

Faith & Family News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family

Free Copy

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All We Like Sheep

by Steve Benedict

All we like sheep have gone astray. Isaiah 53:6a

We bought two sheep a few years back with the intention of having them take care of the grass and weeds here at the Children's Home. We have about two acres of land, and during the rainy season the grass grows very quickly. We have a barbed wire fence all around the property, and I foolishly thought that we could just turn them loose, they would eat all the grass, and everything would be wonderful. The problem is sheep have no sense at all about where they should be. A fence means nothing to them. They will go running off at the slightest whim, leaving bits of wool on the barbs as they pass between the strands of fence to eat the grass in the cactus field. There is plenty of good grass here, but they like to wander.

One day I was up on the roof, checking the water levels in our tanks, when I heard the sheep bleating desperately. When I looked out, sure enough they were outside the protection of the fence and as I helplessly watched, a coyote grabbed one of them by the throat. I yelled and the coyote took off running, but it was too late. I quickly climbed down and ran out to see our stricken sheep. She was just lying there in a pool of blood, and I thought for sure she was dead. As I stooped over her to check her out, she coughed a little, sending a little spray of blood onto the grass. She was still alive, but in very bad shape. I picked her up, carried her back inside the fence and checked her out. She had a hole in her larynx, but she was going to live. After some sutures and a few weeks of recovery, she was okay. But she still insists on

going outside of the fence into the cactus field to graze.

Since we acquired these animals, I've learned a lot about God's view of us by His consistent referral to us as sheep. Sheep are dumb. Sheep not only won't stay where they are safe, they will willingly rip out their wool to get through the fence to eat amongst the thorns of the cactus. The grass is sparser, but they foolishly think it'll be better. They will continue to wander farther and farther away, not only from where the good grass is, but also from

the protection that is available to them simply by staying inside the fence. And we, as His "sheep," behave the same way.

We wander off into the dangerous area of sin, thinking that the sparse grass amongst the cactus needles is better than the rich, lush grass that grows in the area where the Shepherd of our souls has placed us. We willingly and cheerfully cause damage to ourselves while escaping the protection that God has set up for us. We set ourselves up for an attack by the ravenous "coyote" because we don't want to stay where God has put us and take care of what He wants us to take care of. How much better off would we be if we just stayed alongside God and ate from His protected pasture?

As I said, our sheep has healed up and is doing fine, with one exception. We now call her Maxine, after the shriveled-up old woman of greeting card fame. Her "voice" sounds like she is a habitual three-pack-a-day smoker due to the larynx damage from her

Sheep cont. on page 4

Marriage Destroyers

by Mike Ennis

In previous articles we have looked at what it takes to have a good marriage. Beginning with this article we are going to consider the opposite subject. We are going to look at what will destroy a marriage. The three things that will kill a marriage are pride, selfishness, and an unforgiving spirit. In this article we will look at the first—pride.

Pride destroys marriages

Pride is the universal affliction of man. Pride is self-exaltation. It began with Satan in Heaven.

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High Isaiah 14:14.

The Bible does not have anything good to say about pride.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation Romans 13:2.
Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom Proverbs 13:10.
Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall Proverbs 16:18.

Pride is devilish and destroys. At best, in a marriage it causes unnecessary strain; in the worst case it will lead to the failure of the marriage.

How can I know if I have a pride problem?

How can I know if I have a pride problem? Here is the real challenge. Since pride is self-exaltation, it is extremely deceptive. Pride is the sin that blinds us to all sin. Pride blinds us to our own pride! The best thing for us to do is to examine ourselves. and ask ourselves hard questions. When it comes to sin we need to go to ourselves. We need to get to the place where we say "I am the problem, or at least I could be the problem."

What pride looks like in a marriage

I have an issue with pride if:

- I tend to be critical or judgmental of other people. In my marriage, I am critical and judgmental of my spouse. I am constantly nit-picking. Pride-filled people think that they are better

Marriage Destroyers cont. on page 3

In this issue . . .

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>All We Like Sheep</i> | 1 |
| <i>Marriage Destroyers</i> | 1 |
| <i>Editorially Speaking</i> | 2 |
| <i>Been Thinkin' 'Bout</i> | 2 |
| <i>Pass Up the Pity Party</i> | 2 |
| <i>Breaking Dormancy</i> | 3 |
| <i>Where is the Church and State Separated?</i> | 4 |
| <i>Common Cold Prevention and Treatment</i> | 4 |
| <i>The Book Shelf</i> | 5 |
| <i>Faith of a Mustard Seed</i> | 5 |
| <i>Crafting with Andrea</i> | |
| <i>Promise Box</i> | 6 |
| <i>Mother's Corner</i> | |
| <i>Media Matters</i> | 6 |
| <i>Word Search & Maze Craze</i> | 7 |
| <i>Cookin' Corner</i> | 8 |
| <i>My Daughter</i> | 9 |
| <i>The Road Not Taken</i> | 9 |
| <i>Lessons From Little Ones</i> | |
| <i>Every Good Gift</i> | 10 |
| <i>Old Timer's Corner</i> | |
| <i>Should I Marry Again?</i> | 10 |

Editorially Speaking

As we start our second year of publication I thought it good to remind you of who we are. **Faith and Family News** is published four times a year in hard copy and can be found in professional offices, businesses and selected locations in Kokomo, Indiana and the surrounding counties.

We also have a text-only version at <http://faithandfamilynews.blogspot.com/>. You can be added to our electronic mailing list by emailing editor@faithandfamily@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. You will receive the exact version you are holding, in a digital format. We respect your email security and will only use your email to send you the quarterly edition of this publication.

Our Mission is "To provide resources that spiritually educate, establish, build and strengthen the God-ordained institution of the family through the medium of the printed word and in-person Biblical counseling."

If you have been reading us through 2012, we hope we have been

a blessing to you. We hope you have found a distribution site to pick up a copy and take along with you. If you find us in a doctor's office or hospital waiting room, you can keep the copy. It's free to our readers and meant to be taken.

We welcome Steve and Amber Benedict (<http://benedictbunch.com/>) as guest contributors through 2013. We know you will enjoy their articles from the mission field of Mexico and The Kids of Casa Betania.

We are again planning to be at the Howard County Fair this summer, so be sure to stop by and pick up a copy of the summer issue and say hello. We would love to get to meet you.

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.



Been Thinkin' 'Bout . . . When I Felt God Was Speaking to Me

by Margaret Beall Tice

My first nudge from the Lord was a "Divine Ought," like the feeling C. S. Lewis says is in all human beings. "Conviction" is what the New Testament calls it. I was only about six and it just felt like fear to me. I felt it when I was memorizing a Bible verse from the first in a set of lavender and teal ABC cards which said "All the fearful and unbelieving" would be cast into Hell. There was no audible voice but a certain gripping of my young heart that I might be one of those "fearful" and perhaps not quite believing enough.

