



Your Life Going Forward

Years ago, a man and his entire family were forced to move in the name of progress. A hydroelectric dam was being built to provide a large area with a low cost energy source. Thousands had to sacrifice for the needs of millions and a town would soon be underwater.

Reading the newspaper, Mr. Taylor noticed that his son's birthday tree was to be lost.

Then he pleaded with the man in charge of building the midway bridge across the lake. The result of Mr. Taylor's letter writing kept the tree intact, unharmed, and standing upright.

Over the next several years, the dam and the midway bridge were a source of employment. Hundreds of landowners had their property condemned, and they were given 2 years to move. After the completion of the huge dam, seven gates were closed, and the lake started to fill.

Slowly, the level of the lake reached the midway bridge and the base of Sam's tree. And when the lake reached its operating capacity, the top of his tree was 15' underwater. With its 30' growth, the tree planted on Sam's birthday was doomed to a watery grave.

Years later, Sam told his son about the tree and wanted to prove the tree's existence. Arriving at the location near the midway bridge, Sam cast his line, fishing for the tree. On the 3rd cast, Sam accidentally hooked into a pan sized 6" perch along its back fin. On the 5th cast, success, the treble hook snagged and then he pulled in a small branch. On the 6th cast, they all recognized the tree's death created a dependable fishing spot. At this point, Sam and his family learned God sometimes turns adversity into success.

Your life going forward will be full of events, please recognize and understand how you handle each of them will determine your character and who you are.