



# ***Free Ride***

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by  
**JOHN**



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*Just think about it!*

I spent the first nine months getting to know my mother. Guess where we were! We had lots of fun and she taught me heaps. I loved my mother for what she was in my life, and Dad was always there when we needed him. Humble, but a great Dad. They were both clever, taught common sense and how to love and laugh.

When my family shifted to Miramar I went to Miramar South School. I wasn't really a studious person, and having 50 in a class you only got one chance. I'm very grateful for what I did learn thanks to the teachers. They knew I was always happy to entertain the class, and at 8 years old I sang the hit song of the time – "Chattanooga Choo Choo"! I also represented the school at sports.

When I was about 12 years old, my brother taught me how to take a motor bike apart, fix what was wrong, and reassemble it. I was 14 when I got my first motor bike. Mum said she prayed every night I went out on it. Later, my brother taught me about servicing a car, with doing a valve grind and a decarb. I was thankful to him for teaching me those skills.

Something happened that had never happened before, and of all the places in the world, it happened in our own city of Wellington in a little place called Miramar.



There was a certain quaint little house in Rotherham Terrace that a certain young couple wanted to buy. Prior to that, the husband had just got back from the UK, and at that time they met and got married. The husband's name was John and his wife's was Dawn. Like most couples they wanted to purchase their own home.

John had served his time with Ludlows, starting in 1948. The Ludlow family were a friendly group, well known in Miramar, always ready to help; probably one of the pioneer families of the Peninsula we are so proud of. John worked at



Ludlows for fifteen years, and had good training throughout his apprenticeship because their joinery standard was very high. He then started his own joinery business, which he and his wife continued for 40 years.

John has made a variety of things in his career: 2 caravans, one he designed for a small car when the petrol price increased; 3 boats; 3 coffins; hundreds of bookcases ... He designed a 6x3ft pool table to fold down so that you could play in your lounge.



He did house lots of joinery for 3 builders. He made dozens of wooden toys. One of his weaknesses was when later he saw one in a fair he could not resist buying it back again – he even bought one of his table tennis tables back after 30 years! It proves they really built things to last in those days.

The scheme to pay for that quaint little house that Dawn and John really loved was a bit of a cliff-hanger because money was tough then, like always. They did not have any money to buy the house, so they got together to think of an idea how they could pay for it. At last they decided what, out of all of the things they could make, then they started work and kept going – wait for it – they made 5000 table tennis tables!

People said it was impossible, but what is impossible? When I landed on the planet I had a free ride for the rest of my life and had a whale of a time. When I first landed I noticed people fighting for what they called good or bad. I thought “Why is this?” and decided to take a look around me.

The world seemed good and the people around me were perfect. I looked again and could see no bad things, only people doing bad to good things; so I decided I would look after things I had been given. I have had lots of friends that are girls and have always enjoyed female company.

Dawn and I went around New Zealand performing together with our ventriloquist doll Cliff. On stage TV and radio, we performed over 4000 shows. We felt we were “almost famous” like Cliff Richard said.



I think Dawn and I would like to be remembered for the nobodies that we have helped to make into somebodies, just to be there for them at the right time to make a difference.

My wife and I love meeting people, and we have been married over forty years. Most people we meet, when having to decide say “What’s in it for me?”. When I met my wife she said “How can I help?” With both of us having this attitude we fell head over heels in love and never once looked back. We found we had so much love we have spent the last 40 years loving everybody and saying “How can we help?”.

Dawn is now 76 and I have just turned 82 [2015]. We don’t know how many down-and-outs we have helped, but we know they always remember us because every day somewhere someplace, some kind person waves or smiles or honks or says a kind word.

With the help of good people, what did I find after looking for 80 years? If you want to get the best

out of what you have, go forward and never look back. Do things you always wanted to do. As you go forward things will always get better all the time. By going forward and enjoying it, your body will show your mind how good your body is.

When you start, don't bother to try analysing everything around, or you will never get going. After you have been sitting around feeling terrible you'll think that melted down you would be pushing to scrape \$5. The bad starts to show you things deep inside that have never popped up before. Just accept what you can see and what you have. Go forward, dress up trendy, remember to smile and go for it! Fun Fun Fun! Life was made to enjoy, but take note: rules are not for breaking.

To say hi, all of a sudden you burst into song and like in spring you have a little skip like a newborn lamb. Julie Andrews sang "Let's start at the very beginning" and you must too. Don't talk to strangers. Don't look back and be bogged down again, look for freedom. Look and live each day

when you go forward and find more and more exciting things that you are able to do. There is a saying: “Yesterday is history, tomorrow’s a mystery, and today’s a gift.”

People who have gone forward more and more say there is no end to what you can do. If you believe, you can do it. Even with all the odds against you, there is no ending. Everybody in the world does not really fully know themselves and their capabilities. It is the responsibility for everyone that has had a free ride on the planet to tell others how you have enjoyed it, and perhaps now when your body has shown you how good it is.



We could give a great big thanks for taking time to He who made us and looked after us all our lives. You must have been a wonderful maker, with love and caring. We would love to get to know you now that we have found your great love and caring and Power. Now the ball is in our court to find you, praise you, and thank you for all you have done and given us. And by the way, if we have done any damage to your world and these bodies we are sorry.

I got up one morning the same as usual and stood outside my house. Then a man came along and spoke to me, saying “I have met you a long time ago, I am the landlord of your house. How are you liking living in the house I have provided for you? You have not been in touch like many of the tenants, so I hope that everything is to your liking.” Most of the tenants can’t believe how we can live in it and also take it shopping, to work, and on holiday. They fully realise this house is different – a miracle house! A walking talking living miracle house they have loved living

in, where wonderful things keep happening as we step out in faith. Leave all the things that we don't understand behind, spoiling the feeling of love in our house. Realise it is all put together by the impossible.

For just about all the people in the world, if you pin them down and ask them honestly if they really know themselves, they say no we don't. We find out very different things about ourselves every day if we step out in faith; to seek and we will find the answer: that from the beginning of the world everyone, man and woman, has been created. Can you imagine the world is created in one huge body – that's your house which I have been telling you about. The landlord is your Maker who, unknown to you, has taken care of you since you were born. He has been given the job from the start; we have tried to run the world but there is nothing but chaos. Vote God of the Bible back to run the world, and be back at the head of the body so that we can at last have peace and real love on this planet. I don't know

how many times we have nearly blown the world up, but He says we should look at the whole of creation and see what God has done.

Prayerfully He says that if we are really sorry for turning away from him and damaging his creation, He has got an insurance policy paid for you himself with the blood of his only begotten son Jesus. You need to pray yourself and ask him to forgive you; it is not how bad you have been but how sorry you are.

*God bless,  
John*





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Getting the best out of life?

You can do what I have done, and even better!

Life is for living, so trust in the Lord and **Go, Go, Go!**

***I can do all things through Christ that can strengthen me.***

*(Phil. ch4:v13)*

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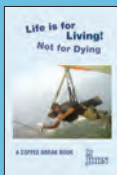
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