

Faith & Family

News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family

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Summer 2012

Volume 1 Number 2

What Does it Take to Have a Lasting Marriage (Part 2)

by Mike Ennis

There is only one thing that is not fixable in a broken or strained marriage. While ignorance is a problem, it is very fixable. In our first article we pointed out that many marriages fail because the husband and/or wife lack the principles and skills needed to succeed in marriage. A successful marriage is a marriage that applies those principles and skills to the relationship in order to grow closer together over the years. The Bible, which is God's communication to us today, contains these principles and skills. The secret to a lasting marriage is not the absence of trials and conflicts; it is being able to deal with the trials and conflicts of life together and come out stronger on the other side.

That leaves us with only one thing that cannot be fixed if it is lacking in your marriage, and that is the lack of commitment. If

If you have the commitment, you can solve any other marriage problem with the help of God and His Word.

you have the commitment, you can solve any other marriage problem with the help of God and His Word.

What do we mean by commitment? Commitment means, "To obligate yourself." **a.** A pledge to do. **b.** Something pledged, especially an engagement by contract involving financial obligation. **c.** The state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to a course of action or to another person or persons: *a deep commitment to liberal policies; a profound commitment to the family.* The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2009. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

When we make commitments we obligate ourselves to do what we are committing ourselves to do. Character is the ability and resolve to carry

through with your commitments and responsibilities. If we are going to have strong homes and lasting marriages we must be committed. Commitment is persistence with a purpose. Just as success in business and personal life require commitment, success in marriage requires commitment. The first part of that commitment is to marriage itself. You need to be committed to your wedding vows. Almost everyone who gets married makes promises like this. "I, (name), take thee, (name), to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,

till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance." Today most people do not take those vows seriously. The wedding vows are solemn

promises before God and witnesses. Those who do not take their vows seriously are standing before God and witnesses and lying! They are entering marriage as an experiment and not a life-long commitment. In order for a marriage to last it has to be a life-long commitment. God takes those vows seriously and so should we.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 says, "*When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.*"

When you were married you made vows before God and witnesses. If you break the vows, you lied. There is no way around it. God intends for us to keep our promises, especially this one. Our word should mean something.

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Grieving the Death of a Spouse

by Jim Wright

There are many types of loss when it comes to loved ones. When my father died at age eighty-nine, it didn't bother me much. I had nearly lost him in an airplane accident at age forty-nine, and I had done much of my grieving then. He spent his last forty years as a paraplegic in a wheelchair. When he did die, I had no trouble thanking the Lord for all the time He had given us after the accident. And when my mother died at age 102, I thanked the Lord for her wonderful life and testimony. I certainly felt the loss, but there was no serious crying.

A few months ago my wife died. It hit me like the proverbial ton of bricks. I was devastated. I loved my wife. We had been married fifty-seven years, and it felt like vast chunks of me were being ripped away. I had sessions of gut-wrenching sobbing that made me feel like the world would end. All this time, I knew the Lord was in control, and could work a miracle and heal her if

He chose. I also knew that His plan was the best one available, whatever it was. I didn't feel like it, but I knew it. I had Pastor Ennis and the deacons come and pray and anoint her with oil, trying not to leave one scriptural stone unturned. It was to no avail. The Lord took her home to glory on June 16, 2011. Life didn't end but sometimes I wanted it to.

I would like to be able to tell you that the Lord took all my grief away, and my healing was miraculous. I think I hid it fairly well, and truly my

children and the folks at church did a marvelous job of taking care of me physically, bringing food and loving me. I don't know what I would have done without them. I took trips with my kids, stayed in their homes, had them stay in my home, and spent more time on the phone with them than ever before. The wild sobbing sessions became fewer, but the deep-down, empty ache was always there.

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Editorially Speaking

The premier issue of *Faith & Family News* in March exceeded our expectations in every way. We thank the distribution volunteers and the hundreds of facilities that allowed us to leave them for people to take. As with all new projects there is a learning curve, and we certainly learned some things since we printed that first issue. Improvement in our distribution method will make placing the paper quicker and more efficient. Banner color changes from issue to issue will allow our readers to quickly recognize a new issue. A greater variety in our content will also be noted by our readers. We believe these improvements along with future plans for the paper will give our readers an unsurpassed reading experience.

In this issue we welcome Marlin Carpenter and Jill Garrison to our writing staff. Marlin operates Garden Gate Greenhouse, Inc., in Miami County and is a Master Gardener.

Marlin is dedicated to bringing you the best information to make your gardening a positive experience. We are blessed to have him on board. Visit his website at www.egardengate.com and see all the exciting events they have in store. Jill's initial article is on the single life. Jill writes from the perspective of pleasing the Lord with her life, single or married, and is very insightful. Jill has worked with children in Truth Trackers at VBC. She has also taught school in a Christian school in the UK. Be sure to read both these articles. 'Til next time.

Morris Starkey
Editor, Faith And Family News

Morris Starkey is retired from Indiana University Kokomo and lives with his



wife, Donna, in Miami County. They have two children and five grandchildren.

What Is Education?

by Matt Turner

Have you ever stopped to consider education's primary purpose? Is it to simply impart as many facts as possible to our children? Is it to prepare them to get a good job, so they can make a lot of money, and buy a lot of things? Perhaps you see formal education as an opportunity for your children to become socialized and exposed to all different philosophies so they can choose their path in life. Unfortunately, some parents may see school simply

as a glorified babysitter, giving themselves a much needed break from the toils of parenthood.

May I suggest a much higher goal for education? I see education as passing on my values and worldview to my child. If I am to be successful in raising my son, he needs to know three important things. I want him to know where he came from, why he is here, and where he is going. That is the vital information my son needs in order to prepare himself for a rich, full, meaningful life. It used to be true that nearly every American believed in the God of the Bible and acted as if they were accountable to Him.

Jesus said, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and

loses his own soul?" What a tragedy it would be for a child to become the richest, most famous, and most beloved person the world has ever known then die and spend an eternity in hell! Education must not only prepare children for this life; it must prepare them for eternity.

Many people will scoff at such a statement. They will argue that religious indoctrination has no place in school. I could not disagree more! The

Education must not only prepare children for this life, it must prepare them for eternity.

fact is you can't escape religious indoctrination. Don't fool yourself into believing public schools are neutral when it comes to religion.

Either you are for Christ or you are against Him. There is no middle ground. Public schools propagate secular humanism and denigrate the Judeo-Christian worldview. They are defiantly taking a stand in opposition to Jesus Christ and His teachings.

I understand there are many different flavors of Christianity. You would be right to be concerned about denominational biases being forced upon your child. However, we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bath water. Our founding fathers knew this nation would not remain free if we

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THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



"The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them." -- Mark Twain

What happens to you after you die? Sooner or later, everyone asks that question. Is there such a place as heaven? Myriads of books have been written about heaven, but two of the books written on the subject in the last year are a little different. They are both supposed eyewitness accounts by two little boys.

Heaven is for Real is a little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back. In 2003 Colton Burpo underwent emergency surgery for a burst appendix and an abscess. Colton's father, Todd Burpo, the pastor of Crossroads Wesleyan Church in Imperial, Nebraska, tells the harrowing story of nearly losing his not quite four-year-old son. In the months after his recovery, Colton began telling the unseen side of his ordeal — of his journey to heaven while lying on the operating table. In the following months and years, Colton gradually revealed to his parents the things and people he saw in heaven.

He related things he couldn't have possibly known otherwise, such as meeting a sister whom he didn't even know his mother had miscarried. Colton also claimed that he had met his great-grandfather Pop while in heaven. But when shown a picture of Pop at the age of sixty-one, Colton did not recognize him. Colton explained to his dad, "Nobody's old in heaven. And nobody wears glasses" (121). So Todd asked his mother to send a photo of Pop when he was younger. When Colton saw the picture of the twenty-nine-year-old man, he said, "Hey! How did you get a picture of Pop?" (122).

