

Faith Family News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family

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Life-Giving Water

by Marlin Carpenter

In the greenhouse business watering is a seemingly endless task. The plants that were watered yesterday will likely need to be watered again today. Plants don't only use water, but they also lose it through evaporation and transpiration. It's amazing how critical this element is for the survival of plants (and people for that matter)! As I write this article, we have three feet of water in our basement and many homes in our local communities have suffered devastation due to flooding. Therefore, it is difficult to imagine that by the time this article is published we will probably be in the dry part of summer hoping for rain! It is during this time that we must be diligent in supplying our plants, especially new ones, with ample amounts of water. This means that if you have planted a new tree this spring, it needs to be watered throughout the dry season with at least five gallons of water each time. Another option, which I prefer, is to lay the garden hose at the base of a

tree, turn it on slow stream, and let it thoroughly soak the ground around the tree. It is better to water deeper



and less often than to water shallow often. By watering deeper we encourage the roots to "reach out" in pursuit

of water, thus forming a stronger root system. The flip side to this is watering too much, to the point of making our plants dependent on us and never allowing them to grow strong and acclimate to their surroundings.

Plants in small pots in the greenhouse are much less forgiving than those in the landscape. Let them go a little too long without water and they will let you know. They hang their heads down low, slump their shoulders, dangle their arms at their side, and sometimes become so dramatic as to throw their whole selves down on the ground in a despicable display of disgust. And no, I am not speaking of our children! This personification describes the plants that lack life-giving water.

On the other hand, have you ever known of someone who lacked the true life-giving water? You know, the Water that quenches man's thirst so well that he will never thirst again. John 4:13-14 says, "*Jesus answered*

Water *cont. on page 4*

Mothers Corner

Media Matters (Part 2)

by Ashlee Shoaff

The ease and comfort of society, or even in personal situations, lends itself to aloofness. When times are good, we find it easier to go with the flow and adjust viewpoints if necessary. Where once parents could rest assured that many of their values would be upheld in the public arena, today that may not be the case—even in the Midwest. The ability to preserve values and morals from a Biblical viewpoint has disintegrated. Common themes of hedonism, self-reliance, and self-idolatry have gained visibility on a mass scale. This should be alarming to parents. Below is a small snapshot of those prevalent and enticing themes our children consume visually, audibly, or textually.

Violence

- By the age of 18, U.S. youth will see 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence—American Psychiatric Association.
- 89% of top-selling video games contain violent content—Media

Media *cont. on page 8*

Marriage Destroyers

Selfishness

by Mike Ennis

J. C. Ryle, a writer and evangelical preacher in the 1800s, said, "The marriage relation lies at the very root of the social system of a nation. The public morality of a people, and the private happiness of the families which compose a people, are deeply involved in the whole question of the law of marriage...."

"Happy are they, who in the matter of marriage observe three rules. The first is to marry only in the Lord, and after prayer for God's approval and blessing. The second is not to expect too much from their partners, and to remember that marriage is, after all, the union of two sinners, and not of two angels. The third rule is to strive

first and foremost for one another's sanctification. The more holy married people are, the happier they are" (pp. 199–200).

Sanctification is the process of our being set apart for the Lord on a daily basis. If we, as married individuals, both seek the Lord's will in our lives, we will be going the same direction. The real problem is that many married couples are not involved in the process of sanctification. Either they do not know the Lord at all or they are uninterested in what He wants to do with their lives. God has given us the tools that we need to have sancti-

Marriage Destroyers *cont. on page 6*

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Editorially Speaking

"There Are None So Blind..."

I recently viewed an online video of an interview between an agnostic and an atheist. I like to attribute such exercises to an attempt at scholarly fairness to those who don't share my Christian worldview. In honesty it's usually temporary boredom. The agnostic was the host of a pseudo-informational online program that had as its mission the intent of enlightening society on the "dangers" of the Christian religion. As I listened, I was perplexed as to why the host would have this guest on his "show." The guest has the prerogative of being an atheist. He also has the prerogative to be willfully ignorant of facts, as he went on to demonstrate. He believed that the entire Biblical account of Jesus, the disciples, the crucifixion, the resurrection and a myriad of historically documented first century events were a fabrication of unidentified power brokers—the purpose being to control the world through religious adherence. I guess he had never read any of the *Antiquities Of The Jews* by Flavius Josephus (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephus) or *Foxe's Book Of Martyrs* (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/foxe/martyrs>), the latter being grim accounts of how early church leaders gave their lives for something this atheist says never even took place. I would be the first to agree that Christianity has been politicized in some quarters. I would even agree that we see an Americanization of Christianity. Many believers in our American culture would probably be surprised at how their religious expression is so far removed from the faith delivered to the first century church. We at *Faith And Family News* have no issue with the truth of an historical Jesus and what His mission was, and still is. Thank you for reading us, praying for us, sharing us and supporting us.

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.



For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
Matthew 16:26

It Could Be Worse

by Terry Seagraves

How many times have you heard these words? Believe me, I have heard them so many times I could fill a river with the words. I have gone through many physical trials and there would be my daughter saying, "It could be worse." I truly wanted to choke her at times.

Just when I thought I would get a little sympathy, there it was again. Now trust me, I knew it could be worse, but I sure did not want to hear it all the time. I mean, everyone deserves a little pity once in a while, right?

For example, I had to have a knee replacement taken out due to an infection and was without a knee for 6 weeks and was in a wheelchair. I really believe there was room for a little pity party. But then there was my daughter, whom I love dearly. "Could be worse, Mom; you could be without a leg." Talk about bursting my pity bubble! So this went on for several weeks. I must say by the time I got my new knee replacement and was walking again, I was smiling at the thought of, "It could be worse."

Of course there is a little twist to this story. During spring break my daughter and granddaughters came to visit and of all things to happen, my daughter fell down our stairs and broke not one foot but both feet. Yes, "It could have been worse!" I felt so bad for Olivia; I have never seen

her in so much pain! I was good and did not bring up the verse until after her surgery and she was on the road to recovery. But when she started to complain about the little things, yes folks, pay back time.

IT COULD BE WORSE! Instead of both feet, it could have been both hands. Now wouldn't that have been a terrible situation! The reason for this little story is to remind us that in any situation, yes folks, it could be worse.

At the time we think nothing could be worse, but just know that whatever the situation, if we trust in God, He will see us through. I truly believe that in any situation, there is a lesson. I have always heard that God does not give us more than we can handle, and trust me there are times I think He has me confused with someone else. But somehow, no, not somehow—I have made it through.

I pray that in any situation that comes your way, you will give it over to the Lord. Pray and know, "IT COULD BE WORSE!"

Prayers for you always, Terry



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

The Need for Spritual Food

by Paul Michael Garrison

When I was eight years old, my little brother was born. At first, he proved to be quite a disappointment. After all, he was too little to play with or to do much of anything interesting, at least to an eight-year-old. But slowly I was allowed to interact with him in a more adult role—for example, by holding him, feeding him, and even changing his diapers.

