

Faith Family News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family



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The Role of Women

by Mike Ennis

There are many unhappy women in the world today. They are unhappy not because happiness is unattainable, but because they are not seeking happiness and fulfillment God's way. Many are taking the path of the world and throwing away traditional, God-given roles and becoming, so called, "liberated." This is not liberty at all but slavery to sin, which is rebellion. They are willingly ignorant to the fact that to ignore God's plan for their lives is the quickest way to bondage.

Success, contentment, joy, and fulfillment can all be achieved the same way—by finding the will of God and doing it. That is the true measure of success. How can we aspire to be anything else but what God wants us to be? That does not apply just to women, but to all. Every believer ought to want to be what

Success, contentment, joy, and fulfillment can all be achieved the same way—by finding the will of God and doing it.

God wants him to be. Every married man ought to want to be the very best husband, as God defines it, that he can be. Every married woman should want to be the very best wife, as God defines it, that she can be. Every child should want to be the very best child, as God defines it, that he or she can be. All of us should study the Word of God as it touches our lives in order to learn what it takes to be in line with what God wants for our lives. His way is the best for us. Contrary to what some people think, God's will is not something that is designed to make us miserable and unhappy; it is designed to bring blessing when obeyed.

Society, TV, and magazines give, for the most part, a perverted view of the home. They give a perverted view of womanhood and lead women into rebellion, not only against their husbands, but against God himself. It is

time that men, women, and children get back to doing things God's way. We need to raise up a godly standard of right—one that is clear enough that people will notice the difference. How do we do that?

As Christian husbands and wives, we must look to the Word of God to define our roles as husbands and wives. The Bible gives us three words that define the wife's role. The first word that defines the role of the woman in marriage is submission. Ephesians 5:22-24 (KJV) says "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the

husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."

Other scriptures reinforce this teaching. Paul writes, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord" (Colossians 3:18, KJV). Peter also exhorts women, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives" (1 Peter 3:1, KJV).

In all fairness to the wives, we have to understand that submission is not just a problem that the wives have. Submission is a problem (sin) that afflicts the whole human race. Ephesians 5:21 (KJV) instructs believers, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Rebellion is a universal problem; we are not picking on the ladies when we address the subject of submission. We all need to

The Role of Women cont. on page 10

Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

Potato soup is a favorite of my husband. He even likes it the second day. The recipe I have included here is from my daddy and can easily be doubled and tripled to feed a large group. The cake recipe is from John McKee, a boyhood friend of my husband. The cake is super easy to make and tastes delicious.

Baked Potato Soup

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ½ cup butter | ½ cup flour |
| ½ teaspoon salt | ½ teaspoon black pepper |
| 6 cups milk | |
| 2 medium onions, diced | |
| 4 teaspoons olive oil | |
| ½ teaspoon garlic salt | |
| 1 teaspoon seasoned salt | |
| 2 cans Cream of Chicken soup, undiluted | |
| 4 medium potatoes, baked | |
| 8 ounces sour cream | |
| ¾ cup grated cheddar cheese | |
| ⅓ pound bacon, fried and crumbled | |
| ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce | |

Melt the butter in a sauce pan, add the flour, salt and pepper and cook until smooth. Remove from the heat and stir in the milk. Return to heat and bring to a boil. Boil for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

Brown the diced onion in the olive oil and set to one side.

Add the garlic salt, seasoned salt, and cream of chicken soup to the cream base.

Dice the baked potatoes and add with the onions to the base. Heat up and then add the last four ingredients to the hot soup. Keep warm over a low heat. Add more salt if necessary.

Cooking Corner cont. on page 8

In this issue . . .

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>The Role of Women</i> | 1 | <i>Old Timer's Corner</i> | |
| <i>Cookin' Corner</i> | 1 | <i>My First Kiss</i> | 4 |
| <i>From the Editor</i> | 2 | <i>Indiana State Archives</i> | 5 |
| <i>The Book Shelf</i> | 2 | <i>Aging Gracefully</i> | 6 |
| <i>My Traded Life</i> | 3 | <i>Timothy Learns About Trust</i> | 6 |
| <i>Confessions of a Hypocrite</i> | 3 | <i>Maze Craze</i> | 7 |
| <i>Lessons from Little Ones</i> | | <i>Mother's Corner</i> | 8 |
| <i>"I Do It Myself"</i> | 3 | <i>His Holy Word</i> | 9 |
| <i>Why Not the Real Jesus?</i> | 4 | | |

Editorially Speaking

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The late David Beal was the government teacher at Maconaquah High School until his passing. Mr. Beal was a staunch believer in the Declaration of Independence. Students who sat under his tutelage were made aware of the importance of this document, and he virtually compelled them to understand its relevancy to social governance. If these same students would one day take places of responsible leadership, he rightly reasoned, then they should have the best possible understanding of this document.

At one time I was a paraprofessional with special needs students and would often come in contact with teachers as I assisted them with their special needs students. Mr. Beal would often talk with me between classes and during prep hour about the particular lesson for that day. I was impressed with his investigative nature as he studied every phrase and nuance of this exceptional document. One particular day he asked me about the phrase among these in the above cited text. If Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness were among these certain unalienable Rights, could I name any other rights given to us by our Creator. Doesn't the wording suggest there are others? As I sat there looking at him like a calf looking at a new gate, my mind flashed through all the awkward moments of my own high school days. I heard the echo of Mr. Moon, my own government teacher

in the early 1960s, "Ahem, Morris, share with the class your own view of what other unalienable rights we might have besides those enumerated by the Declaration of Independence; please tell us, Mr. Starkey." In a somewhat shaky, high-school voice that hearkened back to my high school days, I responded to Mr. Beal that I thought Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness pretty well covered everything. Fortunately, the bell couldn't have rung at a better time. I've thought about that conversation since and still haven't come up with a better response.

Most of us don't know nearly enough about the profound documents that impact the lives of mankind. I do know that such documents are under fire like at no other time in history. The Declaration of Independence is considered irrelevant by some people. This document, shaped in great times of social turmoil, established a philosophy of governance unequalled in history past and since. Yet, mankind wants to live by its own prerogatives. Even the Holy Bible, a divine book that has changed, and still can change, the very lives of those who follow its precepts and that was written under God's direction, is scorned and ridiculed as no longer relevant. Two significant writings, one political and one spiritual, that can make a difference in the behavior of man, one by law and the other by grace.



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

THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



*There is a saying that a wise man learns from his mistakes. This is true.
But the wiser man learns from the mistakes of others.*

—Roland C. Warren

The Feminist Movement of the 60's and 70's changed not only the lives and roles of American women, but also the lives and roles of American men. Whereas men and fathers were once afforded a certain amount of honor and respect, today's male often finds himself portrayed on television and in society as a bumbling fool or an inferior counterpart to the women in his world. Some feminists have gone so far as to deem men as completely unnecessary (outside of procreation). It is no wonder that many of our culture's men seem confused as to their identity, their purpose in life, and the importance of their existence.

In his book *Bad Dads of the Bible* published by Zondervan, Roland C. Warren states, "Over the years, God has shown me that the attack on the institution of fatherhood and the strategy to make fathers unloving and ineffective is a primary goal of Satan himself. Why? Because if fathers are distant, distracted, disconnected, or even abusive, children will believe all fathers are this way, even a heavenly Father who claims to love them unconditionally" (p.16).