Todd was always mindful of the possibility of asking his son leading questions and was careful to let Colton unfold his stories in his own words and in his own time. He was astonished that the descriptions and details about heaven matched the Bible exactly. Once the Burpos began publicly telling Colton's story, people encouraged them to put it in writing. The resulting book broke all sales records for publisher Thomas Nelson and was number one for forty-four weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List. The Burpos have more recently published a children's

picture book called *Heaven Is for Real for Kids*.

Another book about Heaven that came out about the same time is *The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven* by Kevin and Alex Malarkey. Published by Tyndale House Publishers, it also became a New York Times Bestseller. In 2004 Kevin and his six-year-old son Alex were injured in a terrible car wreck. Doctors gave little hope of survival for Alex, who had suffered an internal decapitation — where the skull becomes detached from the spinal column. An eyewitness at the scene of the accident later told Kevin that when he reached Alex, he thought that the boy was not breathing and was possibly dead. Friends, relatives, and church members set up a round-the-clock prayer vigil for Alex. When Alex emerged from a coma two months later and gradually recovered his ability to communicate, he began sharing an

A reader must always think critically, and above all, books dealing with spiritual matters must be true to Scripture.

incredible story about Heaven, angels, demons, God and Jesus.

One day Alex told his mother what happened immediately following the

accident. He said Jesus came and got him from the car and told him not to be afraid and that he was going to be okay. He saw angels take his father from the car and lay him in the ditch. Kevin, of course, has no memory of this divine intervention, but neither can he explain how his six-foot-two frame could be ejected from a Honda without injury. Alex also told of other details of the accident that he couldn't have possibly known since he was, at the very least, unconscious.

From the time of the accident, Alex reported frequent visits from angels, often resulting in times of specific healing. After one such visitation, the doctors canceled surgery to fuse vertebrae in Alex's neck because his MRI showed that the vertebrae had healed with no medical intervention. After three months in the hospital, Alex was able to come home —along with lots of medical equipment and personnel. Later he would be the first child to undergo the Christopher Reeve surgery to make breathing without a ventilator possible. A second surgery

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Lasting Marriage *cont. from page 1*

Second, we need to be committed to our spouse. As husband and wife we need to be committed to each other 100%—not 50/50, if you do your part I'll do mine. Marriage is 100/100. Each partner must give 100% to the relationship without expectations.

Ephesians 5:21-25, *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.*

Third, we need to be committed to God's Word, the Bible. This is the same as saying commitment to God. You cannot separate God from His Word. Commitment is doing things God's way, the right way -- not the sinful or lazy way, but God's way.

Lastly, we need a commitment of ourselves and families to the Lordship of Christ.

According to Glenn T. Stanton's *The Christian Divorce Rate Myth* (Baptist Press), *Many people who*

seriously practice a traditional religious faith—be it Christian or other—have a divorce rate markedly lower than the general population.

The factor making the most difference is religious commitment and practice. Couples who regularly practice any combination of serious religious behaviors and attitudes—attend church nearly every week; read their Bibles and spiritual materials regularly; pray privately and together; generally take their faith seriously, living not as perfect disciples, but serious disciples -- enjoy significantly lower divorce rates than mere church members, the general public and unbelievers.

Professor Bradley Wright, a sociologist at the University of Connecticut, explains from his analysis of people who identify as Christians but rarely attend church, that 60 percent of these have been divorced. Of those who attend church regularly, 38 percent have been divorced.

Other data from additional sociologists of family and religion suggest a significant marital stability divide between those who take their faith seriously and those who do not.

W. Bradford Wilcox, a leading sociologist at the University of Virginia and director of the National Marriage

*Project, finds from his own analysis that "active conservative Protestants" who regularly attend church are 35 percent less likely to divorce compared to those who have no affiliation. Nominally attending conservative Protestants are 20 percent more likely to divorce, compared to secular Americans. (The previous quoted material is taken from *The Christian Divorce Rate Myth* by Glenn T. Stanton, Baptist Press.)*

The closer and more obedient you are to Christ the less likely you are to suffer a broken home.

Psalm 127:1 *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

1. Commit your life to Jesus Christ as Savior.
2. Commit your life to Him as Lord of all.
3. Commit your family to Him.

Mike Ennis serves as the Pastor of Victory Baptist Church. A native of Kokomo, he has pastored for 30 years. He and his wife, Joan, have 4 married daughters and 8 grandchildren.



God, Why Am I Still Single?

by Jill Garrison

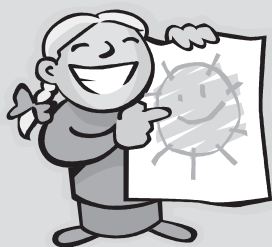
It never ceases to amaze me how many people, single and married, think that singleness is a problem that needs to be fixed. Married people are always trying to fix their single friends and relatives up or putting pressure on them to find a spouse. A lot of singles bemoan the fact that they are unmarried, and some become obsessed with getting married. The Bible, on the other hand, portrays singleness as a gift and a calling.

In I Corinthians 7:17-24, Paul tells us to remain in the condition that we were in when God called us unto Himself. The inner change that takes place at salvation does not necessarily precipitate an outer change of circumstances. Paul is not saying don't change your sinful behavior, but rather don't change your circumstances such as your culture, vocation, or marital status. Instead, we are to honor and glorify the Lord in our present situation. If you are a Jew, profess Christ as the Messiah. If you are a factory worker, do your work to please the Lord and not men. If you are single, maintain self-control and be content. You see, God did not call us in order to change

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Sunburns

by Rachel Irwin, RN



Summer, a time for fun in the sun, but summer can be a very dangerous time for our

skin. Almost every year my family, mom and dad, sisters and their families, all pack up the mini vans and head to Florida for some fun in the sun. We all look forward to it months in advance. We plan and save, buy all the necessary swimsuits, shorts, toys, sunscreen, etc. No matter how much planning goes into this special trip and no matter how many years we have done this, there is always the same reoccurring event, the dreaded sunburn.

Sometimes the sunburn gets one poor soul, but usually it gets a couple of us. We all laugh at the victim, or if you're the victim, you cry and scream when people forget about the lobster red skin and brush up against you. Unfortunately, a sunburn is

no laughing matter. A sunburn can cause long term damage to your skin. More people probably worry more about sharks, but a sunburn can be just as deadly if it leads to skin cancer. I, for one, do not want to miss out on the joys of the beach, pools, and ball games that come with summer.

According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), in 2007, "8,461 people in the United States died from melanomas of the skin, including 5,506 men and 2,955 women." Melanoma is the most serious and deadliest of all skin cancers. To be fair, not all skin cancer is caused by sunburns, but according to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "One blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence more than doubles a person's chances of developing melanoma later in life. A person's risk for melanoma also doubles if he or she has had five or more sunburns at any age."

Now that I've scared you all into

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The Plague of Death: Perhaps We Don't Have It So Bad!

by Marlin Carpenter

Frogs, Locusts, Boils, Bloody Water, Hail, Darkness, Death...these were some of the plagues that the Egyptians in Moses' day experienced (cf. Exodus 7-10). The bloody water reeked, the frogs were so thick one couldn't walk with stepping on them, the locusts were so numerous that their swarm blotted out the sun, the boils brought unbearable physical pain, and death was visited upon each first-born child. What a bleak scene this paints! My desire is not to depress you, but my thoughts were sparked as I contemplated what we deal with in the garden and anticipate to be more than usual this year. That which I speak of is not the locusts that Egypt experienced, but it is the insects and diseases that each of us encounters in our own garden.

Many of us enjoyed the warmer-than-usual winter that graced Indiana this year. However, with that blessing comes a consequence. Normally, the long freezing temperatures of winter

kill off many insects and diseases. This winter, unfortunately, did not get cold enough to do so. Thus, we are left with the likelihood of insects and diseases of unprecedented proportion. At the greenhouse we have already had many phone calls about powdery mildew on roses and a myriad of insects that have reared their ugly heads so early in the season. There is no reason to "put our tails between our legs" and run scared, however, it is to our advantage to be aware of the possibilities and know what action can be taken.

