

# Faith Family News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family

FREE COPY

Free Copy

Fall 2014

Volume 3 Number 3

## Who's In Charge Here?

by Mike Ennis

We live in a time of great change—some of it good and some of it very bad. One of the areas of change that is not good is the move of our culture away from the traditional family along with the traditional family roles. In today's culture we are often left wondering "Who's in charge here?" when it comes to our homes.

The Bible is very plain on this truth. The husband is to be the head of the home. But what does it mean to be the head of the home? Some think it means being the big macho boss. Others have a notion that being the head of the home is like being a slave driver. This person treats his wife like a domestic slave. He likes to keep his wife at home "where she belongs." He is jealous of how she spends her time, even if that time is spent in church activities.

This person is the kind that demands his meals on time, the house spotless, paper delivered to him, back rubbed, etc. with no consideration of how the wife feels or what kind of day she is having. The extreme at the other end is the passive husband who will not take his rightful place as leader of the home. The wife is the one who sees to it that the family is in church. She is the spiritual leader of the home. The wife is the one who makes all of the decisions, handles the money and runs the home.

We need to avoid these extremes and look to the Bible for directions about being the head of the home. There are three words that describe the role of the husband/father in the home—leader, lover and learner. We will consider the first of these in this

article, the role of the husband/father as leader.

*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* (Ephesians 5:22-23). God gave the leadership role of the home to man. It does not make him superior; it is simply God's plan of function in the home. Man is to be the leader in the home. But what does that mean?

First of all, it is not a dictatorship. (See Matthew 20:20-28, John 13:1-15.) The Biblical pattern of leadership means servanthood. To be the leader of the home is to be the

servant of all in the household. That means, men, that your life should be characterized by humility. The leader does not have

to make all of the decisions. Some men think that their wives cannot think. The wife has a unique role in the home as helper. She has insight and gifts that the husband needs to complement his insight and gifts. The leader is not demanding. Christ was not demanding and neither should the man of the home be.

Leadership also means discipleship. Discipleship implies three things that are to characterize us men as leaders of our homes. First of all, men must be followers of Christ. No one is a fit leader who does not know how to follow. Paul could say "follow me" only by adding "as I follow Christ." *Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ* (1 Cor 11:1). It is only as I follow Christ that I am worthy of being followed. If I am not

**Who's In Charge Here?** cont. on page 10

## Parenting Fears

by Ashlee Shoaff



Even though the mysteries of life are not fully unveiled when you have a sincere relationship with God, He has provided promises in the unseen future to grasp with unwavering faith. We don't have to live in fear. We don't have to be perfect. Yet, we do have to entrust our children's lives to God.

Focusing on staggering statistics, such as one in ten people in the U.S., including millions of children, are medicated with one or more antidepressant drugs, can result in fearful living (A. Weil, 2011). A March 2014 report from the Center for Disease Control Prevention stated that one in 58 children fall within the autism spectrum. Holy wars continue for sacred lands in the Middle East, greed propels oil hungry countries to stretch beyond their jurisdictions, Malawians (among others) go hungry, and much more. All are enough to send sane parents and well-intentioned youth into cycles of fear.

In faith, from Abraham to Joshua all believed in the promises God granted. Isaiah 41:10 says: *Don't be*

*afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.* God encourages His people to avoid living in fear. He calls His people not to be perfect, but to give all their burdens to Him (Galatians 4:6-8). God gave Abraham courage to leave his family. Joshua was given boldness to go into the Promised Land by his reliance on God's sovereignty. How does God shoulder our burdens? How does He provide wisdom, power, protection, and ability?

Prayer. In *The Power of the Praying Parent*, Stormie Omartian says that prayer invites and ignites. By invitation, prayer asks God to be present in our lives. Our requests allow His power to work. The release of our fears to God demonstrates our inability to control every situation in our lives as well as the lives of our children. We also cannot help in all

**Parenting Fears** cont. on page 9

### In this issue . . .

<i>Who's In Charge Here?</i> .....	1	<i>Eye Health</i> .....	5
<i>Parenting Fears</i> .....	1	<i>Grammy Boot Camp</i> .....	5
<i>Editorially Speaking</i> .....	2	<i>Cookin' Corner</i> .....	6
<i>The Book Shelf</i> .....	2	<i>The Problem with Sewing</i> .....	6
<i>Rooting for You</i> .....	3	<i>Fun for Kids of All Ages</i> .....	7
<i>Aging Gracefully</i> .....	3	<i>Old Timer's Corner</i>	
<i>With or Without Jesus</i> .....	3	<i>My Blind Date</i> .....	8
<i>The Big Three: Resources for</i>		<i>Lessons from Little Ones</i>	
<i>Online Genealogy Research</i> ..	4	<i>Hard of Hearing</i> .....	9
<i>Is God Unfair?</i> .....	4	<i>A Cat Story</i> .....	11
<i>The Moment of Truth</i> .....	4		



## Editorially Speaking

*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved*  
(Jeremiah 8:20).

By the time you are reading this fall issue of Faith and Family News [FAFN] we will be looking to a seasonal change in our part of the world. Personally, I like the changing seasons. Each one brings something to challenge and teach us about God's marvelous creation. Winter with its sharp and blustery weather counters with beautiful, tranquil starlit nights reflecting upon new-fallen snow. Spring with its unsettled and stormy weather patterns seems designed to awaken the slumbering flora just below the sod, and summer with its long warm, even hot, days provides us opportunity for the therapeutic benefits of outdoor activity.

But it is the coming of fall, to those of us with an overactive tendency for introspection, that can affect us the most. In its subtle manner fall shows us serious truths without

hitting us over the head with them. It even does it in ways that are pleasing to the senses. The changing colors and the earthy scents remind us that things are going to be different—that things are dying. Sadly, people are also dying. If we haven't gotten done what we kept putting off, or had planned but never found the time, it will soon be too late. There comes a kind of "fall" in all of our lives when, if we haven't made preparation for eternity, it will soon be too late. It is not just wise; it is imperative that we are saved.

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



By the time you are reading this issue, FAFN will have reached thousands of people in our area this year. It is our mission to be a spiritual resource to the individuals and families of our area. We don't, however, want to be so heavenly-minded that we are of no earthly good. Our readers are ordinary people who own or rent homes and apartments, buy goods and services locally, need mechanical services, enjoy the food and recreation of the area and still believe in the family.

Our area has many reliable Christian and family-oriented businesses and service organizations that might like to let the area know about them through FAFN. To that end, we are exploring a FAFN Bulletin Board section, similar to those in commercial for-profit publications. Christian business owners, families and individuals can let the area know they offer goods or services and/or support this ministry. You can also post a memorial to a loved one. FAFN Bulletin Board space can be utilized for a suggested contribution to this ministry.

Contact us at [www.editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:www.editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com) or call Donna at 765-470-1954 for an information packet with all the particulars.

**"Some people like to read so many [Bible] chapters every day. I would not dissuade them from the practice, but I would rather lay my soul asoak in half a dozen verses all day than rinse my hand in several chapters. Oh, to be bathed in a text of Scripture, and to let it be sucked up in your very soul, till it saturates your heart!"**

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

## THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



*Train up a child in the way he should go  
[and in keeping with his individual gift or bent],  
and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 (Amplified Bible)

Although school seems to be starting earlier and earlier every year, typically the fall season is synonymous with the beginning of a new school year. Students may anticipate reuniting with friends, buying new clothes and supplies, and getting back into the school routine. Or, they may fear another year of struggle and failure. Parents may look forward to getting little Johnny or Susie out from under their feet and back into the classroom where they will excel at the top of their class. Or, like their children, parents may dread another round of battles over homework and unmet expectations.

If you are serious about changing this year's school experience, I'd like to introduce you to someone who can help—Cynthia Ulrich Tobias. As an ex-teacher and ex-police officer (yes, there is commonality there), Tobias speaks and writes about the differences in learning styles. In her book *The Way They Learn: How to Discover and Teach to Your Child's Strengths*, published by Tyndale House, Tobias likens the communication problem to speaking different languages. She writes, "Each of us takes in information in a different way, and because our learning styles are so diverse, we may as well be trying to communicate with each other in two different languages" (pp. 13-14).