Warren goes on to cite statistics from a *Touchstone* magazine article by Robbie Low called "The Truth about Church and Men" to illustrate the connection between fatherhood and saving grace. He sums up the data, "In short, if the father does not regularly attend church, only 1 child in 50 becomes a regular attender, even if the mother attends regularly. Moreover, if the father attends church regularly, regardless of what the mother does, between two-thirds and three-quarters of the children become churchgoers (regular or irregular)" (p. 20). In light of this data, his conclusion was that, contrary to what the culture is saying, fathers are extremely instrumental in the spiritual development of their children. But in spite of these findings, a comprehensive survey done by The National Fatherhood Initiative, of which Warren has been president, found "Nearly half of the fathers said they were not prepared. More troubling, when we asked these dads if they felt they were replaceable by the mother of their children or another man, over half said they were" (p.22).

Warren has had many conversa-

tions with pastors, men's ministry leaders, and Christian dads, and he found ". . . a shared perspective and misconception that if we can just help men be better Christians, they will automatically be better dads. In other words, good Christian men equals good Christian fathers" (p. 23). However, as he examined the lives of fathers in the Bible, Warren found "a disturbing pattern. . . . Even men who had deep and abiding hearts for God, had made some serious mistakes as fathers that impacted generations" (p. 23). This is the premise for his book *Bad Dads of the Bible*—not to browbeat fathers, but to help them learn from the mistakes of others.

Warren devotes a chapter to each of eight Old Testament fathers and the Bad Dad Mistake that they made. For example, the first chapter is about David and is titled "He Was Paralyzed By His Past Failures." The author ends each chapter with three short sections—"Reflection: Think of These Things", "Correction: Change These Things", and "Connection: Do This Thing." The last page is reserved for the Good Dad Promise, dealing with the subject of the chapter, that the reader makes to God, himself, his wife, and his children. Switching to the positive perspective, Warren's last chapter is "6 Things a Dad Must Do to Be a Good Father."

I found *Bad Dads of the Bible* very readable and helpful in interpreting the lives of these eight Old Testament figures. The only weakness of the book that bothered me somewhat was that the men's actions and "mistakes" were often measured against our culture and modern society. Although they clearly made fathering mistakes, it may have been more biblically honest to discuss their errors in the light of their own culture and times as well. Nevertheless, I think this book would make a good resource for a Bible study group or an excellent read for any dad who wants to learn from the mistakes of others.

Another book meant to encourage dads is Dr. Meg Meeker's *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters: 10 Secrets Every Father Should Know*, published by Ballantine Books. Drawing upon over twenty years of experience as a

The Book Shelf cont. on page 8

COMING SOON!!

FAITH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

OUTDOOR CLUB

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
FAITH & FAMILY NEWS.

My Traded Life

by Emily Pier

By giving to You what You do not need, and what I might enjoy, I am saying more earnestly and more authentically, "You are my treasure, not these things."

—John Piper

God may ask of you far more than you planned to give, but He can give to you infinitely more than you dared ask or think.

—Timothy Keller

These are two quotes I read a couple of months ago, and they just won't let me go. I still have to remind myself at times that God needs nothing from me. He maintains His supremacy, His nature, His sovereignty, His worth all with or without my praise, my sacrifice, my service. However, in my laying down of my life, I say that He is more precious than all other desires.

Tonight I gave up something I ~~might have~~ would have TOTALLY enjoyed—a few moments of sane, silence without the littles. God doesn't need anything I have, and certainly not my moments of mindless Sudoku or knitting. Because I am human, I do need rest and moments away. However, tonight I gave it up.

Here, God, it's all I've got—I lay it at your feet. I will dispel fights, play with Polly Pockets, sing again the silly song, laugh at the joke I've heard literally a hundred times, and enforce the bedtime routine. I won't run away. I will stay and follow through on the loving discipline. I will pray prayers aloud of thanksgiving for the girls and this day. I will confess my weakness to 7-year-olds and ask for forgiveness. I will help build their tomorrows by investing in their today.

God, these girls are treasures. Your love, Your compelling love is my strength and Your grace my sustaining power. All my strength lies in You as I deny myself all sorts of things I want and choose the higher calling You've invited me into. As I work to kill my self-absorption and self-centeredness, I thank You for Your mercy—this mercy which sustains me and helps me see the return on my investment, at least at times. A look of complete love, a huge hug, a reconciled moment, a hearty laugh—it's like Your "yes" to me. It's the joy of choosing best over good. It's investing in the profitable and not just the permissible. It's believing that eternity weighs in this moment. It's embracing that what I say and how I say it influences who these kids are becoming. We are

growing people here. That responsibility, that calling, that gift—I do not take lightly.

I didn't know what God would ask of me. Years ago, if you would have told me I would be in this place, doing what I am doing, I would have been surprised. Because I had envisioned a table surrounded by my own biological children, a counter full of broccoli seed sprouts, and walking barefoot to my garden (in the middle of a beautiful, bug-less summer, nonetheless). I thought I might be growing as a seamstress and a top-notch coupon clipper. I imagined children finger-knitting while I knitted and looking at books while I read. (Sigh—oh, the idealism.)

Instead, I love children *like* they were my own and do not even think about sprouting seeds—broccoli or otherwise. I have "adopted" families and children who love me, and I them. Everybody helping each other, but sometimes "helping" means getting on my nerves so that I see just how desperate for grace I really am. (Without a doubt, it also means my getting on others' nerves too, because Jesus loves humility, and (shocker) it's a full-time job reminding me of that. *Sorry, Lord!*)

So, I lay down moments of reading, writing, or, for heaven's sake, sometimes **just sitting**; and I pick up moments of patient parenting. Swallowing my pride, I pick up moments of repentance. I find God's grace sustaining, His work in progress, His strength my own. The whole time I am saying, "God, I want You to be my treasure."

And His reply? "I am worth it—the wait, the search, the sacrifice. I am Your great reward and you will find that I am all you ever wanted."

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.



Confessions of a Hypocrite

by Matthew Turner

One of the most common reasons people give for not going to church is, "I don't want to be around a bunch of hypocrites." Well, I have news for you: we are all hypocrites to one degree or another. That's one of the main reasons I try not to come across as someone who has it all together. I know I am a mess. Just because I try to be a faithful minister for God at Victory Christian Academy, I do not entertain any notion that I have arrived.

This article is simply one beggar telling another beggar where he can find satisfying food. I know I am a sinner, unworthy to be in God's presence. Fortunately, other beggars found me and told me the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then I accepted the free pardon of sin offered to all by God because Jesus went to the cross to shed His precious blood to pay MY sin debt. Friend, He has already paid your debt as well.

You see, I was raised in an atmosphere where sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll were glorified, and I thrived in that environment throughout my youth into my college years. My life was all about getting the next buzz and living for pleasure.

The fact is I am guilty on every account. I have broken all of the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments deal with our relationship

to God, while the final six deal with our relationship to others.

Suffice it to say, I do not always put God first in my life. I have placed, and at times continue to place, many things before God. We all struggle with making money an idol. Although I honestly have no desire to be rich, I certainly am not eager to live a life of poverty. Sure, I have not worshipped any statues or been involved with voodoo or such things, but I have certainly put pleasure and material possessions before my relationship with God.