Just like humans, plants will be able to overcome diseases and withstand damage incurred by insect pests if they are kept healthy. This means adequate water and fertilizer, good quality soil, room to grow and good air circulation, removing dead stems and spent flowers, and of course the one we all look forward to—keeping them weed-free! It is the same with our spiritual lives. The

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Education *cont. from page 2*

abandoned our Christian heritage. Our nation was founded upon the belief that our individual rights come from God, not the government. Yes, there is much Christians disagree on; however, there are fundamental truths that unite us.

When you teach a child he was created by the direct act of a loving God, you give that child intrinsic worth. Evolution teaches children they are nothing more than a cosmic accident. When you teach children they are no better than animals, don't be surprised if they act like animals. Life is losing its value. We are created in the image of God as social beings dependent upon God and others for our worth.

We must teach children they are here for a specific purpose. Bringing God honor and glory is the ultimate goal in life. That is why we are here. We are not here to make a lot of money, to buy a lot of things, and go a lot of places. We are here to enter into a personal relationship with the Almighty Creator God through the redemptive work of His Son and serve Him by being a blessing to everyone around us! We have a purpose that is greater than our creature comforts.

Finally, we must teach children there is an eternity that awaits them. What they do with Jesus Christ will determine where they spend eternity. What they do for Christ will determine what they receive in eternity. It is critical that our children understand their actions not only have consequences in this life, but they also have eternal consequences as well.

Isn't it logical to think our culture is deteriorating because we are failing to pass on the values and traditions of our ancestors to the next generation? Consider the work ethic which made this nation what it is today. Our parents were taught if they wanted something, they had to go out and work for it. Today, children are being taught they are

entitled to the basic necessities of life. Furthermore, they believe it is the government's job to take from the rich to provide the poor with the basics of life from cradle to grave.

Let's not forget that the very concept of charity comes from the Judeo-Christian worldview. Our founders understood charity was the responsibility of the individual and the church, not the government. Family members looked after each other, then the church congregation, then communities, and finally the state. There are plenty of quotes from our first presidents acknowledging the fact that the federal government was limited in scope, and charity was not on the agenda.

The Golden Rule was understood by the average citizen differently than it is today. Today, people emphasize the negative aspect of the Golden Rule. They believe as long as they don't hurt someone they have fulfilled the rule. They have been gravely misled. That is not the same as the positive aspect of the rule. Our ancestors understood we were to do good things for our neighbors in their time of need, just like we would want them to do for us in our time of need.

I hope you understand how fundamental this is for the survival of our culture. America was built on the Judeo-Christian worldview. Things like the work ethic, personal responsibility, and the Golden Rule spring from these foundational truths which has brought America to the pinnacle of human history. Unfortunately, we are losing that heritage. By God's grace, and with a renewed effort to re-instill these principles of the past, we can be used to help rescue this nation from the trash heap of human history.

Matthew Turner is principal of Victory Christian Academy and co-founder of the Kokomo TEA Party. You may contact him at vcamatt@yahoo.com.



You Said IT! Prayer (Part 2)

By Terry Seagraves



It is important for me to remind you, these are steps I have discovered for myself. I am in no way telling you that this is how you should pray or that my way is better than anyone else's. If I have helped you in any way, then God is answering my prayers. Now we are ready to discuss step one:

Go to God in Love

You must have love in your heart if you expect God to believe you are being honest (step two). If you try to talk to the Lord with bitterness, anger or hatred, you will not find the peace, comfort and joy that await you. I know; I have been there and it doesn't work. Remember, anything we go through is nothing compared to what our Lord Jesus Christ went through for us. He dealt with bitterness, hatred, anger, pain and even death because of us. Are we more than Him? No, we are not! When you let these sins rule your heart, you are letting Satan rule your life; it hurts you and those you

love. When I pray, I begin with praising God for all He is to me and the love I have for Him. Then I ask for forgiveness of my sins. Yes, those terrible feelings are sin and you have to turn them over to the Lord. Jesus loves us so much; no sin is too big or too small that you can't take it to Him. One thing I have found—bitterness gives you ulcers, anger gives you headaches, and hatred only hurts you. Is the person you think you hate more important than the One who died on the Cross in love? I hope you will continue with me as I share step two in the next issue.

Prayers for you always, Terry



Terry lives with her husband in Howard county and works with an area Child Evangelism Fellowship Good News Club.

FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? MARK 8:36

YOU'RE INVITED



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Pastor Mike Ennis

Sunday

Sunday School..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service..... 10:00 a.m.

Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.

(No evening service every 4th Sunday of the month.)

Wednesday

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

Truth Trackers..... 7:00 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6th grade)

Teens..... 7:00 p.m.

(7th grade - high school)

Listen to messages online at:
victorybaptistchurchkokomo.com

Mother's Corner

by Ashlee Shoaff

A mother becomes one by the complementary relationship with a man. Human life emerges as a man and woman connect, and for that reason, this relationship is integral in the family. Over the last half century there has been a ground swell of feministic doctrine overshadowing the beautiful relationship between a man and a woman (albeit some feminists do not attribute men as an enemy). There is a delicate balance of harmonizing two people. This likens itself to the two butterfly wings eagerly working to reach a place of nourishment and rest. The link between a woman and her man is not always rainbows and roses. It takes understanding, sacrifice, and patience.

Subconsciously, we attach our perceptions of relationships to our favorite fairy tales. Sleeping Beauty laid in waiting as her prince haphazardly wandered into her life, rescuing her from life's hard knocks. If any, Beauty and the Beast illustrate a more common picture of a relationship between husband and wife.

Belle and the Beast gnaw at one another and don't see eye to eye, but in spending more time with one another their

What modern psychology researches and delineates in scholarly journals, the Bible articulated ages ago.

affection for each other grew. Each husband may seem beastly at times, and undoubtedly, the wife irritates her mate. God plainly points out this tension between men and woman grappling to coexist, especially in the same house. In Genesis, He outlines the exact contention that comes so naturally between a couple. There is a power struggle.

Though most women desire the companionship of a man, many still feel that pull toward independence. Interestingly, after the forbidden fruit was eaten, God outlined this dynamic existing to this day. Women enjoy the liberation of not feeling controlled by domestic affairs or traditional roles. Within the same longing, there is a fondness toward the companionship of a husband. The New Living Bible translates Genesis 3:16 as the woman desiring control over her husband. Others state that a woman will have desire for her husband. Either interpretation describes a natural lure women have toward men. To engage in a power struggle or to be noticed and courted characterizes this longing from adolescence on. Sharon Gesse, a child-life specialist at Children's Hospital of

Michigan, notes that girls begin chasing boys as a primitive form of flirtation by age 10. *Why Gender Matters* author Leonard Sax notes tween girls begin to sense the need to be wanted by boys, desired and in control by some means. What modern psychology researches and delineates in scholarly journals, the Bible articulated ages ago.

God presents a remedy to this power struggle as well. In Ephesians 5, we are urged to first of all surrender to an understanding and a spirit of accepting our inability to be completely self-reliant, to agree to the teaching and power of Jesus Christ to help our relationships. Allowing Him to govern this tender relationship, He clarifies the most complementary responses to have toward one another. Secondly, as wives, we consider an attitude of submission or compliance. *Complir* (also used in complementary) is the Latin root meaning to carry out, or fulfill. By the same token, the husband is to love his wife. The Merriam Webster Dictionary denotes love as

the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another. This love is shown by both working towards harmony—talking about ideas, perceptions, and feelings about situations and trusting the latter to make a decision for their mutual benefit. Our attitude is not a question of equality, but of having an attitude that will fill our homes with completeness and adoration.

Lastly, we must consider our actions. Our actions resonate louder than our words at times. When we are displaying our affection and trust in our husbands, they respond positively. 1 Peter 3 calls us to reflect an inner beauty that radiates calmness and a tasteful, unassuming spirit toward our husbands. Not trying to manipulate situations to fulfill our needs will also help their reactions toward us. By surveying the spiritual view of this relationship along with one's attitude and actions between husband and wife, it is easier to find the rest and nourishment needed to have an enduring connection.

Some woman may have this notion that allowing the husband to finalize decisions in the home connotes inequality. Yet, in a godly relationship, both the husband and wife work toward complementing one another.