Throughout her book, Tobias describes and teaches the four combinations of learning styles and how they manifest themselves in our lives—not only in school, but also at home, work, and church. She identifies the two methods of perception (the way we take in information) as Concrete and Abstract. Ordering is the way we use the information we perceive and falls into two categories—Sequential and Random. Although these terms may seem a little daunting at first, Tobias offers plenty of explanations and illustrations of these terms at work in our everyday lives. The author gives proof that much of the frustration and conflict in dealing with others happens

because of approaching a matter from a different learning style. For example, if you are a detail person, think back to the last time you tried to work with a global thinker, who is content to see just the big picture.

Cynthia Tobias further explores the theory of learning styles in her book *Every Child Can Succeed: Making the Most of Your Child's Learning Style*, published by Tyndale House.

Her goal is to help parents "... to begin using learning styles to design effective strategies for helping [their] children be successful, happy, and productive" (p. 13). Tobias writes with wit and from personal

experience on subjects like accountability, motivation, cooperation, and discipline. She

even takes on the controversial subject of attention deficit disorder in her chapter, "They Can't All Have ADD!" Another chapter that is bound to make the school year more productive and pleasant is "Making Teachers Your Allies."

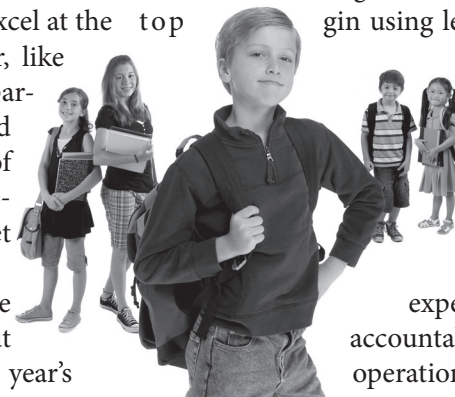
In her preface, Tobias encourages the reader to keep in mind the two following statements:

1. *Often the characteristics and behaviors that annoy us most about our children will be the qualities that make them successful as adults.*
2. *The quality of the relationship you have with each child will determine the effectiveness of the techniques you use.*

The average reader might be turned off by the technical terms and concepts in both of Tobias' books, but I believe anyone wanting help on this subject can find valuable information that will help his child, as well as improve his own communication skills. The author invites her reader, "Enjoy this book. It may be the best thing that has happened to your family in a long time" (preface). I agree.



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



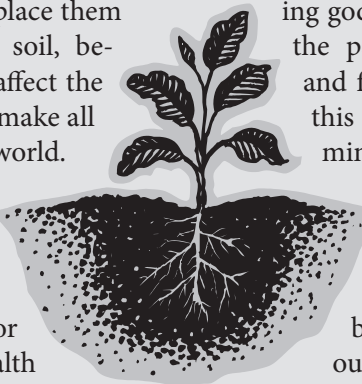


## Rooting for You

by Marlin Carpenter

"Rooting for you" is a slogan that we have used here at Garden Gate Greenhouse. Obviously a play on words, this statement holds a lot of value in a literal sense. The importance of a plant's root system is often overlooked. The quality of a root system will determine the health and quality of the plant. It makes me cringe when I see people spend money on plants only to place them in less than quality soil, because I know it will affect the root system and will make all the difference in the world.

So what's the big deal? The root zone of the plant is where the foundational building blocks for plant growth and health take place. Have you ever seen a plant that looked completely dead above ground, yet somehow managed to produce new growth from the ground? Like plants that go dormant in the winter and die back to the ground and then grow back in the spring, these plants have the ability to regrow as a result of a healthy root system. The roots of a plant are critical in delivering oxygen, nutrients, and water to the rest of the plant. Xylem vessels carry water and some nutrients from the soil to the leaves. Soils that have too much clay, too much sand, too high pH, too low pH, and other contributing factors inhibit this imperative process. Clay soil binds up the water and nutrients whereas sandy soil won't hold on to them. The wrong pH makes nutrients unavailable to be taken up by



the roots.

The root system of a plant parallels with our spiritual life in many ways. *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness* (Colossians 2:7, NLT). Being firmly rooted in Christ is the foundation for living godly lives. As we find with the parable of the wise man and foolish man (Matthew 7), this foundation is what determines if we stand or fall, if we fail or prevail. We can go to church every Sunday, wear all the right clothes, say the right things, even be involved in missionary outreach, but a heart that is not dedicated to cultivating a deep relationship with Christ will not bear fruit that will last.

If a plant has deep roots, it will withstand drought and other harsh conditions much better than a shallow rooted plant. The deep roots will allow it to reach water that would otherwise be unavailable. The same is true of us. The more deeply we are rooted in Christ the better we will be able to cope with trials and temptations. *Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is in the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit* (Jeremiah 17:7-8, NASB). A shallow

Rooting for You cont. on page 10

## Aging Gracefully What's In a Name?

by Morris Starkey

She had the curious name of Olive Green. I met her nearly thirty years ago while visiting another senior citizen in a housing complex along the eastern coast of Lake Michigan. Olive, well into the seventh decade of her life, passed her days making quilt covers for a commercial quilt business in Chicago. She was good at what she did. She earned enough to give her a little better life than what she could have had on just her Social Security check.

I was intrigued by her name and once asked her if there was a story behind why anyone with the last name of Green would give a person the first name of Olive. Surely, I offered, her parents would know she would be the object of teasing with such a name. I suggested she had to be the only Olive Green in the country. She chuckled and informed me that she thought the same when she was in her early twenties.

It was during that time she saw an advertisement by a major paint company, inviting all with the name of Olive Green for an all-expense-paid trip to Chicago for a promotion they were running for a new paint line being introduced. Olive responded to the invitation and discovered that day that several hundred other people had the same first and last name as hers. She returned home, she related, with a whole new appreciation for her name. Olive Green was a special lady – a lady of faith. I think of her as a modern day Lydia.

A certain woman named Lydia, a

seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one who worshiped God, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened to listen to the things which were spoken by Paul (Acts 16:14).

Living alone with her friends, her quilts, and her God, she had learned the secrets to aging gracefully. While I never found out why Olive was given her name, I do know why another Person over 2000 years ago was given His name. His name is Jesus. An angel visited Joseph and told him that this child's birth would be a miraculous birth—a virgin birth. He was to be named Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. It's a story that is profound, if for no other reason than for its simplicity. Mankind is lost in sin, but in this lost condition humanity is not without the love of the heavenly Father. God the Father sent the only One who could save us. It was this miraculously born Jesus that He sent. He has saved His people from their sins. Everyone who has ever come to this Jesus has found salvation and He has never lost a single one. It's more than a beautiful story of shepherds, a starlit night, and a baby in a manger. It's a true story of fallen mankind, hopelessness, a loving Father and redemption through the only Savior—named Jesus.

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



## With or Without Jesus

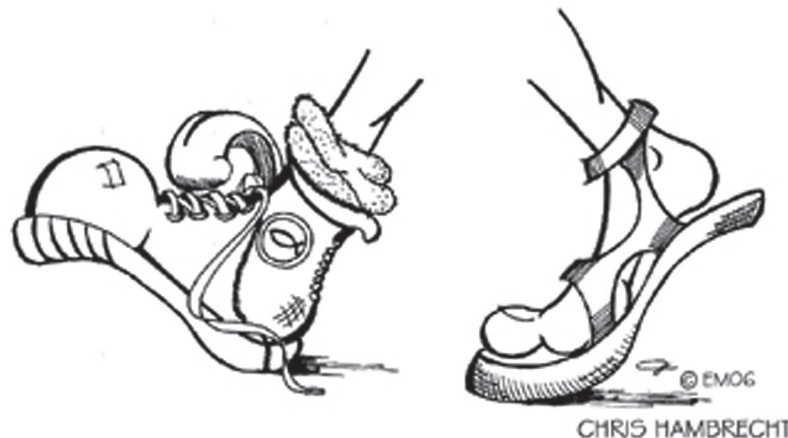
by Jamie Purciful

It should be quite obvious to even the casual observer of history and current events that we humans are subject to many evils and failings, harming ourselves and each other to one incredible degree or another. Closer to our personal experiences however, most of us probably go through life thinking of ourselves as reasonably good people. Sure we have some problems from time to time, but we've never done anything really bad, at least nothing bad enough to keep us out of Heaven—if there really is such a place. Besides, we've also done a lot of good, so much so that how could we possibly end up in Hell—if there

is such a place.

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He spent a great deal of His message addressing this topic, if not making it the main focus of His mission. His revelations often clashed with the prevailing world view (no different than how it does even to this day), leaving many of his listeners dumbfounded and perplexed. He made it quite clear you cannot earn Heaven and escape Hell based on the merits of your own efforts, works, or birthright. He warned us against dispelling the notion of sin as being something for really bad people, while overlook-

With or Without Jesus cont. on page 5



LORD, PLEASE WALK WITH ME!!

em doodles  
www.emdoodle.com

Faith & Family News is published by Victory Baptist Church, Kokomo, IN, and distributed FREE to Kokomo area residents.