In feeding my baby brother, I learned what anyone who has tried to feed a baby has learned: a baby cannot be fed when his mouth is closed. And closing their mouths is something that babies will typically do when you are trying to feed them. You can push and smear, but until the mouth is open, no food is going in. So, in an attempt to entice that little one to eat, we try games. One game involves making wide sweeps with our arms as

we pretend that an airplane is coming into the hangar. Or we sputter like a motorboat in hopes that the kid will open his mouth long enough for us to shove some food in.

Normally, for us adults, keeping our mouths shut is harder than keeping them open. Along with many others, that's a problem I personally have experienced. We open our mouths freely and let out all sorts of comments that we shouldn't. In this sense, we would do well to keep our mouths shut more frequently. However, spiritually, we are to keep our mouths open. "I am the Lord thy God which brought

thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Ps. 81:10).

Like a baby that closes his mouth to food, we adult believers often close our mouths to the spiritual nourishment God would give us. However, we need to be open to anything the Lord would send our way. By keeping our "mouths closed," we rob ourselves of spiritual blessings and growth.

A baby does not realize that the one feeding him is acting in his best interest. He knows only what he wants, and at times he does not want to eat.

Likewise, we adults do not always see what is in our best interest. Instead, we see only what we want or what seems tantalizing to us. However, we would do well to remember that God has our best interest in mind, and He knows what spiritual nourishment we need.

When we as parents (or an older sibling) receive a closed-mouth approach from the not-so-hungry baby, we often resort to the games mentioned above. Sometimes this works; sometimes it doesn't. However, God doesn't play games with us. When we refuse to open our mouth and take in His truths, He may pull back the spiritual spoon and leave it there, with no funny motorboat noises or airplane landings to entice us. Rather, He looks us straight in the eyes and gives us a firm warning: "Open your mouth." If

Spiritual Food *cont. on page 4*

THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



If I love to be loved more than to love, to be served more than to serve, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

- Amy Carmichael

Have you ever seen yourself in a picture, or maybe a security TV in a store, or just caught a glance of your reflection in a large window and thought, "I look like that?" The surprise may be added pounds, an unflattering hairdo, or signs of aging. As we get busy with daily life, we fail to notice the undesirable patterns of thinking, speaking, and acting that creep in and take us to a place we had no intention of going. We may find ourselves wondering, "How did I get here?" This is especially true when it comes to the subject of marriage. People don't go to the altar thinking they are going to make their spouse miserable or be miserable themselves. But the divorce statistics testify that this is often what happens. Sometimes a biblically based book can hold up a mirror and show us what we have become and with the help of the Holy Spirit convict and convince us to change.

One such book is Linda Dillow's book *What's It Like to Be Married to Me?*, published by David C. Cook. In her research, Dillow surveyed five hundred Christian wives about the best and worst things they did in their mar-

riages. She believes that God wanted her to inspire women to have better marriages by asking them what she calls Dangerous Questions (you know, those questions we really don't want to ask ourselves). She writes, "Too often we focus on all the things about our husbands that we don't like and wish we could change. You know what it is like to be married to your mate, but how often do you think about what it is like for him to be married to you? If you woke up tomorrow and discovered you were married to you, would you be delighted? Or would you be devastated?" (p. 15)?

Dillow shares stories from her own marriage and the marriages of friends and those she surveyed to challenge readers to ask dangerous questions and pray dangerous prayers that God might transform their lives and marriages. Her book is rich with Scripture and practical exercises (like the Gripes Be Gone Bracelet) to encourage spiritual and everyday change in the reader. Her goal is not for readers to acquire head knowledge but that they would do the work—write down the answers to

Book Shelf cont. on page 10

Christlike Behavior Is the Goal

by Matt Turner

In a previous article I mentioned Victory Christian Academy's mission statement. Remember, we put Christlike character before academic excellence. We believe a student who has Christlike character will achieve academic excellence. We want to be used by God to conform students into the image of Jesus Christ. God's desire for all His children is to take on the character traits of His Son. Although VCA is an educational institution, our primary goal is to help students become self-disciplined believers who are ready to be used by God to make an impact in the world for Christ.

As a matter of fact, our curriculum is designed to foster self-discipline in the lives of our students. I am sure you've heard the saying about killing two birds with one stone. Our curriculum does just that. At the same time the students are getting a great academic education, they are learning valuable work skills that will help them succeed no matter where they go or what they do. We encourage the students to do every activity by following all directions carefully, while completing every activity to the best of their ability.

We often tell the students that employers are simply looking for people who are dependable, respectful, hard-working employees. If you simply show up on time, do the job your boss expects while giving him the least amount of grief, you are likely to have less grief as well. Furthermore, you are more likely to get the better hours, more pay, and perhaps even consideration for a promotion. However, the ultimate reason for being a good worker is because God commands us to be. Our testimony and His name are at stake. By the way, we can make any task a delight when we do it for His glory!

Being a good worker is just fine and dandy, but that is not enough. Let's go just a bit deeper into character training. One major goal we stress is developing a servant's heart. Self-discipline ultimately leads to self-denial while one focuses on glorifying God by meeting the needs of others. Jesus modeled a Servant's heart. We are to continue His work in the world. We not only tell the students they need

to develop a servant's heart, the staff tries to model that by serving them the best we can.

Another Biblical principle emphasized at VCA is the Golden Rule. Many people act as if the Golden Rule is, "He with the most gold rules." We want our students to have a Biblical understanding of the Golden Rule. "Do to others what you want them to do to you." The things I want people to do for and to me is what I should focus on doing for and to others. Far too often we focus more on what others should be doing for us. If you want a prescription for misery, simply focus on all the bad things people are doing to you, all the good things they are not doing for you, and what they need to do or not do to correct their errant behavior. Dwelling on those things is only destructive to you and solves nothing.

Another character trait lost on many of our younger generation is that of deference. Many educators would argue there really is no right

and wrong. Situation ethics has done untold damage to the character of our nation. Yes, certainly there are some gray areas in life. However, there are some things which are simply right and wrong, good or bad. Students often ask

Many people act as if the Golden Rule is, "He with the most gold rules."

the question, "What's wrong with that?" That's not a bad question. Unfortunately, many adults don't know the answer to that question. There's really a problem if you can't give a Biblical reason why something is right or wrong.

Most people used to believe we were created by God for His glory. Most people used to believe it is better to give than to receive. Most people used to think that we are supposed to work hard and save for the big expenses in life. Now, most people believe they are a cosmic happenstance at best, who are here simply to get all out of life that they can before they pass on into oblivion. And we wonder why depression is rampant in this nation!

I suppose the most damaging corruption of the Biblical worldview is demonstrated by our culture's perversion of love. Love used to mean willing the highest good of another and acting to bring about that good.

Christlike Behavior cont. on page 5

Where We Focus



Two bird-watchers (birdos) sat relaxed on a hill with binoculars raised. One birdo was looking skyward and the other was focused on the valley below. Suddenly, the birdo looking into the valley jumped in rage. "Did you see that blasted cat?" he growled. "No doubt it's on its way to eat some innocent bird!

Doesn't it make your blood boil?"

