

"The Blending of Lives" by Nancy Loyall Turner, Green County

Owen has retired from military service and has moved to the country. Owen owns a farm and has a garden. Owen and his wife live happily in the country. Owen has a garden and shares garden produce with his neighbors.

On a cold afternoon, tragedy strikes. Owen is not home when a fire starts in his house. When Owen gets home, his home is gone and then the worst news. Owen's wife was not able to get out of the house. Everything is gone but the vehicle that Owen is driving.

Owen is heartbroken. Owen has many friends who are standing by him and praying for him. Owen gets sick and learns that his friends are there to help in good times and bad. Owen still has his faith in God. Owen gets better and he knows he is blessed in so many ways.

Friends and neighbors help Owen with donations of new and gently used clothing. Owen also gets new and used items for his new home.

One day neighbor, Emily brings Owen a box of kitchen items. Emily also brings Owen a new Bible. Owen is happy to get his Bible. Another day, Emily brings Corn Bread Salad to Owen for lunch. Owen really likes the Corn Bread Salad.

When Emily and Owen meet on the road, they stop and visit. Owen always ends the conversation with "See you Neighbor".

In the spring, Owen calls Emily and asks her to go vegetable plant shopping with him. They buy Tomato and Watermelon Plants, Onion Sets, Bean and Pea seed. They also eat lunch during the shopping trip.

Owen helps Emily prepare her garden for planting the seeds and setting the plants into the ground. Owen and Emily watch the garden grow. Owen and Emily become closer friends. Emily has gone from being "Neighbor" to being "Emily".

Owen and Emily go to a flea market and enjoy the day. They work on a Holiday Float for a parade and they go to the parade.

As the garden grows, so does the friendship of Emily and Owen. Emily and Owen walk together, they harvest garden produce and they work together. Emily and Owen make pickled beets, squash relish and tomato salsa. Emily and Owen share their garden produce with others. Emily is now "Sweetheart".

Emily meets Owen's children and grandchildren. Owen's family is a special close knit family. Owen has three children and four grandchildren. The family loves Emily and Emily loves the family.

On a beautiful fall afternoon Emily and Owen go for a walk. Owen surprises Emily with a question. "Emily, I love you. Will you be my wife?" Owen gives Emily a beautiful diamond. Emily loves Owen and knows that God has brought them together. Emily does not hesitate to say "I would love to be your wife".

Emily and Owen start planning for a wedding in about six months. They are thinking of a destination wedding. But as they are planning, they think of the hardships of certain people getting to the wedding.

Owen and Emily decide to have a small church wedding with Emily's pastor performing the service. Emily and her friend Charlotte shop for a wedding dress and flowers. And they plan for a reception.

Emily and Owen decide to get married in six weeks instead of six months.

Rainy weather is forecast for the wedding day. But when the wedding day arrives, it is sunny and breezy. Family, friends, photographer and then the bride arrive at the church.

The Pastor, Best Man and Groom are waiting at the altar. Jenny, the matron of honor, walks down the aisle. The moment that Owen has anxiously awaited has arrived. . .His Bride is walking down the aisle. . .With every step, Emily is getting closer to Owen. . .Both Emily and Owen are smiling.

The ceremony is complete and Emily and Owen are presented to the crowd. The couple are glowing, smiling and holding each other. They walk down the aisle to the door.

Owen holds the door for Emily to get into his 1966 Corvette.

Emily and Owen are off to their honeymoon destination.