

Faith & Family News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family

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But What Do You Say?

by Jamie Purcifull

As I read the stories in the New Testament, I am astonished at how some of the same challenges Jesus faced 2000 years ago, we still struggle with today. Those who did not agree with Jesus or felt threatened by His teachings were constantly trying to discredit and trap Him. Just as Christians who are confronted today, those who set themselves against Jesus tried to monopolize and manipulate the argument in such a way as to put themselves in a position where they felt they could not lose.

The scene where the scribes and Pharisees bring a woman allegedly caught in adultery to Jesus is just such an example. As the story is told in John Chapter 8, they bring this woman to Jesus and say to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law commanded us that such should be stoned, but what do

those presenting the question to press Jesus even harder for a response. Because of this initial silence, they are most likely certain they have Jesus stumped and have caught Him in a conundrum he cannot escape. If He offers this woman forgiveness or ignores her sin, He is setting Himself counter to or above the law; if he agrees to condemn the woman according to the law, then He exposes Himself as being inconsistent with His message of compassion, mercy and healing that He has been displaying toward sinners up to this point.

Finally, Jesus stands up and answers, telling the crowd that if any among them is guiltless or without sin to go ahead and be the first to cast a stone. This response is both short and brilliant, allowing Jesus to compromise nothing while satisfying both sides of the argument. Essentially, Jesus is



you say?" It may be hard for us to grasp in our permissive culture, but adultery was a serious offense punishable by stoning to death according to ancient Jewish laws. It was by appealing to these laws that they were confident they could trap Jesus as they knew He was very compassionate toward sinners, even offering outright forgiveness. At the same time, He was claiming God as His Father, the very same God that gave the Jews these laws in the first place.

As the scene unfolds, Jesus at first seems to either ignore or at least delay His response by stooping down and scribbling on the ground. I would suppose this draws more attention to Jesus as the crowd is probably wondering what He is doing and causes

saying since you are all so intent on following the letter of the law, let's be sure you are applying it to everyone here, not just to this woman you have brought before me. The law has some specific tests of witness and testimony that must be met before such an execution can be carried out. Who here can pass those tests without incriminating themselves? Oops, once Jesus threw the light of the law back on them, they were found wanting; suddenly no one could measure up to the strict requirements of the law to carry out such a sentence. Once Jesus asserted the letter of the law to include the accusers, their hypocrisy was exposed and their zeal to pursue the matter evaporated. One

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A Season of Change

by Matt Turner

The Scripture records, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). For those of us living in a temperate climate, this is pretty easy to understand. Personally, I love the change of seasons. I enjoy the heat of summer, as long as my air conditioning is working, and the snow in the winter, as long as my furnace is working.

However, when it comes to the changing of the seasons of life, I'm not so fond of a couple aspects of that reality, I must admit. One difficulty is the physical limitations which come with growing older in conjunction with my degenerative disease of the spine. I do not like being unable to do all the things I did even a few years ago. I had always been a very active person. I played baseball throughout my youth, umpired for twelve years, and coached for the past thirteen. (I am writing this article in a hotel room in Terre Haute at the American Legion State Finals.)

One reason I count myself as "the luckiest man in the world"

is because I have had the pleasure of being a dad to an exceptionally-gifted, athletic young man. I have been able to teach him baseball skills which have helped him excel in life. I was once a good batting practice pitcher; now if I tried to throw, my arm would ache for weeks—along with my neck, knees and feet. And I can forget about ever trying to hit infield again.

As difficult as physical limitations are, those don't compare to the difficulty in the change that has been taking place within my chosen profession. For the past 24 years, my wife Peggy and I have had the pleasure of working at Victory Christian Academy. When we were in grade school, we both knew we wanted to be teachers. Then when I was in high school and my first couple years of college, I thought I would like to be a college professor. I thought I didn't want to deal with all the disciplinary issues in elementary and secondary education. However, all that changed when I began substitute teaching

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Editorially Speaking

by Morris Starkey

We had a wonderful time in the *Faith & Family News* booth at the 2015 Howard County Fair in July. It gave us an opportunity to meet many of our readers and get the feedback that helps us improve our paper and see what you liked (or didn't like) about what we are doing.

Several of you wish we could publish more often, which, with our current staffing, we are unable to do. We are, however, anticipating adding additional pages, beginning in the Spring 2016 issue. We are also going to add more features. One of those features will be a sports-themed column that will look at various aspects of the sports world and the Christian. We also are looking to add a teen focused column to address the issues that teens deal with every day. Keep us in your prayers as we endeavor to reach a broader readership in the Howard area, and adjoining counties. Your feedback has greatly encouraged us toward these improvements.

The question naturally follows: how are we going to make these changes a reality? Similar to salvation, *F&FN* is free, but it isn't cheap. We have always known that the secret to seeing God move is prayer, so we are praying. Will you put us on your prayer list? Putting "feet to our prayers" is also necessary, by not only telling God, but telling His people. If you are a Christian businessperson reading this paper, the first thing you can do is contact us and ask Donna (765-470-1954) to put you on our distribution list. We will drop off a small stack of papers when the next issue comes out. It is an ef-

fective way to witness your faith to others, without being pushy. We promise to keep our content positive, Biblical, interesting and family-focused. You can also join our "*Friends Of Faith & Family News*" support group with a suggested donation. (Call Donna for a business info packet.) In appreciation, we will run a business notice, that meets our policies, for an entire year for one modest suggested donation. If you are an individual who would like to help out in a small way, you can simply donate \$10 a month (\$15 for family) and your name will be listed in each issue as a "Friend" of Faith & Family News. Or if you prefer, we can list you as anonymous. Call Donna (765-470-1954).

Did you know we are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FaithAndFamilyNews?> "Like" our page to keep up on what is going on with our ministry.

Want to receive *Faith & Family News* by email so you won't miss an issue? Go to [www.vbckokomo.com](http://vbckokomo.com) and follow the link to http://vbckokomo.com/faith_and_family_news. Click the "Add Me To The Email List" in the upper left hand corner. You will only be sent the issues as they are published; you will not be subjected to requests for money and your email address will not be shared to a third party.

Enjoy the copy you are currently reading and feel free to pick up an extra copy to pass along to a friend who you think would also enjoy reading it. Blessings.

Morris Starkey
editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com

Have a Wonderful Day!

by George Whitten

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only three hairs on her head. "Great," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "I guess I'll part my hair down the middle." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only one hair left on her head. "Wow," she said, "today I get to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did, and had a wonderful, wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Thank God!" she exclaimed. "I was running out of things to do with my hair!"

ATTITUDE is everything! Let's be grateful for the things God has given us and have a wonderful day!

(Used by permission of worthydevotions.com)

Raising a Good Child in a Bad World

by Mike Ennis

One of the most challenging things in life is raising children. We want our children to be better and have more than we had. As a Christian parent I want my child to be better than I am, to please God more, and to be more useful to the work of God. We also want our children to make a positive contribution to the world in the time that they have in it. Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future" (*Great Speeches*).

All of this represents a huge challenge. Most of us did not have perfect parents, and those of us who are parenting or have parented would have to admit that we are not perfect either. The good news is that there is a perfect God who has given us perfect instructions in childrearing. We find those perfect instructions in the Bible.