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Still Single cont. from page 3

our station in life, but rather God has called us to be a light for Him right where we are. He needs witnesses for Him in all walks of life to reach the world. There are people that you can reach for Him because you are single that you couldn't if you were married.

In verse 26, the apostle Paul says to remain single because of the "present distress," or impending calamity. Paul no doubt foresaw that Christians en masse would soon be persecuted by the Roman

... God has called us to be a light for Him where we are.

government. Our times are not unlike Paul's. Yes, we are going through a time of economic distress, but if one looks at the worldwide picture, there is something even more distressing going on. That is the persecution of Christians. As we read or watch the news, we hear about upheaval after upheaval in Middle Eastern and African countries. A large part of these upheavals is the targeting of Christians. Many have lost their homes, churches, loved ones, or their own lives. In our own country, our religious liberties are being stripped away from us and our right of conscience violated. We may soon find that standing for our beliefs will result in fines, imprisonment, and the taxing of religious institutions. When a single person makes a stand for Christ, he does not have to worry about how his stand will affect his wife and children—if they will be shunned, go hungry, or be tortured.

Paul goes on to remind us that our "time is short" (v. 29). James tells us that our life is "a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). Whether we are taken in the rapture, die at a ripe old age, or die a martyr's death, our time is short. Therefore, we need to heed Paul's instructions to the church at Ephesus. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). Each and every day is precious and should be used wisely. Don't squander your days, biding your time until you get married. Life does not begin at marriage, and marriage is not a prerequisite for serving the Lord. You will stand before the Lord and give an account for how you spent your time, resources, and talents. When I worked at a Christian university, I lived next to a highly-educated, single lady who realized her time was short. Having her doctorate, she no doubt could have obtained a high-paying job. Instead, she worked for a small company that produces

curriculum for Christian schools and homeschoolers. Not only did she give the Lord her days, she gave Him her nights and weekends too. She was an AWANA leader, sang in the choir, and was active in the ladies missionary society at her church. These are just a few of the ways that she served the Lord in her "free time." I know she did far more because it seemed as though she was hardly ever home. Yet, she was not too busy for a chat, a shared prayer request, or to ask for an update on a prayer request. She was well-respected by those who knew her, and whether she realized it or not, many single young ladies who observed her life saw her as a role model to be emulated.

The purpose of Paul's advice is not to put a restraint upon us, but rather to encourage us to serve the Lord without distraction (v. 35). Singles do not have the concerns that come with married life. They can focus completely on pleasing the Lord since they do not have to worry about pleasing a spouse (vv. 32-34). Jeremiah Small, a single young man from Washington state, served the Lord without distraction as a teacher at a Classical school in northern Iraq. For over six years, he ministered to the needs of his students and the community. On March 1, at the age of 33, his life was cut short when one of his students shot him as Small bowed his head to open a morning class in prayer. After shooting Small, eighteen-year-old Bayar Sarwar then turned the gun on himself. Although tragic, Jeremiah Small's death has revealed just how influential his service was and how highly regarded he was by Christians and Muslims alike. Amazingly, the funeral for Sarwar held at a downtown mosque in Sulaymaniyah the day after the shooting turned into a joint service to honor Small as well. As missionary Jim Elliot wrote in his journal, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

So, quit throwing yourself a pity party because you're single. Instead, get busy. Step out of your comfort zone, get involved in outreaches, and take advantage of ministry opportunities. Don't procrastinate. Remember your time is short and the days are evil. Spend time with the Lord daily. Thank Him for your singleness which gives you the opportunity to serve Him wholeheartedly without distraction. Soon you will find yourself saying with the Apostle Paul, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Jill helps with Truth Trackers at VBC and currently works in a public library. She has taught in a Christian school in England.



Sin Thistles

by Hannah Brenton

In my backyard is a plot of dirt.
Mom calls it a garden,
I call it a plot of dirt.

Mom hopes to grow raspberries:
Bright, red, juicy, succulent raspberries.
So far, all I see are 5 sticks poking out of the soil –
Only 4 contain a few jade leaves
I think a deer got to the fifth.

The raspberry plants look tiny in this giant plot of dirt,
And many other things are threatening their growth.
Long green grasses and other little weeds cluster around the plants
Looking ready to lunge in at any moment and choke the poor things.
And across the plot of dirt,
Hundreds of thistles have marked their territory.

Mom says thistles are sin, a curse placed on creation at the fall.
Looking at Genesis 3:18, she has a point.
Mom makes me work in the garden every day “to get rid of sin.”
I don’t particularly like this task.
It takes so long,
The sun is hot,
My sunburned back aches when I bend over,
And sometimes, those mean thistles poke my poor fingers!

But still I go, day after day, and pull out fifty, even a hundred thistles each time.

Sometimes I wonder what would happen if I just stopped pulling them.
Okay, so they’d grow bigger and bigger, and be difficult to kill later on.
But it’s so annoying to tend to this plot of dirt every day!

Sin thistles
What would happen if I didn’t tend to my own sin thistles daily?
Would they grow bigger and bigger and hinder any growth in my life?
Would they choke out everything good, and leave me as just a hideous,
weed-filled, plot of dirt?

Maybe in order to become a pretty, fruitful garden,
I need to live in the Spirit and kill sin daily.
Kind of makes that “dying daily” stuff make sense.
You could call it sanctification.
To me it’s simply killing sin thistles,
So that the Fruit of the Spirit can grow and fill this plot of dirt with
beautiful things.

Hannah is the niece of our Layout and Design Technician. She is from Minnesota and currently attends college in Michigan.

How Dim My Light

by Terry Seagrave

Oh, Brother and Sister, don’t you see
The Light that shines from me
I go to church and invite you to go
This is my light shining, don’t you know.

No. I don’t visit much
Not with work and such
But I care when someone is in need,
I say a prayer. That’s my good deed.
But then I opened my eyes and what
did I see?

Please, Dear Lord, won’t You forgive me.

My Light has been so dim.

Let your light so shine
before men, that they may
see your good works,
and glorify your Father
which is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

Sunday, July 22

Wright Family Concert

10:00 a.m.



Victory Baptist Church
610 W. Alto Road
Kokomo, IN

Aging Gracefully

by Morris Starkey

Memory is a Precious Thing



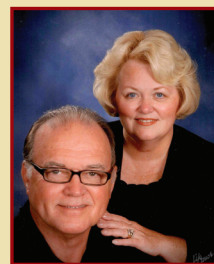
Years ago, a secular hit song by the popular entertainer Dean Martin was *Memories Are Made Of This*. It’s a gentle and innocent song of the progression of a relationship - first love, first kiss, marriage, home and family. In short, it is a song of what the title implies - memories. For many senior citizens, memory is a precarious thing. How a family deals with this reality could determine the impact it has upon that family. In my mid-sixties, I find

myself grasping for the memory of a name, place or event more frequently. A couple of my brothers and I often get together for breakfast at an Amish restaurant near our homes, and we laugh at how our lively conversations often lack clarity simply because we can’t remember pertinent information. Oh, I don’t think there is any near-danger of any of us losing our way home from breakfast and ending up in Pocatello, but forgetfulness can be a cause for concern. While we deal with minor memory problems with humor, for

Aging Gracefully cont. on page 9

At Home with Jim and Judy Buck

by Margaret Tice



Using some of the extra time afforded me during the five years since my husband’s death with Alzheimer’s, I’ve pursued getting acquainted with some of our public servants. I’ve long felt this would be a good thing to do for us citizens charged with choosing our own governing leaders, and something—although we’d always been faithful voters—for which we’d never had time. To look them in the eye, catch their vibes, see them interact casually with others, know about their families and priorities would help me decide whether or not they could actually represent me in the public arena. Availing myself of general invitations to political gatherings, I did get to visit with Governor Daniels in his office, eat dinner with Senator and Mrs. Dan Coats (Marsha), and have meaningful conversations with Representative and Mrs. Mike Karickhoff (Kelly) and Councilwoman Cindy Sanders. Attending their annual garden party for three years and going on Republican Party day trips with Republican Women’s Vice-Chair Judy Buck, sitting beside her and chatting as she drove, I’ve been able to get to know Senator and Mrs. Jim Buck best of all. And I’ve enjoyed it. Reading Senator Buck’s direct-mail reports had assured me we shared the same values in governing, but observing and visiting

with them close-hand made me understand them better. With their permission, I’m going to reveal what I saw to you in a “did you know” format.

