

THE SUNDAY SLANT April 29, 2018

GIVE SOME CREDIT

Some people see themselves as "self-made." Pride in personal accomplishments. They did it! Single-handedly! This is arrogance gone to seed. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. I doubt there is a "self-made" person anywhere!

Ernie Banks, Chicago Cubs hall of famer, always remembered how his father had worked day and night and sacrificed to give him the chance to play baseball. Every day his father left the house before sun-up and got home after dark. He worked so many hours that he seldom saw sunlight.

When Ernie signed his first contract with the Cubs, he sent a three-word telegram to his dad: "We did it!" Banks knew that others had helped to make his success possible.

Personally, I would have to take the same approach. So many have lifted me up and helped me to achieve any good that I've done. And that's not just historically speaking, for there are so many people even now who encourage me day after day. I couldn't make it without them. I thank God every day for friends who support and stand by.

As I look back over fifty-six years of full-time ministry (fifty-eight altogether,) the memories of faithful brethren and friends flood my soul. Life is filled with hills and valleys. Friends, mostly Christians, but not exclusively, have walked through the valleys of life with me and have held my hand as I've faced my mountains.

Thank you, faithful friends, for all you've done to lift me up - you know who you are!

- Tom Butterfield