One of the first things that we learn about childrearing from the Bible is very important in the day in which we live. One of the single greatest contributing factors to our present societal breakdown is absentee fathers—either absent because of fathering a child and then not being involved in that child's life, or absent because of being in the home but not being intimately involved in the child's life. That is a tremendous failure to do things God's way, the Bible way. The primary responsibility of childrearing belongs to the father. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them

up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4 KJV).

I was listening to an inner city pastor preach on this subject a few months back. He said that the way to save America from self-destruction is for fathers to save their sons. He said if we can save our sons, we can save our churches. If we can save our churches, we can save our communities. If we can save our communities, we can save our nation. I agree; our nation will only be as strong as its churches, and its churches will only be as strong as its families. America is strong economically, militarily, but it is weak morally. We will follow the path of other nations that rose to greatness and fell to obscurity because we, like many of them, will rot on the inside.

Godly male leadership in the home and the church and the community is the only thing that can turn us from our present path to destruction. Men must step up, putting away selfish pursuits and worshipping at the altar of work, sports and other pleasures, and lead their families. They must save their sons and their daughters.

Although it is primarily the responsibility of the fathers, moms are involved too. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3 KJV).

Raising a Good Child *cont. on page 8*

Voices From the Past

Do not say, "I cannot help having a bad temper."
Friend, you must help it.

Pray to God to help you overcome it at once,
for either you must kill it, or it will kill you.
You cannot carry a bad temper into heaven.

—Charles H. Spurgeon 1834-1892

THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



Technology promises to let us do anything from anywhere with anyone. But it also drains us as we try to do everything everywhere. We begin to feel overwhelmed and depleted by the lives technology makes possible. We may be free to work from anywhere, but we are also prone to being lonely everywhere.

—Sherry Turkle, professor of the Social Studies of Science, MIT

Have you ever been around a young person who is so engrossed in his digital device that he is oblivious to everything and everyone around him? Hunched over his device, with eyes wide and inches from the screen and a goofy smile on his face, he truly is in his own world. But children aren't the only ones susceptible to the lures of digital devices. We have all probably seen an adult check out at a store while talking on her cell phone, never making eye contact with the clerk or saying a word to him. Digital technology has been encroaching on our daily lives for years, and people, for the most part, have welcomed it with open arms. But some have begun to ask if the extensive use of digital technology is good for people, or if in later years we will regret the effect it has had on society.

Dr. Archibald Hart, author and professor of psychology, and his daughter Dr. Sylvia Hart Frejd, digital researcher and speaker, explore the concerns about digital technology in their book appropriately entitled *The Digital Invasion: How Technology Is Shaping You and Your Relationships*, published by Baker Books. In the introduction, Dr. Hart quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson of the mid-1800s as follows:

This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it (p.17).

Dr. Hart echoes that sentiment later when he says, "That laptop or smartphone you have is not inherently evil, but the value you place on it will determine whether it serves you or you serve it" (p. 41). Dr. Hart assures the reader that he is not a

technophobe. When his seminary did not have a computer, he built his own from a do-it-yourself kit and taught himself how to program computers. He has embraced digital technology from the beginning, so the reader can trust that he is giving a balanced perspective. Dr. Frejd adds depth to their research in that she is certified in Internet Addiction and is daily engaged in managing the digital lives of her own at-home children.

Drs. Hart and Frejd write to issue a wake-up call to parents, teachers and educators, and pastors to take seriously the challenges of the digital world. The chapter, "The Rewiring of Our Brains" is a fascinating explanation for the layman how the brain works and responds to addictive behavior. For example, texting addiction is a form of "intermittent reinforcement," the same principle that creates an addiction to slot machines (p. 139). Another interesting chapter is called "The Multitasking Myth", with conclusions that might surprise today's proud multitaskers.

The authors explain how digital technology affects the rearing and the socialization of children—and adults as well. They also answer questions like, "Does digital technology really make us smarter?" Drs. Hart and Frejd delve into the serious cyber problems, like Internet and video game addictions, gambling, online pornography, cyberbullying, and sexting, to name a few. They know the cyber world is here to stay, so they offer myriads of ways to control technology and establish good media habits and keep families safe.

Bookshelf cont. on page 9

Did You Know?

- 49% of Americans start their day with cereal.
- The average millionaire goes bankrupt at least 3.5 times.
- People are more likely to remember the first and last things they read on a list than anything else.
- Repeatedly hitting something until you get it to work is actually called "percussive maintenance."
- Standing while doing work on the computer increases your productivity and will make you more focused.
- In Los Angeles, there are fewer people than there are cars.
- 20% of the population has cheek-dimples.

Aging Gracefully Making Melody In Your Heart (Part 4)

by Morris Starkey

Note: This is the fourth in a five-part series on music in the church and its relevancy to the senior citizen. I hope people of any age would benefit from these thoughts.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19).

In this fourth installment on the subject matter at hand, I wish to share something on the second type of musical expression that the Apostle speaks of in the above scripture—the hymn. (If there is a musical form that has gone wanting in our contemporary church, it is the singing of hymns.) A hymn is generally thought of in a spiritual context, though there are those musical pieces that have been referred to as hymns that are more a praise to a geographical location (national hymns) or a philosophical ideal. "God Bless America" is one

of the best known national hymns, and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" would probably best represent a hymn dedicated to an ideal or philosophy. The hymns dedicated to praise and adoration of the one true God are the focus in this article.

Hymn use in the Bible is seen manifested in a broad group of individuals. We see them in the lives of Moses, David, the early disciples, and even Jesus. Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn

together at the Last Supper (Mark 14:26). (Yes, Jesus sang!) The early church sang hymns as part of their regular gatherings (1 Corinthians 14:26). Paul and Silas, with their feet in stocks in a Philippian jail, were praying and singing hymns to God (Acts 16:25). For years, as a pastor I would lead the church in a hymn, in the manner in which Jesus did with the early church, after the obser-

Aging Gracefully cont. on page 11

REFRAINING FROM
SINGING "BLESSED
ASSURANCE" ON THE
PREMISE THAT IT SOUNDS
LIKE GRANDPA'S MUSIC IS
DISTURBING.

Six Encouraging Bible Verses About Help

So often we can feel helpless and out of control. We can look to the One who is fully in control and perfectly able to help in our times of need.

Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 68:6 "God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 13:5-6 "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"

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Lessons From Little Ones

A Long Time

by Brenda Howard

Several years ago my husband, daughter and I went to Romania for a two-year mission project. Attempting to explain all of those plans to our three-year-old daughter was quite challenging at times. She thought that someone was named Romania and we were going to her house to stay. Knowing that she wouldn't yet understand the concept of years, we explained that we would be there for a very long time. When we arrived in Romania she adjusted very well to her new surroundings, the new language around her, and all the new sights. However, after about three weeks I walked past her room and saw her sitting on the edge of her bed looking rather sad. I stopped to see what the problem was and she said, "We've been in Momania for a long time, can we go back to Merica now?"

Our perception of time is very much like a three-year-old's limited understanding. When we are looking forward to something exciting—an upcoming vacation, visit from relatives or friends, a wedding, or birth of a baby—time seems to move so slowly, and sometimes even seems to stand still. Yet, looking back on big events—our wedding anniversary, the birth of our children, even our own birthday—time seems to fly by at lightning speed!

It is an encouragement to know that our God is not constrained by time. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2 ESV). He knows the beginning and the end because He IS the Beginning and the End (Revelation 22:13).

