

Literacy Matters

By: Ralph E. Vaughn

Most of us would agree that reading is the foundation of education and a well-balanced life. Let me share with you a story about a person who discovered that truth early in his life.

The young man was very timid and shy, mainly because his family was modest in their financial standing within the county where they lived. They were hard-working people with deep beliefs concerning principle and character. But their lifestyle was meager at best.

He believed at the time that other young people had more talents and opportunities to succeed in life than he. But the young man somehow knew that the world was much bigger than the one he lived in. He listened daily to a battery-powered radio because the family's home was void of electricity.

He was intrigued by the way radio personalities and newscasters sounded with their air of confidence. He dreamed of being like them. To accomplish that dream would mean having good communication skills; both verbal and written.

One day while listening to a radio program, the young man heard the announcer say, "Today I am going to share with you the world's strangest secret. The strangest secret is that you will become what you think about. Not if; not maybe; but you will become what you constantly think about."

The young man was stirred with a passion to read and learn; discovering words and thoughts for him to think about. His world was changed; never to be the same again.

Yes, the strangest secret is that a person will become what he or she reads and thinks about. Literacy matters.

#####