



Lord's Name, 2013

Michael Gurley

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH A VERY SIMPLE THOUGHT AND GROWS INTO A MAGNIFICENT PREMISE AND RETURNS TO A VERY SIMPLE THOUGHT...

Tag: teacher

First Impressions

OCTOBER 21, 2014

Yes, I wake up with my brain running a hundred miles per hour.

This is probably why I cannot linger in the morning, rather, I must get up and get the day started. There is much to do, and too little time to accomplish the myriad of tasks.

Yet, why would I awake thinking about impressions people have made on me? Why should I care what kind of impressions I make on others?



It takes a moment to see what is really wrong with this picture!

It has ALWAYS been my "modus operandi" to accept people at face value and then let them prove to me who they truly are. Some gauge people by any number of ways, say, their hair color, smile, height, size, or even how they are dressed. What kind of car do you drive? How big is your house? In fact, a friend in a certain position says that he is always judged first by the shoes he wears - I seldom look at another persons shoes! I know some who look for the label of your clothes, the name of the school where you matriculated, or even how big your church or company is...

Of course, we know that any person wanting to fool others will understand how to robe themselves in such a way of acceptability that even a wise man will be fooled.

You know, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me!"

Could that first impression be of someone nice, sweet, helpful - but their true nature is one of a viper, or a wolf in sheep's clothing?

Definitely. I think this is proven out many times in moments of revealed tragedy when someone says, "I never thought they could be like this. No way. Never." (They shake their head and the camera let's you see their confusion.)

Another thing I've learned about myself is my personality of "second chances." I am willing to give someone a chance, and really care little how many chances they have had previously. There is always a moment of change and improvement when someone simply needs a caring personality. This is so different from many people. Let them down once, and you are torn out of their contact database - never to talk to them, or consider them for anything in the future.

That's not me. In fact, a better description might be like that story in Readers Digest many years ago.

A new teacher was assigned a class in inner city New York. It was a dangerous and dark place and practically every teacher knew it was a horrible assignment. Each teachers desk was surrounded by fencing to keep students out, and thrown objects from striking the teacher. Armed guards everywhere.

As the new teacher perused her roster, she noted an amazing column of information. She had some really brilliant kids in her class. Their IQ was way above normal. She immediately had the cage removed, and started the first day of class treating the students with high honor and respect.

Of course, the students were surprised, and it was not but a few days and their attitudes changed. Their grades improved. Their decorum was actually enjoyable. They made good impressions on everyone around them.

When asked by the principle how a new teacher could change a class of die hard rejects the teacher replied, "Well, you gave me the cream of the crop. Their IQ is off the chart." The principle was stymied. The roster HAD NO IQ score anywhere. When he asked for the roster, the new teacher whipped it out to prove her point. The principle studied the chart, and then chuckled, "Those are not IQ scores! That column is their assigned Locker Number."



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Perhaps this is a lesson for all of us. Assume the best, never expect the worst, and then act surprised when something negative is revealed.

No. No. No, someone says to me, "You know what A-S-S-U-M-E means, right?"

Still, the one thing you cannot change about First Impressions are the ways you are introduced into a new grouping after being included and feet on ground for less than 24 hours. "Tell that liar he's going to hell!" I said to someone who related a lie told about me 11 years ago. To this day, I still do not know who told the lie, nor do I care. Neither do I hold the bearer of the news responsible. But the way I am introduced into a grouping sort of sets the stage for how I am accepted.

Now you are caught up in trying to prove the lie wrong, and you have to live down the First Impressions presented by the lie AND your reactions! And, it puts me into the mode of wondering if my choice made was a good choice. Here's were your First Impressions gets a severe test - can you look past it to all the other players in the group and let them each prove their First Impressions to you? Well, can you?

There's nothing you can do about what some says but prove the lie wrong. I hope my First Impressions perceived, nor revealed, has anything to do with my present day view of the world - but I will tell you that First Impressions revealed can change you...

If these first statistics of Jesus are correct, 1 in 12 is a devil!

Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? (John 6:70 KJV)

When you see the lists of the disciples in Matthew 10:2-4, Judas is at the bottom of the list! (And Luke 6:16) Makes you wonder about that 12th man/woman around you, right?!

Let's make sure it's not about First Impressions, but Lasting Impressions. Okay?

Thank you...



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The 29th of August

AUGUST 29, 2012

4	August 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
11	28	30	31	1	2	3	4
12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
15	26	27	28	29	30	31	

This is a special day for someone in my family. Perhaps she is the only one I can call sister, and perhaps you have no clue who I am talking about. But I do.

She is just a year away from being the same in age as my birth year. Again, you may not have any clue to what I mean, but she

does!

She gave life to two children in opposite gender order than my wife and I did. This is especially a unique occasion because I am one and she is one. Of course, we had a boy first (since I am one) and she had a girl first (since she is one). Though we have reverse order connection, the two middle siblings accomplished similar unique production - one with 2 boys and a girl, the other with 1 boy and 2 girls. But here, the girls were always the younger, with boys born first (because they are boys). Between the four of us, we produced 10 children - which is righteous since we have 10 fingers! It made it easy for the grandparents to count!

Because we were a family of four siblings, and because she was the youngest and all her siblings were boys, she always got a room to herself. Being the youngest, of course, she always had to sit in the middle seat crunched between her brothers or her parents! I remember in the yard in Seabrook with her cooking she had one play kitchen pretending and we sat with her - yet trying to eat. Or the time she had one of those little Easy Bake ovens and would cook real food - I did not say really "good" food... Somewhere along the way she was a Brownie - you know, the beginning Girl Scout role. I remember her little green Pinto (I think) and how we went to a wedding or a funeral somewhere and she asked me to drive because neither of us knew where we were going. Or when I was at the orthodontist and saw her x-rays and teased her about it showing she had no brains. How about the Little League parade where she endured being the Team Sweetheart? (I have pictures around here somewhere if someone needs some ammunition!)