It is an encouragement to know that this life is not the whole story; in fact, it is such a tiny part of the whole story that God's Word describes it as a vapor. "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14 NASB). Though our lives here on earth are short, eternity is, well, eternal!

It is an encouragement to know that the trials we face in this lifetime, though they may seem long, will have an end. "Therefore we do not lose heart, though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NASB).

As encouraging as these truths are, we ought to be challenged by them as well. We are instructed to use our short time here on earth wisely. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12 KJV). "[Make] the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16 NASB).

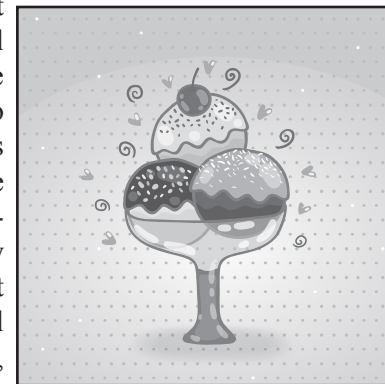
Following the examples in Hebrews 11 of faithful Christians who have gone on to Heaven, we read these instructions: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside

Lessons cont. on page 5

Ice Cream and Corinthians

by Emily Pier
epier@live.com

My life is simple. It's the typical innocuous daily grind of mostly parenting with some other stuff sprinkled throughout. I have no super powers. I don't even have normal powers. I don't have any secret insight into life or original ideas about how to raise kids well. I am certainly no expert in any field. I have no great aspirations to counsel someone. However, if you are like me, you



are looking for all types of help from all types of sources. If something I have written has ever spoken to you, that's great. However, that's not why I write. Not even remotely.

I write to honor my journey. I write to tell my little story within God's grand one. I write to somehow show that God takes a totally underpowered girl and gives her grace and strength and hope. I'm not sure I could number the people who have said they could not do what we do. By that, they mean take in a girl who is not biologically related and raise her as their own. Well, I'm sorry to say that we cannot do what we do—at least not without help. Our families have embraced, loved, and babysat. Our friends have embraced, loved, and babysat. Therapists, government workers, librarians, other adoptive parents, foster care websites, mommy bloggers and gymnastics instructors have empowered, supported, and encouraged.

"It takes a village" to support a parent sometimes. Thank God for my village. His hands are the hands of those who are walking down our path in life with us. (Sometimes I feel like we have forced them to, but they seem willing enough so far.)

Really, I've heard it regarding other things in our life as well: downsizing, apartment living, long-term disease battling, infertility mourning, whatever. "I could never do that. . . ."

I couldn't handle that. . . ." The truth is, you could, you can, and you probably do (or maybe should do) whatever version God has called you to do.

However, the bigger truth is that we don't do it alone—or, we don't have to.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to

comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

I've been lingering here in 2 Corinthians chapter 1. I have been contemplating whether I know how to go to God for comfort, or if I just go ahead and comfort myself in the little ways I know how. I can lose myself in entertainment or a bowl of ice cream (yes, even almond ice cream can drown some sorrows for a while). I can distract myself by helping others or in exercising or in my friends or a good book. I have actually hidden in our car to cry and eat cookies. (They were organic—so that's okay, right?)

How easily I can forget the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. ALL comfort.

I often want delivered from whatever is uncomfortable or inconvenient. God can and does deliver *from*. Though, often He delivers *through* something. These deliverances are the ones when the promises of our never-leaving, never-forsaking, rest-giving, eternal-promising God should be deep, powerful, welcomed comforts.

Any true comfort I can ever offer someone will come from an experience of God comforting me. So I must keep going to Him. He comforts and empowers through all kinds of life's storms we survive.

Yesterday I ate ice cream. Today I am sitting with God's Word in my lap. ♪

— — — — —
*Honor your father and your mother, so that
you may live long in the land the
LORD your GOD is giving you.
Exodus 20:12*

Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

The two recipes that I am including are not mine but were given to me by friends. The Broccoli Cakes recipe is from John McKee, a boyhood friend of my husband, and the Apricot Salad is from Barb Pilger, the pastor's wife at First Baptist Church in Winamac, IN. I trust that you will enjoy trying these recipes.

Broccoli Cakes

- 2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ medium onion (chopped)
- 1 bag (12 ounces) frozen broccoli
- ¾ cup bread crumbs
- ½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese or Colby-Jack cheese
- ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cover a cookie sheet with foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray.

In a skillet sauté oil, garlic, and onion until soft and set aside.

Pour broccoli out on a dish towel to remove water and then chop up the broccoli (or chop in a food processor). Put chopped broccoli in a large bowl, add the garlic and onion, bread crumbs, cheeses, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix well. Using your hands, pack the broccoli mix into small firm patties (approximately 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches in diameter). Place on cookie sheet and bake in oven for 15 minutes then flip the patties over and bake for another 15 minutes.

I made a few changes to the above recipe for two reasons. One, my husband and I are on a low carb diet and two, I like to make things as easy as possible. I replaced the ¾ cup of bread crumbs with 1 cup of crushed puffy pork rinds, and instead of sautéing the onion and garlic in oil, I just added the 2 tablespoons of olive oil with 1-2 teaspoons of minced garlic from a jar and 2 tablespoons of dried minced onion to the broccoli mix. I also bought my broccoli already chopped. I used paper towels to get the excess moisture out of the broccoli. I made 6 patties the first time and put the rest in the refrigerator. I baked the rest of the cakes (it made 5 cakes this time) two days later, this time using parchment paper on the cookie sheet which worked great. My husband loves this recipe so I will be making it often.

Apricot Salad

- 2 small boxes of orange jello
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup apricot nectar
- 1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple (drained)

In a medium sauce pan bring the 2 cups of water to boiling. Stir in the jello until dissolved. Add apricot nectar and drained pineapple. Pour into a 9 x 13 dish and chill until set.

- Topping**
- 1 egg, beaten
 - ½ cup sugar
 - 2 teaspoons flour
 - 1 cup apricot nectar

In a small sauce pan cook the topping ingredients over medium heat until it becomes thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in 2 teaspoons butter. Cool.

Beat 1 package of Dream Whip according to the package directions, then fold into the topping mixture. Spread topping mixture over set jello. Garnish with nuts if desired.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Emergency Preparedness

News Release from the National Safety Council (nsc.org)

Do you know what to do during a weather emergency? Daily routines can be disrupted with little or no warning by a catastrophic event such as an earthquake, tornado, hurricane or flood. Help might not always be available, so emergency preparedness is key. Electric and cell phone service can be knocked out, making communication nearly impossible.

The National Safety Council recommends the following general precautions that apply to many disaster situations:

- Have an emergency kit in your car and at least three days of food and water at home
- Be sure to store all important documents—birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.—in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Assign one family member to learn first aid and CPR
- Know how to shut off utilities ☹



Form

(via Reader's Digest)

A man sold an item through eBay but it got lost in the mail. He stopped by the post office to asked it be tracked down.

"It's not that simple," the clerk scolded. "You have to fill out a mail-loss form."

"I'll take one," the man said. He rummaged under his counter, went to another counter and then returned. He confessed, "You'll have to come back later. We can't find the forms." ☹

Lessons cont. from page 4

every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB).