That set me on a quest to know God for sure and to trade my fear for peace. After many blind-alley experiences, I finally heard God's simple plan of salvation—that all humans are sinners, that if we are sorry for our sins and put our whole hope of Heaven on the shed blood of Jesus the risen Son of God, we can know God personally. When I told God I understood those truths from the Scriptures and asked Him to forgive me because I was counting on the blood of Jesus alone as my hope of Heaven, He spoke to me again. It was my deepest moment as He showed me the cross, gripping my heart with this

assurance: *That was for you.*

His peace--relief of the guilt of my sin—came into my heart. Although my search for Him was over at 14, my enjoyment of Him and His voice was just beginning. Through daily surrender and study of His Word and prayer, I sensed His leadership to a Christian college, a Christian husband, and purposeful daily living. Ongoing conversations with my dear Heavenly Father through His Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit within have been dear.

(1) We were with an evangelist holding meetings in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. Don and I were being flown by the resident missionary in his single-engine plane to a remote place (Kew, South Caicos) for overnight Saturday and for Don to preach in services in the little church on Sunday. While we waited for take-off from the tall-grassed runway, the engine too loud for talking, I took Don's slender Bible from the pocket on the seat in front of us and opened it to read. My eyes fell on Psalm 139:9 and 10 and I gradually internalized this de-

God Speaking cont. on page 11

Pass Up the Pity Party

by Jill Garrison

Being single and having had many single friends over the years, I know that we tend to throw ourselves a lot of pity parties because of our singleness. I also know that there are certain times of the year and events in the lives of others that tend to push us over the edge into self-pity. Perhaps spring is one of those times for you. For as the owl told Bambi and his friends, "Nearly everybody gets twitterpated in the springtime." But throwing ourselves pity parties is not something in which we should indulge. It is an indication that we have our focus on ourselves instead of where it should be, bringing honor and glory to the Lord. So when we start to slip into the mulligrubs, we need to make a conscious decision to turn our focus upward on the Lord rather than inward on ourselves.

One tool that God gives us to help readjust our focus is His Word. As we read and mediate on His Word daily, we are reminded that God loves us so much that He died on the cross to pay the price for our sin so we can have a relationship with Him for all eternity. God's plan for us includes not only our eternal destiny, but also our lives now. Because God is good, He has our best interest at heart; because He is all-knowing, His plan cannot be improved upon; and because He is all-powerful, no one can thwart His plan. Though Satan tries his best to keep us defeated, through Scripture memorization we can be prepared to do battle when he whispers those thoughts of discontentment, despair, and selfishness in our ears.

Prayer also helps turn our focus toward God. Our prayers should not be a

... because He [God] is
all-knowing. His plan
cannot be improved
upon ...

grocery list of things that we want, but rather a time of pouring out our hearts before the Lord. Tell God exactly how you feel. Confess your sins of selfishness and discontentment. Praise God for Who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 42:11).

Though often overlooked, music can turn our eyes toward God as well. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19–20). Of course when

you are feeling down in the mouth, the last thing you want to do is sing, but put on some uplifting, Christ-honoring music anyway. Listen to the words. Let them sink into your heart. I daresay that soon you

will find yourself singing along. It is mighty hard to throw yourself a pity party and sing the praises of the Lord at same time.

Not only should we turn our focus upward toward God when we are tempted to throw ourselves a pity party, we should also turn our eyes outward toward others. We should cultivate relationships with godly people because no one can "go it alone" in the Christian life. We all need friends that we can count on for prayer support, encouragement, and admonition, which we in turn should reciprocate. It is a two-way street. For most people the

Pity Party cont. on page 5

It's In Our Nature

"More often than not, when someone is telling me a story all I can think about is that I can't wait for them to finish so that I can tell my own story that's not only better, but also more directly involves me."

"Sometimes I'll watch a movie that I watched when I was younger and suddenly realize I had no idea what was going on when I first saw it."

Breaking Dormancy

Renewed excitement comes as the first flowers of spring break through the crust of earth. After sleeping for the winter, they break dormancy and once again bring life and color to our world! The spring air becomes filled with their fragrances and you can almost feel your spirits lifted as you breathe in the fresh rejuvenation of spring. The period of breaking dormancy is an important stage of plant development. If something such as a late freeze or hard frost interrupts this process, it can be devastating to the plants. Therefore, it is often advantageous for us to provide protection and extra care for our plants during this delicate time. If the process is interrupted, it can cause the plants to reenter dormancy or possibly to die. Many times in the spring it is necessary for us to cover plants that may be susceptible to these late freezes. Perennials can suffer great setbacks if not properly protected and fruit trees may lose their fruit-producing blossoms that will not return until next year.

We too go through periods of dormancy in our spiritual life. These are periods of our life when we stop growing spiritually and enter a complacent sleep. This is typically frustrating to the Christian and causes us to be greatly discouraged and disappointed in ourselves. We recollect how we once were on fire for God and thriving spiritually. So how do we, like the plants, break dormancy? How do we arrive at the place where we are alive again and experiencing growth? Psalm 1 tells us: *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.* This passage teaches us that for spiritual growth we need to separate ourselves from the world and those



who tempt us to do wrong. Further, we must delve into the Word of God diligently and there keep our focus. It is then that we will break dormancy and begin to grow and become fruitful as the tree that is mentioned in this scripture. If we stay in this place, we will not wither, but continue to grow and prosper.

Like a plant, when we stop growing we begin dying. As mentioned, we must diligently and continually be studying and practicing the Word of God to stay alive. Christianity is a growing experience. Second Peter 1:5-9 teaches us that we are to continually add to our faith and grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ:

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. When this scripture is fulfilled in our lives we will never be dormant or “unfruitful.”

It is imperative that we take heed to the scriptures that teach us how to continually be growing, else we find ourselves in dormant slumber. But don’t be disheartened, faithful soldier, for we, like the plants of spring, can wake from that slumber, begin to grow again, and break dormancy!

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



"EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, AND COMETH DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM IS NO VARIABLENESS, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING." JAMES 1:17

"It isn't the great big pleasures that count the most, it's making the most out of the little ones."

- Jean Webster

Marriage Destroyers cont. from page 1

than others and are quick to find fault in others but not themselves.

- I tend to compare myself with other people. Proud people have to look good, have to be the best. Proud people have a very competitive spirit. My pride can kill my marriage if I am in competition with my spouse. I must win. I must win the argument. I must be the best.
- I tend to be stubborn. Proud people do not give in. It has to be their way or no way! And if a spouse wants something different or has a different approach, the proud person will not give in. The proud person has to have his way.
- I tend to find it hard to apologize. My attitude is, “I did not do anything wrong.” Even if I did something wrong, I just cannot bring myself to apologize. I never or rarely admit fault.
- I keep faking it and never admit that I have problems. I am defensive and whenever confronted with the possibility of doing something wrong, I fly off the defensive handle or offer excuse after excuse.
- I have a bad case of the Messiah syndrome. I have all the answers, I am always right, my opinion is truth whether it is Bible-based or not. *For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden* Galatians 6:3-5.
- I do not care about others. I am the center of the universe.
- I always have a story to top others.
- I anger easily and am impatient.

The cure for marriage destroying pride

Pride leads to conflict and pulling apart in a marriage, which is very ridiculous because of the one flesh principle. We are no longer two but one flesh. To argue with your spouse is to argue with yourself. In order to promote oneness in the marriage, pride has to be eradicated. Submission has to be cultivated.

• Pride must be eradicated. *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble* James 4:6. *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous* 1 Peter 3:8. *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves* Philippians 2:3.