Certainly, I have not honored the Sabbath as I should either. I used to look forward to the weekend because it was a time dedicated to partying. Now, I look forward to Sunday when our local fellowship gathers to pray, worship and serve God by serving others.

The fourth commandment concerning taking the Lord's name in vain is one which I have broken countless times. I tell my son that cussing was one of the hardest habits to break. Even today, although I may not actually cuss someone or say something verbally, I certainly do it often in my heart.

That takes care of the first four commandments. Now, let's move to the final six.

The commandment which in-

Confessions cont. on page 5

Lessons From Little Ones



"I Do It Myself"

by Brenda Howard



All children go through a phase characterized by the words, "I do it myself!" This is a very necessary part in the child's development; however, in a three-year-old, this independent spirit can produce some comical outcomes.

While visiting some family friends one little girl decided to practice this independence. She needed to use the bathroom so she asked her mother to show her where it was. Once they arrived at the bathroom the little girl said, "I do it myself, Mommy." So her mother went back to the living room to continue her visit. The little girl proceeded to turn on the light, which wasn't a light at all but a very noisy fan. Because she had never encountered a bathroom

fan before, she was terrified and ran back to her mother, crying and asking for help. The mother saw the problem right away, explained that it was just a fan in the ceiling, turned the fan off and turned the light on. Relieved, the little girl then said again, "I do it myself now." So the mother again left her alone to take care of her needs, but then the little girl quickly realized that the toilet was much higher than the one at her house and that without a step stool she could not manage by herself. Once again she ran back to her mother, crying and asking for help!

I am reminded of the verse where Jesus says, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Yet how often am I guilty of telling the Lord, "I can

I Do It Myself cont. on page 4

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Why Not the Real Jesus?

by Jamie Purcifull

I find it quite curious that our modern secular culture is seemingly going out of its way to marginalize or radicalize Christianity. To talk about the person of Jesus Christ in the public arena without some kind of ridicule or censorship is becoming increasingly more difficult. We seem to want to embrace and have available to us many of the good social attributes that Christ taught us, such as truth, love, forgiveness, compassion, tolerance, self-sacrifice, care of the needy, sick and disadvantaged, but dismiss or trip over the super-natural Christ. We are all right with Christ the man, but not all right with Christ the God. We are content to treat Jesus as just another great teacher and wise man that walked the earth. If he was just a man like us, then we can treat him as a dalliance; we can take him or leave him; we don't have to be that serious about him. However, if Jesus Christ was really also God, then that's a game changer. Suddenly Christ and His teachings take on a whole new meaning and weight that can't be ignored. We now have to make a decision either for or against the credibility of what he said about Himself and about us.

So why do we have such a problem with Christ being God? It can't just be that we don't believe in the supernatural. One look at our popular culture speaks volumes otherwise. We have no problem believing that the Long Island medium talked to

Aunt Millie's ghost, but we balk when asked if we believe Jesus Christ was resurrected. So why do we have this weird dichotomy for belief in the supernatural that stops when it comes to Jesus Christ possibly being God?

First and most obvious, whether we want to admit it or not, it removes us from being God (yeah, it's a pride thing), and second, it invalidates everything else from being God. All other religions and secular beliefs turn to dust next to Christ being God. This, of course, makes us uncomfortable because it turns our world upside down and puts this life with all its pursuits and all its trappings in a whole different perspective. It leaves us with no excuses, nothing left to sell our souls for, and nowhere else to stand but on Christ Himself. No matter how I may want to believe differently, this is what Jesus was and is saying about Himself. He minced no words and held back no secrets. "I am the way, the truth and the life; I am Alpha and Omega." He repeated these thoughts in one form or another over and over again. Ever hear about being born again, or the first being last and the last first, or storing your treasures where moth and rust can't corrupt? He spoke these things not just as mere ponderings but as someone speaking with authority and in the know as (gasp) only God could do. Any casual reading of Christ's words and deeds reveal He is both natural and super-natural and possessed insights

Why Not? cont. on page 5

*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

Old Timer's Corner

My First Kiss

by Jim Wright

I was trying to recover from the loss of the only girl I had ever gone with. The Lord had told her that we had to stop going together. I was now right with the Lord again and growing spiritually by the daily hour of studying His Word. When I was closest to Him, and enjoying His fellowship, I repeatedly had the thought that Lolly and I should start going together again. I thought at first it was Satan trying to get me to ignore the Lord's leading. But finally I came to grips with the thought that it might really be the Lord turning things around. But, I argued, Lolly should be coming to me with that news. After all, she was the one that He instructed to cut us off. He was going about it the wrong way. If I were to tell her, she would tell me to take a hike, or something.

Finally one evening while I was walking back from town, the stars were brilliant and His majesty was overwhelming me, and I had the distinct thought that He was telling me to go back to Lolly and start it up again. I said out loud (I was by myself), "Lord that's crazy. But if this is really You talking to me, I'm going to put You to the test. I'm going to go to Lolly's practice room tomorrow

morning at ten and tell her that You have told me the we should start going together again. You'll have to get to her before I do so she won't throw me out! And if she does, I'll know it was not You, and I'll never see her again."

Next morning at ten I saw her through the window, knocked on the practice room door, and went in when she opened it.

I said, "Lolly, I'm not going to beat around the bush. The Lord has been telling me that we should start going together again." I almost cringed, expecting in my unbelief, that she was about to say, "Well, He hasn't told me, so there's the door."

I could hardly believe it when instead she said, "Oh, really? I'm so glad!" Let me tell you that next hug was one of the best ever! My happiness was back with a vengeance!

Two things became clear to me. The Lord is not bound by our puny logic. In a serious relationship which ends (and starts) in marriage, the husband must be the head of the wife. In our initial relationship, Lolly was the leader and I was the follower. Now I was the leader and Lolly was the follower. I hadn't been the one listening to Him, she was. So he told her to cut

First Kiss cont. on page 9

I Do It Myself cont. from page 3

do this myself?" No, I don't verbalize it with those simple words, but through my worry, anxiety, lack of prayer, anxious planning, sleepless nights, etc., that's exactly what I'm saying. And just like the little girl, I end up running to the Lord, crying, asking for His help because it is too difficult or scary for me to handle alone. Just think of the peace I forfeited by trying to do it myself first.

While experiencing a trial, Paul wrote, "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, NASB). Paul David Tripp wrote,

"You and I weren't created for independent living. We were created to be dependent on God. Add to this the fact that sin leaves us broken and weak. We all need strength beyond our own and power that we'll never independently possess. So God, in grace, grants us power in the person of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside each of his children. We simply are no longer left to the resources of our own strength" (*New Morning Mercies, February 10*).

How comforting are the words, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NASB). "In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8, NASB).

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



The Indiana State Archives

A Treasure Trove of Records for the Genealogist

by Jill Garrison

In my previous *Faith & Family News* article, I discussed two online resources that make researching Hoosier ancestors easier—the Online Indiana Death Records & Indexes and the Indiana State Library’s website. Another useful online resource is the website for the Indiana State Archives (www.archives.icpr.in.gov). When first looking at it, this website may not seem very promising, but it can help you get your hands on a wealth of information. The Indiana State Archives is the permanent repository for important state government records. It contains records from the territorial period to the present. Its major collections are government, military, land, and census records. It also holds collections from over 400 state agencies as well as the 92 counties. Its collections contain over 100,000 aerial photographs as well as many other photographs.