Contact us at [editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com).

5,000 Copies Published Quarterly

For additional copies, call (765) 453-9768.

## The BIG THREE:

### Resources for Online Genealogy Research

by Jill Garrison

The internet has revolutionized our world. It has changed the way we communicate, conduct business, and research. For the genealogist, the internet has been a boon. It enables us to access data from all over the world, share information with expediency, and research a vast number of resources, all from the comfort of our own homes. Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and Find A Grave are what I consider the BIG THREE websites for doing genealogy research. I would recommend that any beginner start his online research with these websites.

Ancestry.com is probably the premier online resource for the genealogist. Over 12 billion historical records can be accessed through this website. In many cases, a digital image is available as well as the index or transcription of the record. Ancestry.com gives the researcher access to birth, baptismal, marriage, census, military, and death records for the United States as well as other countries. Also, many city directories and yearbooks have been scanned and uploaded to the website. On top of these records and more, the researcher can access the family trees of other genealogists. (CAUTION: Some genealogists are sloppy researchers. DO NOT copy and paste information from other people's family trees. Check their sources. A good rule of thumb is to have three or more sources to back up each assertion, such as birth date, death date, etc. If a person does not cite any sources, their information should be considered highly suspect.) The number of records and the amount of family tree information that one can access through Ancestry is constantly growing. Unfortunately, having all this information at one's fingertips is not free. Ancestry does offer a 14-day free trial, but after that one has to pay to maintain membership. The

subscription fees are \$19.99/mo. or \$99/6 mos. for the basic U. S. package. Access to international records costs more. If a subscription is not an affordable option for you at this point, don't despair. Many local libraries have subscriptions to Ancestry Library Edition which you can use for free. It does not include access to family trees and a few other databases but does include international records. If your local branch doesn't have a subscription, try the main branch. Unfortunately, Ancestry Library Edition cannot be accessed remotely from home through your library's website like some other databases, but some libraries offer genealogists special opportunities to come in after hours to use it.

FamilySearch.org is a free website that offers access to many of the same records as Ancestry.com. FamilySearch, the largest genealogy organization in the world, is operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was created to aid people with genealogy research. Currently, FamilySearch has over a billion records in its searchable online index. FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com offer access to some of the same records, but FamilySearch.org offers access to some records that Ancestry.com does not and vice versa. Therefore, a good researcher will search both websites whenever possible. For some records, FamilySearch.org has only the transcriptions, but Ancestry.com has both the transcription and image. In the future this will not be the case, because in 1998 FamilySearch began digitizing its massive microfilm collection and making it available online. Due to an agreement made in February 2014 with Ancestry.com, findmypast, and MyHeritage, some of FamilySearch's records will be published on the websites of these

The Big Three cont. on page 8

## Is God Unfair?

by Matt Turner

Over the next few editions of FAFN, I thought it would be interesting to examine the story of Adam and Eve. Read Genesis chapters 2-4 to see how God created Adam and Eve, how He gave them a perfect environment in which to live, and how they made a mess of everything. It is imperative to have a good understanding of this story in order to have a proper view of the world. We should come away with a greater appreciation for God's patience, grace, love, and mercy. In particular, the Gospel message is meaningless without an understanding of Adam's fall. We should also come away with a healthy distrust of ourselves. We should realize the need to train ourselves to be hesitant to accuse God of any kind of wrongdoing. Everything He has done, does, and will do is perfect in every way.

Now if you have done much witnessing, I'm sure you have come across people who have accused God of being unfair. Some will argue that it wasn't fair for God to punish everyone simply because Adam sinned by eating the forbidden fruit. Just because Adam and Eve messed up, why does God have to punish me for their one mistake?

Some will even go further by arguing that the punishment does not fit the crime. They will say God is being unfair when the punishment for

any sin is banishment for eternity in a place of torment. How can a God Who is supposed to be loving and merciful punish the crown of His creation with eternity in Hell? As a parent, I can't imagine doing that to one of my children.

On the surface, it may seem these critics have a point. However, they are missing out on some key truths which must be explored before we can conclude God is being unfair. Anyone who makes this argument is only looking at part of the story! The story of Adam and Eve must be examined completely in order to see God as merciful and loving. Sure, the story of Adam and Eve is tragic, but it is simply the beginning of God's revelation. The rest of the Bible is God responding to the damage done by Adam and Eve's rebellion.

We find the first presentation of the Gospel given in Genesis 3:15. In the midst of Adam and Eve's rebellion (not simply a "mistake"), God told them one of their descendants would deliver a mortal wound to Satan. Satan would always be nipping at the heels of humanity, but God would send a deliverer to remedy the situation.

As far as we know, Adam and Eve did not receive any other information. They simply had to trust God was go-

Is God Unfair? cont. on page 10

## The Moment of Truth

by Ian Coate

[freechristianillustrations.com](http://freechristianillustrations.com)

Athletes train for years to prepare for a race. Then, in a matter of seconds, it's all over, with those many years of preparation condensed to a single moment of truth. If an athlete is victorious, they have proven to self and spectators the years of effort have not been wasted.

The life of Christianity is similar to the life of an athlete. There will be years of training, setbacks and heartaches. If we persevere, God will arrange a demonstration of our spiritual strength in one of life's many events. It will be our moment of truth—our turn to face Goliath. Often, the time we have to show the world the 'glory of God' is over in a heartbeat. It could simply be a small window of opportunity—to say or do the right thing at the exact moment when it is most needed. However, we can relax; God knows when we are spiritually strong enough to be victorious. At that time, He will bring many spectators to watch our moment of truth so they can witness that our years of faith in Him have been well justified (Psalm 1:3).





## Eye Health

by Rachel Irwin

Summer is closing and school has started. Time really does just feel like it is flying by. Often this time of year we are thinking about getting supplies, vaccinations, and lining up after-school care for our children. A lot goes into preparing for another school year. I'd like to draw attention to an area that may be overlooked—the importance of an eye exam.

I was fortunate to be employed by an ophthalmologist office for more than ten years before becoming an RN. It was through this experience that I learned about a condition known as amblyopia. Many of you may have heard of the term “lazy eye.” Most of the time, the term is referring to an eye that is amblyopic. An amblyopic eye occurs when one eye is blurry (probably because of a need for an eye-



glass prescription for proper vision) and one eye sees clearly (no need for glasses). As the brain and eye develop together, the weak eye never learns to see properly and gets left behind in the development of good vision. Many times the weak eye will turn or become crossed. This will usually cause a parent to have the child checked out, but in some cases, it does not turn or it is so slight that the parent misses it.

Many people think that you cannot get a good exam if the child cannot understand the test. An eye exam is done using light and lenses. In a nut shell, an ophthalmologist can tell what a child's glasses prescription is without the child saying a single word. Even infants can have their eyes examined. Amblyopia can be treated by having the child wear glasses if necessary and patching the good eye. Patching the good eye forces the amblyopic eye to “learn” to see. Sometimes an eye drop can be used to blur the good eye, instead of using the patch.

Getting an eye exam at a young age is also beneficial in the treatment of amblyopia. According to Tracey Stout, COT clinic supervisor for Eye Physicians in Kokomo, IN, treatment is more successful the younger the child. Children less than six years

old have a higher rate of success than those older than six. From the ages of 6-12 the treatment is less successful, and after the age of twelve, the eye is developed to a point that treatment will not be successful.

Some cases may be mild, but others can leave a child legally blind in the amblyopic eye. Even with glasses, that eye will not be able to see. Many times a child may not notice poor vision because the one eye sees clearly, but just like surviving with only one kidney is possible, it is not ideal. For this reason, it is very important to have your child's eyes examined before the age of five.

The American Academy of Pe-

diatric Ophthalmology recommends several vision screenings before the age of five. Your pediatrician has probably examined the eyes of your

child. If you come across someone offering free vision screenings, take advantage of it. One tip is to make sure your child is not peeking. They can be sneaky. If you have any doubt or concerns, see an eye professional and have them evaluate your child.

Maybe your child does not have amblyopia but simply needs glasses to see better. In order for a child to be successful in learning they must be able to see the material. Just as your child's clothes size changes, so can their need for glasses from one year to the next. So have your child's vision screened to make sure they are seeing clearly as they continue to grow and learn.