Understanding that our lives are short and that God will hold us accountable for what we do with our brief time here on earth, let's strive to be able to say, as Paul did, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8 NASB). ☹

What Do You Say? cont. from page 1

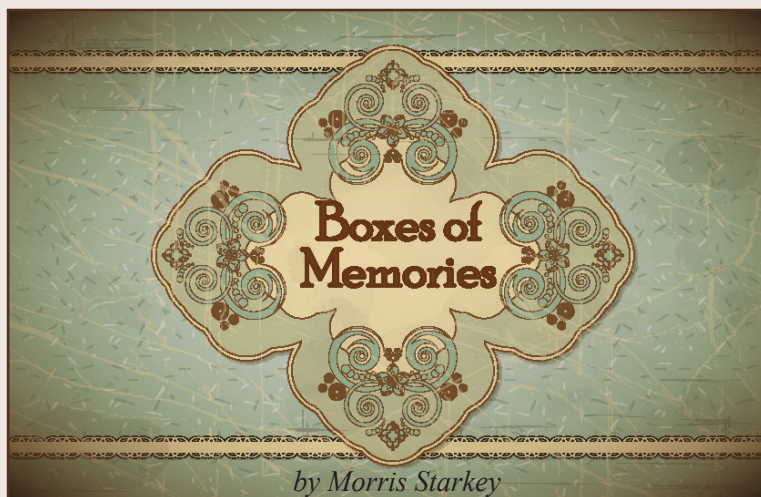
by one they began leaving, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Jesus upheld the law while at the same time found a way to use it to grant a reprieve and extend grace and mercy to the woman. (If you stop and think about it, how this scene played out is precisely consistent with Christ's mission to grant us all a reprieve from judgment.)

So what can we learn from how Jesus handled this situation? There are many hot button issues Christians are being taken to task for in our current culture by the scribes and Pharisees of our day. The question is, can we Christians respond as Jesus responded by staying true to God's revelation without compromise, but with a measure of wisdom that gently exposes sin and hypocrisy and finds a path to patience, grace and mercy to everyone, befitting of what Christ has done for us?

“Brothers and sisters, if a person is discovered in some sin, you who are spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. Pay close attention to yourselves, so that you are not tempted too. Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself” (Galatians 6:1-3, New English Translation). ☹

Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

11 Corinthians 3:17



I have been scanning thousands of pictures of our family's history for a digital pictorial history of our family from the 1870s to about 2006, the year my mother passed away. All the pictures and newspaper clippings are ones that she had collected or that had been left by her and my dad's parents and grandparents. Mom lived to nearly age ninety-four, so it is quite an extensive collection (she rarely threw anything away), testified by the amazing grade school artwork created by my siblings and me, lovingly (or is it painfully) preserved for posterity.

The challenge was that mom never put these pictures and clippings (and art "masterpieces") in albums; they were just stuffed in drawers and boxes or wherever she could find a place to put them. About fourteen years ago, my sister (the only girl in a family of nine siblings that survived infancy) and I sat down during several winter evenings in Mom's kitchen with a pot of coffee, a tall stack of new photo albums, and all the pictures and clippings begging to be "albumized" and labeled. Mom's mood had always fluctuated—between joy and sadness—in recounting stories of those pictured that had gone on before.

My sister and I chuckled whenever we pulled out a picture of me, her, or our siblings, looking as goofy as ever in the late 1920s – 1960s. Many of those in older pictures I remember as a child when our family would annually journey to Lafayette, IN or Logansport, IN for family reunions. These reunions often brought together children of Mom's family's original immigrants from Ireland. Mom became animated as she told us that our dad's family fought in the Civil War and the Revolutionary War. I knew this, having researched my family tree several years earlier, but it was nice to see her processing the memories evoked by looking at those old pictures.

Today, I find myself digitizing those boxes of memories—Mom's memories. Oh, to be sure, my sister and I shared in her memories those cold winter nights at Mom's kitchen table, in the house in which she and Dad started their marriage, but the memories I pass along on the photo captions are mostly Mom's memories. Memories of her and Dad's people. Some memories were painful, of children who didn't survive or wasted lives before my siblings and I were

Boxes of Memories cont. on page 8

A Word Fitly Spoken

Louann Wilson

Every word that parts the lips falls upon a soul, be it your own or that of another hearer. With your words you can turn away wrath or stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1). You may show yourself wise or prove yourself to be a fool (Ecclesiastes 10:12). Or, you may "strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers" (2 Timothy 2:14). For this reason, it says in Proverbs 18:20 (NKJV) "A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth, from the produce of his lips he shall be filled." Each spoken word being heard by the Almighty, we have been warned "that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36 NKJV). "The Word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8), and it appears ours could haunt us throughout eternity even after the vibrations of sound have dissipated into the air if it were not for His grace and mercies anew every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Over a phone or even recorded, the voice that delivers the word conveys character and emotion through the depth of its tone, the amplitude of its pitch, and through the rate at which the words flow from or catch on the tongue. The great literary giants of old can, in print, open our eyes to the soul of the writer while painting pictures in the eye of the mind with each stroke of the pen. Who cannot catch a glimpse of the rose and feel the sadness in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "A Dead Rose" when she wrote: "O Rose! who dares to name thee? No longer roseate now, nor soft, nor sweet; But pale, and hard, and dry, as stubble-wheat,—Kept seven years in a drawer—thy titles shame thee."

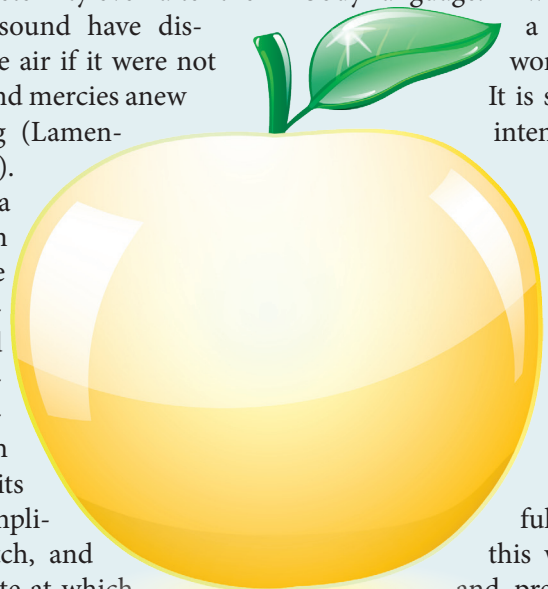
And the words that the body declares, these words speak as loud as the words that leave the lips. Our bodies deliver an oratory while the tongue speaks, revealing the truth behind the pronouncement. Without a sound our members can carry on a conversation. The cold embrace whispers a reception of mere tolerance while the warm kiss of a holy

greeting speaks of a virtuous love. The lips say come and join while the shoulder, with ever so slight a turn, proclaims the shunning. The eyes with focused intention court a dialogue, yet when cast down with purposeful disinterest reveal self-pride replete with contempt and resentment.

But Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV) tells us "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." A word in season, wise and presented in the language of love, well-received, is a thing of rich beauty, and such a word has a physical presence beyond the utterance of the speech itself. It is more tangible than any word printed by man on a piece of paper. And a word fitly spoken surpasses the monologue of even the most refined body language. A word born out of

a pure heart, this word is precious. It is spoken with the intent to bring joy, to edify, to comfort and to encourage. It is a word chosen with unsparing discernment to bring a loving rebuke or understanding counsel. Skillfully prepared, this word will teach and preach the Words of our Lord. This word fully lacks the ugliness of pride, slander, and malice. It contains no gossip, it is not pretentious, and in it will be found no deceit.