To get a good idea of the collections that are available at the State Archives, click on the “Collections” link. Browse the “Overview of the Collections,” “Alphabetical Subject Index,” and “Online Collection Indexes.” The links that you find listed on these pages will not take you to images of records like Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org, but they are helpful nonetheless. Most of the links take you to a brief history of the subject that you have selected interspersed with relevant images. Related links may be listed on the page as well. Some of the links in the “Alphabetical Subject Index” and “Online Collection Indexes” will take you to either a “flat table” or a “searchable” index that you can browse to see if the State Archives has information that will help you with your research. A flat table is an index in the form of a table (with rows and columns, not legs), and a searchable index is in the form of a database, where fields can be filled in and altered in order to provide a listing of results. Searchable indexes are available for naturalization records, Governor Oliver P. Morton’s Telegraph Books, State Supreme Court cases, Posey County Circuit Court records, military records, and Hoosier Homestead Awards. The Registry of Negroes and Mulattos (1853–54) for Clark, Franklin, Orange, Switzerland, and Vigo counties is also searchable. On the “Online Indexes” page, the index for the Indiana Soldiers’ and

Sailors’ Children’s Home is listed as searchable, but when I tried the link it wasn’t functional.

While I have not used all of these databases for my own research, I have used the Indiana Digital Archives (<http://www.in.gov/digitalarchives>). The Indiana Digital Archives can search multiple collections at one time. Currently, there are 1,223,167 searchable records in the Indiana Digital Archives. There are three different types of searches you can do—a people search, a keyword search, and a detailed search. The detailed search is a combination of the keyword search and the people search with three additional fields. Two of the fields are for selecting a time period to search, and the other field gives you the option to narrow the search down to a single county. The detailed search is good if you are looking for something very specific. If you have done one of the other two searches and received a long results list, you can also use the detailed search to narrow your search and thus pare down your results list. The keyword search is good for looking up places, organizations, businesses, etc., but the people search is probably the one that is most commonly used by genealogists. All three searches have a drop-down menu allowing you to choose which type of record you would like to search. Your options are photographic, institution, military, naturalization, court, and additional historic records. The keyword search and the people search allow you to search all categories of records simultaneously, but the detailed search does not. You can search only one record type at a time with the detailed search. I prefer to cast my net wide, so when I am doing a people search, I usually enter the last name and search all records. Then I sift through the results list looking for possible ancestors. If you are searching for a Smith, Jones, or some other very common last name, you will want to be more specific and the detailed search may be your best option.

Just like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, new records are continually being added to the Indiana Digital Archives. Just because you cannot find a certain record in this database, does not mean that the record doesn’t exist. That’s why it is a good

Indiana Archives *cont. on page 9*

Why Not? *cont. from page 4*

in scope that can only be explained by His being both inside and outside of this life. Even Jesus’ contemporaries understood and admitted they wanted to kill Him, not for anything He had done, but for Who He was claiming to be. It is incredibly ironic and the great tragedy of our age, that in spite of all the (historical) evidence and information available to us, we still suffer from the same identity crisis about Jesus that they did. We still try to explain it away, grasping and believing anything and

everything, except for accepting Jesus Christ for who He really is.

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Matthew 16:25-26, NKJV).

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



Every weakness in your life is an opportunity for God to show His strength in your life.

Confessions *cont. from page 3*

structs us to honor our parents is one I really struggle with to this day. Don’t get me wrong—I love my parents. But I know I have not honored, and still do not honor, them as I should.

Yes, I am even guilty of murder. Jesus has taught us that if we hate, it is the same as killing that one to whom the hate is directed.

I could be like a Pharisee and claim I have never committed adultery. However, Jesus was clear in the Sermon on the Mount that lusting for women is equal to adultery. The truth is I still struggle greatly with this even today.

As far as being a thief—guilty as charged. Again, it’s only by God’s grace I do not have a criminal record. Sure, I haven’t robbed a bank or broken into someone’s house, but in the past I stole small items from stores. I owe a local store hundreds of dollars for the brownies I stole when I was in middle school and high as a kite. (Yes, I started drinking and doing drugs at the age of 13.)

That brings us to number nine—bearing false witness, or lying. By the way, this is what a hypocrite is guilty of. This commandment is talking about being transparently honest about yourself and others. Although I will refrain from printing a specific instance of my bearing false witness, I’m sure you believe me when I confess I have borne false witness.

The final commandment is the one

we minimize the most; however, it is one of our greatest stumbling blocks. The sin of coveting, desiring what another has, may lead to us breaking all the other commandments. This is what our country is drunk on, and I struggle just as much as anyone else.

Praise God for His unlimited grace and mercy. You must understand these commandments were given so we can see that we are sinners. They were not given as a road map to heaven. You and I would be eternally lost if that were the case. These commandments were given so we can recognize the fact that we all need a Savior!

Nearly 2,000 years ago God did what He promised Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. Jesus came to do what we could not do for ourselves. Yes, Satan bruised His heel on Mt. Calvary; however, Jesus gave Satan his mortal wound when He rose from the grave three days later.

Please come visit us at Victory Baptist Church, get saved, and then grow in grace with me and all the other hypocrites here. We would love to play the role of one beggar showing another beggar where he can find bread.

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



Aging Gracefully

Making Melody in Your Heart—Part 2

by Morris Starkey

[Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of articles on music in the church and its relevancy to the senior citizen believer. Younger believers might also benefit from this information.]

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

Music as a Tool for Learning

In my first article I wrote of the historicity of music in the church. Music has always been a significant element in the historic Judeo-Christian assemblies. In this article I want to consider music as an invaluable tool to teach biblical truth and musical structure.

When the Apostle wrote “Speaking to yourselves,” it was not a flip-pant comment regarding the use of music in the church. Paul expected the congregants to get some benefit from the words they sang within each other’s hearing. We can extrapolate from this that they should be words of worship, praise, teaching, testimony, encouragement, exhortation and love, and probably more. Any music program that focuses on only one or two of those purposes would be woefully inadequate to meet the needs of the worshippers. I once overheard a person (nearly) berating a fellow believer who attended a church where they (in the accuser’s words) “sang to man” while in his church they “sang



praises to God.” Always be mindful that even though a singer’s lips offer words of praise to God, the intention may also be the edification of other believers. These words in Ephesians 5:19 would seem to include singing as a testimony to others as an acceptable reason for singing.

Some of the best-loved music of the church is music that rehearses the great events (and even small events) of God’s interaction with man throughout history. I remember as a child sitting next to my mom and singing the old hymn “Beulah Land”. I didn’t know who “Beulah” was, but I knew the members of that little congregation of Baptists sure looked forward to going to her land! It wasn’t until I read the accounts of the children of Israel in the Old Testament that I realized that it wasn’t like going to Grandma’s house for Thanksgiving. There was a “better land” and we could go there! The name is used in the Old Testament to refer to the land of Israel (Isaiah 62:4). Today it is synonymous with the heavenly city of God.

In singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs we are brought into the company of (among others) the patriarchs, kings (both good and bad), holy people of God, the Babe in the manger and the Savior on the cross. The Jewish assembly sang of the faithfulness of God to His people and the hopes and aspirations of the

Making Melody *cont.on page 9*

Timothy Learns about Trust

by Terry Seagraves

How much trust do you have? Do you worry all the time about things you have no control over, or do you sit and think of things to worry about? Matthew 6:31–32 says, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” (KJV).