Did you know Jim and Judy . . .

- are open and easy to talk with, making you feel at home and taking time to talk and answer questions. They may even show you some new plant they’ve added or area they’ve developed in their lovely garden which they tend as a hobby.
 - have a blended family, having brought up five daughters. Three of them, neatly coiffed and wearing little black dresses, replenished trays of delicate pastries and colorful fruits, and served sweetly behind the scenes at the last garden party I attended.
 - speak naturally about their faith in the Lord and their choice to serve Him with their lives in the public arena. Jim says the greatest enemy he fights there is apathy, agreeing strongly with Edmund Burke’s admonition: All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.
 - show understanding of the issues facing our culture in the workaday world—he now retired after 32 years as a Delphi tool and die moldmaker and she currently office manager and paralegal at Butcher, Ball and Lowry. They are able to wield considerable influence to
- Jim & Judy Buck cont. on page 10*

Come Join Us!!

Ages 5-12

answers VBS
Incred!World
AMAZEMENT PARK
A Thrill Ride through God's Creation

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Vacation Bible School at Victory Baptist Church

July 16-20, 2012

610 W. Alto Road Kokomo, IN 46902

PORCUPINES

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

© 2007 Michael D. Waters
www.joyfultoons.com

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
- 1 PETER 4:8 NIV

4x4 Kidoku Puzzles by KrazyDad, Book 48

Kidoku #1

4			3
3		1	
			2

© 2006 KrazyDad.com

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 2-by-2 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 4.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guessing!

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Intermediate Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #4

KRAZYDAD.COM/PUZZLES
Need the answer? <http://krazydad.com/mazes/answers>

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Bible Couples

J	R	E	E	Z	I	P	P	O	R	A	H	Q	B	C	O	B	Y
S	Y	L	S	J	L	F	V	J	Z	D	I	S	R	A	R	R	Q
E	W	I	T	H	D	E	Z	H	C	B	R	T	D	I	A	B	U
S	W	Z	H	B	T	H	H	A	K	A	P	A	J	M	G	A	O
O	K	A	E	O	L	U	A	C	T	H	M	E	N	N	Q	T	O
M	O	B	R	C	Z	S	R	H	A	A	A	Z	Y	M	J	H	D
K	O	E	S	A	I	Q	A	S	B	R	B	X	M	G	P	S	I
I	B	T	Z	J	Z	N	G	M	D	T	R	C	K	V	G	H	V
N	A	H	X	J	A	E	E	D	Y	O	A	B	B	N	Z	E	A
G	L	N	P	K	H	V	C	X	K	A	H	O	G	F	T	B	D
X	L	V	L	H	R	R	E	H	N	D	A	Z	L	X	Z	A	A
E	I	E	C	A	I	U	E	A	A	A	M	E	A	A	B	E	R
R	C	N	H	R	O	O	N	B	U	R	B	M	Q	O	H	V	I
X	S	J	G	A	Z	I	T	K	E	E	I	U	X	A	B	E	H
E	I	Q	U	S	A	O	T	I	Z	K	I	A	N	D	K	Y	P
S	R	A	R	S	F	H	S	E	Q	L	A	N	H	M	J	H	P
S	P	F	S	R	I	B	J	J	A	K	A	H	L	E	Q	A	A
M	Q	C	Z	E	Z	W	V	H	D	H	H	P	E	S	O	J	S

Adam

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Moses

David

King Xerxes

Elkanah

Ahab

Boaz

Zechariah

Joseph

Aquila

Ananias

Eve

Sarah

Rebekah

Rachel

Zipporah

Bathsheba

Esther

Hannah

Jezebel

Ruth

Elizabeth

Mary

Priscilla

Sapphira

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CEF: The Great Commission and the Next Generation

by Margaret Tice

"A politician thinks of the next election/a statesman thinks of the next generation" is a good rule of thumb, not only when choosing a candidate for office but also when deciding where to contribute time, talent or money. Topping that in determining priority of demand in the life of believers in Jesus Christ is His last command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Effectiveness of mission is the bottom line in either of these considerations. Looking at accomplishments gives us a clue to whether an investment in them will be worthwhile.

Local dentist Dr. John Ladd, Chairman of the Six-County Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship® consistently urges the Committee (Board), made up of the CEF® Directors, Larry and Bonnie Habegger along with a half dozen representatives of seven counties including Howard, to keep to its core values both in its monthly meetings in Kokomo and in its choice

of ministry to children endeavors.

CEF has one core value foundational to others that hinge on it--the winning of children ages 5-12 to Jesus Christ. Statistics are boring but a few will bear out CEF's ministry effectiveness:

- This year is CEF's 75th anniversary
- 185 Good News Clubs were held after school in Indiana in 2011-12
- 500 children professed Jesus Christ as Savior
- 432 staff and volunteers were involved in teaching in at least one event

In June, July and August of 2011 twelve locally trained teen-age summer missionaries through CEF's Christian Youth in Action® held a 5-Day Clubs® with volunteer hosts at 35 locations in the seven county area. They engaged in teaching children at three county 4-H Fairs and the Peru Circus Days. Through these ministries they reached almost 3,000 children. Nearly 100 of them asked Jesus to be their Savior.

These children were counseled and were given an opportunity to have free follow-up Bible lessons mailed to them. These Bible lessons were returned to CEF to be checked and sent back to the children along with personal notations on their returned lessons.

Three quotations lend credence to this work:

(1) Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ's invitation to "let the little children come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

(2) Prince of preachers from the past, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, in justification of his work with children declared, "A child at five, if properly instructed, can as truly believe as anyone."

(3) Present author and speaker Josh McDowell said, "CEF has become one of the most critical organizations in America and around the world. It used to be that if we didn't reach kids by high school it was too late. Then junior high age, then elementary age.

Now if we don't reach them as kids 5, 6, 7, 8 years old, we will lose an entire generation."

Testimonies bear out the validity of these decisions. Jim Wright, a deacon and teacher in Victory Baptist Church's Children's Church and a teacher at Boulevard Elementary School's Good News Club®, says he was led to the Lord at a Good News Club when he was six years old. Randy Ollis, WISH-TV weatherman, gave a similar account when he spoke at CEF's Fundraiser Banquet last year.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, a non-profit, spends its contributed resources on two simple, proven ministries:

1. Good News Clubs which meet in public schools after school hours and are taught by trained and carefully screened adults and teen-age volunteers.
2. 5-Day Clubs which meet in the summertime in homes or wherever

CEF cont. on page 11

Grieving cont. from page 1

The things that helped sustain me during this healing time were mostly activities that arose from my service to my Lord. I continued reading the Bible every morning. I continued regular attendance at church. I continued teaching Children's Church. An incident occurred when I was teaching about Ruth, who lost her husband Elimelech. I told the kids that I knew how that hurt since I had just lost my wife. I teared up and cried a little bit. Later, when I was telling about David losing the child that he had with Bathsheba, one little boy raised his hand, and when called on, said with a plaintive little voice, "Please don't cry!" I hadn't realized how my emotions affect my Children's Church kids.

The new year turned over, and after the emotional roller coaster of missing my wife during all the Christmas activities, and the joy of having all my kids and grandkids (and even my two great-grandkids) here for the holidays, a subtle change in my outlook seemed to take place. I am able to say, "Thank you Lord, for taking my sweetheart home and giving her perfect healing and a perfect life that will last forever, where I'll see her again soon,"

and mean it! The tears are oozing out again as I write this, so maybe I'm not as fully healed as I thought, but truly the joy has returned and replaced the mild sorrow that the Lord said we'd have in I Thessalonians 4:13. He said mild sorrow, because even though our sorrow seems to be deep, it is obviously nothing compared with the horrors of Hell for eternity, which people who die unsaved will face.