Whether we are speaking with the lips, the pen, or the body, we must choose our words wisely, for our words will not fail to achieve an end, whatever that end may be. "An 'unfit word' may not be unspoken nor a glance, once seen, be blind." Therefore I pray, "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalms 141:3). Therefore, I may say, "The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary" (Isaiah 50:4). So may I remember "Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive" (Proverbs 17:28 NKJV). ☺



THE GUARDRAIL



He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

— PROVERBS 19:16 KJV

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2014 Michael D. Waters

FUN FOR KIDS (of All Ages)

Riddles

Q: Where do ants eat?

A: At a restaur-ant.

Q: What is the biggest ant in the world?

A: An eleph-ant.

Q: What is even bigger than that?

A: A gi-ant.

Q: What bird is always out of breath?

A: A puffin.

Q: What do porcupines say after they kiss?

A: "Ouch"!

Q: Where do you find a dog with no legs?

A: Right where you left him.

Q: What kind of animal is always found at baseball games?

A: The bat.

Q: Why are elephants so wrinkled?

A: They are too hard to iron.

Q: Why do Hummingbirds hum?

A: They've never learned the words!

GOD CHANGED JACOB'S NAME TO ISRAEL. Now, spot the FIVE differences between these pictures.



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Genesis 35:10

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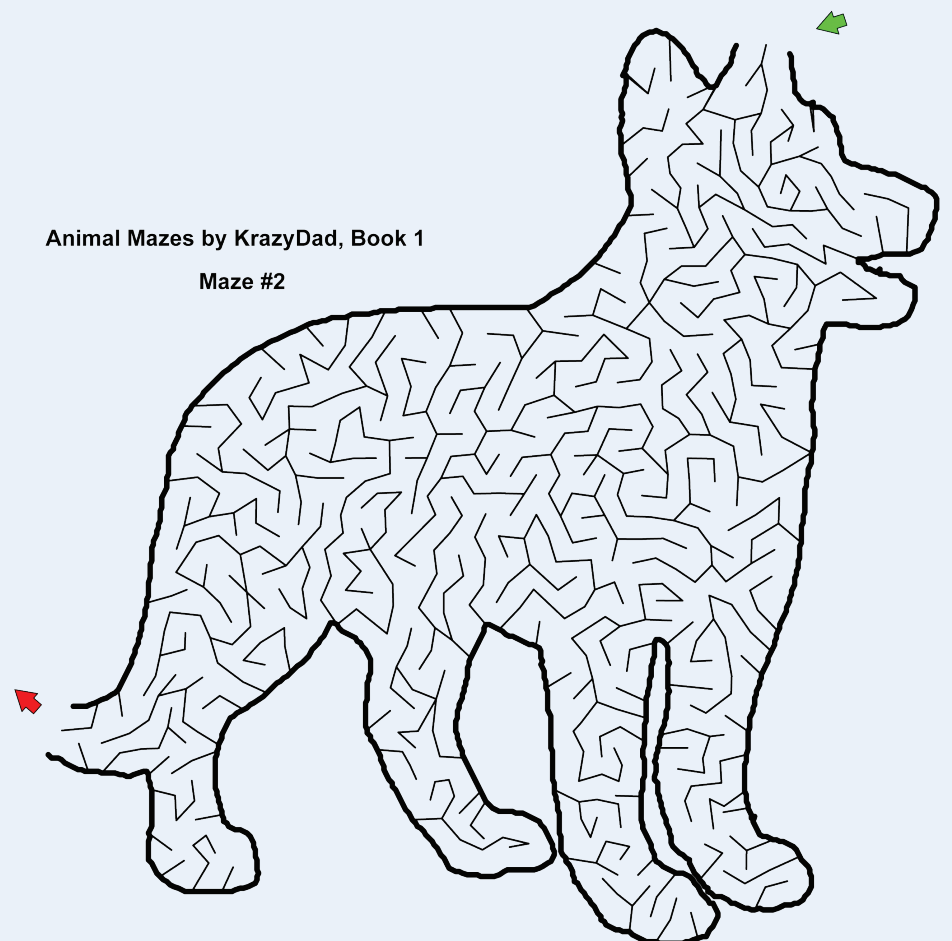
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Animal Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #2



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Season of Change cont. from page 1

to earn money during my final years of college. I discovered I thoroughly enjoyed being around young people. Sure, there were disciplinary issues I have never come to enjoy, but the benefits of teaching youngsters greatly outweighed those negatives.

When my pastor learned that Peggy and I were going to be teachers, he asked if we would be interested in working in our small church-school. After listening to the first training tape about the philosophy behind the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) program, I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. ACE's individualized, mastery-based curriculum has proven to be a great tool for educating children.

Peggy and I got married on the first Saturday in August, and three weeks later we were working at VCA. At the time there were four other ACE schools in Kokomo along with Kokomo Christian School and two Catholic schools. There was also a vibrant homeschool movement which still remains, although it too is weakening.

Ever since the early 1970s the Christian school movement has been making a great impact on education. I am convinced it forced public schools to change many of the ways they were educating children. You even hear some public schools promoting a Christian worldview. Whether or not that will continue remains to be seen.

Unfortunately, something has happened. For the past several years, the demand for Christian schools has completely disappeared in our area. Some blame the financial crisis which has gripped the nation, and others blame the spiritual deadness we are experiencing in the land. I believe the latter is really responsible for the former. (That means I believe the spiri-

tual deadness has caused the financial crisis for all you public school graduates.) Whatever the cause, VCA is the only Christian high school left in the city as far as I know.

For more than fifteen years we were turning away people left and right. It is not an exaggeration to say we had at least two calls every week from parents wanting to enroll in our school. Then the bottom fell out. For the past four years we have not met our budget. We lost our insurance and took a couple of pay cuts. Last year we began the school year needing about five families in order to meet our shrinking budget. That never happened. As a matter of fact, that was the first year we did not add a single family to our Day School. By November it was clear. Something had to give.

In order for the school to remain open, Peggy and I decided we would get other jobs. We agonized over the decision through February before we announced to the parents we would look for jobs in the public schools.

Fortunately everything worked out the way we hoped. We have both secured jobs as paraprofessionals until we get our teaching licenses. I will be able to come to VCA at the end of each day in order to help tutor students and perform administrative duties. We will still live here on the property and continue in our jobs working for the church. (I am the groundskeeper and Peggy is the treasurer for our church.)

As difficult as these changes have been over the past year, we are still confident we will be able to serve God as educators and active members of Victory Baptist Church. Please continue to pray for revival for our nation and the Christian school movement as well. ☺

Voices From the Past

"The world asks, "What does a man own?"

Christ asks, "How does he use it?"

Andrew Murray — 1828 - 1917

Boxes of Memories cont. from page 6

even born. There were memories of marriages, some that endured and some that failed, of baptisms and school events long ago. Boxes of memories.

I am blessed, however, in knowing where Mom and Dad are now. For, in reality, their lives were more than these boxes of memories. But

what about you? Can you say the same? Where will you spend eternity? Will your life be *just* "boxes of memories" and nothing more?

"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). ☺

Acting the Fool

Actors perform to their audiences on stage and in movies. Good actors can convince their audience they are something they are not. The ancient word for an actor is, "hypocrite."

In the Christian life, we should NOT be actors. Our walk should be without hypocrisy—we should not hide behind a mask. Being a spiritual-actor is a complete waste of time. We may fool many people into believing we are something we're not, but we can never fool God. He sees behind the mask and knows exactly who we are and what we are thinking.