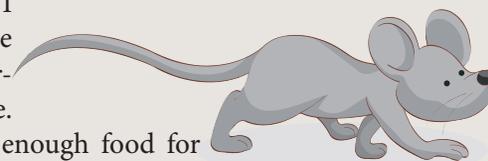
I was really confused about this verse so I went to the one mouse I knew would have the answers—my dad. You see I am one of those mice that worries all the time. Will there be enough food for all my family and friends? Will I be pleasing to everyone? How will I know if I am doing what God wants me to do? I would lay awake worrying at night and then worry all the next day.

I am so blessed to have a dad whom I can go to and who will take the time to help me with my problems. So one evening after all my brothers and sisters were tucked into bed, I asked my dad if we could talk. He put down his papers and gave me his full attention. “What is bothering you?” he asked. I explained that I was having problems with worrying and I know I shouldn’t.

This is what he told me: “If you put your trust in God, you are putting your faith in Him. That means that you believe and trust that He will provide all your needs. Now remember, I said all your needs, not your wants.” This confused me, so I asked him what was the difference. “The difference is sometimes the things we want aren’t really the important things in

our lives and not what we need.” I may want a new toy, but I need food and a warm bed.

My dad told me the best thing to do when I get ready to pray is to think about what is really important in my life and what I really need from God. I know God listens to prayers and He knows what is in our hearts, so when I pray I want Him to know that I am fully trusting in Him for my needs and not the things that I want, like a new toy or my own room. (Trust me, with so many brothers and sisters that is not going to happen.)



I also realize that even though God hears all our prayers, there are times when we ask for something and we don’t get it.

For example, if a family member is sick and we ask God to heal him or her and He doesn’t, there is a reason and He knows best. Dad said that in all things there is a lesson to learn and sometimes we need to be patient, watch and listen for the answers that are given to us.

Psalms 125:1 says “They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.” This is a very important lesson for humans, because without God in their lives, they have no hope for Eternity and without hope there is no peace. It seems to me that all these things lead up to one thing: faith, hope, peace, trust, and love= God and Eternal Life.

Dad says that worry about the past cannot change what has happened, worry about the present cannot make things any better, and worry about tomorrow won’t change the future. God has everything under control and He knows what is going to happen and

Timothy *cont.on page 11*

WARRIOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith,
— 1 PETER 5:8–9 NIV

**You can trust God with
your life, after all,
He gave it to you.**

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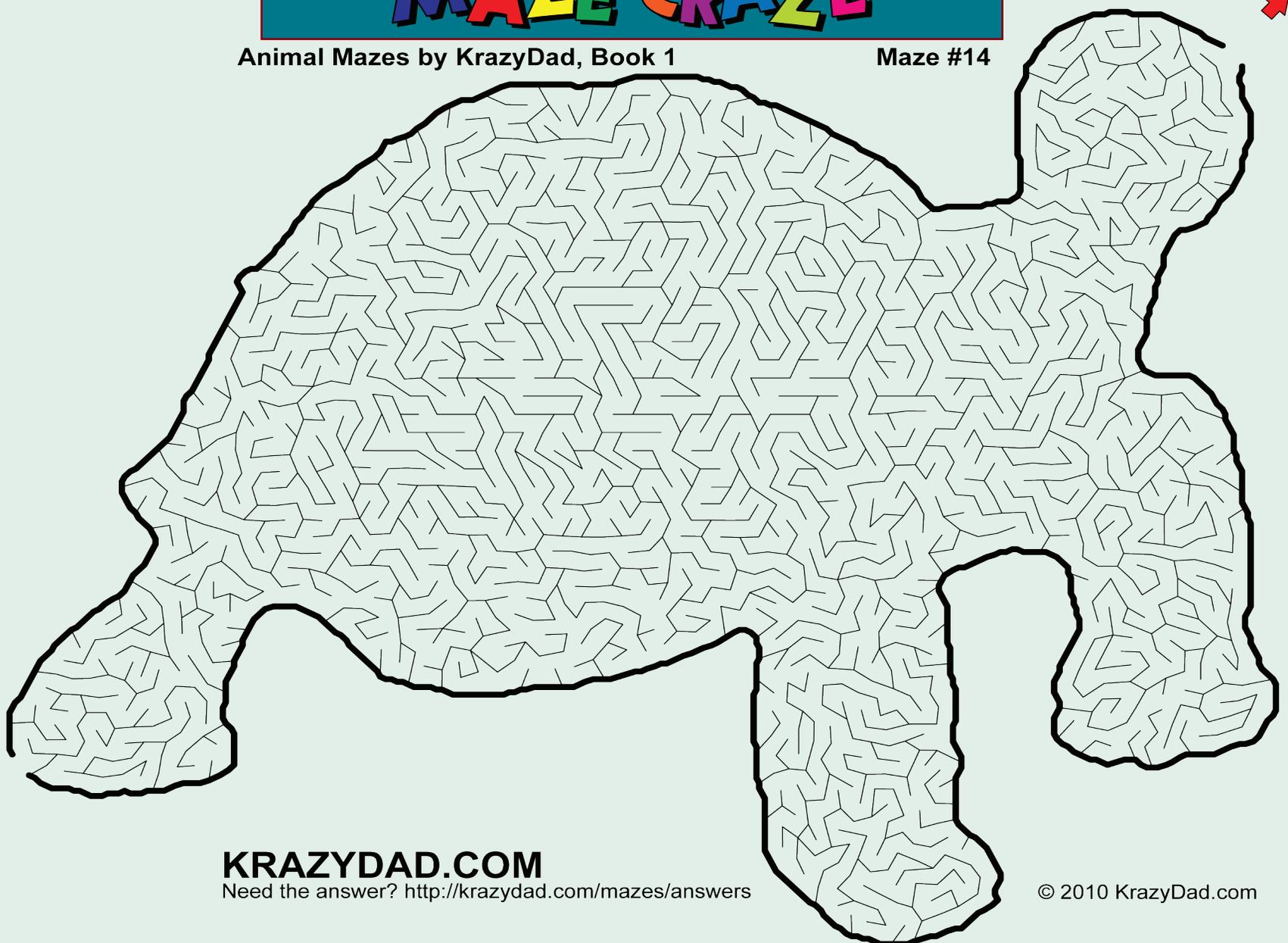
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MAZE CRAZE

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Maze #14



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Mother's Corner

by Ashlee Shoaff

There, fixed in the beauty of our existence, is the dualism of good and evil. How do we help our children grapple with this framework of life? In many translations of Matthew 10:16, we are exhorted to be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. The Message translates it as such: "Stay alert. This is hazardous work I'm assigning you. You're going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack, so don't call attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove." For this article, we

will dissect the cautions and imagery of this scripture.

What are the things that should cause us to be alert or forewarned? In conversing with our children, we can consider the good and bad aspects of the following: spiritual perspectives, worldviews, positions of and to authority, family relations, parent to children connections, sibling relational development, intrapersonal development, sexual relations, personal responsibility, and the list can go on. Conversation

regarding the dual nature of these subjects helps lead our children to a biblical worldview. Proverbs 1:7 (AMP) says, "The reverent *and* worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning *and* the principal *and* choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful *and* godly Wisdom, instruction, *and* discipline." Children will internally form their own understanding, asking questions whether or not they vocalize them. Use external circumstances, movies, class work, etc.

to show how God views each subject. This makes your children alert!