Parents should also be aware that their child may want glasses and fake the eye test. Although a screening will not detect the lie, they cannot fake out an eye professional who uses the lenses and lights. So schedule an eye exam with an eye professional before the age of five to make sure your child will be capable of seeing all of God's wonderful creations as they grow. May God bless you and your family.



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

## Grammy Boot Camp

by Terry Seagraves

I had mentioned in one of my articles about going through Grammy Boot Camp, so I have decided to share that little “adventure” with you.

I have had some serious health issues that at one time caused me to be in a wheelchair for several months because I did not have a right knee. I had to have a knee replacement, and then I got a staph infection that required removal of the replacement. I could not have a new replacement put in until the infection was completely gone. So I was in a wheelchair until that time. My husband Kent tried really hard to take care of me, but he was working twelve to sixteen hours each day, and we did not have anyone to stay with me.

Our daughter Olivia called and explained to Kent how much easier it would be if I were to come to her house and she would take care of me



and our two dogs and help me with my IV therapy. So after much convincing, Kent loaded us up and we went to Olivia and Troy's. My son-in-law Troy built a wheelchair ramp for me, and my granddaughter Katelyn gave up her bedroom for me.

It started out really great; everyone was so helpful and anything I asked for was given to me. Now you know a person could get really used to this pampering, right? Well, I did. Then one morning Olivia wheeled me into her bathroom and said, “Okay, Mom, you need to learn to do things on your own.” What??? This wasn't right; I was in a wheelchair and needed help.

“You are going to be going home soon and you need to be able to do things for yourself, and I am going to help you.” Okay, now I have a daughter who is turning into a mean sergeant and I am in trouble.

**Grammy Boot Camp** *cont. on page 11*

**With or Without Jesus** *cont. from page 3*

ing or rarely applying it to ourselves. His discussion usually pointed to the hopelessness of the situation, regardless of our level of sinfulness or righteousness, while always coming back to Himself as being the unique and exclusive answer. He espoused that it's not believing in certain teachings or following a certain set of rules or living in a particular manner that is the way to Heaven or eternal life, but that He Himself and Him alone is that way. He promoted Himself in such a way that everything else is excluded and that only He is in the position to deal with our sin problem and what separates us from God. Jesus is peerless in this aspect as He makes it a very personal matter between you and Him. He repeatedly demonstrates that He is reaching out for us to receive and connect with Him in a vital and close relationship. He uses many beautiful examples, such as the stories of The Good Shepherd and The True Vine, to show us the nature of this relationship. But He doesn't temper His discussion and pulls no punches, discerning that without Him we are choosing to be lost and without hope.

God has given us the gift of this life as our opportunity to be reconciled with Him. Instead of burdening us with unnecessary complexities,

confusing choices, useless works, and hollow rituals, God has made it simple for us by offering us this reconciliation through just one means—an authentic and living relationship with Jesus. This alone separates Christianity from all other religions, philosophies, sciences, and political or social systems while fulfilling our most innate desire for intimacy and meaning in our lives. Historically speaking, Jesus more than backed up His claims about Himself through many convincing proofs that would be foolish to ignore, the Resurrection being foremost among those. Out of His love, life and compassion, Jesus has also shown us the future as being one either with Him or without Him. The only question that remains is will we answer His call.

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20).*

Jamie Purcifull is married to Lori and they have two daughters. Jamie works as a Radiologic Technologist at Community Howard Hospital.





## Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 127 that children are a heritage of the Lord. I have been blessed with two of those heritages. When they were growing up, they would occasionally ask why I had fixed what I had for dinner. The response was usually, "that is one of your dad's favorites." However, I did fix their favorites also, and the cake recipe below is one that my son Tim asked for often.

A word of advice—you will need to have a few extra caramels for the workers that help unwrap them. Otherwise, you may run short of caramels for the cake.

### Caramel Fudge Cake

One box of a fudge cake mix

1 cup water

1 tablespoon solid shortening (Crisco)

3 eggs

Filling:

28 (one half of a 14 oz pkg) light caramels

1 1/3 cup (15 oz can) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)

1 tablespoon butter or margarine

Frosting:

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened

6 tablespoons cocoa plus 2 tablespoons shortening

3 tablespoons milk or cream

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 cups sifted powdered sugar

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and lightly flour bottom and sides of a 9 x 13 inch baking pan.

Prepare filling:

In top of double boiler, combine all ingredients for the filling. Cook over hot water, stirring constantly until caramels are melted.

Prepare cake:

In large mixing bowl, combine dry cake mix, water, shortening and eggs. Stir as directed on package. Spread 1/2 of the batter in prepared pan. Spread caramel filling evenly over batter; cover with remaining batter.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool completely. Prepare frosting (see instructions below); frost cooled cake and if desired, sprinkle with slivered almonds.

Prepare frosting:

In small mixing bowl combine butter, chocolate, cream or milk and vanilla; blend well.

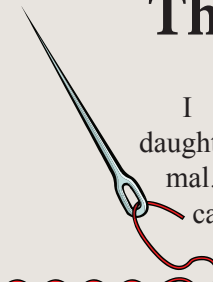
Gradually add the powdered sugar; beat 2 to 3 minutes until light and fluffy.

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



## The Problem with Sewing

by Emily Pier



I am mending my daughter's stuffed animal. This little pink cat has been rediscovered in the bottom of the basket and loved anew the past few days. There's a small hole in the seam and Amia says, "She's dropping everything!"

So with tear-filled eyes Amia has requested that I put to use my very minimal skills with a needle and thread. The problem is that I am interested, but not committed, to honing my sewing abilities. I can mend a seam or reattach a button with a certain level of confidence. I have dabbled in repurposing and have even sewn from a pattern on two occasions. (However, those were projects inspired by my crafty friend who would come and sew at my house with me.) And that concludes my resume.

That's the best of what I've got. A worn cat, an inexcusable excuse for a dress, and some crooked seams that I hope nobody sees.

In this quiet moment, as I sew, I reflect on my day. My personal worn cat today is selfishness. Even though I've tried to patch the hole, my lack of skill is showing and out of my heart spills my inflexibility. It's kind of hard to see maybe for someone else, but those closest to me see my frustration, and I can certainly feel it today. My heart is "dropping everything!"

It makes me wonder if I am interested, but not committed. Maybe sometimes I am interested in talking about biblical ideas but then spending little time praying about my need for those ideas to take root. Maybe sometimes I am more interested in talking about Jesus than actually pursuing Him. I can try to impress others with my scripture memory, my theological insights, or my most recent research. Whether they can see it or not, Jesus knows my reattached button is lopsided, my seam is visibly askew, and I'm losing everything out the sides.

There are many times that my eyes are blinded to my own sin. I'm pretty sure I think of myself as one great, genius-designed, hand-

crafted gift to the world—at least my world. Although I would never consciously use those words, surely that's how it comes off in my heart to God. All the while, I can't see my torn seams, and missing pieces, and stinky old material. Pride covers all that and lures me into thinking I'm a flexible, sacrificial, loving servant of God. I think I can be like those deceived in Revelation 3, *For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*

Thankfully, awe-inspired thankfully, I'm like a well-loved, worn-out, mercy-lavished, completely recreated cat which God can mend and mend and mend again as he molds me into His likeness. I've always been drawn to the story in Jeremiah 18. Jeremiah receives a word for Israel regarding their future, not mine, but the image which God used to speak to him says something to me, too. Jeremiah went down to the potter's house and this is what he saw: *And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.* You know why that encourages me? Because the potter squashed the pot and started again. I guess I love the picture that my life, my pot, can become messed up, and He can rework it. That gives me hope.

So as I mend the cat, my eyes get a little teary and I think of my girl. Though my tears don't come from a place of wanting to save my old cat, it comes from a grateful heart that is becoming completely new under His care.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Emily lives in Howard County with her husband and has been actively involved in community outreach, such as Kokomo Urban Outreach, Bridges Outreach, and New Leaf Mentoring.