True, we sometimes need to put on a mask when dealing with certain people and circumstances, and it may even be commendable to put on a brave face in adversity. However, should we go too far with acting, life will soon become a continual performance with our true self only emerging when backstage (in private).

We gain nothing by fooling those around us. In fact, we have much to lose (real relationships need real people—actors only pretend). God wants our 'Yes' to be 'Yes', and our 'No' to be 'No' (Matthew 5:37).

We should relax about appearances because, in the end, an account of our lives is only given to the One who has witnessed our entire performance (both on stage and backstage). Being hypocritical may fool some, but consider who we are really fooling (Matthew 6:1, 16-18, Mark 7:6). ☺

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*Raising a Good Child cont. from page 2*

Mothers are involved as helpers to the fathers. In some instances where dad is not around, they have to assume the role. God gives grace for that. But the primary responsibility for childrearing belongs to dad.

The main hindrance in fathers fulfilling their responsibilities is laziness. Our natural tendency is to follow the path of least resistance or to do as little as possible. The path of least resistance for the fathers in childrearing is for them to stick their heads in the sand (or TV or golf course or shop) and neglect the biblical doctrine of headship and the responsibility that goes with it. When they neglect it, it falls on the shoulders of the mom; if she neglects it, the children bring themselves up. Actually they are not brought up, they just grow up.

The father is to be the head, the manager of the household. A responsible father will fit the pattern found in 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (KJV). "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) What does this scripture mean? The father is there intimately involved in the lives of his children. He knows the family members, and this takes time. He has goals

and plans for his family. He delegates and motivates. He knows how to get along. He shows foresight. He is approachable. He is available and accessible.

One of the greatest challenges in life, if we are to be a blessing to our family and others, is to get over ourselves—to become servants of others. If we stick to selfish agendas and pursuits as fathers, we will not be involved in the lives of our children. And if we are not involved in their lives, chances are very good that they will not turn out to be the kind of adults that we want them to be—the kind of adults that are a blessing to God and blessed by God, the kind of adults that have happy, well-adjusted lives, the kind of adults who will be blessings to their community and country.

Dads, you are the key. Lead your family; lead your children. In order to lead them correctly, you must be following Jesus Christ. Once you become a follower of Christ, then make sure that you spend time with your children and teach them God's truth from the Bible. Take them to church, not just send them. Prioritize your family the right way—God first, your spouse second, your children third, then your work, hobbies, and other pursuits. Do it for God; do it for your children. ☺

Voices From the Past

Take heed of driving so hard after this world, as to hinder thyself and family from those duties towards God, which thou art by grace obliged to; as private prayer, reading the scriptures, and Christian conference. It is a base thing for men so to spend themselves and families after this world, as that they disengage their heart to God's worship.

—John Bunyan 1628-1688

Bookshelf cont. from page 3

The last chapter, and perhaps the most important, is "Protecting Your Godspace." The authors cite several ways how digital activity can interfere with our spiritual lives. First, through the Internet, everyone has access to our children, even atheists and others whom we would not allow into our homes. Second, people often become so wrapped up in their digital worlds, making sure they don't miss an email, text, or tweet, that they don't take time to cultivate their relationships with God. The authors cite Timothy Keller's reminder from his book *Counterfeit Gods*: "Idols are anything that become more important to us than God; anything that can absorb our heart and imagination more than God, and that seek to give us what God alone can give" (p. 187).

Some readers might find *The Digital Invasion* a bit scholarly and a challenging read, but it contains a wealth of insightful information on a phenomenon that is indeed invading our world and is a must read for all who are seriously concerned about the effects of digital technology on their families and the future.

Another book on the same subject, but decidedly different, is Gary Chapman and Arlene Pellicane's *Growing Up Social: Raising Relational Kids in a Screen-Driven World*, published by Northfield Publishing. Pellicane is an author, speaker, and mother of three young children, and Dr. Chapman also is a speaker, counselor, and the author of the popular "Love Languages" books. The authors lose little time presenting the purpose of their book. The title of the introduction is "Taking Back Your Home," and the opening sentence states their theme: "Is technology bringing your family closer together, or is it driving your family farther apart?" (p. 7).

The content of the book covers basically the same subjects as *The Digital Invasion*, but the tone is more

conversational, like chatting with a friend or counselor, and the emphasis is on childrearing. The first chapters are given to six important areas of childrearing, each one starting with "the A+ skill of . . ." Topics covered are affection, appreciation, anger management, apology, and attention. The authors use real-life scenarios, often from the authors' own life experiences, at the beginning of each chapter and throughout the text to illustrate their points and grab the reader's attention.

As is characteristic of any of Dr. Chapman's books, the Five Love Languages are brought in the discussion, but always in connection with digital technology. For example, a child's love language may be gifts, but that doesn't mean a parent should buy them every new digital gizmo on the market.

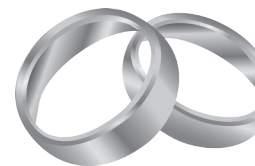
As with the Hart-Frejd book, *Growing Up Social* deals with the cyber problems of addiction, the influence on the brain, socialization, safety, digital discipline, and more, but it probably is a faster and easier read for most parents looking for guidance and information in navigating the cyber world. Both books contain discussion questions so they can easily be used in discussion groups.

All the authors of these two books agree on the bottom line: yes, digital technology has many pluses and bonuses, but still we must be alert to the many negatives, even evils, of the cyber world. They admit that there will be pushback when parents attempt to pull in the digital reins, but as Chapman and Pellicane put it, "Who's in Charge of the Castle?" Drs. Hart and Frejd also emphasize the importance of the parent being the parent. They quote humorist Erma Bombeck's insightful advice about a mother's motivation in denying her children what they want: "Most of all, I loved you enough to say 'no' when you hated me for it, and that was the hardest part of all" (p. 172). ☺

Old Timer's Corner

Will God Ever Allow Us to Be Married?

by Jim Wright



Lolly had said "No" for the eleventh time on Monday, December 14, 1953. I was still convinced that the Lord had directed me to her, and that He would tell her in His time. It was hard not to be impatient. Now, to understand the events of the next few days, we have to go back to the previous week, to the day I first flew the Cub.

My first flight was a short test flight. The second was a thirty-five mile hop over to Fayetteville to get the plane inspected and licensed. The third was back to Siloam Springs, Arkansas where I plotted the flight to Enid, Oklahoma and filled the twelve gallon gas tank. I asked the instructor there how much gas a Franklin 65 engine burns, and he told me four gallons per hour. The flight to Enid was to take two hours and forty-five minutes. I calculated three hours time available with fifteen minutes to spare. Thirty minutes was the recommended, but I was the owner of the plane now, and I could decide how much spare I needed. My flight instructor in Sycamore had told me many times, "Jim, never trust your gas gauge; always calculate your gas!" So I felt confident that it was not going to be a problem. I had calculated my gas.

When I took off for Enid, the wind was as forecasted, I was hitting my checkpoints right on the money, and life was good. I soon noticed that the gas gauge was going down faster than I thought it should. But I remembered

my instructor's admonition, "Never trust your gas gauge." So I relaxed. Now, a gas gauge in a Piper Cub consists of a cork on a wire, and the wire sticks up through the gas cap which is right in front of the windshield. I began thinking, "What can go wrong with a simple gas gauge like that? Gas gauges must be notoriously unreliable for him to emphasize that point. Ah, I know: the tip of the wire, bent over at the top to keep it from sliding all the way through the cap when you fill the tank, must have broken off. So they just bent another segment over, leaving the wire too short, which means I have more gas than it indicates. That must be it. I'm OK." I relaxed again.