God tells us the topics and circumstances of life are difficult; they're like a pack of wolves. Following is some guidance on topics to discuss at developmentally appropriate stages of life. (NOTE: these are generalizations and age does not always indicate ability to internally relate to social cues. Please use personal judgment and relevance for each child and family dynamic.)

| Approximate Age | Virtues | Psychosocial crisis | Significant relationship | Intrapersonal question | Examples |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 0-2 years | Hope | Basic Trust vs. Mistrust | Mother | Can I Trust the World? | Feeding, Abandonment |
| 2-4 years | Will | Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt | Parents | Is It Okay To Be Me? | Toilet Training, Clothing Themselves |
| 4-5 years | Purpose | Initiative vs. Guilt | Family | Is It Okay For Me To Do, Move and Act? | Exploring, Using Tools or Making Art |
| 5-12 years | Competence | Industry vs. Inferiority | Neighbors, School | Can I Make It In The World Of People And Things? | School, Sports |
| 13-19 years | Fidelity | Identity vs. Role Confusion | Peers, Role Model | Who Am I? What Can I Be? | Social Relationships |
| 20-39 years | Love | Intimacy vs. Isolation | Friends, Partners | Can I Love? | Romantic Relationships |
| 40-64 years | Care | Generativity vs. Stagnation | Household, Workmates | Can I Make My Life Count? | Work, Parenthood |
| 65-death | Wisdom | Ego Integrity vs. Despair | Mankind, My Kind | Is It Okay To Have Been Me? | Reflection on Life |

(Erikson's Lifespan Development)

Mother's Corner cont.on page 11

The Book Shelf cont. from page 2

pediatrician and counseling girls, Dr. Meeker uses statistics and professional anecdotes to persuade fathers that they are vital to the health and well-being of their girls. The title of chapter one says it all—"You Are the Most Important Man in Her Life."

Dr. Meeker exhorts (putting it mildly) men to stay connected with their daughters' lives. She discusses the things fathers need to be for their daughters, like their heroes and protectors. She also covers some things fathers need to teach their daughters, like humility, who God is, and how to fight. She encourages fathers to model the kind of character they would like to see in their future sons-in-law in her chapter "Be the Man You Want Her to Marry."

Whereas *Bad Dads* was written by a man, the reader can definitely tell that *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters* was written by a woman. Dr. Meeker is a gifted communicator, but she is a

talker, and her gift of words is apparent in her writing style. Some men might find all the words a little too much and might think, "Just get to the point and go on." That being said, I think men could benefit greatly from Dr. Meeker's "having seen and heard it all" from her young patients and the women she has interviewed and counseled. She knows from experience how important and fragile the father-daughter relationship is—not just for childhood, but for a girl's whole life. She puts it this way: "At the beginning of her life, she will feel your love. At the end of her life, you will be on her mind. And what happens in between is up to you. Love her extraordinarily" (p. 76).



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

Cookin' Corner cont. from page 1

Earthquake Cake

1 cup coconut
1 cup chopped nuts
1 box chocolate cake mix (Swiss, German Chocolate, or Double Dutch)
8 ounces cream cheese
1 box powdered sugar
1 stick melted butter

Mix nuts and coconut together and press into a greased 9 x 13 pan. Take chocolate cake mix and prepare as directed. Pour into the cake pan on top of the coconut and nuts.

Mix together cream cheese, powdered sugar, and melted butter. Take a teaspoon and drop spoonfuls of the mixture on top of the cake batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour.

I hope you enjoy trying both of these recipes. Have a blessed day. "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation" (Psalm 95:1, KJV).

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



His Holy Word

by Leann Wilson, Guest Contributor

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children (Hosea 4:6).

The Bible with 66 books and 1,189 chapters was written over an approximate 1500 year period between approximately 1660 BC, when Job was thought to be written, through 95AD with the completion of the book of Revelation. It was penned by 40 different authors on three different continents—Africa, Asia and Europe—utilizing three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The script shows divine unity and has been repeatedly verified by ancient manuscripts, archeological findings and historical documents. It contains approximately 2000 fulfilled-to-the-letter prophecies of which over 300 are prophecies concerning the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus. The Word has withstood the test of time despite aggressive efforts over the centuries to rid the earth of its pages, including vicious attempts by the Roman emperor Diocletian who in AD 303 demanded the destruction of all sacred texts, churches, and Christians, who were tortured and martyred for the faith. Sadly, according to Christianity To-

day, only 19% of churchgoers read the Bible daily, 14% read the Bible once a week, and 22% read the Word only once or a few times a month.

God's word is the sufficient guide to life and contains "the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The apostle Peter refers to the "enduring word of God" while quoting a portion of Isaiah 40:6-8 when he writes, "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever" (1 Peter 1:24-25). But the Word is beyond enduring,

God's Word is truth. "The entirety of Your word is truth" declares Psalms 119:160. In John 18:38 Pilate asked Jesus, I believe, a rhetorical question, "What is truth?" This same question is being asked today. The bulk of society is suspicious of the Word, desiring pluralism with relative truth, whether it is in fear of being called a hater, fear of ostracism, or an attempt to make God fit one's lifestyle rather than conform one's lifestyle around God's ordinances. If we are honest, most Christians today seem to be increasingly accepting of the pluralistic ideas which are creeping into the church and into the Christian home. The result is that it is getting increasingly harder to recog-

His Holy Word *cont. on page 10*

Making Melody *cont. from page 6*

believing Jew. It is in singing of these great biblical truths that we learn of treachery and deceit and how to avoid it, of love and sacrifice and how to embrace it. We can sing of that to all around us!

Church music can be, and should be, a learning tool for appreciating how music is structured. In the basement of the little public school in my hometown was the "music room" where my fellow grade school classmates and I first became aware of the language of music. We learned meter and measure, tempo and time, staff and stanza and how many "beats-to-the-bar." We memorized Every-Good-Boy-Does-Fine, and All-Cows-Eat-Grass. It was a dizzying and awkward time for those of us who felt out of place and would rather have escaped to the creek bank and caught sunfish.

In my early twenties I accepted Christ as my Savior, and when the song leader told us to open the hymnal to sing, there again was all that language of music. Now, however, the words between the lines were words of life and truth. They were not the words of man's imagination but words that stirred my soul and gave me a hunger for what those words meant. I could half-way follow the melody, even on unfamiliar songs, by watching note placement on the staff. When was the last time you sang from a hymnal? When was the last time music direc-

tors have seen or used a hymnal? My purpose in asking is not to chastise but to remind us all that to exclude music because it was the "stuff my grandparents sang" is to miss out on some of the richest truths and music that God moved man to write.

The music that the soul of the true believer yearns for is **not** that which appeals to the physical being, but to the spiritual being. The truly hungry Christian craves spiritual nourishment, and that being the case, the music we sing should be theologically and biblically rich. Don't tune me out here. I'm not saying every song should contain all the "What We Believe" items of our statement of faith. It should, however, be rich with gospel and biblical truth. Congregational singing is not a concert with the musicians and worship leaders as the entertainment. Selah!