The other birdo shrugged her shoulders. "Sorry, didn't see it. I've been focusing on that magnificent eagle flying peacefully above us."

Are we stressed or are we relaxed? The answer to that is determined by the focus of our thoughts. Stress and worry can be easily justified - at times this world is a horrible place teeming with injustices. However, if we allow our thoughts to focus on worldly things, we will develop a grim, pessimistic and bitter outlook on life that will infect everything we do.

Alternatively, if we focus our thoughts heavenward to God (confident in the knowledge that He can take care of all the injustices of life) we will soon become filled with an inner peace. This mentally relaxed state results from focusing on the fact that we are not getting what we rightly deserve (judgment) and receiving that which we don't deserve (divine kindness and mercy) Isaiah 40:31.

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Water cont. from page 1

and said to her, *Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.* There are so many who are thirsty, yet do not know where to find this Water. Just as the plants depend upon us to bring water to them with a garden hose or some other means, so people are waiting for those of us who have found this life-giving water to show them the way to the well. The woman spoken of in John 4 immediately went to the city, found those that were thirsty, and led them to the source of life. *The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 'Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever*

did. Could this be the Christ?' Then they went out of the city and came to Him (John 4:28-30). This tells me that she truly understood exactly what it was that she found that day at the well. This life-giving water would change her life forever, and she wanted to share that with others! Consider this: if the entire world were dying of thirst, and you found a well with a never ending supply of life-giving water, what would you do?

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.



Spiritual Food cont. from page 2

we don't, what comes next is less pleasant.

Sometimes, in order for a baby to be fed, his mouth has to be pried open. This is not a pleasant experience for the one being fed, nor for the one doing the feeding. Similarly, God must pry our mouths open to give us what we need. Divine chastening is one successful mouth-opener. Deuteronomy 8:5 warns, "As a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee." God chastens us until we are ready to be fed.

It does not take supreme powers of logic or deduction to realize that it is much better to receive nourishment willingly than to be fed by force. But somehow we forget that fact, and we exhibit the same stubborn will of the baby who refuses to be fed. Open widely to the blessings and tests that the Lord has for you!



Paul Michael Garrison, guest columnist, is an author/editor and lives in Taylors, SC.

This article was previously printed in *Frontline* May/June 2004.

Old Timer's Corner

Should I Marry Again – Part 2

by Jim Wright

After Richard Packer had taken our picture, Ginger drove me to her house where we met her youngest son, who lives at home with her. Neither of us had taken time to dress up, so we were wearing our grubbies. We talked non-stop even during the visits by her daughter and two other sons. They all live within 15 miles of Richwood. Our similarities were many and intriguing: married 55 and 57 years, spouses died within 2 days of each other, each with one daughter born in 1957, a son born in 1960, a son born in 1962, and one more son each. She had read the book I'm writing which is on my web site, so she knew much of my background. The more we talked together, sang together, prayed together, joked together and visited with her kids, grandkids and great grandkids, the more I was convinced that she could be the one. But before I left on Saturday morning, she told me that the more serious she became about the possibility of marrying me, the more convinced she became that she couldn't leave her family and the area she had lived all her life to move to Kokomo where she knew I would be expecting her to live.

I flew back home rather depressed. Ginger Chapman seemed like the one the Lord had picked out for me, but her reluctance to move away from the Richwood area was a haunting, depressing thought. I fully expected that if she emailed me again, she would be backing away. But when I landed and put the plane in the hanger, and checked the computer in the house, there was an email from Ginger saying what a wonderful time she had had with me, and hinting that she might like to meet my kids sometime if that could be arranged. Well, well! Maybe there was hope after all! We kept right on emailing several times a day, and plans began forming. But there was a potential problem. She gets car sick. Would she get airsick in the plane? In preparation for that eventuality, she got some Dramamine and two seasick patches for her neck, but we decided not to use anything for the first flight from Richwood to Kokomo as a test to see if she would need any. I have "barf bags" in the plane we could use if necessary!

The plan was to fly from Kokomo to Watertown, WI where we could meet my two younger boys and their wives

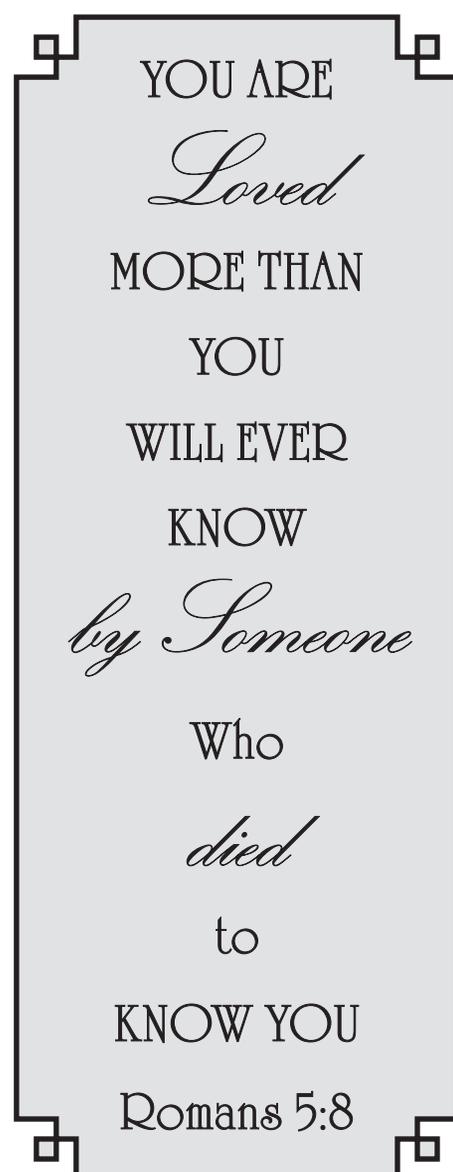
and kids. My oldest son and his wife would manage to be here in Kokomo the afternoon we arrived from Ohio, and we would drive over to Lafayette after arriving back from Wisconsin to meet my daughter and her husband. So we would be able to have her meet all my kids with one trip. I was earnestly praying that if the Lord wanted her to be my wife, He would use the meeting of my kids and grandkids to help convince her that she should and could leave Richwood to be part of my family.

Before the October 3rd big day arrived, I suggested by email that since we were going to be near Davenport, IA, we could drop by and meet my sister, if she didn't mind extending the trip for an extra day. I was delighted by a positive response. And the next day, I called and suggested that since we were going to be in Iowa, we could go on down to Branson where my daughter's son and wife have parts in the Sight & Sound Theater production of "Joseph," and could get us free tickets (which are over \$60 each!). Again, Ginger was enthusiastic about expanding our "adventure." I was more and more impressed by her consistently positive reaction to suggestions of change.

The big day arrived. Ginger had her daughter-in-law there to help load the plane with her luggage for the trip, and when we took off, I kept checking for any onset of airsickness. Praise the Lord, she was fine for the whole hour flight. My oldest son and his wife came right on schedule, and we all went out to Mike's Pizza for lunch. Then we spent the afternoon getting acquainted. Things were going really well! That night one of the ladies from our church stayed in my house with us, to avoid all appearance of evil, and we took off the next morning for Watertown. The day was bright and clear and the air was smooth. There was no hint of airsickness. At 4500 feet on autopilot, I reached over and took Ginger's hand and held it for the first time. Again, her response was warm and positive. Another answer to my prayer! Again, no sign of airsickness.