• Submission must be cultivated. *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble* 1 Peter 5:5.

As husband and wife we need mutual submission. Submission is giving in. We all know that the wife is to submit to the husband. *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord* Ephesians 5:22. But husbands are to give in also. This is what love does. *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it* Ephesians 5:25. *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband* Ephesians 5:33. *Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them* Colossians 3:19.

In order to submit to each other, you must humble yourselves. Start by humbling yourselves before God. A pride problem is a problem before God before it is a problem with people. Submit to God. Submit to God’s plan of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Then submit to His plan for your marriage, which includes a mutual submissiveness in your marriage. For more information on how to deal with pride in your marriage or other marriage problems, please call (765) 453-9768.

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Sheep cont. from page 1

encounter with the coyote. She bleats, but you can hardly hear her. It is a low, throaty, hoarse grumble that makes you want to cough when you hear it. She has a permanent reminder of her tragic decision to be outside of her protected area. When people hear her, they always notice and ask what happened.

We also can receive permanent damage and scars when we wander off and are hurt due to our own decisions to stray away from God. Before you decide you can handle “losing a little wool” and head off away from the Shepherd, ask yourself, “Am I willing

to bear the scars and risk having to explain to others for the rest of my life about the time I wandered away from God?” Or even worse, James 1:15a promises ... *sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* Isn’t it better to stay? Or are we just a “dumb sheep?”

Steve and Amber Benedict, along with their children, have been missionaries in Mexico since 2003. Visit their website at benedictbunch.com.



Common Cold Prevention and Treatment

by Rachel Irwin

Well, we have survived yet another Indiana winter. Spring is just around the corner and I personally cannot wait. We have seen influenza numbers through the roof and my skin has been so dry. I’m ready for the warm spring air, open windows, outdoor adventures, and spring cleaning—well, maybe not looking forward to that last one. One down side to the new season of spring is that it typically means an increase in the common cold. Although the common cold is not life threatening, it is extremely annoying and inconvenient. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) the common cold is the leading cause for missed days of school and work.

First let me explain a few basics on the common cold according to WebMD. The common cold is a virus; some people think that you get colds from cold weather or going outside with wet hair. These things make you more susceptible to getting sick because the stress on your body decreases the chances of your body’s immune system to fight off the virus. A cold is so common because it is very easy to catch. The virus could be on any number of surfaces. Colds are more common in cooler months, because we are inside in close quarters,

sharing our germs.

Symptoms of a cold are runny nose, sneezing, tiredness, sore throat, and cough. If you have a fever or darker mucus, this is most likely an infection and not a cold, so you may need an antibiotic. If it is a cold, you are most contagious during the first few days from when your symptoms start. It is best to stay at home and avoid spreading the virus to others.

The best thing we can do is not get the virus in the first place, which brings us to my favorite word, PREVENTION.

1. A strong immune system is the best defense against not just a cold, but from many illnesses, infections and flu. Things you can do to boost the old immune system are get plenty of rest (7-8 hours of sleep at night), eat a good healthy diet, don’t smoke, and drink plenty of water (at least 8 cups a day).

2. Avoid close contact with people that have a cold, and as we touched on earlier, if you have a cold, keep to yourself. According to WebMD a hearty sneeze can spread the virus 12 feet! Now that I’ve painted that lovely picture in your mind, let’s move on.

Wash your hands frequently, especially
Common Cold cont. on page 9

Where Is the Church and State Separated?

by Matt Turner

Where exactly is the imaginary line that separates the Church and the State? We’ve all heard that phrase our whole life, but “Where is it?” Even though we may draw the line in a different place, we agree that it speaks to the idea that the Church and State have different spheres of influence. The Church is supposed to be involved with the affairs between God and man, whereas the State is to confine itself to dealing with man’s relationship to others. No doubt this doctrine has played an important role in shaping our nation. However, today the left is no longer content with a separation of Church and State—they want complete isolation!

What’s worse is how the left is trying to win this struggle for the heart of our nation. They have been redefining the doctrine for years; now they are using bully tactics—and I thought bullying was wrong. They use ridicule and personal attacks in order to silence believers. The left wants to eliminate all Christian influence on public policy. There is no difference between the people at the Tower of Babel, who tried to create the perfect society, and the liberals of today, who argue we don’t need God in our public life.

Christians involved in politics are often attacked for violating this sacred doctrine one way or another. We are often accused of wanting to set up a theocracy. This is ridiculous. (That’s the Muslims who want to do that!) Although I do believe Jesus will set up a theocracy when He returns, I don’t know any Christian who wants to do so until then. Yes, I believe we should base our society upon Biblical principles, but I do not believe the Bible should be our law book. Bible students understand God established three basic institutions: the family, the State, and the Church.

The left will also attack us for trying to “legislate morality.” I have a news flash for the left: every law ever passed is an attempt to legislate morality! Isn’t it funny how the left will try to use Scripture when they are trying to get something they desire? They have no problem telling us that Jesus would want us to pass universal health care or any welfare program they deem necessary. After all, doesn’t the Bible teach that we are our brother’s keeper? Aren’t we supposed to take care of the poor?

Please don’t fall for this old trick. The fact is, the Bible teaches us that we are *individually responsible* to take care of each other. That responsibility is never given to the State. Taking care of the poor should be addressed by the family and church before the local authority ever becomes involved. Then after those resources are exhausted, the community should get involved. You see, they want to be the ones people look to for help. That’s what gives them power over you. They don’t want us relying on each other’s family, church, neighbors and friends.

The government is important, but it has the most limited function of the three God-ordained institutions. The government is supposed to protect the public by punishing evil doers and dealing with foreign powers. The government was never designed to take care of citizens from cradle to grave. As a matter of fact, every nation that has tried has failed.

Let me try to bring this back to the original question. The left would give the State the widest influence because they want the Church to have as little influence on our culture as possible, if any at all. The right wants the line to be drawn as closely to the Church as possible. We believe we can do a better job of taking care of each other than a distant, over-bloated, federal bureaucracy.

The catch is that to enjoy the fruits of liberty, we must choose to submit to God’s Word. Real freedom can only flourish when people choose to live by the Golden Rule and Law of Love espoused in the Bible. As our nation becomes more secular, that inward restraint is lost and we need a more oppressive outside force to control us. That leads to more government—just what the left wants.

Believers, now is the time to enter the fray. (I refuse to believe it is too late.) Now is the time to become more involved in the political discourse that is shaping our nation. The left has done a masterful job of taking over the education and media establishments. They have gained an enormous advantage over the traditional influences of America. They are winning the younger generation. If this trend does not change, we are sure to lose the liberties and privileges we have enjoyed as Americans.

Church and State cont. on page 9

THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

- Emilie Buchwald

Ken Ham challenges his readers to look around at church on any Sunday and imagine that two-thirds of the teenagers aren't there. Why? Because they are *already gone*, which happens to be the title of his book published by Master Books in 2009. The first part of the subtitle, "Why your kids will quit church," may alarm parents, but the second half, "and what you can do to stop it," is designed to give them hope and a call to action.