In our next issue I will begin to address the meaning of the terms, "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." Until then, ask God to enable you to age *Gracefully*.

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



First Kiss *cont. from page 4*

it off, then He straightened me out, and made me the leader, and told ME to start it up again. What a plan.

The second thing that became clear was that Lolly was the one He wanted me to marry. Up to this point I had never kissed a girl. (Mothers, aunts and sisters [ugh] don't count, you understand.) I had honored my promise to myself and the Lord. But now—I thought I knew how kissing went. For the first kiss, the girl would put her hands on the shoulders of the guy, keeping her arms between them so they wouldn't get too close. Then after a few kisses, trust would develop and she would put her arms around his neck and allow him to hold her close in his embrace. It was time to kiss her, but I didn't know how to approach it.

She and three of her Practice House fellow seniors had to put on a party (part of their graduation requirements). After the party I was saying

goodbye at the back door (away from the prying eyes of Mother Mac, the dorm mother).

I said, "Lolly, we've been going together for almost four months now. Would it be all right if I kissed you?"

She caught me totally by surprise when she slipped her arms around my neck, melted into my arms and whispered softly, "It's about time."

I don't know how long that kiss lasted. It was the most heavenly experience I had ever had. It was just a simple kiss, just a pressing of lips. But the effect on me was unique. I had heard the expression, "felt like walking on air," but I'm an engineer; that's nonsense. Hey, let me tell you, on my way back to the dorm that night I had the distinct impression that I was having to stretch downwards to touch the sidewalk.

When I got to our room, Scharbert said, "Hey, what happened to you?"

Did you kiss her or something?"

How could he have guessed? Did it really show? I've never had a kiss that was that good. I'm so glad I saved it for the one I wanted to marry.

Well now, since I'm sure she's the one I am to marry, when can I ask her? I kept badgering the Lord for permission to get engaged, and it was only a week or so later that the permission came. I thought what better place to get engaged than at an airport! So I made arrangements to borrow Louie Scarboro's car. The airport was a grass north-south strip. It was deserted. I drove down the runway to the midpoint and backed off onto the edge. I shut off the engine, and took her in my arms.

"Lolly," I whispered, "I love you with all my heart, and I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me?"

I was not expecting the reply I got.

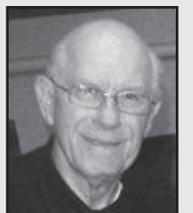
I thought it would be something like the reply after the first kiss.

"No! I know it sounds trite, but this is too sudden," she replied. "We've only known each other four months."

My calm reply was uncharacteristically confident, only because the Lord had made it very clear to me that she was the one. "Well, the Lord has told me that we will be married, so when He tells you, and He will, I'll be around."

It was February 20, 1953, four months to the day from our first date. In the next issue I'll tell you how our courtship progressed.

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.



His Holy Word *cont. from page 9*

nize who are of the brethren and who are not, let alone to judge the presence of Christian fruit because the plant is simply not flowering. Ironically, pluralism is tolerant of all views, except views that reject pluralism. However, truth is not relative. By definition truth is truth. Communist dictators, socialists, atheists and the likes to this day are still trying to put the Word under their feet; yet the Bible remains the most published, bestselling book in history. "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is our foundation and from it our doctrine comes to light. It is how we intimately become familiar with and experience our Savior, God the Father, and the Holy Ghost.

Through scripture we learn how He loves us and how to love. It is how we come to know and understand the "exceedingly great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4) that He has afforded us—promises we can stand on. Psalms 138:2-5 proclaims the exaltation of His word above all; it strengthens our souls and calls for the praise of kings who will "sing for the glory of the LORD." It is divine poetic literature, pure romance, a tragic love story, a record of historic battles and a true account of redeeming glory.

In His Word is found rest for the weary soul (Matt. 11:28), joy for the longsuffering (Col. 1:11) and peace for a troubled heart (John 14:27). As the final authority for all matters regarding

Christian faith and life, it behooves us to not only read the Word, but meditate on it, act on it and teach it (1 Tim. 4:6-16). Deut. 11:18 instructs us to "lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." We "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). The Holy Spirit has come and He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13) if you are willing to listen. "For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little" (Isaiah 28:10), meaning everything is measured by God's Word.

The Word is a benchmark, as "the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward" (Psalms 19:7-11). "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Leann is a RN in a doctor's office, "plays a little piano" in her church, and writes weekly for the Sunday edition of the Hamilton County Reporter (online).

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The Role of the a Woman *cont. from page 1*

learn submission to God-ordained authority. To rebel against God-ordained authority is to rebel against God Himself.

First, we need to define submission. It's a term that is used frequently, but what exactly does it mean?

1. It is a military term. It means "to arrange under, to subordinate; to subject, put in subjection; to subject one's self, obey; to submit to one's control; to yield to one's admonition or advice; to obey, be subject." As a Greek military term, it means "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader." In non-military use, it is "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden". (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible)

2. It is a divine plan of function and order. There can be only one

leader. God did not call a committee to save man or to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. He used just one leader.

3. Submission is a way of Spirit-filled living for every believer. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21, KJV).

4. Submission provides protection for the wife. Freedom is not getting out from under authority. 2 Peter 2:19 (KJV) says, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

5. Submission is an attitude. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22, KJV).

6. Submission is an act of the will, not a feeling. "Submitting yourselves

one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21, KJV).

7. It is proof of your love for Him. Jesus said, "But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence" (John 14:31). "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, KJV).

8. Submission is a way to experience the grace of God. "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, KJV). When we submit to God-ordained authority, it is the same as submitting to God. It clears the way for His grace and blessing to flow into our lives.

9. Submission is true freedom. Rebellion is sin, and sin enslaves us.

True freedom is not throwing off all authority; freedom is the ability to choose and act upon that which is right. Only those who know Christ have that ability. If you are not a Christian, in the true sense of the word, you are enslaved to sin; you are not free at all. John 8:34 (KJV) says, "Jesus answered them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.'" In Christ you can be made free. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Romans 6:22, KJV).

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.



Mother's Corner *cont. from page 8*

These are themes to consider while considering how to keep our children alert and teaching them to be as cunning as a serpent, but as innocent as a dove.

Let us recall the subtleness of the snake in Genesis 3. He spoke to Eve with authority and alluring charm. He assuaged her conscience and enticed her with something she did not have. An easy example to consider is iPhones and the deep desire for many teens (and adults) to have one. Masses are led to believe they are hip, current, and intelligent if they own one. Yet, this ploy is deceit. Just as with Eve, the allure was captivating and gave her a sense of identity—of being like God Himself. Having the phone is not evil for teens; the belief that their identity should be attached to a phone, or any material possession, is. Being crafty on how to help our children frame the world in which we live is important. We can, and should, be in the world but not of it.

Offer your life before God. God helping you, take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for

you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you (Romans 12:2, MSG).

We have the instruments to be wise as serpents and godly in our approach—the tools of faith, prayer, and the Word. Believe God's promises, pray without ceasing, and seek out His standard of living through the Bible.