After visiting with two of my sons and their families for several days in Watertown, we took off for Davenport. Another clear, beautiful day. I was

Marry Again? cont. on page 9



Lessons From Little Ones

Sit Down and Be Quiet!

by Brenda Howard



If you have ever taught a class, no matter the age level, you know from experience that no learning ever takes place unless you have the attention of your students. Depending on the age group you teach, this can be quite challenging at times. One young mother had the following conversation with her 3-year-old daughter after a Wednesday evening class at church:

Mom: What did you learn about in class today?

Daughter: da (the) words

Mom: Words about what?

Daughter: Umm...words

Mom: What did your teachers talk about?

Daughter: Sit down and be quiet!

Oh, the challenges that are faced when teaching preschoolers! I couldn't help but think of the verse in Psalm 46:11, *Be still and know that I am God*. Doesn't it seem as if God wants us to "sit down and be quiet" and let Him be God? I love that whole Psalm! It starts out with, *God is our refuge and*

strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Those would be pretty terrifying things to experience! And yet, the Psalm concludes with, *Be still and know that I am God*. Through every terrifying circumstance that we encounter in life, it is such a comfort to know that God is in control! But, you may ask, what if the economy collapses? *Be still and know that I am God*. But what if I don't have any money in my bank account? *Be still and know that I am God*. But what if I get sick and have no health insurance? *Be still and know that I am God*. But what if ...? *Be still and know that I am God*. It seems that too often we are busy running around, trying to solve our problems when God wants us to just sit down, be quiet and let Him be God.

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



"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

— Jesus, Matthew 11:28

Christlike Behavior *cont. from page 3*

You can't love without giving. Today, love has been reduced to sensual lust at best. Jesus told us our love for each other ought to be our identifying characteristic. Are your children learning about the sacrificial love of Christ, or are they being taught the finer points of self-love?

These things in this article really have nothing to do with the academic side of schooling. They have to do with socialization and character training. Again, school can't simply be about getting a good education so you can get a good job to make a lot of money, so you can do a lot of things, buy a lot of stuff, and go a lot of places. If we can't bring up the next generation with a good work ethic, some common sense about what is universally right and wrong, and with a good understanding of Biblical love, we can kiss the

America we grew up loving goodbye.

Yes, we want our students to learn everything they can in each subject in school. However, if they do not leave with Christlike character, we have failed. Yes, we want them to be successful in whatever they choose to do after leaving VCA. But, if they do not have a desire to go and serve the Living God by serving His children in some capacity, we have failed. Please pray for our school, and please contact us if there is anything we can do to help you bring up your children in the way they should go.

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



Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

The following recipe was a big hit at our last family reunion. My husband's niece gladly gave the recipe to me to share.

Taco Dip

2 - 8 oz pkgs cream cheese, softened
1 - 16 oz container sour cream
1 ½ pkgs taco seasoning mix

Mix together until smooth and fluffy.

Spread into a 9x13 pan and chill.

Before serving, pour ½ to 1 pint jar of salsa over the top of the mixture.

Chop up onion, green (or red or yellow) pepper and tomato and put over the top of the salsa. Sprinkle grated cheddar cheese over the top of the vegetables.

Pumpkin Bars

2 cups flour	1 cup walnuts
2 teaspoons baking powder	2 cups pumpkin
½ teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon soda
2 teaspoons cinnamon	2 cups sugar
4 eggs	1 cup oil

Mix all the above ingredients together. Pour into 2 - 9x12 pans that have been oiled. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

Frosting for the bars

3 ounces cream cheese
¾ stick butter or margarine
1 tablespoon cream or evaporated milk
1 ¾ cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon

Mix well and spread over cooled bars.

This recipe can be cut in half if you don't need 2 pans of bars.

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



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Aging Gracefully

“Only the Lonely”

by Morris Starkey

One of the most oft-reported characteristics of the “golden years” is loneliness. Wordsmiths for ages have written of its pervasive presence in every aspect of human existence. Many report loneliness in their marriage, job, and even during those times of celebration with family and friends. The old cliché, “Lonely in a crowd” is, unfortunately, more than just a cliché to many aging citizens. One may be in a care facility surrounded by other residents and staff and still be lonely. It has a lot to do with how long those people have been in our lives, as to whether interaction with them will help to assuage what can be that overwhelming sense of loneliness. As we age, more of those with whom we have spent a lifetime, and all its attendant experiences, pass from this earth. Our world slowly morphs into a world where we can feel as if we are “the last man/woman standing.” It can be a lonely period in our life. But there are both secular and spiritual tools to help us be victorious.

Continuing to be a help to the wellbeing of others, as you are able, can help lighten the sense of loneliness. If one still drives, volunteering to take others to shop or doctor visits is enriching. Look around and see where volunteers are needed. Don’t just entertain yourself, help someone. If one is in a care facility, get involved with the resident

groups that are present in nearly all such facilities. Share stories and experiences when local grade school groups come in. Participate in a play for residents. My own mom, at ninety-one years of age, volunteered for a part in a comical play, and even though she read her lines from a script, she came away from the experience with a real sense of accomplishment and usefulness.

Loneliness virtually screams that we need a fulfilling relationship. Scripture takes into account that we all seek for such relationships. It isn’t by accident that the Bible states that Jesus is a friend that *sticks closer than a brother*. He longs to have more than a relationship “borne of necessity,” as are many of our relationships as we age. Our Savior has done more than any other to bring us from beneath the weight of loneliness to a place of joy and lightness of heart and soul. He died for us. In dying for us He proved how much He wants to be our friend. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13).

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



Marriage Destroyers cont. from page 1

fied marriages, good marriages, even great marriages. But we have to make the effort to find out what He wants and do it. We find out what He wants from His Word. The Bible is a detailed manual on life, which includes marriage.

In our last article we began to look at three related things that will work against the oneness in marriage and in fact have the potential to destroy it. Those three are pride, selfishness, and an unforgiving spirit. All three are related and are rooted in the sin nature. We have already dealt with the “big daddy” of the three which is pride. In this article and the next we are going to look at selfishness.

What is selfishness? The immediate response is, “It is the way my spouse lives!” That may or may not be true, but most of us struggle with selfishness in one degree or another. That is because of what selfishness is. Selfishness is sin.

William C. Nichols notes, “One of the best definitions of sin is found in the concept of selfishness. Selfishness is really one of the primary roots of sin in our lives. Most people do not realize that selfishness is sin. Selfishness is operating my life on the principle that I will do whatever is best for me. When I am faced with two choices, I will choose the one which helps me or benefits me the most.

“Each person primarily lives to satisfy his or her own selfish desires. Our attitude is ‘I am going to do my thing. I am going to have my own way.’ But the Bible says that this is sin because I have made myself king of my life instead of God. I have denied God His rightful place as Ruler and Lord of my life and exalted myself in the place of God” (“The Nature of Sin,” www.intoutreach.org).

