so much fun for me, it made my parents relax and smile that I was trying to help out. I

learned how to use the leaf vacuum and the lawn mower. I helped carry heavy things for my parents and I helped my dad do many other jobs. I also had to help my sister while my dad was in the hospital because my mom was with my dad for most of the time. Although it was a very bad injury, my dad eventually healed.

Three weeks after my dad hurt his hand, an even unhappier event occurred. My classmate, Brent Keeton, died of Leukemia. I thought Brent was going to beat the disease. He seemed to be getting better and was even going to play basketball, but God had other plans for him. I am not sure if I really understand why, but I have faith in God and believe that Brent is happy. Every year since Brent has died, his mom gets a team together to walk in the Light the Night walk that raises money for Leukemia. My classmates and I always go down to Serpentine Wall and join "Team Brent" in the walk. Every year Brent's mom sees us and gets a smile on her face. She smiles a really big and bright smile. She then goes around and hugs every one of us. I believe it makes her happy to see us there and know that we are still remembering Brent. I believe that my classmates and I will always participate in the walk. I believe that God puts some people on earth for just a short period of time but they make a huge impact on those who knew them. I believe that both your Aubrey and my friend Brent were one of those.