How shall we teach innocence? Eve walked away from God when she chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Replacing what God told her, she instead relied on her natural curiosity and passion for the potential of that desire—thus destroying her innocence. The only true innocence given to humans is through accepting Christ Jesus as our sacred response of faith to God. It is attained by understanding God through the acknowledge-

Indiana Archives *cont. from page 5*

idea to check the Digital Archives for the same surnames over and over. You never know when some obscure record that you didn't even know existed might turn up. I found two such records myself when using the Digital Archives. Both records were from the Indiana State Soldiers' Home in Tippecanoe County. Packets from the home typically included an application for admission with the applicant's or applicant's spouse's military service information, pension papers, death notices, and family correspondence. One of the records I found was for my great-great-grandfather. His file gave me more information regarding his heart problems, which eventually led to his death. It also showed me that he knew full well the condition of his heart before he journeyed to Cuba with fellow veterans of the Spanish-American War. The other record was for my three "greats" grandmother. Evidently, she was a thorn in the side of the administrator because she kept leaving and reapplying for admission to the Home. Correspondence from her and her daughter gave me a better understanding of the struggles that she faced at the end of her life.

If the Indiana State Archives has information that pertains to your re-

search, you can request that the information be sent to you, or you can go to the Archives to look at the records in person. No matter how you plan on contacting the Archives, I suggest that you check out the "General Information" page on the website beforehand. Here you will find links to information regarding the location, hours, services, and fees of the Archives, as well as instructions about how to make your request. If you decide to visit, you will have to read and sign a copy of the rules for researchers before being admitted to the reading room. (FYI: There may be "questionable" characters hanging around in the parking lot since the Archives is next door to the office for Indiana Department of Correction Parole District #3.)

The Indiana State Archives' website is a very valuable tool for researchers. It contains a wealth of information—much more than I have been able to cover in this article. I hope you will check it out and discover some genealogical gems.

Jill teaches a pre-schoolers' class at VBC and currently works in a public library. She has taught in a Christian school in England.



ment of Christ's victory over sin and death and developing a love relationship with Him. It is our bond with the power of the Almighty that keeps us spiritually innocent. "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight" (Rom. 4:7, NLT).

Moreover, God's Word outlines precepts that keep our minds and actions free of harm. In Proverbs alone, one can find countless methods of applying wisdom personally and socially. Actions are the outflow of the framework of one's internal compass (Prov. 4:23). If influencing your children to right actions is a priority, seek God's template for tackling life's issues. Look at the fruits of His spirit—peace, gentleness, kindness, joy, contentment, goodness, faithfulness, self-control, and love—in which God says there is not law (Gal. 5: 22-23).

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ,

everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified (Galatians 5:22-24, MSG).

Even if we are sheep among wolves, we can still be cunning but innocent in heart and direct our children to be the same. Meditate on John 10: 1-18 (MSG). *Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it. . . . Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. . . . I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me.*

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

**Timothy** *cont. from page 6*

how best to handle it. God sure has a lot to take care of but my dad says He can handle anything because He created everything. My dad is so smart; that's because he reads and studies God's word everyday and listens to the preacher.

After talking to Dad I felt better, but when it came to bedtime I started getting a little nervous. I think Dad knew it wouldn't be easy for me because he came to my bed and told me a story, and we listened to Mother read to my baby sisters. Nighttime has gotten better for me, and when I say my prayers, I have learned to just turn everything over to God and rest assured of His love and care for me.

Now when my younger brothers and sisters start to worry, I can share my story with them and help them see that we have a loving God

to watch over us and keep us safe. If you have something that you worry about, go to your parents, teachers, pastor or a friend to help you, but most of all turn your worries over to God. He will give you peace of mind. Before I close, I want to share a little prayer with you.

Now I lay me down to sleep
In God I trust my safety keep.

In His loving arms I rest,
For He knows what's always best.

Amen.

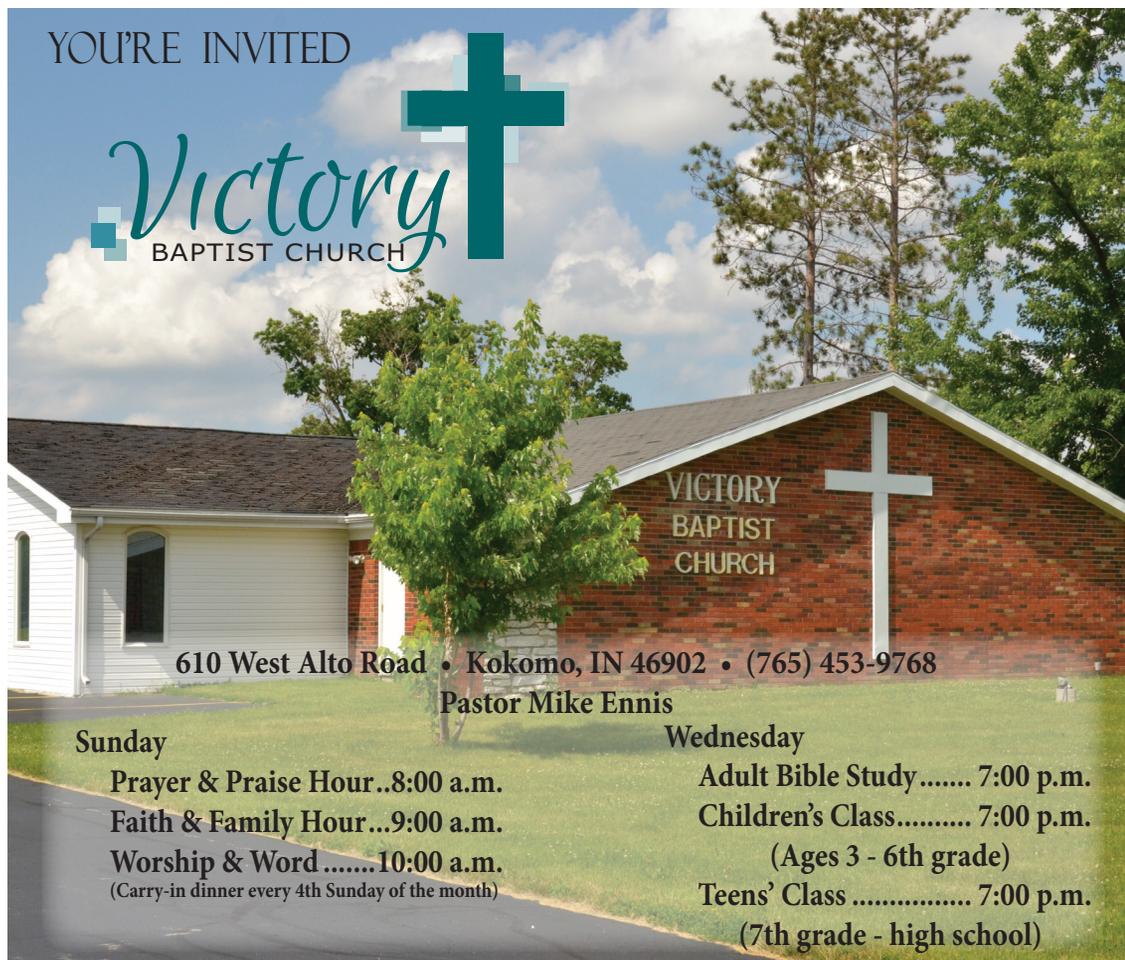
So until next time, Prayers for you always

Timothy and Terry



Terry lives with her husband in Florida. She is enjoying living near her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters.

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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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