Why are we selfish? First of all, it is human nature—a part of our fallen nature. We just think about ourselves. The Word of God takes for granted that we love ourselves and that we take care of ourselves. It is part of our human nature, a nature that has been corrupted by the fall. It’s natural. Ephesians 5:28–29 says, *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.* The Bible further says in Philippians 2:4, *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on*

the things of others. God knows that by nature we think about our needs, our interests, our hurts, how we look, how we feel, who has hurt us. When a baby is born he demands total attention. He doesn’t give anything back. He is a totally selfish creature. It’s human nature.

The second reason we are selfish is our culture encourages it. America is an incredibly narcissistic society. Every advertisement that comes out caters to our self-centeredness. “Have it your way... We do it all for you... It’s all about you... I’ve got to think about what’s best for me... Obey your thirst!”

If we feed our natural selfishness or buy into the cultural norm, it could potentially destroy our marriage. In fact, extreme selfishness makes having a relationship with anyone difficult.

Dennis Rainey, director of Family Life, sums up the problem: “If we lived in a world where people were perfect, then their marriages would hum along in total harmony, just the way God wanted marriage to work in the first

place. But we don’t live in a perfect world. Quite honestly all of us are affected by our tendency toward selfishness and ‘sin.’ What is sin? We often choose to do the wrong things, not the right things. We can be selfish, mean, hurtful, bitter, arrogant, unwilling to forgive, and so on. It’s no wonder husbands and wives struggle to get along.

“Let’s face it, we all need help—some inner strength that enables us to love another person the way we must if a marriage is going to have a chance.

“Our selfish, sinful behavior not only separates a husband and a wife, but it also separates us from God—our greatest source of help. As the Originator and Designer of marriage, He knows how relationships work. He wants us to first have a relationship with Him, and then look to Him for direction” (“Is There Hope for a Lasting Marriage?” www.everystudent.com).

J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of Mark* (Carlisle: Banner of Truth, 1857, rep. 2000).

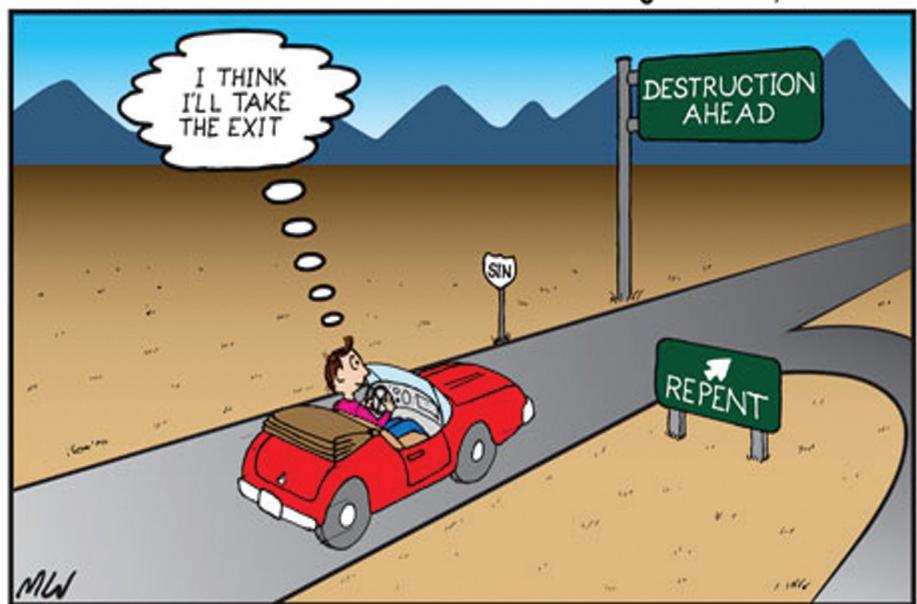
Mike Ennis serves as Pastor of Victory Baptist Church. A native of Kokomo, he has pastored for 30 years. He and his wife, Joan, have 4 married daughters and 8 grandchildren.



What is selfishness?
The immediate response is,
“It is the way my
spouse lives!”

HIGHWAY EXIT

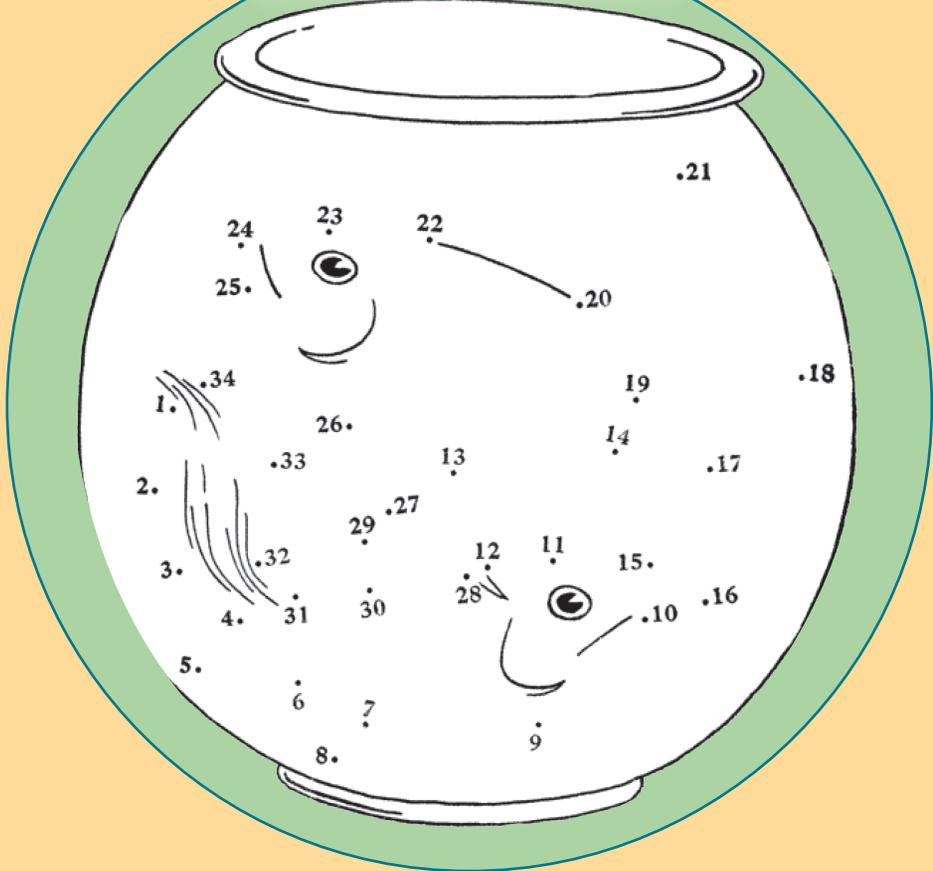
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
— MATTHEW 7:13 KJV

FUN FOR KIDS (of All Ages)

A Fishy Picture



Used with permission from Raisingourkids.com

Intermediate Sudoku Puzzles, Volume 3, Book 13

Sudoku #1

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

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

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



Fun with Puns

Owning A New Pet Fish

John: Hey, Chris! How's your new pet fish doing? You told me he was really something special.

