

→ The Chemistry + Set

When I was a boy – I led a very colourful life. I'm glad I was born in the time I was, because I have seen some very fantastic things in my life. How many of you have been given a gift that changed the course of your life?

The teacher used to say, "Peter is more interested in the flies crawling up the wall than in learning his ABC." I was a person who always saw things and wanted to experiment with new things, so when Dad and Mum gave me Chemistry set, it revolutionised my life by setting my imagination free.

I made copper sulphate crystals, lovely blue crystals. Then I found out you could make rockets and bombs. This was in the 1960's when a man was sent to the moon.

I made a bomb and stuck it in Dad's furnace. I thought it would just blow up through the flue. I lit the fuse and ran and hid behind a tree. There was a mighty bang! The furnace was blown to bits. The side of the furnace was missing. I was in a terrible dilemma, what was I going to tell Dad and Mum?



The parents came running out, "What in the name of goodness have you done", only they didn't put it like that.

"Oh, oh, I think the girls must have thrown a full can of aerosol spray into the furnace and it exploded." Dad fully believed me.

But that incident started me off and I learnt so much. My brother and I blew up sand-hills, made rockets that really worked.



There was one rocket that we made as a capsule, put a mouse inside, attached a parachute, and took it to the middle of a clay pan outside of the town.

We lit the fuse and jumped on our bikes and pedalled like mad to a safe distance and watched what would happen with our creation. Up went the rocket, straight up just like one of the Atlas rockets of the time. "Wow! Look at that!" Our success took our breath away. It reached 100 feet or so and then disaster struck.



The side of the rocket blew out sideways. The parachute ejected.

There was smoke and sulphur raining down everywhere and the little mouse was running across the ground seeking safety under a bush.

Another gift Dad gave me was a guitar. To this day I still play a guitar. This too changed my life. It became an instrument that I could use to serve the Lord with and to worship him and praise him. It became an outlet for creativity.

There is yet another gift that my Heavenly Father gave me. The outpouring of his Spirit and grace; God has given me a gift in the Lord Jesus himself. The ancient writings refer to Jesus as the 'unspeakable gift.'

Jesus is a gift that is so precious, so great, so rich, and so valuable that the human mind can only gain a glimmer. Jesus in turn gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us with a deep joy causing us to be able to rejoice and sing the praises of the Lord even in a time of hardship

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