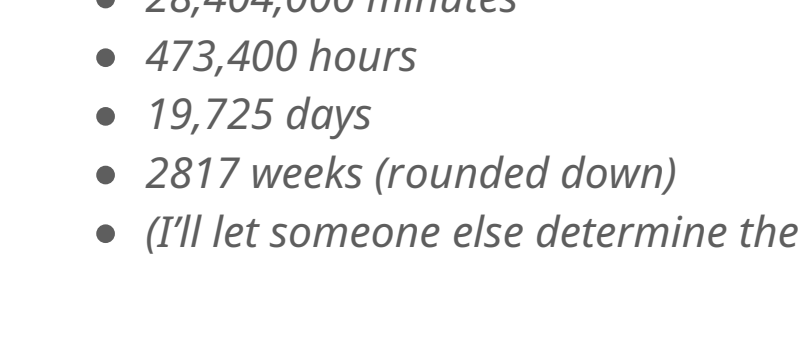
Somewhere along the way she grew up, became a wife, a mother, a teacher and I have enjoyed knowing and loving her all these years. She is my only sister (though there are a couple of in-laws hanging around!!).

Now. She is not physically near to me although we are as close as neighboring states will allow. I thought I would present a special calculation that only her oldest brother would think of...

So, here goes... Teresa... I have known you from the day you breathed your first breath. I calculate this has spanned a time of:

From and including: **Friday, August 29, 1958** to and including: **Wednesday, August 29, 2012** is...

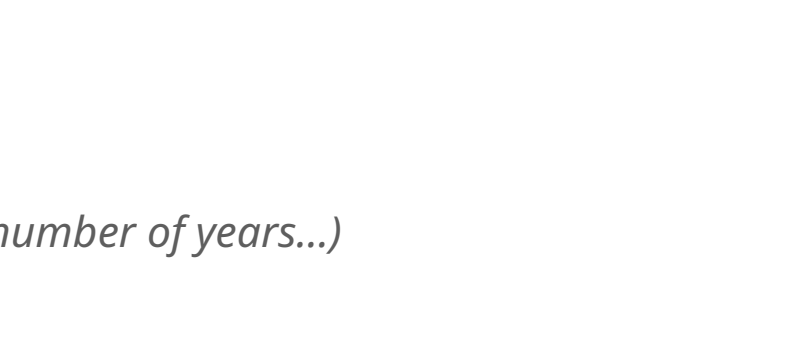
- 1,704,240,000 seconds
- 28,404,000 minutes
- 473,400 hours
- 19,725 days
- 2817 weeks (rounded down)
- (I'll let someone else determine the number of years...)



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Just think, nearly 2 million seconds, nearly 30 million minutes, nearly a half million hours or nearly 20,000 days! That's nearly 3,000 weeks!

Happy Birthday! I love you!

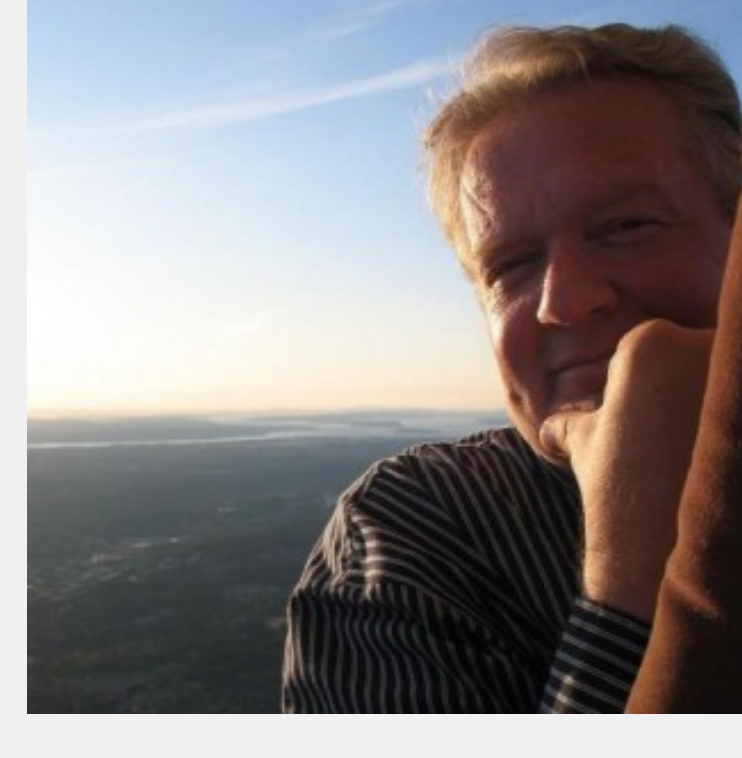
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Michael Gurley

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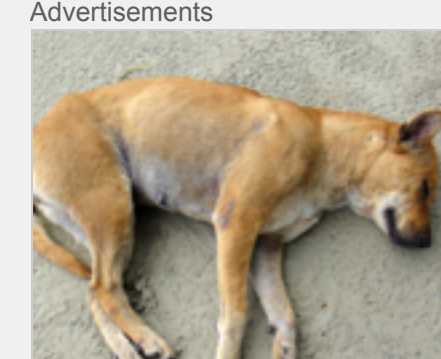
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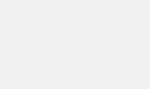
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