Already Gone was written in response to pollsters like George Barna whose findings indicated that six out of ten 20-somethings who were involved in a church during their teen years leave the church (p 33). Not content with the reasons given by data for this exodus, Ham teamed with co-author Britt Beemer, the chairman of America's Research Group, to probe more deeply into the "why" behind the statistics. Ham writes, "We wanted to know *who* was leaving, *why* they were leaving, and *what* (if anything) could be done about it" (p 27).

One of the most revealing statistics in the survey turned out to answer not

the *why* question, but rather the *when* question. People are led to believe that students are lost in college. But Ham and Beemer found that 40 percent are leaving the church during elementary and middle school years (p 31). They are still in the pew with their parents, but though present in body, they are already gone in their hearts. They begin doubting the truth of the Scripture long before they depart for college. If you doubt that this is true, look around again on Sunday and see what the young people are doing. Talking, texting, playing games on their phones? Sleeping? When the choice is theirs as adults, do you think they will attend church?

One surprising and alarming finding is that "Sunday School is actually more likely to be detrimental to the spiritual and moral health of our children" (p 38). The research showed that 61 percent of the children who regularly attended Sunday School were more likely to answer questions in a negative way than the 39 percent who did not. For example, regular attendees

The Book Shelf cont. on page 8

Pity Party cont. from page 2

best place to form such relationships is in church. *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner or some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching Hebrews 10:24-25.*

While seeking mutually edifying relationships with fellow believers is an important part of keeping our focus right, so also is serving others. Opportunities to serve others abound both inside and outside the church. Whether it be teaching Sunday school, working in the nursery, cleaning up after dinners, or running the soundboard, there are numerous opportunities to serve in a church. If you're not sure where help is needed, ask your pastor. He probably has a list of ways someone can help. Our ministering to the needs of others should also extend beyond church and out into our local community. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to volunteer.

Schools, nursing homes, hospitals, libraries, rescue missions, and crisis pregnancy centers are just a few of the places that depend on volunteers to carry out their work. Step outside your comfort zone and dare to make a difference in the lives of others. *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).

One doesn't have to be single to have a pity party. We are all tempted to throw ourselves one from time to time. Just remember the next time you're about to send out the invitations that a "focus check" is in order. I'm sure you will find that focusing on your relationship with God and ministering to others will leave you very little time or desire for pity parties.

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



Faith of a Mustard Seed

by Terry Seagraves

Have you ever wondered as a Christian, do I have enough faith? Or as a non-Christian, do I have enough faith for God to hear me and forgive me of my sins? Let me tell you, I have been in both places.

But first, let's describe a mustard seed. The mustard seed comes from the mustard plant, a pungent yellow powder of the seeds of an herb. It is one of the smallest of all seeds. A mustard seed is 1/20th of an inch, about the size of a pencil lead point. I don't know about you, but to me that is a pretty small seed. To follow along with my feelings on this subject, you need to read Matthew 17:20: *Then Jesus said unto them,*

Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Let's think about that for a minute. If I have faith the size of one of the smallest of seeds, Jesus is telling me nothing is impossible to me. Now this is way too much to believe, right? NO!!! There are several verses in the Bible to support what Jesus has promised us. Please read: Hebrews 11:1; Ephesians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 3:17-19. Did you know the Bible has more truth in it than any other book ever written?

I can tell you, my faith has been tested many times in my life. It would have been so easy to just let go and let the world of sin rule my being. I am a sinner saved by the grace of God. I have made many mistakes in my life, but my Mustard Seed Faith (Praise God) has helped me get back on the right path many times. I have learned the hard way that Satan is just waiting for us to have a weak moment. That is when he jumps in and fills us with doubt and sin. I encourage you to always remember that the Lord is with you; just use that Mustard Seed Faith and reach out when times get hard. Just because we are Christians does not mean our lives are perfect, we never

suffer, and all is better for life. We have Jesus there to help us through. He is loving and caring and we just need to remember to turn it all over to Him.

Did you ever wonder why is this happening to me? After all, I am a good person. Well, let me say being a good person is not going to get you in Heaven. What really upsets me is people who say there is no God but when something goes wrong in their lives, the first one they want to blame is God. If you believe there is a God to blame, then whom do you praise when all is right?

I was in a wreck and had to have several surgeries. For six months I was

in a wheelchair with no right knee and having I.V. therapy at home two times a day. I am a Christian. So why was this happening to me? Where was God? I was weak and Satan

was using doubt to break me. (Sometime later I will tell you the story about Grammy Boot Camp, because that is where the Lord sent me.) With my husband working long hours and not being able to be with me 24 hours a day, I went to my daughter and son-in-law's home where they cared for and supported me. The Lord led me on a path for healing; He never left me. God showed me I had my Mustard Seed Faith and all I had to do was let Him take care and move the mountains in my way. Through that small grain of faith, I have grown more in my faith.

We can't sit around and blame a God we don't serve. Love the God we can serve. There is only one chance here on earth; God gave us the ability to make choices. Take that Mustard Seed Faith and it will open the door to Eternal Life with Jesus Christ. He died for our sins, but if there had been only one sinful person, Jesus would have died for him or her. Do you believe there is a true God? There is your Mustard Seed Faith; help it grow. Faith is believing in something you cannot see, but through faith, we will someday see.

Before I close, I would like to share a story with you about my oldest

Mustard Seed cont. on page 9

Crafting with Andrea

Making a Promise Box

by Andrea Cardenas

Christmas may be far behind us, but we should not be far from Christ! I know that is easier said than done, but it is crucial to maintaining our relationship with Him. I know, I know, this is a craft column so get to crafting already! Ok, the first thing we are going to establish is the craft we are creating—a “Promise” box! People spend tons and tons of money on books that tell of the promises of the Bible. But I have a secret that is usually a cheaper one. You can find those same promises in.... the BIBLE!! My challenge to you upon creation of this box is to create your own promises. When we are reading our daily scripture, God gives us promises that pertain to that day or the time period in our lives. And who better to get our “promise” from than the one who knows where we are and what we are dealing with at that time. Now, I am not saying those books are bad by any means—just something to challenge you with.

And now to making our “Promise Box!” First there are some things you will need. Here is a list: scissors, decorative paper (old wrapping paper or comics from the newspaper work great), tape, a shoebox or other small box, and notecards or sticky notes. Once you have all your items together, decorate the outside of your box with



From time to time you can take one or more out to remind yourself of things you have overcome, but ultimately they are the keys to showing you the promises from God. He loves us and wants to see us through every moment, even our trials. It is through our trials that we learn and know that God is on our side and only He can truly help us through them. And as an added bonus you will have a decorative box for future promises to be stored! Enjoy!

Andrea Cardenas is married to David and they have one son. Andrea works with children in Truth Trackers at Victory Baptist Church.



INNER SUPPLY



My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.

- PROVERBS 7:1 NIV

Mothers Corner

Media Matters

by Ashlee Shoaff

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, “We cannot build the future for our children, but we can build our children for the future.” Who would have projected the intent of media and marketers to adopt children as steady consumers of their products? The Institute of Medicine released a study in 2004 estimating \$15 billion were spent in advertising to U.S. youth. Companies have even concocted savvy marketing appeals to children online. Nabisco launched a puzzle and game site to help in selling their products. We expect the advertising ploys during cartoons. “Marketers are increasingly building brand awareness and loyalty through gaming. A successful game means a successful product as the consumers are engaged, interested, and focused on the product,” says Sandra Calvert author of *Children as Consumers*.