Where do I go from here? One of the worst things for me about being single is mealtime. I don't cook. I don't know how to cook. I don't want to learn to cook. I have no interest at all in cooking. I take things out of the freezer that people have left in there for me. Most of them have arranged to put just enough in a little tub or plastic baggie for one meal. I just nuke it for two minutes, throw it on a tray with a Dr. Pepper, half a banana or a tangerine and some nuts, and maybe half a Snickers bar, and plop down in front of the TV while I eat. The other thing I miss most is having someone around that I can tell "I love you." I miss being able to come up behind the girl I love and hug her and kiss her neck.

If I were to consider seriously remarrying, what should be my

guidelines? The first thing, stay in the Lord's will. It's not enough for me to just read my Bible and go to church. I have to practice what I read. We really cannot tell for sure whether a person is truly saved. There's no halo that pops up above their heads when they open the door of themselves and let Him in, as in Revelation 3:20. I know from fifty-seven years of experience that it's hard enough to live peaceably with a truly saved woman who is truly the Lord's choice. Anything short of that would be next to impossible. Can she cook? Can she sing? Can she play an instrument? Can she bake a cherry pie? It doesn't really matter. If she's the Lord's plan for me, it will be great. On the other hand, if the Lord's plan is for me to stay single, then that will be the best thing for me.

Jim Wright earned his MA in Engineering from Oklahoma State, is a Certified Flight Instructor, and is retired from EDS. Together with his late wife Lolly, they raised four children. Jim teaches Children's Church and is a Deacon at Victory Baptist Church.



Mother's Corner cont. from page 5

Being understanding in differences and strengths, remaining patient while ironing out differences, and sacrificing selfish desires to complete one another or carry out the best for the household creates a home that couples and the children enjoy being a part of.

A wife is an essential role for the solidity of our homes and even the betterment of our communities. This position requires a delicate balance of a natural desire to meet the needs of any children and a daily choice to support and assist our husbands. Proverbs 31:11-12 says a noble wife allows her husband to be confident in her actions, attitudes, and responsibilities inside and outside of the home. It also indicates that she comforts, encourages and brings him good all of her life. Just as Belle was an active contributor to the Beast's evolution into a prince so is a wife essential to her husband and the ever watchful eyes of her children.

Ashlee Shoaff, along with her husband, Stan, have four children. She is currently working on an advanced degree, lives in Howard county and serves our Lord at Victory Baptist Church.



"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - Jesus Matthew 11:28

Aging Gracefully *cont. from page 6*

many families with a parent or family member with more advanced memory loss, it isn't a laughing matter.

Families are often challenged by an aging family member's increasing loss of mental alertness. Fortunately, literature abounds on dealing with memory loss and aging. Information is available on when to take the keys from an aging parent, seniors' safety, scams that target seniors, dietary inadequacies, and many other related subjects that are impacted by the lack of mental awareness. For those who are caregivers or interact frequently with those with diminishing memory, it is imperative to maintain an appropriate attitude lest anger, frustration and insensitivity to the family member's needs develop.

The Scriptures give us beneficial counsel regarding keeping things in perspective without becoming completely clinical in our approach.

1. We should embrace, for ourselves, the mind of Christ. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). I realize it is a cliché to many, but "What would Jesus do" is an appropriate view when caring for a loved one with memory loss or any other physical disability. The pioneer nurse Florence Nightingale was motivated by what she perceived as a call from God to care for people. She wrote, "God called me in the morning and asked me would I do good for him alone without reputation." The Nightingale Pledge, recited by new nurses for generations but unfortunately discarded by most schools now, started with these words of commitment, *"I solemnly pledge myself before God..."* To disconnect spirituality from historical care-giving is to deny historical reality.

2. We should embrace, for ourselves, the love of Christ. Every one of us is the recipient of God's love. Either under His general grace in giving us physical life and all that pertains to it, or by a more personal love through the act of faith and acceptance of Christ's atonement, we are experiencing His love. Since we are the recipients of His love and compassion, we should demonstrate the same to those in our care.

3. We should give ourselves some "breathing space." Even Jesus needed to get away from it all. *"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there prayed"* (Mark 1:35). Sometimes frustration develops simply because we

don't step back occasionally and give ourselves a much-needed break. Just as parents need some time away from the kids and employees need some time away from the job, caregivers need time away from the intensity of their responsibility. Seek a substitute caregiver, another family member, if possible, or an adult daycare center. You need it physically, emotionally and spiritually. Connect with others or organizations that can help in buoying up a weary psyche. *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you"* (Mt. 7:7).

4. We must see the bigger picture. *"This, too, shall pass..."* is not just some philosophical means of dispelling reality. Most things on this earth do not last forever. Family and loved ones have been an invaluable source of blessings in our lifetime. The emotional connection we have with them overshadows the challenges in being there for our loved ones. In years to come the bitter fades and the blessings prevail. When our mother passed, she had been in a care facility for a number of years. Our only sister had the burden of caring for many of those matters that needed attending, and did it very well. We brothers did our best to visit, often daily, even when Mom's memory was diminished. After her passing, it took me a long time to drive past her care facility without the urge to stop. Would we want to go back to that situation again? As badly as we all miss her, she is with God and far better off.

We all need help sometimes. If you find yourself overwhelmed and desire Biblical counseling, you can receive it without cost by calling 765-453-9768. It is our desire that you find the keys to aging gracefully.

Morris Starkey is retired from Indiana University Kokomo and lives with his wife, Donna, in Miami County. They have two children and five grandchildren.



Gray hair is a
glorious crown;
it is found in the way
of righteousness.

Proverbs 16:31

Sisters 4 Christ Ministry

by Andrea Cardenas

We are SISTERS 4 Christ

- S** Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- I** Inspired to do God's will.
- S** Sincere in our prayers to help those in need.
- T** True in our testimony to be faithful, loving, and sharing of God's word.
- E** Eternally grateful to share God's blessings.
- R** Respectful in all needs.
- S** Sisters always.

We create unique gift baskets for your special occasion. We have many selections to choose from, and the basket can be customized to your order. All baskets are unique as to the product we currently have in stock. We will work with you on color scheme, occasion, items included and more. If you want to include items that you have already purchased, we will add them. If you would like something specific added, the price will be reflective. Just ask for more details and one of the "FOUR" will help customize your perfect gift basket!!

We are a small ministry devoted to serving our church and local community. When you purchase a gift basket for your special occasion, we are able to fund our local food pantry and encouragement ministry. As part of our encouragement ministry we provide gift baskets for encouragement, deaths, loneliness, shut-ins, and various other needs. We are able to provide these at no cost due to the orders from our local community and church for their special occasions such as births, weddings, Secret Sisters, Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, and any other holiday or just a special "hello" or "thank you." Let us know what we can do for you and your next special event!!

Andrea Cardenas is married to David and they live in Howard County. Andrea sings in the choir and works with children in Truth Trackers at Victory Baptist Church.

**Book Shelf** *cont. from page 2*

was performed to correct the 89-degree curve in his spine. He remains confined to a wheelchair today, but several people have testified to the family that Alex will be completely healed. The license plate on the family vehicle reads WIL WALK.

A great deal of controversy surrounds these two books. Both authors have been interviewed on radio and on television shows like the *Today* show and CNN. Are the stories real? Are they just schemes to make money as some skeptics have claimed? Even many Christians, who say they believe in heaven, think that no one goes there and then returns to earth to tell about it. Both authors understood that by writing their respective books, they would be opening themselves, their sons, and their families to a great deal of skepticism and scorn. Both fathers are committed to the authority of the scriptures, and as Kevin Malarkey stated, "Since I don't have a charismatic background, all of this is new territory to me. I don't have a theological box to put it in. It is a reality that has invaded our lives" (136). Both fathers had to ask themselves if they really wanted to relive that agonizing time with the terror and pain of almost losing their sons. Both families underwent severe financial hardship due to medical bills and lost time at work. And there was the vulnerability of baring their souls

about how they personally handled these major crises in their lives.