# FUN FOR KIDS (of All Ages)

## Sudoku #7

Intermediate Sudoku Puzzles, Volume 3, Book 13

	8				1			6
				8			9	
2		1				3		7
		4	7				2	9
			8		9			
9	2				5	8		
5		2				9		8
	1			4				
6			2				4	

© 2012 KrazyDad.com

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

## CHUCKLES FOR KIDS

How do you make a hot dog stand? *Steal its chair.*

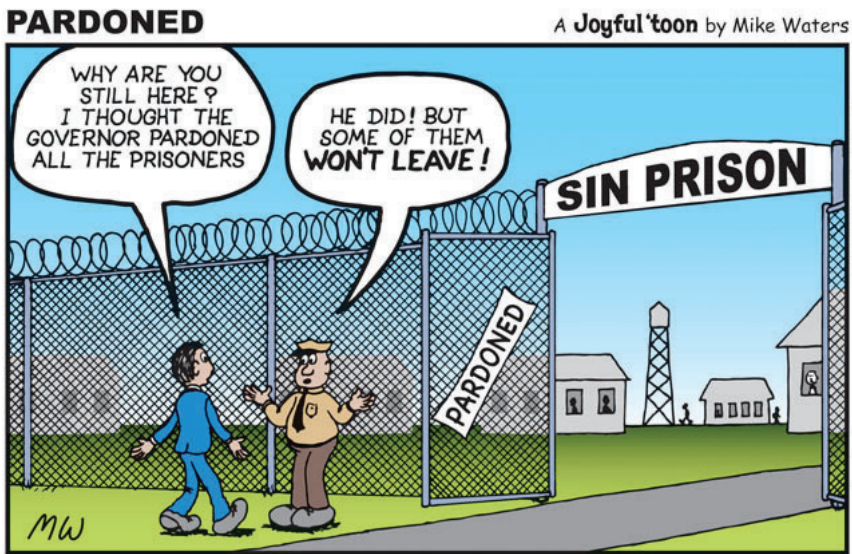
How do you make an egg laugh? *Tell it a yolk.*

What do you call a pig that does karate? *A pork chop.*

What do you call the best butter on the farm? *A goat.*

What do you get if you cross an insect with the Easter rabbit? *Bugs Bunny.*

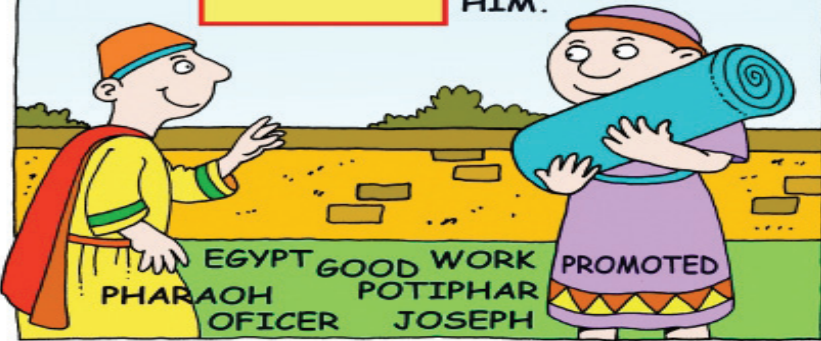
How does a pig go to hospital? *In a hambulance.*



He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. — Col. 2:13-14 NIV

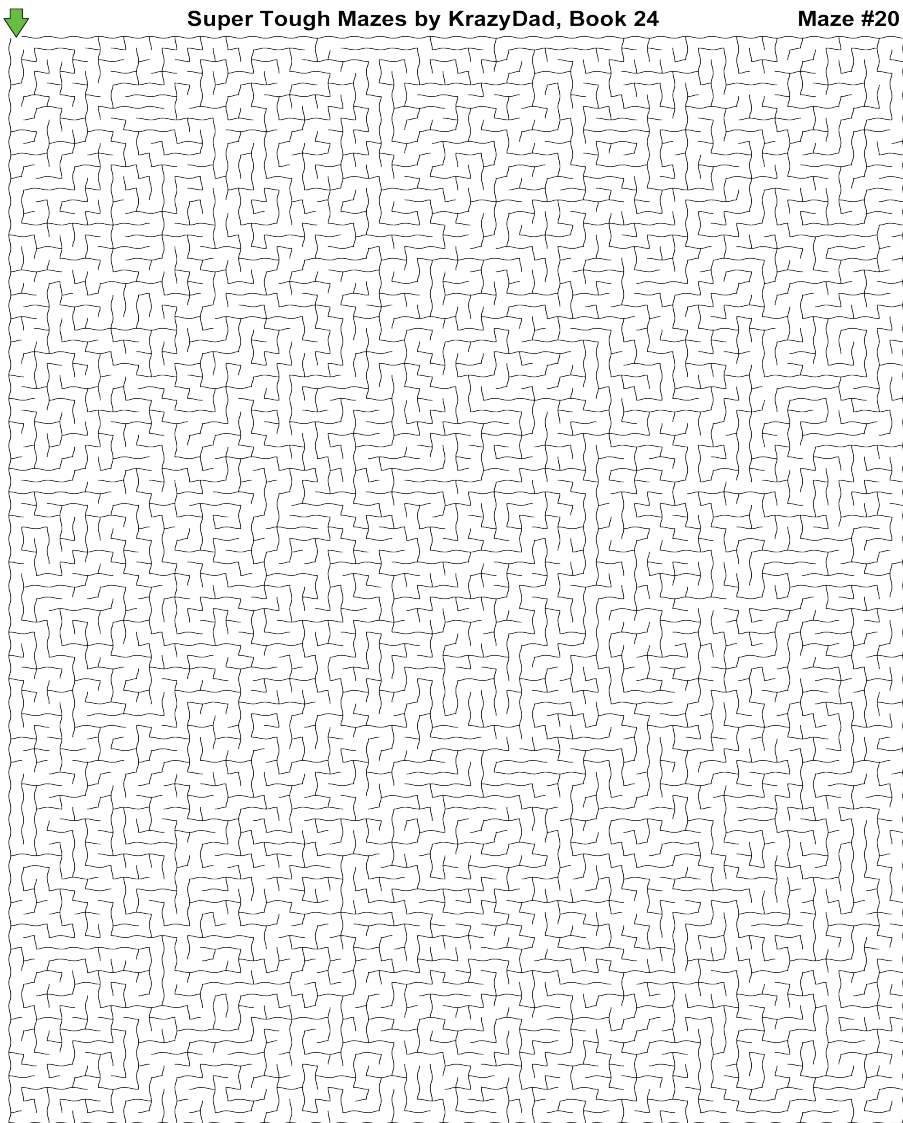
WHAT HAPPENED TO JOSEPH IN EGYPT?  
To find out, fill in the missing words.

WAS TAKEN TO   
AS A SLAVE, AND MADE TO   
FOR A MAN CALLED  WHO  
WAS AN  OF THE   
THE KING. BUT JOSEPH WAS SUCH A  
 SLAVE, HIS MASTER SOON  
 HIM.



Used with permission: www.gunther.net.nz.

## MAZE CRAZE



**KRAZYDAD.COM/PUZZLES**  
Need the answer? <http://krazydad.com/mazes/answers> © 2010 KrazyDad.com



**The Big Three** *cont. from page 4*

for-profit companies for a period of time before being published on FamilySearch.org for free. (For more information regarding this agreement, see <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/questions-answers-familysearch-partners/>.) In the meantime, researchers can view images of records cited in transcriptions by requesting the microfilm rolls be sent from the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah to their nearest Family History Center. (Family History Centers offer access to Ancestry.com as well.) In addition, FamilySearch.org contains other great resources such as the Family History Library catalog, classes, forums, and a wiki.

Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), which was purchased by Ancestry.com in September 2013, is another free website that is a great resource for genealogists. As of June 2014, the site contained over 116 burial records and 75 million photographs worldwide. Two main search options are available—"Burial Lookup" and "Cemetery Lookup." American cemeteries are organized by state and county. Many of the cemetery records include photographs, maps, and GPS coordinates. Having GPS coordinates is a huge help when one is looking for a small, off-the-beaten-path cemetery. There are quite a few cemeteries that I probably never would have found without the GPS coordinates. Individual grave records contain some or all of the following: birth date, place of birth, death date, place of death, biographical information, cemetery

information, photographs (usually of the grave marker and cemetery, but sometimes of the individual), and contributor information. The data is provided by volunteers. In order to contribute content to the site, one must register as a member. When a member adds a listing, he becomes the manager of that listing, and no one else can make changes to it. Other members and non-members can request corrections and add images such as photos, flowers, religious symbols, etc. They can also add messages such as condolences. Managers often use hyperlinks to connect a burial record to the records of a spouse, parents, and/or children.

When it comes to doing family history research, I am so glad that I live in the information age. Where once I found brick walls, now I find open doors. But it is easy to get caught up, clicking away, and lose all track of time. The ease with which we can access historical records online can make doing genealogy rather addictive, but I am reminded of what Jesus told His disciples, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness* (Matthew 6:33). His priorities should be our priorities. At the end of our time on earth, He will not ask how many generations were on our pedigree charts.