Twelve miles from Woodring Airport at two hours and thirty-five minutes, the engine quit. I glided to a landing in a wheat field (the wheat was two inches high), and one of the cars that stopped to watch me land took me to a farmer who gave me three gallons of gas and loaned us the can, a funnel, and a chamois to filter the gas. I flew on into Enid and later up to Manhattan, Kansas to prepare for the flight west.

So now I knew that I could fly for two hours and thirty-five minutes and that a Franklin engine burns 4.62 gallons per hour. I decided that my spare would be thirty-five minutes and that my flights would be limited to two hours maximum.

Now we go back to Las Vegas
Old Timer's Corner cont. on page 10

Everybody's Feeling It

(Used by permission from shortdailydevotions.com)

"There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is Faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Your temptation is not special. It never has been, and it never will be, and as Solomon so aptly commented, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The moment we allow ourselves to believe that our temptation is unique and different from others' is the moment we allow ourselves to indulge or give in to that particular sin. If it is not like everyone else's we can rationalize a license to continue in defeat. But if we allow ourselves to be confronted with Paul's words here we are forced to grapple with the fact that "no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man."

Basically, the sin with which you are tempted, in bondage to, and struggling with has been faced ever since Eden. The same God rules and reigns today as did then, and He does and will always provide a way of escape. Stop letting yourself believe the lie that no one has ever encountered what you are currently facing, and open your eyes to see where God has made provision for your escape from this temptation. ☺

Save Me

Save me from myself, Lord;
Save me from my need
To always run my life, Lord,
To control my every deed.

Save me from my pride, Lord,
My focus on just me;
Help me learn to serve, Lord;
Show me how to be.

Save me from the world, Lord,
When tempting things entice;
Remind me of eternity
With You, in paradise.

I give my life to you, Lord
My every need you fill;
I'm resting in my faith, Lord;
You saved me, and you always will.

*By Joanna Fuchs
(used with permission)*

Old Timer's Corner *cont. from page 9*

where I told Lolly all about the flights I had had, including the running out of gas. So six days later when we flew down to Zzyzx Mineral Springs, her father's health resort, she was keeping track of our flying time and, especially, remaining time available. I landed on the road which ends at Zzyzx and offered rides to anyone who wanted one. Two people went, but her father Dr. Curtis H. Springer declined, saying, "I never fly in less than a twin engine airplane." I said, "Well, it's your choice, but you're missing a lot of fun." Lolly showed me where she had spent her teenage years. We swam in the pool and enjoyed the swings and the lake.

Now I'm going to tell you what I found out years later. Pop Springer found out that I had bought and brought a diamond ring and that his daughter had refused it. She had refused two other proposals of marriage in the previous two years, and now she had finished college and was refusing yet another proposal. I think he was getting a little anxious. So he got a piece of paper and wrote out a will, hid it in a drawer, and hunted me up and said, "If you still want to take me for an airplane ride, I'm ready to go." So we got in, took off, and headed north; watching from the ground, Lolly started her timer. She knew when we had to be back to keep from going into the last thirty-five minutes, and

she knew when the engine would be quitting. We weren't back. When the fuel exhaustion time arrived, she started praying. (I still don't know why she waited until then!) She realized that the two men she loved most in the world were probably dead or bleeding on the desert somewhere. (That may have been the first time that she knew for sure that she loved me.) Anyway, she prayed, "Lord, are you trying to tell me that I should have married him? Lord, if you'll work a miracle and bring them both back, with no injuries and no damage, I'll marry him!"

When she heard an airplane engine from the southeast nearly an hour later, she knew it couldn't be us. But as we approached, she finally came to the realization that the Lord had answered her prayer. This was the leading that I had been confident that the Lord would give her. I, of course, didn't know anything about all this. We had landed at Silver Lake and had found that the map was right—no gas. Then we had landed by a road north of Baker and walked into town to arrange for some aviation gas to be delivered to Zzyzx. Then we had flown over Flat Top, Devil's Playground, and some other places Doc Springer had taken his guests on occasion.

Can you believe it? I'm out of space again. See you next quarter. ☺

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CHUCKLES

What kind of man was Boaz before he married? *Ruthless*

What do they call pastors in Germany? *German Shepherds*

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? *Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.*

Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible? *Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.*

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible? *Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.*

Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible? *Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.*

Aging Gracefully *cont. from page 3*

vance of the Lord's Supper. So if anyone asks if Jesus sang, you can respond in the affirmative, based on the teachings of the New Testament. In form, a hymn is usually written in stanzas and has a metrical flow. Many are also poetic and intended to be expressed in song rather than read.

The verbal content of a hymn can encompass the unlimited resources of God Himself. His boundless love, faithfulness, encouragement, presence and power (just to name a few) are often woven into the lyrics of the great hymns of the faith. There is hardly a musical expression that can better evoke emotional connections to the God of biblical history and our familial connections to Him than that of the hymn. If there is anything that goes lacking in so many church song services, it is these very characteristics of the hymn. Hymns connect us to the truths of God's person, how He has demonstrated His faithfulness unto all generations and the common fellowship of His saints. Religious catchphrases do nothing to edify the soul, even when repeated ad infinitum, if the content of those phrases is the proverbial "mile wide and an inch deep." If a point is weak, it's still weak, no matter how loud and long you say it.

The enlivened spirit of the believer is in full operation when singing a hymn. Our spirit is acknowledging and basking in that transcendent relationship we have with the Creator God. In lifting God up in praise we ourselves are lifted up in our spirit. It is not just an emotional rush and an animated reaction of the physical body, stemming from a catchy lyric or melody. It is a truly transcendent experience of mind, spirit and soul. It is truly experiencing the "I am His, and He is mine" relationship with God.

Some hymns are almost ancient, dating back to the early and middle ages. Unfortunately, we have pretty much completely abandoned these

hymns of the early church leaders, due in part to the language they were written in or the changing taste for more syncopated melodies and poetic (rhyming) structure. Some hymns are of a more modern origin and are sung in most traditional worship services. The hymns of Fanny Crosby come to mind in this context. To be sure, those hymns were new at one time and changed the landscape of hymnology. What was a characteristic of those hymns, however, was their faithfulness to revealed truth in the scripture as pertaining to the human experience. "Amazing Grace," still one of the best known hymns of our current era, holds an abundance of biblical truths within its stanzas. Even many writers today have "borrowed" its phrases and reset them to a more contemporary melody, though not necessarily improving the impact of the song. Based on comments I have heard, at times I fear that singing something the same way that our grandparents sang it is inherently distasteful. If that is the case, it says more about us than the hymn itself. Refraining from singing "Blessed Assurance" on the premise that it sounds like grandpa's music is disturbing.