Now parents and their young see an onslaught of media advertising directed at children through online venues. Since youth are heavy media users and typically adopt new technologies first, the pressure to entice people of all ages to a product or idea has grown exponentially. Richard Mizerski, an Australian professor of marketing, relays that “[children’s] cognitive structures are beginning to form and they are most sensitive to external influences.”

The answer is not to become a hermit, enclosing yourself or your family from the world around you, but to have a dynamic and calculated understanding of the media usage in your home. God demands that we be active participants in the ideas and images that we consume. Proverbs 4:23 says above all else, guard your heart because that is where the actions of your life flow from. Being informed is half the battle; staying alert and acting accordingly, or better yet godly, is the issue at hand. Calvert notes the normal perimeters in which we are enticed by marketers as repetition, branded characters, catchy and interesting production features, celebrity endorsements, and premiums (free merchandise which

accompanies a purchase). Online solicitors use these plus gimmicks, such as gaming, viral marketing through spaces such as social media, tracking software, and spyware to survey your web browsing. They also use online interactive agents that chat with consumers about their products.

Advertisers understand God’s principle all too well as they press on to produce stealth advertising. This tactic is used to embed messages about ideas or products while the consumer’s “guard” is down (Calvert 2008.) By utilizing such measures, the advertisers are aiming to blur the line between advertisement strategy and the actual content of the message. Currently, this method is only allowed online. Parents should be aware of these practices and should be diligent in sorting through the barrage of media used in their homes.

Assessing the content coming into our homes is just as important as understanding the stage of development of our children and their re-

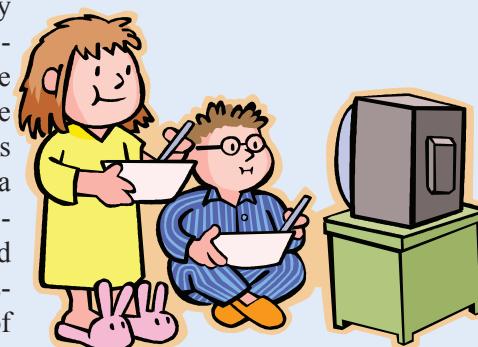
lationship to the media. According to Karpatkin and Holmes from the Consumers Union, “Young children, in particular, have difficulty in distinguishing between advertising and

reality in ads, and ads can distort their view of the world.” Associate Professor of English Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia Roy Fox found that children watching television commercials thought the children in advertisements were real rather than paid actors, and they often confused advertisements with news items.

Fox stated that they did not understand the commercial intent and manipulation behind advertisements.

Similarly, in the early teen years, youth are forming their own identities and they are highly vulnerable to pressure to conform to group standards and mores. At this age they feel insecure and want to feel that they belong to their peer group. Sharon Beder from the University of Wollongong, outlines this as follows:

“advertising manipulates [adolescents] through their
Media Matters cont. on page 11



Coming This Summer!!



from Answers in Genesis

Vacation Bible School
at
Victory Baptist Church

June 3-7, 2013

610 W. Alto Road
Kokomo, IN 46902

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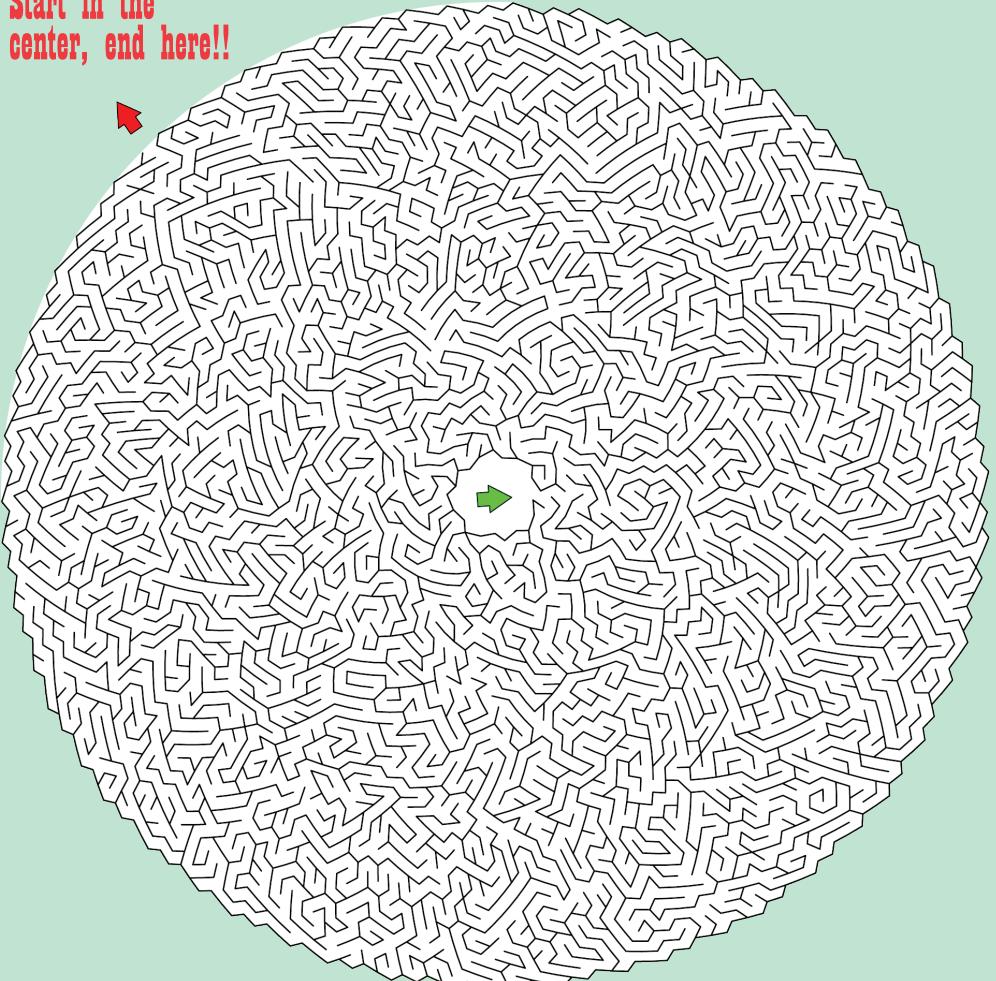
Fun for Kids of All Ages

Super Tough Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 24

Maze #7

MAZE CRAZE

Start in the
center, end here!!



KRAZYSAD.COM/PUZZLES

Need the answer? <http://krazysad.com/mazes/answers>

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Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

When my husband pastored in southern Indiana, I shopped at a small IGA store in our town. One of my husband's favorite meals was ham loaf and I was able to purchase the ground ham and pork already mixed and ready to go. These days I have to buy the ham and pork and grind it myself, although I did find some frozen ground ham in a freezer section of a local grocery store. Below is the recipe for ham loaf.