*Jill teaches a preschoolers class at VBC and currently works in a public library. She has taught in a Christian school in England.*

**Old Timer's Corner****My Blind Date**

*by Jim Wright*

In the last issue I told you about meeting a girl. She had heard that I had flown a plane from Illinois to Arkansas the week before to look over the school. I had called the great Dr. Wills 'Irv', so I must be a big shot. I had played a guitar and sung a funny song at Intramural Days. I had cheered for the Sophomore Girls' Volley Ball Team against her Senior Team while she was on it. She and two girl friends decided to have a contest to see who could get the first date with me. I had no clue this was happening.

I was doing my work assignment at the airport and was on office duty when the call came. The lovely female voice said, "Hello. Is Jim Wright there?" I acknowledged that I was he. "This is Lolly Springer, and I'd like to know if you would go with me to the Home Economics Club Banquet this Saturday night." I was so shocked I almost fell on the floor. I'd heard about this party—that only 25 or so guys got to go to. "It's a Sadie Hawkins type party where all the Home Economics Club girls invite the boys, pick them up at the Boys' Dorm, open doors for them, and things

of an airplane cowling. "Anyone know a Lolly Springer?" I asked as nonchalantly as I could manage. Jim Voth, a junior, spoke up. "Yeah, she's a senior. She's quite a character. Why?" I hadn't prepared a reason for why I would be asking, and his query caught me by surprise. Before I could say anything, he asked, "Did she ask you for a date?" He knew I was only a sophomore. My hesitation told him volumes, and he yelled at the top of his lungs, "Springer's robbin' the cradle!" I was totally embarrassed, but still, I was going to the Home Economics Club Banquet and he wasn't!

When Lolly arrived at the dorm, I was very impressed with the "corsage" she had made. It incorporated the only two things she knew about me. It was a cotton cloud with a plastic airplane on it and a pipe cleaner stick man with

As we walked to the party, she stopped under a street light to take a good look at my socks. I wondered why, but I didn't ask.

a bubble gum head wearing a cowboy hat sitting astride the plane playing a guitar. She was a gracious hostess, completely at ease and wonderfully intelligent and interesting. As we walked to the party, she stopped under a street light to take a good look

at my socks. I wondered why, but I didn't ask.

It was a great night. One of the games began with all the girls gathered along one wall and the boys along the opposite, while sheets were hung down the center of the room. Boys stood with their toes under the sheet, and the girls picked their dates by their socks. I got a bright idea, "Hey Carson, let's switch socks!" We did, and sure enough, Lolly picked him and his date picked me. Then we had to play the next game with the one that picked us. Not so good. I kept wishing we hadn't done that. I wanted to spend time with Lolly! I really liked her. The entertainment was good, the food was great, and we had a really, really good time.

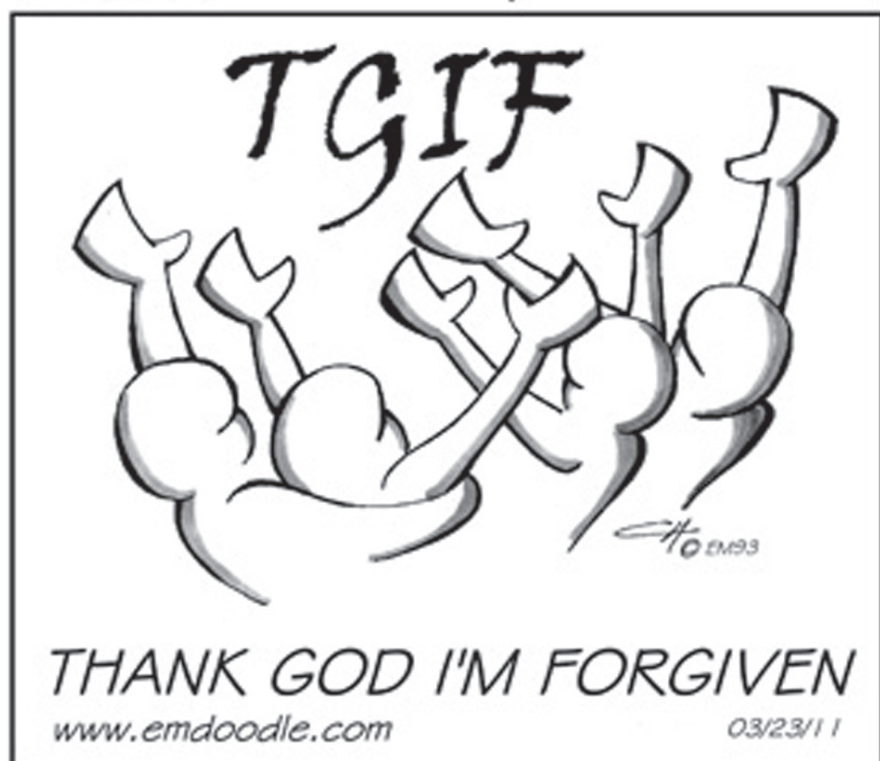
Walking back I was thinking, she now knows that I'm only a sophomore. She's obligated to be nice to me until

like that," she continued. "And we bring them corsages, and we'll have a dinner and games." I was dumbstruck. "Well, will you go with me?" I managed to stammer something halfway intelligent, like "yes". She thanked me, told me she'd pick me up at the dorm at 6 o'clock, said good bye, and hung up.

This was like a delightful dream. I had no idea what Lolly Springer looked like, but it didn't matter. I was one of the select few. I'd heard about this affair, but only the most popular, best-looking guys in school got invited, so I had promptly forgotten about it. Now, I was going! I thought what neat things God brings into the life of one who finally totally surrenders to His will. That was the only way I could explain this. I wasn't popular or good-looking.

I walked out to the hangar floor. Some guys were beating the dents out

*Emdoodles* by Chris Hambrecht





## Lessons From Little Ones .

### Hard of Hearing

by Brenda Howard



As I was talking to a 4-year-old girl one day, she pointed out a scratch on her leg and told me that it was in the shape of a tree. I hadn't quite heard what she had said so I asked her to repeat it. Very slowly and with a louder voice she carefully enunciated each word as she repeated what she had said, then added, "YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE OLD. THAT'S WHY IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO HEAR!"

Several years ago my husband, daughter and I moved to Romania for a short term mission project. While we were there I learned just a little bit of the Romanian language. Though I didn't understand much of the church services, I would follow along in my English Bible when the pastor announced the passage for the message. I knew what the Romanian word for "listen" was and I found it interesting that in Ephesians 6:1 where children are instructed to obey their parents, the Romanian Bible used the same word for *obey* as the word for *listen*. At first I thought it was odd, since in my mind those two words carry very different meanings. But then I began to see the connection: when a parent gives an instruction to a child, it is expected that the child will obey.

When I listen to God's Word, shouldn't it be with the intention of obeying? How often am I content with attending church regularly, listening to Christian radio, even reading my Bible and answering questions in a

Bible study book. After all, I am LISTENING to God's Word on a regular basis, aren't I? But am I truly listening to God's Word if I don't allow it to change me? *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12). *Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves* (James 1:22). God's Word is not just intended to be heard—it is intended to change!

Sadly, there are those who are completely deaf when it comes to God's Word. *He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God* (John 8:47). *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned* (1 Corinthians 2:14). Thankfully, this deafness can be reversed completely! *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

My prayer is that no matter how old I am, I will never be hard of hearing when it comes to God's Word.

Brenda and her husband Bruce live in Kokomo, Indiana. They have one married daughter and one grandson.



### Parenting Fears *cont from page 1*

their circumstances. The choices they make will many times be theirs alone. Yet, He cares for them. They are His very own creation. He created each one, their inmost being, knitting each of them together in their mothers' wombs (Psalm 139:13). His concern reaches beyond generalities. *Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?* (Matthew 7:7-11, Msg).

When we worry about all life's variables, we tend to rely on our own ability to control or help those situations. The Amplified Bible gives the above scripture as a prescription: ask, seek, knock. It states Matthew 7:7-11 as follows: *Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened.* The results follow: you receive, you find, and the door is opened. Of course, we desire the best circumstances in our children's lives. Battles exist. Their lives won't be perfect, but we can go to the One who is Sovereign and has Authority over all His creation (Genesis 1:1; Job 1:21; Proverbs 16:1-4).