Chris: To tell you the truth, I'm really disappointed in him. The guy who sold him to me said I could teach him to sing like a bird.

John: You bought a fish because you thought you could teach him to sing like a bird? I can't believe it!

Chris: Well, yeah. After all, he's a parrot fish.

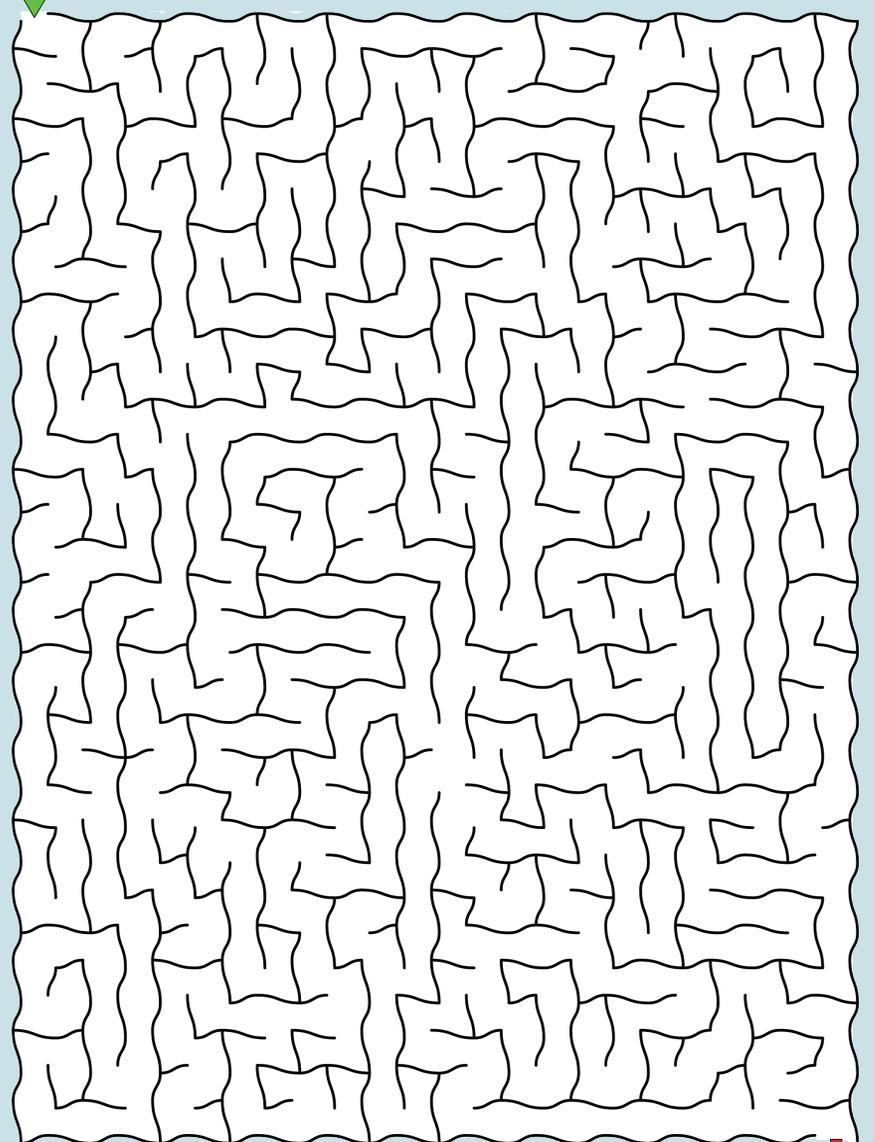
John: I hate to tell you this, Chris, but while you might be able to teach a parrot bird to sing, you're never going to get anywhere with a parrot fish.

Chris: That's what you think! He can sing all right. The thing is, he keeps singing off-key. It's driving me crazy. Do you know how hard it is to tuna fish?

MAZE CRAZE

Intermediate Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #8



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

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Media cont. from page 1

- Education Foundation.
- Nearly 75% of violent scenes on TV feature no immediate punishment for or condemnation for the act—Media Education Foundation.
- 80% of rated “R” movies, 70% of restricted video games, and 100% of music with “explicit content” warning labels were marketed to children under 17—Federal Trade Commission.

Substance Abuse

- Marijuana use is typically depicted with humor and as a harmless escape from reality—National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- Alcohol is portrayed in the media as a natural and everyday occurrence and is depicted as a “social” drug with minor consequences of usage—National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Body Image

- Eating disorders have increased by 400% since 1970—National Eating Disorders Association.
- The ideal body portrayed in advertising is only held by 5% of U.S. citizens—National Eating Disorders Association.

Sex

- 42% of youth have been exposed to internet pornography—Journal of the American Pediatrics.
- 80% of network and cable movies have sexual content—Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Of 1,461 youth ages 12 to 17 followed over five years that listen to heavy sex-laden music, 51% started having sex within two years—Pediatric Journal.
- Portrayals that included sexual content on TV are more likely to promote sexual activity among US adolescents than it is to discourage it—RAND Corporation.

The appeal of these topics highlighted on television, the web, and in books, magazine, and music is not new. The difference lies in the toleration of these themes by the masses. In 1 Corinthians 15:33, Paul says, “Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals.” One may think of the

actual face-to-face time regarding the influences on their children, but the company they keep on the television and in their music could be even more suggestive. It teaches them about relationships, communication tools, and values/morals, or in some cases anti-morals.

Proverbs 6:27 asks us to consider whether or not a man can carry fire next to his chest without getting burned. The same can be said regarding the visual and auditory messages our children are receiving. If 80% of network television and movies have sexual innuendos (or more), how do we not expect our children to act on the already natural impulses they have as they grow up? Those developmental stages are a given; toleration of reinforcing behaviors that don’t align with God’s desires are not.

Preservation of godly goals forges families together. Sustaining moral and Biblical values through raising our children helps them walk in wisdom (Prov. 13:20). We must help our children see the world and its lustful themes through His perspective. We are the salt (Mt. 5:13) - the ones to keep the world, our society, and our homes from rotting. Just as salt is an essential mineral, we are our children’s (and community’s) key to seeing Jesus’ love and framework for living on earth. Matthew 5:13-16 continues by stating, *[We] are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

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.



Alzheimer’s vs. Normal Brain Aging

By Rachel Irwin

Many of us will walk into a room and think, “What did I come in here for?” We will laugh at ourselves and say, “Man, I’m getting old.” Most of the time we don’t worry about it, and a few minutes later, after we have given up trying to remember, it dawns on us what we went into that room for. I am sure that many of you know someone that has Alzheimer’s disease and worry about the possibility of it happening to you. Much research is being done to discover what causes Alzheimer’s, but at this time we just do not know. The purpose of this article is to inform you of the difference between Alzheimer’s and normal aging.

