

## Faith Lift- The Icing on the Cake

For my birthday Eve party last Wednesday, I went to 3 Brother's Bakery in Houston to ask them to make a special cake-a Ukulele cake. I showed the lady who was taking my order a picture of my ukulele. She began to describe how they would do it. She said that they would make the neck out of cardboard, but it would be iced like the rest of the cake but we couldn't eat it. She asked what kind of cake and what kind of filling and what kind of icing I would like. I decided on yellow cake with pineapple filling and chocolate icing. I asked her how much that would be and she said, "\$500."

I gulped.

I said, "Well this is just a joke cake for my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Eve Party. Can I just get a sheet cake with a scanned PICTURE of my ukulele?" She said, "Sure." I asked, "How much would that be?" She said, "\$60." I said, "Fine." I paid the "\$60."

On Wednesday when I went to pick up the cake, the lady that I ordered the cake from was not there. When the girl behind the counter opened the box to show me the cake, it was not a sheet cake with a picture of my ukulele on it. It was the \$500 UKELELE CAKE!!!! I thought, "Oh my, I'm going to have to pay for a \$500 cake!"

I didn't know what to say. I had picked out 2 candles, a "6" and a "5" and the girl said, "We'll have to ring those up down there." I walked with her to the register to pay and she said, "\$2.25." I said, "And the cake?" She said, "You've already paid for it."

I thought, "Well maybe she was playing a joke on me by saying it cost "\$500."

I took it to the party which was held at the J.P. Hops House on Highway 6 in West Houston. Every Wednesday they have a "Soup and Music Kitchen," with a house band and featured artists. Last Wednesday I and a couple of my friends Steve Arnold and David Kealey were the featured artists. The house was packed with friends who came including members of former churches I have served, St. Andrew's, John Knox, St. Paul and First Presbyterian Tomball, as well as Don and

Jenice Coffey from Baytown. The fellowship was good. The music was good. The cake was sooooo good.

The next day I decided to go back to 3 Brothers Bakery to thank the lady for the wonderful cake. She was not there. I asked the girl who was there the other day, "She was kidding me when she said the cake would cost \$500, right?" The girl said, "Oh no. That was a \$500 cake. She's the owner's wife and she did that for you for your birthday."

I have tried a couple of times to call and thank her, but have yet to reach her. I can't get over the generosity of a total stranger. It made the celebration of my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday even sweeter. Like a T-shirt I got from my son at my real Birthday Dinner the next night says, "Life Is Good." Getting to play music for a gathering of my friends was great, but getting a \$440 discount for my "joke" cake was way more than the "icing on the cake."