A reader must always think critically, and above all, books dealing with spiritual matters must be true to Scripture. These accounts by these two little boys are very convincing. If the reader doesn't believe in God or if he has an axe to grind with Him, then he probably won't believe the events related in these books. But for others, the divine encounters of Colton and Alex can encourage them in the reality of heaven and make them bolder to tell others about the home awaiting those who have received Jesus as Savior. In the introduction to *The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven*, Kevin Malarkey writes, "We have a feeling that, despite our best efforts, we don't quite belong here, that this is not our final destination. We have deep hungers and thirsts that cannot yet be satisfied. In fact, when we try to make this world our home, our ultimate security and place of comfort, we simply end up feeling disappointed or empty. This is why a great saint of the church was moved to write, 'Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee'" (ix).

Jeanine Garrison lives in Clinton County with her books and her husband Tim. The couple has three grown children.



Jim & Judy Buck cont. from page 6

ward making right decisions about wide-ranging issues, as pointed out by Jim to his colleagues at the end of this year’s session in the Indiana State Senate when he thanked them for their hard work which included completely phasing out the state’s inheritance tax, promoting college affordability and strengthening human trafficking statutes (details www.in.gov/s21/index.htm).

- have made me glad to know them, made me appreciate their way of life as well as their philosophy of governance and to be happy to have them represent me in their high-profile positions.

And that, as they say, is one person’s opinion.

–Margaret Tice, widow of Don Tice, businessman, pastor and Christian educator, mother of two sons who, with their wives and families, know, love and serve the Lord.



Plague of Death cont. from page 3

Living Water that quenches our thirst and the Bread of Life that satisfies our hunger is found in frequent reading of the Holy Scripture. Good quality soil is the preparation we make that invites God to cultivate our hearts. Removing the dead stems is ridding our lives of the “junk” that becomes cumbersome to our walk with the Lord. Weeds compete with plants for water and nutrition; likewise the weeds of our lives are all the things that take our focus and energy off of serving our Maker. But even with all the proper plant care, we know that on occasion the only way to save a plant from insect or disease is for us to intervene. There are times when we, too, need someone to step in with a loving but firm grip on our shoulder to turn us around and get us back where we belong.

I personally am not one to go out and spray all my vegetable plants down with a potent chemical every seven days just to be sure that nothing attacks them. There are so many unhealthy chemicals that are being sprayed on our food sources. The move toward organics is probably not unwarranted. I prefer a

scouting approach. This simply means that as I work in the garden I check plants for any signs of insect or disease. When something is spotted, the first consideration is what can be done to take care of the problem naturally. For instance, if a tomato plant gets blight (which happens more often than not), instead of spraying a chemical on it right away, why not try removing the lower diseased stems, fertilize, and be sure the plant is properly cared for.

Preventative measures are always better than trying to clean up the damage after it’s already too late.

Factors to consider when deciding what plan of action to take should include: how advanced is the disease or how numerous are the insects, what part of the growing season is it (if it’s toward the end of summer, why spray the tomato plant that is going to die soon anyway?), and what is of the most impact—losing a few plants or having chemicals on the food we eat? Are there times when a spray application cannot be avoided? Yes, absolutely!

If cucumber beetles find you—and they will if you have cucumber or squash plants long enough—it will probably be most advantageous to spray. Otherwise, those little monsters will have feasted on your entire crop overnight leaving you with famine! Even when a spray is necessary, we still recommend starting with the least potent spray first and then advancing to a stronger chemical if necessary.

All this to say: keep an eye on your garden this summer! Preventative measures are always better than trying to clean up the damage after it’s already too late. And take note of your heart and life as well. It is a whole lot easier to stay in tune with God than it is picking up the pieces of a broken life in an attempt to put them back together again!

Marlin Carpenter owns Garden Gate Greenhouse at the corner of Miami County 500 South and Hwy 19. Marlin is a Master Gardener and recognizes God’s work in the beauty of His creation.



Around Town

Regular Events

April 26th - August 26th – Kokomo Beach open

1st Thursday every month – Children’s Museum – Indianapolis. Free admission. 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month – Music Jam Open Mic – Walnut Creek Community Center, 4600 Colter, Kokomo. Hosted by the Southern Sounds Band featuring Country, Bluegrass, Gospel & more. Free admission – donations appreciated. Smoke & alcohol free. 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 4:00 p.m.

Every Tuesday from June 5th - October 2nd – Board Game Bonanza - Kirkendale Nature Center in Jackson Morrow Park. Kids under 12 need adult supervision. 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Every Wednesday from June 13th - August 1st – Kokomo Park Band Concert - Highland Park. Free admission. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Rain location is Kokomo High School. 8:00 p.m. For information, call 765-453-0098 or visit www.kokomoparkband.org.

June

1st-3rd – Western Days – Downtown Russiaville. Food, craft vendors, car show, parade, kids’ activities, entertainment & much more all weekend. Free admission. Hours: Fri. 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. & Sun. 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

2nd – Relay for Life – ½ marathon. Starts at Sycamore Sports . 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For information, visit www.Kokomomarathon.com.

2nd – High School Art Show – Art Gallery, IU Kokomo Campus. Free admission. Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sat. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. For information, call 765-455-9523 or visit www.iuk.edu.

July

9th - 15th – Howard County Fair

27th-28th – One Stop Quilt Shop Hop – Kokomo Event Center. Admission \$5.00. Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

28th – Car Show – Primrose Retirement Community. Free Admission. Car entry \$10.00. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

August

3rd-19th – Indiana State Fair

4th – Warbird – Grissom Air Museum. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For information, call 574-398-1451.

18th – Taste of Kokomo. 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. For information, call 765-457-6691.

24th - 26th – Winding Creek Bluegrass Festival. For information, visit www.windingcreek-bluegrass.com.

26th – Pooches at the Pool – Kokomo Beach. \$5.00 per dog; only one dog per person. Only pets swim! 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Andrea Cardenas is married to David and they live in Howard County. Andrea sings in the choir and works with children in Truth Trackers at Victory Baptist Church.



Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

Summer is fast approaching and that means "salad time." Below are three salads that start with the same basic ingredients—lettuce and chicken breast. For the lettuce, I like to use a variety of greens (head lettuce, spinach, red leaf lettuce and arugula). The chicken can be grilled, pan-fried or baked and then cut into pieces.

Chicken Salad with Strawberries and Walnuts

Start with your basic greens and chicken.

Add:

Sliced Strawberries
Glazed Walnuts (use almonds if you prefer)
Crumbled Blue Cheese
Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing

Chicken Salad with Mandarin Oranges

Start with your basic greens and chicken.

Add:

Mandarin Oranges (drained)
Slivered Almonds
Chow Mein Noodles
Poppy Seed Dressing or
Honey Mustard Dressing

Southwest Chicken Salad

Start with your basic greens and chicken.

Add:

Crushed Tortilla Chips
Diced Tomatoes
Shredded Cheese (Cheddar or Colby)
Chopped Onions (optional)
Canned Corn (drained)

For the dressing use either:
Salsa • Ranch Dressing • Honey Mustard

Have a blessed summer!

Donna Starkey is married to the Editor and lives in Miami county. She enjoys cooking, reading and spoiling her five grandchildren.



CEF cont. from page 8

a screened host chooses. This can be in an apartment-complex hospitality room or a pavilion in a local neighborhood park. Summer clubs are taught mostly by teams of 14 to 19 year old volunteers. In order to teach, they complete 10 days of intensive training by CEF staff at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN.

Volunteers are needed at every level. For further contact and information, email CEF at cef.sixco@gmail.com or you can call the CEF

Office at (765) 457-5703. You may also visit the local Six County Chapter Office at 2213 E. Vaile Avenue, Kokomo, IN 46901-5604.

—Margaret Tice, widow of Don Tice, businessman, pastor and Christian educator, mother of two sons who, with their wives and families, know, love and serve the Lord.



Sunburns cont. from page 3

living like vampires, I will offer some helpful tips on preventing and treating sunburns.

When in nursing school we always gave a bit of time to discussing prevention. For example to prevent lung cancer, get people to quit smoking or not start. Prevention through education is a big part of nursing. There are some very practical ways to avoid sunburns.

