

Good Days and Bad Days

For practically any day you can look back in history and find out what happened on this day however many years ago. Today is January 22. This date is an important anniversary to me for two reasons. One is happy, the other is tragic.

I'll start with the happy one. On January 22, 1978, I graduated from Bear Valley School of Preaching. January 22 came on Sunday that year. We had the U-Haul truck loaded, ready to start the journey to Buchanan Dam, TX, the next day. That was 36 years ago. Since then, we've also lived in Oklahoma, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and now back here in Texas. Some of those places were more pleasant than others, but there is no doubt that God watched over us in all of them, and we have learned something everywhere we've been. We're happy to be back in Texas and working with the Justin congregation. We thank you for putting up with us, and hope you will continue to do that.

The other January 22 anniversary that comes to my mind is a tragic one. On this date in 1973, the United States Supreme Court handed down two decisions, the most famous (or infamous) of which was entitled *Roe v Wade*. Roe was a pseudonym for Norma McCorvey, a gullible young woman who was used by two attorneys to file a lawsuit against Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade, claiming that Texas abortion law was unconstitutional. In *Roe v Wade*, the High Court not only overturned Texas law, all laws in all 50 states that in any way protected the lives of unborn human babies. Since that day, only a few laws providing a tiny amount of legal protection for the unborn have passed and been allowed to stand by the Court. In the 41 years since *Roe v Wade*, well over 55 million children have been killed, many in some of the most barbaric and cruel ways imaginable.

The number, 55 million, staggers the imagination. That is the equivalent of the entire population of 25 states!

In June of last year, the Texas Senate was set to vote on a bill that would have prohibited abortions from 20 weeks gestation onward. Senator Wendy Davis was so determined that abortions must be permitted even in the late stages of development that she filibustered that bill, preventing it from even being voted on. The bill was later passed in a special session and is currently in force, though it faces court challenges. Senator Davis is now running to be the governor of Texas. Since it is a huge no-no to talk about politics at church, I'll let you guess who I'm NOT going to vote for.

I'm sure there are other important things that occurred on January 22. For example, on this date in 1970, the Boeing 747 went into service. But somehow an airplane doesn't seem as important to me as preaching the gospel, or as significant as the inexcusable murdering of over 55 million innocent humans.

Undoubtedly every day is marked by important events. Our task is to use every day God gives us to glorify Him by worshipping Him, teaching His word, and demonstrating His love by serving those around us.