First, according to the National Institute of Aging (NIA) Alzheimer’s is a disease that alters the brain. Without going into too much detail, plaques and tangles grow in the brain, disrupting normal brain function. The plaques and tangles increase over time, causing the Alzheimer’s to worsen, eventually leading to death. Simply put, Alzheimer’s is a disease of the brain.

How are we supposed to discern between a disease of the brain and changes in the brain caused by normal aging? There is a wealth of information out there, but I will give you a few examples to help in discerning the difference between the two.

A person with normal aging changes may forget a piece of information, whereas a person with Alzheimer’s may forget the information altogether. For example, my grandmother may call me the name of one of my sisters, but if I walk in the room and she cannot even recognize me as one of her grandchildren, that is certainly more serious.

Another example—if someone cannot remember the year of a family trip they went on, but they can remember things about the trip, that would be normal memory loss or aging. However, if they do not recall the trip at all, that is Alzheimer’s disease.

A person with Alzheimer’s may not be able to work the toaster anymore, or may struggle with other tasks that were once very simple to them. So you can see there is a big difference between normal aging changes to the brain and Alzheimer’s disease. Of course a person with Alzheimer’s

does not just wake up one day and have no recollection. It is a slow process disease.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association there are 10 signs of Alzheimer’s disease.

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing simple tasks at home, work, or leisure
4. Confusion with time and place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to trace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood or personality

Here is a website with details on all of these signs to better help you or someone you know determine if they may be experiencing true Alzheimer’s: www.alz.org.


 A person with normal aging changes may forget a piece of information, whereas a person with Alzheimer’s may forget the information altogether.


If you or someone you know is experiencing some or all of these symptoms, you should consult with your doctor to see if you are truly in the early stages of Alzheimer’s. A brain autopsy after death is the only

way to verify Alzheimer’s disease. However, doctors have developed several ways to diagnose the disease early. The sooner you know what you are dealing with the better.

There is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease; however there are things available to slow the progression and increase quality and quantity of life. If you or a loved one has Alzheimer’s, it is very important to seek help in support groups. It is very difficult on the whole family when someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. The person with the disease will struggle with a loss of independence. Things that once came easy to them may not be possible as the disease progresses. For the family, it is like losing someone you know. For example, your mother, who was always a good source for advice, may struggle to explain simple things.

I have seen the burden and grief that accompanies this disease. My

Alzheimer’s cont. on page 10

CASTING ALL YOUR CARE

UPON HIM;

FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU.

I PETER 5:7

Cemetery Hopping

by Jill Garrison



As the days are getting longer and warmer, we look forward to all the activities that we associate with summer. For family historians, one such activity is what I like to call “cemetery hopping.” While it might sound rather random, it actually requires a good deal of planning and preliminary research. Here are some guidelines to help you get the most out of your next visit to the cemetery.

First, find out where your ancestors are buried. Obituaries are usually the best source for this information. Even if you think you know where someone is buried, you should still look up the obituary. You don’t want to waste time going to a cemetery only to find out that a relative’s memory or your assumption was incorrect. If you cannot locate an obituary, the next place to look is the cemetery books for the county or counties where your ancestor lived and died. These books are usually located at the local library, genealogy library, and/or historical society. While these books are great resources, keep in mind that they are limited by two things: 1) Some headstones were probably damaged and therefore illegible by the time the cemeteries were walked; and 2) Anyone buried after the books were published will not be included. Another available resource is findagrave.com. Findagrave.com is an easy-to-use

international database of cemeteries and graves. While it is a great resource, it is by no means complete because all submissions are done on a voluntary basis. If you still have not had any success, it’s probably time to bite the bullet and pay for a death certificate. You can request a death certificate from the county or the state where your ancestor died. Generally, counties began recording deaths earlier than states. Another option, which is a bit of a long shot, is to ask the funeral homes in the area to check their records. Funeral homes are usually very willing to oblige your request.

You also need to find the location of the cemeteries that you want to visit. Normally, this information can be found online. Most cemetery listings on findagrave.com include a map of the location and the GPS coordinates. Some genealogy societies post maps and/or GPS coordinates for cemeteries on their websites as well. If you aren’t able to find the information online, the local genealogy research facility may have maps. For a small, old cemetery or family burial ground, the only information you may be able to find is a written description of the location in a cemetery book. Don’t let that deter you. If you can’t find it from the description, you can always knock on the door of someone who lives in the vicinity to ask for directions.

If possible, try to pinpoint the exact location of your ancestors’ graves. This is especially important when the cemetery is large. Cem-

Cemetery Hopping *cont. on page 11*

Marry Again? *cont. from page 4*

becoming convinced that this was the woman the Lord wanted me to marry. My kids all liked her right off the bat, and she was delighted with them, too. The flight was again very smooth. This was very unusual, to have so many consecutive days of smooth air flights, and we had had tailwinds on each one! I kept thinking that the Lord was putting His blessing on this whole experience. On this flight I told Ginger that I loved her. My sister and brother-in-law met us at the Mount Joy airport and we spent a wonderful 24 hours. Dorothy was effusive in her approval of Ginger, (unusual, for my little sister to be so supportive of my choices!). When we took off for Branson, we again had

smooth air and a tailwind! At 8,500 feet on autopilot, I leaned over and kissed Ginger for the first time. She was willing and responsive. For the first time I began to think that overcoming her reluctance of moving to Kokomo was a real possibility. Can it be? Has the Lord led me to the very one He wants me to marry? Pick up the next issue and see.

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.



The New Kids

by Amber Benedict

Steve went to town to pick up a three and five year old. “A three year old?” I thought. “Great, no diapers!” He returned with a two-year-old in diapers (who still can’t talk) and his four-year-old brother. They smelled so bad that it was impossible to tell the little one had a dirty diaper.

Just a few minutes after receiving them, some officials showed up at the house. They wanted information on what we do here. While dealing with them, the two boys were running around the house opening the doors, going outside, dumping salsa all over the table, out of control. I realized the little one had a nasty diaper hanging off his foot, and was trying to fling it off! I grabbed him and had Steve hold him while I ran to prepare a much needed bath. Sometimes people see


*Kids must never feel
there is anything about
them that is revolting
... you just wash
them and love them.*


pictures and think, “Oh how cute!” Oh, if they only knew! I undressed him and found he had a buildup of dirt that was years old. I washed and scrubbed, but the imbedded dirt went nowhere. I let him soak a bit and then got him out of the tub. I didn’t have much time because we still had visitors.

I took the two new boys and Jack (our twenty-month-old grandson) out to jump on the trampoline. I again smelled something terrible. I had replaced everything on the little one, threw out his shoes as they were NASTY, and had washed him from head to toe. He still didn’t smell good, but he didn’t smell that bad either. Then I realized that each time the older one bounced on the trampoline, the odor became stronger.

I took him in to bathe him and he, just like his brother, had ingrained dirt rings. He soaked a while and then I started washing. I asked him if he was used to taking baths in a tub. He said, “My mom never bathed me.” “Never?” I asked. “No, never!” I continued to wash him from head to toe.