Any fear that overwhelms us about our children should be a signal to pray. We have our part as their parents to meet their necessities and build their faith, but God gives the rewards (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). We have a partnership. It is His will but our work to place our (their) burdens and edification before Him. Praying for specific aspects of our children's lives is necessary. Ask for God to surround your

children with teachers that care for their spiritual well-being, as well as their mental and social development. Seek His sovereign power and protection over their choices of friends, career, abstinence from sexual activity and drugs. Knock on Heaven's doors on behalf of their character. Place every social, physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional need before God.

Abraham requested that God spare lives in Sodom (Genesis 18:16-33). Abraham interceded and God actively listened. He would have changed His intent to destroy Sodom had He found any righteous. The point was that Abraham spoke with the LORD concerning Lot and his family. In praying and trusting, things can happen that otherwise would not.

God provides the tools we need to overcome all that we face. Wisdom is provided by not leaning on our understanding, but trusting (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Almighty's power is released when cutting through the world's ideals and values, reassuring your actions and attitudes through the reading of Scriptures (Hebrews 4:12). Moreover, protection is granted: *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles* (Psalm 34:17). His ability to perform the task follows you: *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it* (Isaiah 55:11).

We must abstain from worry, and reject fear. Prayer withholds trouble. Nurture a desire for your children to rely on God through prayer, sealing a close walk and reliance on Him. Release your parenting fears to God in prayer.

Ashlee and her husband Stan have four children. She has an M.S. in Counseling and Counseling Education. She lives in Howard County and serves at Victory Baptist Church.



Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ and wholly influenced and governed by His rules. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace.

~ Jonathan Edwards

### Kids on Marriage

**How do you decide who to marry?**

*No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10*

**What is the right age to get married?**

*Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10*

**How can a stranger tell if two people are married?**

*You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8*



**My Blind Date** *cont. from page 8*

the evening is over since she asked me for the date. But after this, she may not want to see me again or be seen with me. She opened the dorm door for me. I told her that now that the date was over and she had done her Sadie Hawkins duty, I wanted to walk her back to the girls' dorm, because that was the proper thing to do. (I was really just desperate to spend more time with her.) I walked as slowly as possible, enjoying time with this lovely girl. Will anything come of this?

Back in the dorm I talked to the Lord about it. I thanked Him profusely for this delightful time with this wonderful girl and asked Him please to let this be more than a one-time surprise. So she's two years older than me. Lord, you can make that work. Please!

The next day after church, I saw her in the dining hall with some girl friends drinking coffee. I wanted to go sit by her, and though I had never drunk coffee, I felt like I should have some in my hand if I wanted to be ac-

cepted by the group. So I got a cup. (Vile stuff. I still can't stand it!)

I sauntered up to the group and asked, "Mind if I join you?" Lolly herself said, "Sure, you can sit right here by me." (Yes, thank you, Lord. Answer to my prayer!)

I wish I could tell you that I did everything right from here on. But God had some things to teach me. They're all in the Bible, and I had read them, but I was blinded by infatuation with a girl. But since I've reached the thousand word limit here, I'll have to wait for the next issue to tell you how the Lord taught me the lessons I could have learned right from His Word if I had only been smarter.

*Jim Wright earned his MA in Engineering from Oklahoma State, is a Certified Flight Instructor, and is retired from EDS. Jim is a Deacon at Victory Baptist Church.*



Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and His righteousness...

Matthew 6:33

**Who's In Charge Here?** *cont. from page 1*

following Christ, I am a classic example of the blind leading the blind. Secondly, we must be learners. A disciple is a learner. As leaders we are discipling our family, but we cannot do that unless we are being disciplined. Unless we are learning from the Lord, we have nothing to give to our families. Thirdly, we must be disciplined. The word *disciple* contains in its root meaning the idea of discipline. For one to be a disciple of Christ he/she must be disciplined. We must learn to rule our flesh and grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. If you are not growing in your relationship with the Lord as a husband/father, you are not leading your home effectively. When things are wrong at home, the first thing we men ought to do is to get on our faces before God and ask Him to search our hearts. It is not something we ought to just think about—it is imperative. We must be growing in our relationship with the Lord.

As we are following Christ, then we can disciple our families. But there will be some requirements. The first is association: we must spend time with our families. Likewise, ye husbands, **dwell with them** according to

*knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered* (1 Peter 3:7). Some husband/fathers are so busy with other things that they do not even know what is going on in their families. Discipling your family requires that you be with them. The number one problem with homes in America is absentee dads, either by divorce, separation, or inattentiveness. To lead our families we must also teach them. There is no substitute for the husband/father teaching the Word of God by example and precept. Lastly we must manage our family. The husband is responsible for the overall function of the family. It takes time and attention to lead or manage a family. A husband/father must make the time to guide his family in all areas of life.

In our next article we will look at the words *lover* and *learner*.

*Mike Ennis serves as 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.*

**Is God Unfair?** *cont. from page 4*

ing to do what He said He would do. I am confident they realized that they had messed up and there was nothing they could do to undo the unimaginable damage they had caused.

Try to help the critic see they are only focusing on half of the story—and the negative side at that. Yes, Adam's rebellion did bring condemnation to the whole human race. However, the other half of the equation is Jesus Christ brought eternal life to humanity! Salvation is free to all because Jesus came and died on the cross to pay the price for sin.

Romans chapter 5 compares and contrasts the story of Adam's fall and Jesus' sacrificial atonement. Romans 5:18-19 says, *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

So let's review the whole matter. God made Adam and gave him the perfect partner, Eve. Then He placed them in a perfect environment where all their needs were met. They had only one rule with a clear consequence for disobedience—death. They had perfect communion with God and all of creation. They would still be enjoying life in paradise if they would have only chosen to obey.

By the way, don't try to blame Satan for their sin either. Satan only tempted them. They did not have to give in to his temptation. Unfortunately, they fell into Satan's trap and

doubted God's goodness. Furthermore, they desired to be as wise and powerful as God, so they willfully rebelled and broke the only prohibition God had given.

I contend with you that it would have been fair if God had immediately banished them to Hell with Satan and all his fallen angels for eternity! However, because of God's love for Adam and Eve and all of humanity by extension, He chose to take matters into His own hands.

In the midst of our puny rebellion against God, He Himself came to experience death for us—and not just an ordinary death, but the death on the cross. He was beaten within an inch of His life, stripped naked, and hung on a cross for all to mock and spit upon.

Furthermore, just as there was only one rule for Adam and Eve to obey to live forever, there is only one thing we must do in order to regain eternal life. All we have to do is repent of our sins and trust Christ's finished work on Calvary. Then we can enjoy the life which was squandered at Adam's fall.

Now, can you see why it is ridiculous to accuse God of treating mankind unfairly? He chose to suffer the consequence of sin in order for the very ones in rebellion to experience eternal life with Him in Heaven.

*Matthew Turner is principal of Victory Christian Academy and co-founder of the Kokomo TEA Party. Contact Matt: vca-matt@yahoo.com.*



*Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*

Revelation 22:12-13

**Rooting for You** *cont. from page 3*

rooted plant will wither up and die, while the deeply rooted plant endures hard times.

There is so much insight to be gained from looking at a plant and then examining its roots. Many times when we are struggling with life or wondering why we are not bearing fruit as we should, it would be advantageous to look inward to the heart and see what we are rooted and grounded in. It is only when what lies beneath

the surface is in harmony with Christ that others will see the manifestation of a heart dedicated to God!

*Marlin Carpenter, a Master Gardener, operates Garden Gate Greenhouse at 500 S and Hwy 19 in Miami County. Stop by for all your gardening needs.*

egardengate.com





**“The rights of the colonists as Christians... may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the Great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament.”**  
**- Samuel Adams**

#### Grammy Boot Camp *cont. from page 5*

Now I know God uses people to get us on the right path, but I still needed pity, sympathy, understanding, and most of all babying. But according to His plans, it was time for me to count my blessings, suck it up and get off my lazy chair.

The first task was taking a shower by myself without getting my knee wet. Olivia was very patient and gentle but very motivated to get me to see that I could do it. Let me tell you, I was nervous. I had a bath seat and we wrapped my leg in plastic. We learned how I could stand on one leg and turn around to sit on the bath seat and ease myself around in the tub. My leg was rested on the side of the tub and I got to take a nice hot shower all by myself. I have to admit that felt so good. Then the hard part—getting out of the tub, drying and dressing myself. By the time I was done, I was ready for a nap.