Ham Loaf

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 pounds ground ham | 1 cup milk |
| 1 ½ pounds of ground pork | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| 2 eggs | ¼ teaspoon pepper |
| 1 cup dried bread crumbs | 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce |

Mix all the above ingredients together and form into a loaf in a 9x13 inch greased pan. Bake at 350° for 90 minutes. I bake the loaf covered for the first 45 minutes and then uncover to finish the baking. While loaf is baking, mix the glaze together.

Glaze

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cup brown sugar | ½ cup apple cider vinegar |
| 1 tablespoon mustard | |

Pour the glaze over the ham loaf for the final 15-20 minutes of baking.

If you are cooking for 1 or 2 people like I do, you can divide the mixture into 3 loaves. Prepare one loaf for immediate baking. Then line a 7 or 8 inch square baking pan with foil and make the second loaf. Lift the foil and loaf out of the pan, wrap well and freeze. Repeat for the the 3rd loaf. Remember that if you divide the loaf mixture into thirds you will only need to make 1/3 of the glaze.

This next recipe was given to me by Jeanine Garrison. She made this dessert at our Ladies Christmas Party at church and it was a great hit.

Vanilla Crumb Pudding

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 stick butter, melted | 1 cup chopped pecans |
| 1 cup flour | ¾ cup brown sugar |
| 1 cup coconut | |

Spray a cookie sheet with Pam. Mix all the ingredients together, place on the cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Next, take 2 large boxes vanilla instant pudding and 3 cups of milk. Beat with mixer for 2 minutes then fold in 12 ounces of Cool Whip.

Finally, take a 9x13 inch pan and put ½ of the crumb mixture in the bottom of the pan. Take the pudding mixture and layer on top of the crumb mixture. Sprinkle the rest of the crumb mixture on top of the pudding mixture. Refrigerate and then enjoy!!

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



The Bookshelf cont. from page 5

were more likely NOT to believe that all the accounts/stories in the Bible are true/accurate (p 39). A person would assume the opposite would be true.

One might think a book about the findings of a survey might be a boring read. But Ham keeps the tone of his writing very conversational, and the statistics provided are not overwhelming. The pages are sprinkled with simple graphics and charts to help visually depict the data. As might be expected as the president and founder of the ministry Answers in Genesis, Ham labors the point that the failure to teach a literal six-day creation and a young earth is the culprit behind the problem described in his book. The reader may find himself saying, "Okay, I got it; let's go on." Ham gives no easy 1-2-3 solution to the dilemma. Rather, he gives a list of resources that the pastor/teacher/parent can research so that they can more effectively defend the Word of God to the next generation.

The goal of every Christian parent is to teach his child so that he/she does not become one of the statistics in Ken Ham's book. Another book that might assist the parent/teacher in that goal is *the Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, published by Zondervan. Lloyd-Jones relates parts of the Old and New Testament in story-book fashion for the very young child. She starts each "story" with a title, a couple-word description (like Noah's ark), and the scripture relating to the account. The book is liberally illustrated with cartoonish-style pictures (not my preference) by Jago.

Some who insist on teaching just the scripture (even to small children) would not want this book on their bookshelf. Lloyd-Jones is telling a story and includes many details and descriptions that are not in the Bible. However, her descriptions are used to bring it down to the child's level and often to portray the

emotion of the moment, which usually the Bible omits. For example, in the account of Mary leaving the empty tomb, Lloyd-Jones relates the joy and excitement that Mary surely must have felt when she writes: "Mary ran and ran, all the way to the city. She had never run so fast or so far in all her life. She felt she could have run forever (p 316)."

The best thing about *the Jesus Storybook Bible* is revealed in the subtitle — every story whispers his name. Lloyd-Jones weaves the scarlet thread through the retelling of scripture in a way that young children can enjoy and understand. In the introduction, Lloyd-Jones writes: "It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story

in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle — the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together (p 17)." She ends the story of the Tower of Babel with: "People

didn't need a staircase; they needed a Rescuer. Because the way back to heaven wasn't a staircase; it was a Person. People could never reach up to Heaven, so Heaven would have to come down to them. And, one day, it would (p 54)."

As with any book that retells scripture, discretion is advised. Perhaps a parent or teacher might want to reword some things, and the scripture is at the beginning of the selection for easy reference. Overall, I think *the Jesus Storybook Bible* would be a valuable tool for starting little ones on the path to Life. When asked in an interview about how adults received the book, Lloyd-Jones said that the adults often wept while reading it. I can testify to that.

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



*Go ye into all the world
and preach the Gospel to
every creature.*

Mark 16:15

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

Mustard Seed cont. from page 5

granddaughter, Katelyn. This is such a blessing to me and gives proof to the size of faith. At the time of this event, Katelyn was six years old. One day my granddaughters were outside playing, having a great time in the warm sun. Katelyn was standing close to Marley, their golden retriever, and something got his attention and he started to run. His leash was long and Marley, being very excited, ran in a direction that put Katelyn in his way. Katelyn landed face first on the cement. My daughter, Olivia said she will never forget that sound. They rushed her to the med-center. She had a huge bump on her forehead and some scrapes. There are so many things that could have resulted from the fall. Katelyn slept with Olivia that night. Of course, Katelyn slept and Olivia watched over her. The next morning when Katelyn got up, there was no bump, no redness, no headache. Olivia said, "Katelyn, I have never seen anyone heal as fast as you." Katelyn in her sweet innocence replied, "Mommy, I knew I would get better. I asked God to heal me." OH, FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED. So, if you are having second thoughts about your faith, think of the mustard seed and believe.

Prayers for you always, Terry



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

Short Trip

In Paris, a group of American tourists entered a large cathedral. Seeing a wedding in progress, one of the Americans whispered to a Frenchman nearby, "Who's the groom?"

The native shrugged and said, "Je ne sais pas" (translation: "I don't know").

As the group continued through the cathedral, they came upon a funeral service. The American whispered to another Frenchman, "Who died?"

The man replied, "Je ne sais pas."

"Wow," the American said, "he didn't last long, did he?"

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . ." Mt. 6:33

My Daughter

As a Mother and Daughter

We will always be
But as life goes on
We will often disagree
You will grow in your own way
As I have in mine
And to agree on everything is a
Mother's dream
Especially mine
Always remember I love you
This is so true
But remember I love you because
you are you
The way you fix your hair, wear
your clothes and your shoes
Dear daughter that's all part of
growing
For me as well as you
We will laugh at the good times
And cry at the sad
But dear Daughter, I love you
Is that so bad?
My job as a Mother, is to protect,
feed and care
And be picky of you
Including your hair
So grin and just bare it
Your Mother, I am
Just remember, I love you and I am
what I am
I love you
Mother

*Written for my Daughter, Olivia
By Terry Seagraves*

Church and State cont. from page 3

Some may question how I can reconcile this discourse with previous comments where I've said America's problems do not have a political solution—they have a spiritual solution. You see, even though I believe America has a heart problem with a spiritual remedy, that doesn't mean I believe we should surrender the political arena. Just because I believe we should focus more on personal soul winning, that doesn't mean I think we should not be concerned with being the salt and light we were meant to be.