So, my dear senior friends, sing those old hymns that are dear to your heart, and God's heart. If your church doesn't sing them anymore, find yourself an old hymn book at a used book store and sing them at home. Encourage your church music director to incorporate an older hymn into the congregational singing, if they are not doing so now. Remind them of that old adage with which we older citizens are quite familiar: "You don't throw out the baby with the bath water!" Holding on to what was, and still is, good about those older hymns will help you to age much more gracefully. ☺

Morris Starkey
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Local area family shops for school and stocks supplies for children in need



KOKOMO, IN., July 2015—As a new school year approaches, traditional back-to-school activities ramp up and families fill the aisles shopping for school materials, clothes and all the right digital gear to help students return to the classroom ready to learn. For many Kokomo and surrounding area families, however, the season for student discounts, and school supplies also presents a great opportunity to help other children in need.

"We are so blessed in this country, but a lot of kids don't have schools to go to at all, or socks to wear to them, or even pencils or notepads to write with," said Andrea Neumann, of Logansport.

Neumann, a parent of 5 kids, is one of more than 100,000 year-round volunteers nationwide who serves with Operation Christmas Child, which delivered nearly 9.9 million gift-filled shoeboxes last year in more than 100 countries to children struggling from war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine and persecution. The shoebox gifts included toys, school supplies and basic hygiene items.

"While we're buying clothes and school supplies for our kids, we always stock up on a few extras for the shoeboxes we'll send out to children in need later this year," said Neumann.

This November, Operation Christmas Child volunteers like Neumann will support thousands of drop-off sites nationwide, where gift-filled shoeboxes will be collected and transported with a wide variety of resources, including bicycles, camels and canoes. Each shoebox will eventually be hand-delivered to a child in need. For many children, this represents the first gift they have ever received.

HOW LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN GET INVOLVED:

- **PACK A SHOEBOX GIFT**—Fill shoeboxes with a "Wow" item, like a doll or soccer ball, and other fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement or visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ to build a shoebox online. **The shoebox gift may be the first gift a child has ever received.**
- **SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**—Volunteer opportunities are available in Carroll and surrounding counties! For more information, call 765-453-1693 or visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ.
- **SPREAD THE WORD**—Enlist individuals, families and groups to take part in creating shoebox gifts.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 113 million children in more than 150 countries. In 2015, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 10 million children.

Are You Listening?

George Whitten (used with permission from worthydevotions.com)

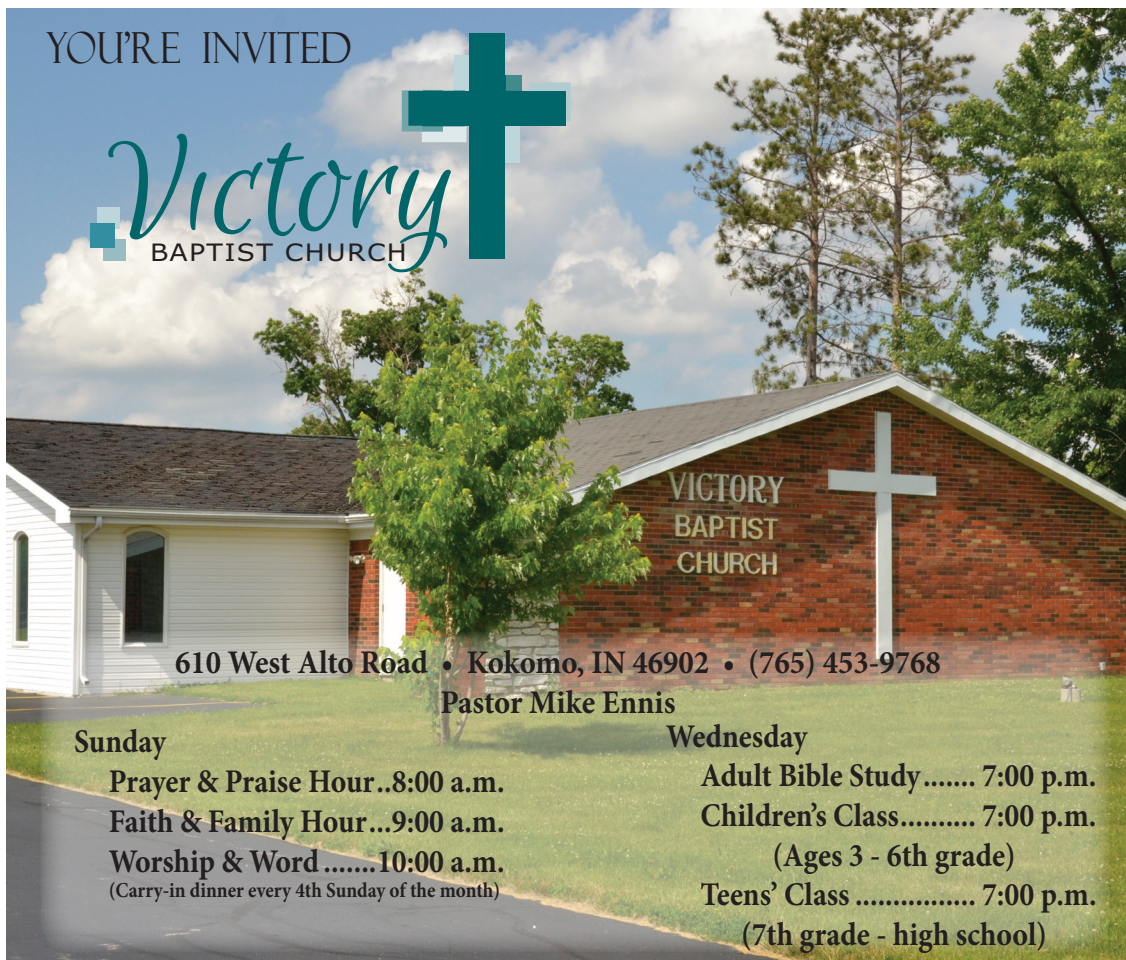
So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20).

President Franklin D. Roosevelt got tired of smiling that big smile and saying all the usual things at those White House receptions. So, one evening he decided to find out whether anybody was paying attention to what he was saying. As each person came up to him with extended hand, he flashed his big smile and said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." People would automatically respond with comments such as "How lovely." or "Continue on with your great work." Nobody listened to what he was saying, except for one foreign diplomat. When the president said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning," the diplomat responded softly, "I'm sure she had it coming to her."

It's a funny story, but how often do we do the same? It seems that we have lots to say but we are not very good at listening. Think about it—how many language, speech and speaking courses can you find in your college course book? But can you find even one class on listening?? There is such a lack of good listening skills in this day and age that we have to pay someone a lot of money just to listen to us! More importantly, God has many things He desires to reveal to us—but we're always talking, talking, talking!

Let's strive to do less talking and more listening today. Let's give the Lord and others a chance to be heard. ☺

YOU'RE INVITED



610 West Alto Road • Kokomo, IN 46902 • (765) 453-9768

Pastor Mike Ennis

Sunday

Prayer & Praise Hour...8:00 a.m.

Faith & Family Hour...9:00 a.m.

Worship & Word.....10:00 a.m.
(Carry-in dinner every 4th Sunday of the month)

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Children's Class..... 7:00 p.m.
(Ages 3 - 6th grade)

Teens' Class 7:00 p.m.
(7th grade - high school)



Do you need counseling?

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Call 453-9768 for information or to set up
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for Boys & Girls
in Grades 1-6



MONDAY EVENINGS 6:00 PM

CHECK OUR OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VBCKOKOMO.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

God's Simple Plan of Salvation

The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven.

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me (John 14:6).

Good works cannot save you.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Admit you are a sinner.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

Jesus said: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:5).

Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

But God commendeth [demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9).

Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:10).

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).



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