But the whole time Olivia was outside that bathroom door in case I needed her. She helped me with my IV therapy and my meds. And guess what? No nap. The girls decided we were going shopping. Now for those of you who have not had the experience of being in a wheelchair, going shopping is a job in itself. But we made it. The girls loved pushing my chair and got quite good at it, in fact too good. One day they decided to see who could push me the fastest down the rows at Walmart. Picture a poor defenseless, handicapped woman, being pushed at rocket speed by two girls laughing their heads off. I was laughing, too—just knowing we were going to wreck or I wasn't going to make it to the ladies' room. Of course, my loving daughter was no help at all. We did have us some fun.

Then it was back to the camp for Grammy. When I wanted something to drink, no one was allowed to get it for me; I had to wheel myself to the kitchen and stand on one leg and get what I needed. You know, it really wasn't that hard. I just had to figure out the easiest way for me to stand and move. Katelyn and Grace were very

encouraging and would say, “Come on, Grammy, you can do it.” They would even clap and cheer when I accomplished something new. I must say I was quite proud of myself.

Olivia saw to it that I was kept very busy, and we were on the go all the time. There was no time for self-pity and that was a wonderful thing. I am so thankful that God showed me how much my family cared about me, how strong I was though not realizing it, and most of all how He had been with me the whole time although I had lost track of that.

When Kent came to get me, he was in for a big surprise. We were sitting in the living room and I wanted some ice tea. He asked me where I was going as I was turning my chair around. When I said I was getting something to drink, he said no, that he would get it. Olivia spoke up, “No, Dad, she can get it herself!” I have never seen such a shocked look on his face. We all laughed and Olivia explained that we had been working really hard for me to be independent. He was so proud of me.

I have to say it was really hard when we got home because our house was not made for a wheelchair. There were plenty of nicks in the trim of the doorways.

I do want to take this time to say that if you see someone in a wheelchair, I hope you are mentally praising them, because it is no picnic. And all those places that say handicap accessible—trust me, they aren't. There are times when you could hold a door open and they would be very grateful. God bless all those who do not have a choice but to spend their lives in a wheelchair. I admire you and have great respect for you. Prayers for you always.

*Terry lives with her husband in Florida.*



*She is enjoying living near her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters.*

## A Cat Story

*by Jeanine Garrison*

Since we live in the country, stray cats occasionally drop by—usually hoping for a free meal.

A few years ago such a cat decided to pay us a visit. It was solid black with no distinguishing marks of beauty and a disposition (as my mother used to say) like a buzz saw. I'm not talking about the usual hiss, growl, or claw swipe that cats give each other to warn others away from the food pan. This cat tore into the others, rolling and screeching on the floor until the attacked victim was able to get loose and escape. It was such a violent cat that I “affectionately” called it Demon. Later when it was discovered that Demon was pregnant, I appropriately changed her name to Demona. Male or female, she was still the same nasty cat.

But as time went on and Demona realized (I assume) that no one was going to hurt her and that there was enough food for everyone, she gradually quit her bullying tactics and began to live in peaceful co-existence with the other cats. She never did purr and rub around my leg, but neither did she try to take my hand off when I set the food down. And no, I did not change her name.

As I reflected on the change in Demona, I mused about the cause of her unsociable behavior. Perhaps she had been starved or abused before coming to our house; she certainly did not look healthy. Even though she was just a cat, having her needs met and being treated with kindness gradually decreased her desire to bully and fight. People are a lot like animals, and I have tried to teach my children (and my-

self) to look below the surface for the reason behind the way people are acting. They may have come from a bad home life or are just having a bad day. They may be in pain or dealing with health issues. It could be even something simple and superficial like having a bad hair day. There are hundreds of circumstances that can affect people's countenances and behavior, which are often reflections of their inner turmoil or pain.

So what are we, as Christians, supposed to do when someone around us is picking a “cat fight” with us? The Bible says in Ephesians 4:32: *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* God has forgiven us of so many things, how can we be unkind to others and not forgive them. I try to remember the saying, “There is no reason to be unkind”—even to a person like Demona.

Note: A video on this same theme worth watching with your family is *The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry*, a Rich Christiano Film, starring Gavin McLeod. Three young boys learn to see the neighborhood bully as someone who is hurting and needs their friendship. Mr. Sperry takes them to the cemetery and helps them realize that it is the destination of all—even the ones who have been unkind.

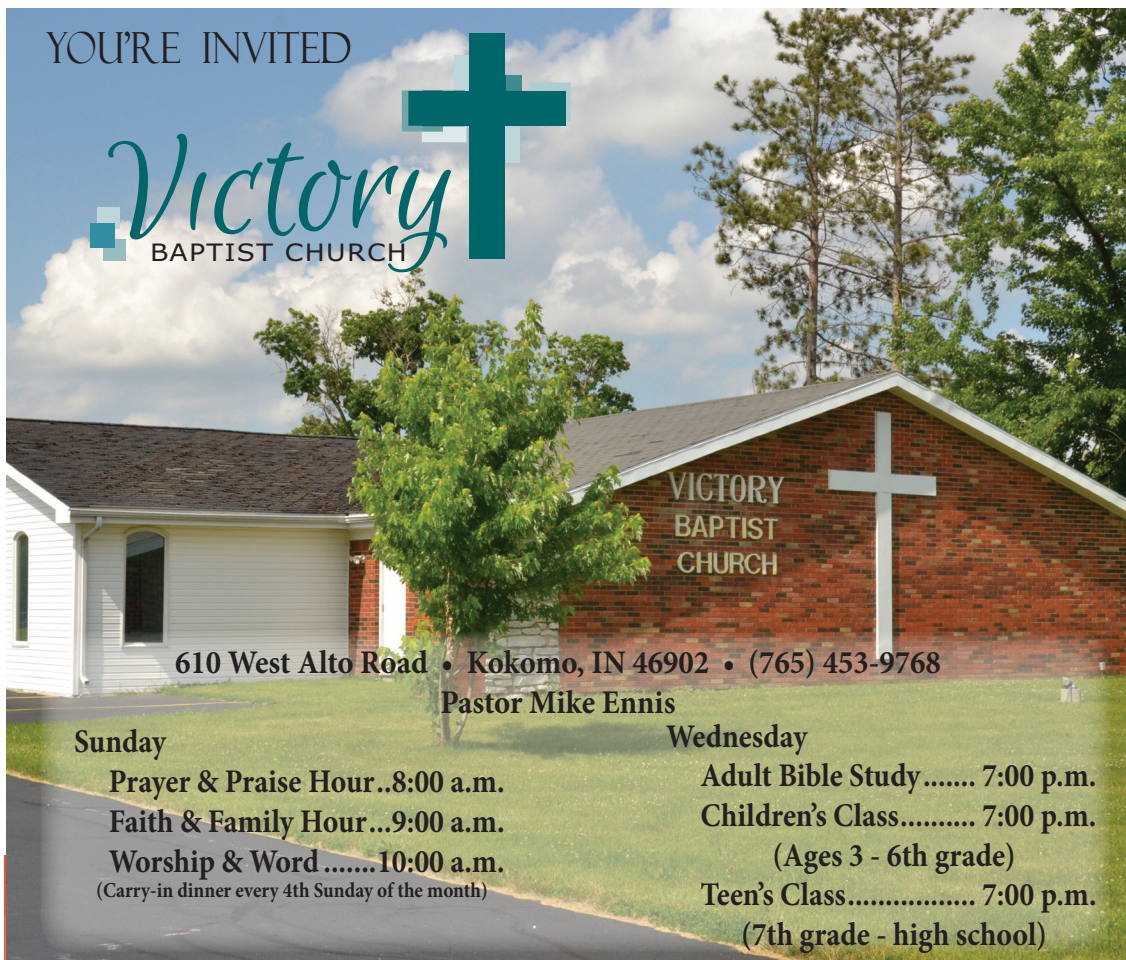


*Jeanine Garrison lives in Clinton County with her husband Tim. The couple has three grown children.*





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)

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



## 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.



## THE MEN OF VICTORY ARE ON A JOURNEY!!

Join us every second Saturday of the month in the "barn" at 9:00 am.

Victory Baptist Church, 610 W. Alto Road, Kokomo, IN

Delicious breakfast, great fellowship, inspirational DVDs

**COME AND EXPLORE HOW TO BE THE MAN GOD WANTS YOU TO BE.**

### 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).



## Victory Christian Academy

is

*Biblical Education Reform*

vcaknights.com

### K-12 Day School & Home School

Accredited Diplomas Available

*A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church*

*Call 453-9768 for more information.*