That brings me to the conclusion the left does not want to acknowledge. The sphere of the Church and State overlap at times. They are complementary institutions along with the family. Yes, the Bible speaks much about how God relates to man, but it also speaks to every issue of life, including government. (Take time to do a personal study

Common Cold cont. from page 4

before eating and after using the bathroom. Proper hand washing can drastically decrease the spread of viruses and bacteria. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following steps for hand-washing:

- Wash your hands with running water and soap.
- Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.
- Pay special attention to your wrists, the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your fingernails.
- Leave the water running while you dry your hands on a paper towel. Use the paper towel as a barrier between the faucet and your clean hands when you turn off the water. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer is an acceptable substitute.

Even after all this, we can still catch a cold. Viruses are invisible to the naked eye and so impossible to avoid 100% of the time. There is no cure for the cold, so the best we can do is ease symptoms and help the body fight it off faster. So if you catch a cold, here are a few things you can do to help, according to WebMD.

1. Plenty of rest and fluids
2. "Good nutrition is essential for resisting and recovering from a cold. Eat a balanced diet. Take supplements as needed to ensure you are receiving the recommended dietary allowances for vitamin A, the vitamin B complex (vitamins B1, B2, B5, B6, folic acid) and vitamin C, as well as the minerals zinc and copper. Both vitamin C and



in the Book of Ecclesiastes.) Where are we going to get our standards? Are they going to be based on man's shifting opinions, or on the eternal authority of God's Word? Of course, we must choose God's Word.

Please, don't be intimidated by the personal attacks the left will heap upon you. Expect it. It is a great time to be a believer. Equip yourself with the knowledge necessary to become effectively engaged in the Culture War on every front possible. The good news is this: All we have to do is be faithful. The results will be left up to Him in His timing.

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

zinc are essential for production of infection-fighting neutrophils; without adequate levels, you're an easy mark for all types of infections. Evidence is not clear on whether zinc lozenges or tablets cut colds short—you can find studies supporting either side of the issue. However, the latest research shows zinc may shorten the duration of a cold and even prevent one, if taken regularly."

3. Tylenol to reduce aches.

I know this doesn't offer much hope. The fact is there are many over-the-counter cold medicines and even more home remedies, but unfortunately there is no real proof that they help you get over a cold any faster. Also many of the OTC medications can increase blood pressure.

I hope this spring is a happy and healthy one for you and your family. God bless you!!!



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

**The Road Not Taken**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I marked the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

"I wonder what would happen if we had a great Bible reading in our churches today. Someone could stand up and read God's Word. You could have people stationed throughout the congregation to explain any questions that might arise from what was read. Perhaps a great Bible reading in our churches would lead to revival."

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Lessons from Little Ones Every Good Gift

by Brenda Howard

As a teacher, there is something so rewarding about working with a student who is struggling to understand a concept, and then all of a sudden seeing his face light up as he finally understands! This is even more rewarding with our own children. Imagine my excitement when my daughter, who at the time was 4 years old, came to me and very excitedly stated, "I can't wait to go to heaven!" Now, I'm not sure what great theological truth I was expecting to come out of my 4-year-old next, but with great anticipation I replied, "I'm so glad! Why can't you wait to go to heaven?"

Her response was not exactly what I was expecting. She replied, "Because, maybe Jesus will have a present for me!" Then as her eyes got bigger and she became more excited she said, "Maybe it will be a BIG POLLY POCKET!!" Now, the background for this was that she had been given several of the little Polly Pocket houses as gifts and she would play with them for hours! A few weeks earlier on one of our shopping trips she had seen a huge Polly Pocket house with several rooms and so many of the tiny little "people" that went along with it. When she saw it, her eyes lit up and she thought that just maybe she would be able to be the proud owner of such a treasure. When we explained to her that it was way too expensive, she accepted our decision with only a little disappointment. Little did we know that she had been dreaming about that toy ever since.

At first I was disappointed with

her response. My husband and I had tried to teach her not to be in love with temporal, material things but to learn to be thankful for the things she had. However, after further contemplation, I decided maybe she *had* learned, on a 4-year-old's level, a great truth about God. James 1:17 states, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning*. Everything good in this world is directly a gift from God. Can I assume then, as my daughter did, that God will give me everything I want?

Psalm 37:4 says, *Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart*. Naturally we want to focus on the second half of this verse! At first glance this verse seems to be saying that if we just love God, He will give us whatever we want. However, when our focus, time and energy is turned to the first half of this verse we discover that as we "delight in the Lord" our desires change! As we spend time with God in His Word, and consequently learn more about Him and His character and what He has done for us, we no longer care so much about temporal, material things. Our desire turns toward honoring and glorifying God, the Giver of all good things!

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



Old Timer's Corner Should I Marry Again? (Part One)

by Jim Wright

before I could read or send any notes to anyone. So, it was not free after all! Does that border on false advertising?

Anyway, I was considering deleting my profile and quitting this nonsense when I came across one that just captured my attention. It was just what I was looking for. The profile name was 'ginchap' and there were only 3 pictures, but I was simply captivated by how she described her experiences, her desires, and her love of Jesus Christ. On a profile, the profile picture is in the upper left corner, and underneath are three boxes labeled, "Yes," "Maybe," and "No." I had not checked any boxes on any profile, but I just had to check "Yes" on ginchap.

The very next day I got a note from the administration of the site, and it held ginchap's picture and

a note that said, "You both checked 'Yes'!" Well, well. How unlikely is that? Lord, are you in this, or what? It was August 24, 2012. The next day was Saturday, and I went to my Lafayette daughter's family reunion. My granddaughter was fascinated with my "wife search" and when I showed her ginchap's profile, she immediately suggested that the "chap" might stand for "Chapman." I added that the "gin" could be for "Gina," and that we could look on WhitePages.com to find her.

We tried, but got no matches. Then I took out the Gina and left the first name field blank and got 10 matches, and one of them was a "Virginia Chapman, Richwood, OH, 77 years old!" That's her! And now I had her address.

I sat right down and wrote her a letter. I began with the disclaimer, "Dear Virginia, if you are not 'ginchap' on the Christian online dating site, then please disregard the rest of this note." I then told about my website with my book on it. I put in my business card and one of my poem tracts. I told her that I hadn't "upgraded" yet so she would know that I hadn't paid the fee and couldn't read any notes. On Monday, the 27th I noticed that I had a note from ginchap on the dating website that I couldn't read. Maybe she didn't understand about the "upgrade" statement. So I wrote



Old Timer's cont. on page 11

God Speaking cont. from page 2

scription of my present circumstances: "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me and Thy right hand shall hold me." Wow! I felt my precious Lord had exactly pinpointed my position and was assuring me He knew where I was (w/o GPS!) and would lead me and, as if He were more dexterous with one hand than the other, would hold me with His RIGHT hand. In my exuberance I fairly beat on Don's shoulder, pointed to the verses and said, "This is US—NOW!" It was a great uplift at our lift-off to the most remote part of the sea we'd ever been and was marvelously sustaining as we spent an event-filled 24 hours. Sleeping on the WWI army cots with chain link springs (only one had a mattress; the other, just chain links) we had an adventure. While we slept in our usual spoon fashion on the one mattress cot, the big rat we heard running the rafters in the pitch-black night came

down and nibbled on the foam rubber just beyond our feet. Startled from sleep at daylight by the braying of a donkey, we saw evidences of our rat's nocturnal nefarious deed. I remember laughing and saying to my husband, "Don, I think I can go anywhere in the world the Lord calls me if He will just let me go there with you." God gave us a good day of ministry in Kew, South Caicos.