Avoid direct sunlight from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An umbrella or a tree work nicely. Clothing is another way to protect your skin from the sun. My children wear swim shirts a lot. Floppy hats, sunglasses, or cover ups all help protect from the sun's harmful rays. Since it is not recommended to use sunscreen on infants, they should be kept out of direct sunlight all together. For the rest of us who cannot avoid playing in the sun, sunscreen is a must.

Use sunscreen SPF 15 or greater. Have you been to the sunscreen aisle lately? They have everything from 5 to 110 SPF. Everybody is different, some burn more easily than others. I have learned a few tricks when it comes to sunscreen and it has helped us avoid sunburns for a few years now. I coat the kids in SPF 50 waterproof sunscreen lotion before we go out. Experts recommend applying sunscreen 30 minutes prior to sun exposure. Then I use a SPF 30 face stick. These are nice because they are easy to control and help to avoid getting sunscreen in eyes. I throw the face stick and a spray can of SPF 30 sunscreen in a bag. I reapply every 2 hours. The spray can is nice because it is less messy than the lotion and quick to apply again when the kids don't want to hold still. Since the spray is more expensive, I start out with the lotion. This method has been thoroughly tested by a team of experts — my sisters and me. It works for us, but you may need to alter it a little to find what works best for you and your family. The main thing is to use sunscreen 15 SPF or greater and reapply at least every two hours.

Sometimes we do everything right and we manage to miss a spot, or we forgot to reapply quickly enough and we get a sunburn. I remember on one of our FL trips, I yelled for my husband to put on some sunscreen. Being a big kid himself (one of the things I love about him), he was yelling at me to hurry up so he could get back in the ocean. I

grabbed the spray can and quickly went back and forth over his back before he bolted off. That evening he said he felt a little burnt. I looked at his back and it looked as if it was painted red with a white snake down the middle. The sunscreen did protect the area I was able to hit. Sometimes we try and fall short. So when the sun does win here are a few tips from Lawrence E. Gibson, M.D, Mayo Clinic.

Keep it cool. Apply cold compresses or take a cool bath.

Keep it moist. Apply aloe or moisturizing cream. Dr. Gibson recommends avoiding benzocaine or other anesthetic type products. They have not been proven very effective and may even cause more harm than good.

Leave blisters intact. Never break them; let them heal naturally. You may need to cover them with gauze.

Take an over-the-counter pain reliever. An anti-inflammatory medication, like Advil or Motrin. Do not give children or teens aspirin. Aspirin can cause a rare but fatal disease known as Reye's syndrome. Adults may take aspirin.

Treat peeling skin gently. After a few days your skin will begin peeling, your body's way of removing the top layer of damaged skin.

Continue to moisturize while your skin is peeling.

The full extent of the burn may take up to 12-24 hours to feel. So be careful; even just a little redness may be excruciating later in the day. Then the skin may take several days to repair itself from the damage. Unfortunately there is no quick fix and the best thing to do is control the pain.

Consult a doctor for sunburn treatment if

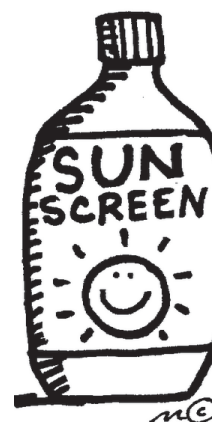
severe sunburn covers a large portion of your body with blisters; sunburn is accompanied by a high fever or severe pain;

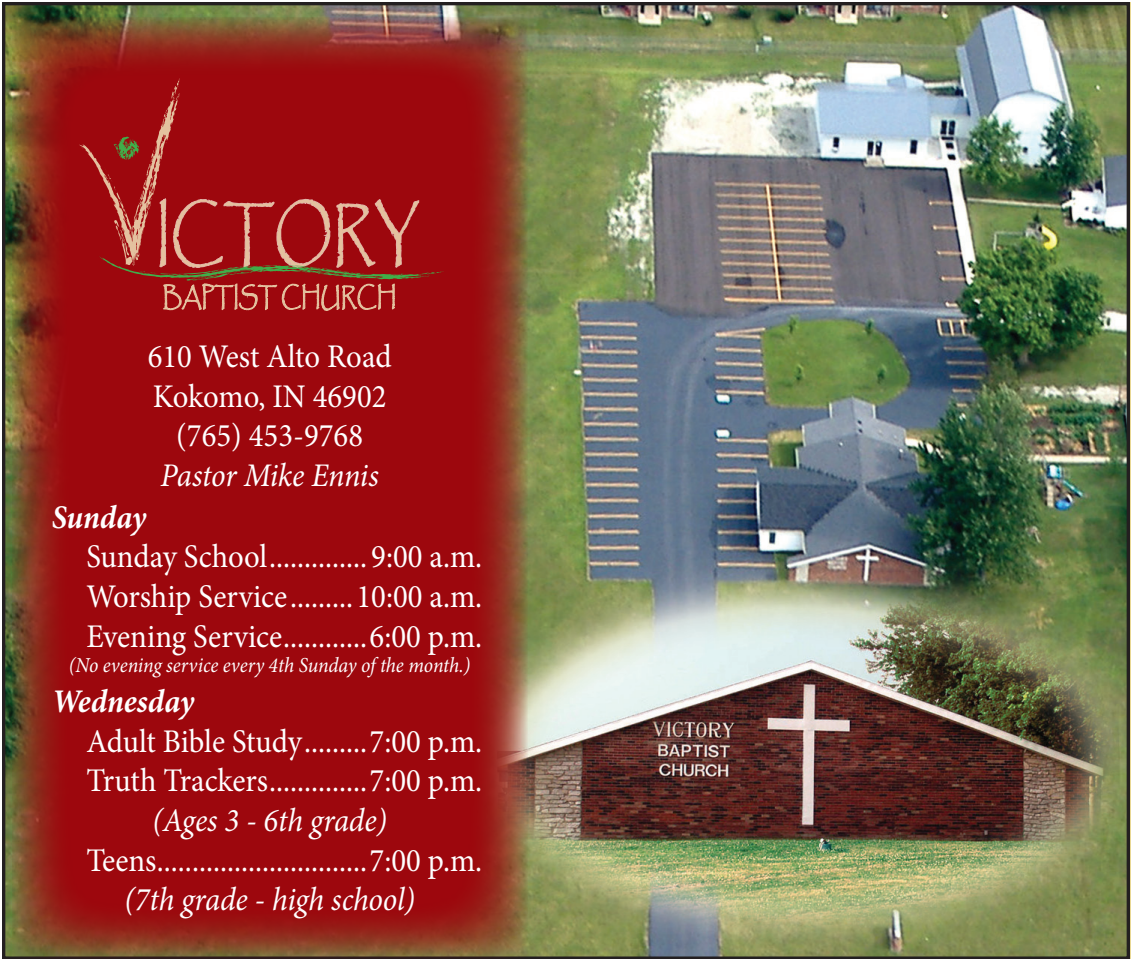
severe sunburn doesn't begin to improve within a few days.

I hope this article will help you and your families avoid the pain and risk associated with sunburn. May your fun in the sun be happy and safe. God bless you!



Rachel Irwin is married to Justin and has two children. She is a practicing RN in Howard county.





Do you need counseling?

Victory Baptist Church offers
FREE counseling to families
and individuals.

Call 453-9768 for information or to set up
an appointment.

JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sat. June 9, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**

Sun. June 10, 6:00 p.m. - **World Missionary Press Representative**

Fri. June 29 - **VCA School Registration Due**

JULY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sun. July 1 - **Patriot Day**

Sat. July 14, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**

Mon. - Fri. July 16 - 20 - **Vacation Bible School**

Sun. July 22, 10:00 a.m. - **Peter Wright Family Concert**

Fri. July 27 - **VCA Home School Registration Due**

AUGUST 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sat. August 4 - **Family Canoe Trip - Call for details.**

Thurs. Aug. 9, 8:00 a.m. - **VCA First day of School**

Sat. Aug. 11, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**

Sun. August 26 - **Friend Day**

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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