(2) In the course of life, when I've been "fussed at" by somebody, the Lord has given me a refuge verse I've tried to imitate. *Who, when He (Jesus) was reviled, reviled not again . . . but committed Himself to Him (the Father) that judgeth righteously.* What a practical help that has been—letting God fight my battles!

(3) Two ongoing words have come from the Lord—one in motherhood and the other in widowhood. Wrestling in earnest prayer for my two sons and

later their wives, my grandchildren and their husbands and wives, as well as great-grandchildren, I was relieved and continually, even now, rejoice in claiming this assuring word which impressed my heart/mind as I read Isaiah 54:13: *And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.*

(4) When my dear and dynamic husband went home to be with the Lord in 2007, any troubling thoughts of how I might manage were displaced by this treasured thought with which the Apostle Paul encouraged the Christians at Philippi who had given their all to the Lord: *But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus* Philippians 4:19. As my needs arise, whether it's relief from a leg cramp in the middle of the

night or a good car for daily travel, He keeps that promise.

Praise the Lord for these outstanding times He has spoken to me. I don't know about you, but I ask Him for decisions great and small--how

to plan my day, how to dress to bring honor to Him, what to eat, where to go, what to do and as I ask, I feel He lets me know. I try to listen and obey.

However, nobody gets it right all the time. We're not to Heaven yet, but He has given me a promise I enjoy and look forward to immensely: *Jesus saith unto her . . . that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God.* How can we help but praise this personal God Who can be known by us poor mortals!

Indeed, praise Him!

—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.



"The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

—Winston Churchill

Media Matters cont. from page 6

insecurities, seeking to define normality for them; influencing the way they view and obtain appropriate models for the adult world; and undermining fundamental human values in the development of the identity of children. Advertisements actively encourage them to seek happiness and esteem through consumption."

Understanding and implementing guidelines about media usage helps center your children as well as yourself. Media is a tool and commodity. Yet, families need to be aware of how it normalizes attitudes and behaviors. Proverbs 24:4 says to have clean hands and a pure heart and to not long for what is false. The American King James version states that we should not lift up our souls to vanity. If the media harkens us to compete with what our "neighbor" has, or what he knows, or where he is set to travel, then we should measure the benefits of whatever "it" is. Will it add good things to the hearts of my children (or even to my own heart)? The old adage still rings true:

garbage in, garbage out. James notes in chapter 1 verse 14 that each of us is pulled by our own desires. Moreover, he goes on to tell us that we have understanding through the word of life, that we may be compelled by the Bible, Jesus' own testimony, and the Holy Spirit to choose what is best to consume. In fine-tuning the messages our homes absorb, let us keep Philippians 4:8 as a gauge of acceptance. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. These media messages are assisting (whether overtly or covertly) in building how our children engage, understand, and relate to their futures.

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.

**Old Timer's** cont. from page 10

another letter explaining and reiterating my email address. On Wednesday the 29th I got an email from Virginia Chapman which began a torrent of email traffic—two, three and four a day. She goes by Ginger. The emailing went on for a week before we decided that it was time to take that dangerous step of meeting. I printed out all our emails from those 8 days, and packed together, head to tail, they filled 19 pages! We decided on Friday, September 7th.

I called Packer field, the small airport near Richwood, Ohio, and talked with Richard Packer and his wife, and got permission to land and leave the plane there for a day or two. Ginger made arrangements to stay at her daughter's place in case I got weathered in. That Wednesday night I had a horrible dream. It was one of those gripping, terrifying dreams that you can't seem to shake for hours after awaking. I dreamed that I landed, stepped out of the plane and was met by an old hag with scraggly hair under a witches hat, warts, missing teeth and everything but a broomstick! And she croaked, "Hi, I'm Ginger Chapman!" It was devastating. I woke up in a cold sweat wondering how I could get out of this whole disaster. I asked the Lord if

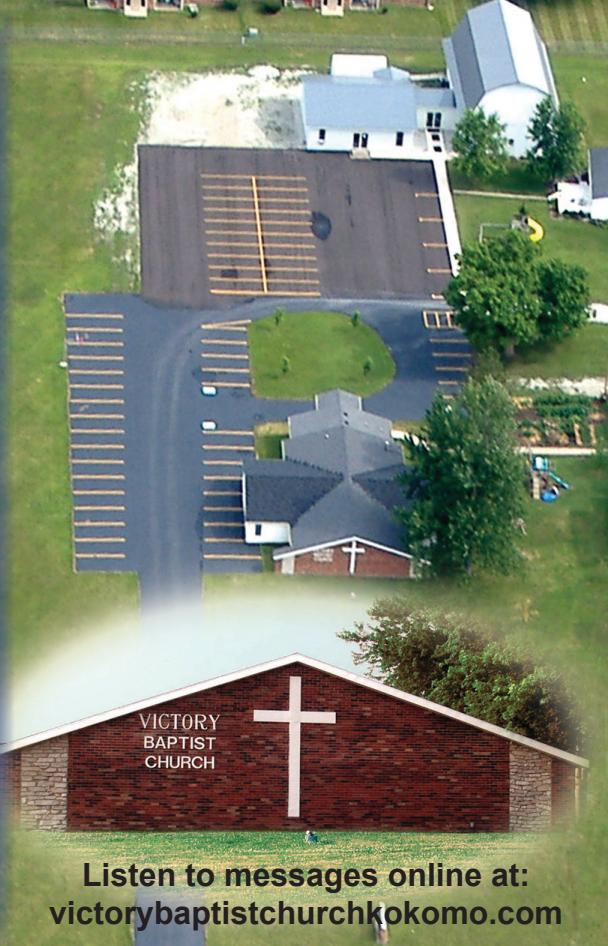
He was trying to tell me something, but I came to the conclusion that He does not talk to people in dreams anymore now that the Bible is complete. So I finally shook the bad feelings and went to my doctor's appointment.

I was done at 2:30 and checked the weather for Friday. It didn't look good. I called Ginger and asked, "What would you think about me coming right now instead of waiting until tomorrow?" She said that was a splendid idea, so I hopped in the Bonanza and 57 minutes later I was stepping off the wing, and Ginger Chapman was there with Richard Packer and his camera. What a moment that was! My mind was flooded with questions. What will she be like? What will I seem like to her? Will I be what she hoped for? Will she be what I am hoping for? Find out in our next issue.

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



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

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an appointment.

MARCH 2013

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
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| 31 | | | | | | |

Sunday Mornings - 10:00 a.m. "Shepherding a Child's Heart" DVD Series

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

Fri. March 29 - Good Friday

Sun. March 31 - Easter Sunday

APRIL 2013

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Sun. - Wed. April 7-10 - Prophecy Conference with Andy Tully

Sat. April 13, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast & DVD Series

MAY 2013

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Sat. May 4, 10:00 a.m. - Mother/Daughter Brunch

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

Fri. May 24, 7:00 p.m. - VCA Graduation & Awards

Mon. May 27 - Memorial 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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