Let me explain toe jam. I’ll bet it’s something you’ve NEVER seen. It’s black and greasy, binds the toes together and coats the toenails. My first involuntary reaction was to shudder, but God gave that extra amount of grace needed. Kids must never feel there is anything about them that is revolting to you; you just wash them and love them. I wanted to cry as I

saw the scars on the boys. I asked their origin only to find out the oldest one had been hit by a car. There was no loving mother who cared for him, and protected him from the violent world outside. It’s so sad.

After both boys had been bathed, while watching the little one’s hair dry, I noticed little white specks. Both of the boys were covered in lice. I hadn’t noticed because of the heavy dirt coating over their entire bodies. Steve ran into town to get lice shampoo. My wonderful son-in-law and daughter graciously stepped in and bathed the boys again, using the anti-lice shampoo to kill the critters. The youngest one had the worst infestation and had to have his head shaved as well.

Now the boys smelled better and I was beginning to think the worst was over, other than the little one’s digestive system not being used to eating every few hours.

We tucked the little ones into bed and they fell fast asleep. Suddenly I was awakened by the sound of the littlest one shrieking. I jumped out of bed and ran into the room. He was completely asleep, but the terrors in his dreams must have been something unimaginable. I calmed him down and the room was quiet once again.

The next day everything was very normal with our new ones. Well, other than no crying. That’s not normal for children whose whole lives have been turned upside down. Then that night again I heard screaming from the boys’ room. I bolted out of bed and found Manuel with his feet up in the blankets, his upper body drooping onto the floor. I picked him up and consoled him. In his sleep he was still fighting something, and I was getting hit in the process. I rocked him, and as he started to calm down, I noticed blood coming from his head. I panicked. I calmed down and noticed he wasn’t bleeding badly, just a scratch. He had scraped his head on something during his fight in the night. I took him back and tucked him into bed. I realized we’re too old for this.☺

I’m writing this at the insistence of our daughter who wants everyone to know exactly what goes on here.

New Kids *cont. on page 10*

The Book Shelf *cont. from page 3*

tough questions, pray, and memorize Scripture—so that their lives and marriages might be permanently changed. A reflective Bible study at the back of the book helps readers use the material as a women's Bible study.

A second book that encourages women to take a hard look at themselves as wives is Kimberly Wagner's *Fierce Women: the Power of a Soft Warrior*, published by Moody Publishers. Wagner sums up the theme of her book when she writes, "I've often seen fierce women produce fearful men. . . . It's the warping of the gender dynamic where the wife's strengths transform into this scary fierceness. She takes charge while the passive husband sits on the sidelines. It's been happening since Genesis chapter 3" (p. 39).

Wagner goes on to describe how her own boldness and fierceness implanted a destructive wedge in her relationship with her husband, Leroy, and how their marriage deteriorated through the years. She writes: "Leroy knew my commitment to Christ but saw that it had little transforming effect on my life. . . . He was bewildered by the fact that I was consistent in Bible study and prayer but also able to treat him with disrespect and harshness" (pp. 98–99). It took a God-ordained time alone in a cabin to show Wagner the truth. "I knew the Word, but I was failing to apply its truths to my heart in the area that mattered the most. I was failing to love my husband" (p. 101).

In *Fierce Women* Wagner relates her own struggles and instructs women how to biblically love their husbands and have God-honoring marriages. She ends each chapter with "Heart Issues," which include a time to search the Scriptures, concepts to meditate on, and ways to apply the teaching.

The last two chapters of the book are enlightening for both women and

men and by themselves are worth the price of the whole book. She discusses Biblical submission, God's purpose for marriage and the reason He meant it to be heterosexual, and the covenant nature of marriage.

The last book, a new release from Zondervan, is *Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story* by Ken and Joni Eareckson Tada with Larry Libby. Many are familiar with Joni Eareckson Tada's testimony, how a diving accident in her teens left her a quadriplegic and her subsequent ministry through books and speaking engagements. But this book focuses on Ken and Joni's marriage of thirty years and is to a great degree Ken's story.

We have already established that marriage can be difficult, but that is an understatement when your wife can't dress herself, lift a glass to her own mouth, or wipe her own nose. Ken knew marriage to Joni would be a challenge, but as the need for constant care settled in, Ken fell into depression and withdrawal. Well aware of the burden her care imposed, Joni tried to give Ken needed space and reprieves from her care, and so the couple found themselves drifting apart.

Ken and Joni describe their journey together as they leaned on the Lord and each other through quadriplegia, excruciating pain, and breast cancer. Battling against Satan and the tremendous obstacles threatening to tear them apart, they have emerged with a revived love and commitment. Their moving story is an inspiring example of the reward for persevering through the tough times to any married couple.

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

**Alzheimer's** *cont. from page 8*

heart breaks for them. As Christians we must seek to help those affected by Alzheimer's. Look for ones in your community, family, and church that may need a little help. Pray for them and offer some of your time to help them with whatever they need.



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

New Kids *cont. from page 9*

Many people see pictures of the clean, smiling kids and think our job is the most wonderful job in the world. Honestly, this job is not for the faint of heart, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. To be a servant of Jesus Christ in any capacity is the most amazing, incredible job in the world!

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



Crafting with Andrea

Invitations

by Andrea Cardenas

Sitting here writing for the summer issue of Faith and Family News is somewhat discouraging due to the fact that it is only 57 degrees outside and is supposed to be spring. Although it is very green and you can see the buds on the trees, it is also very chilly. The craft I have in mind for this issue is something to CHEER us up and get us thinking about summer and warmth!

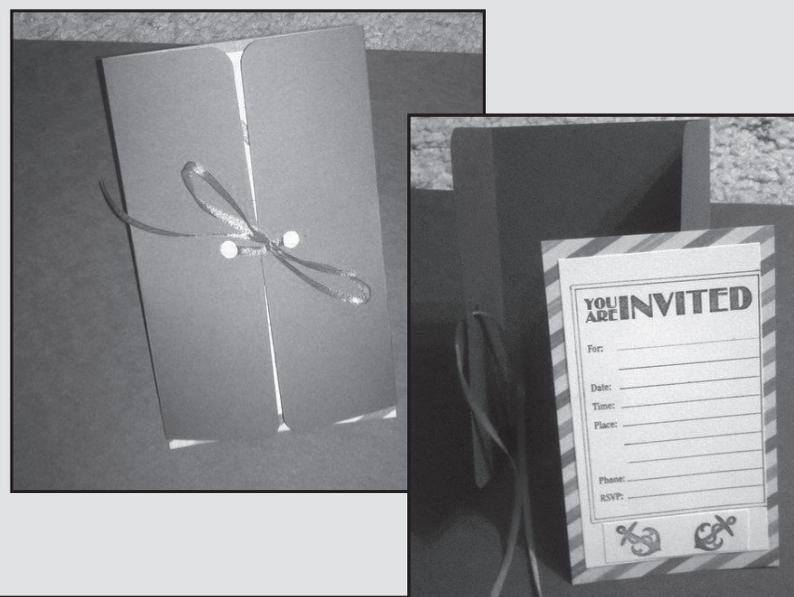
Invitations are always a necessity in the summer. There are weddings, birthdays and babies being born. We need to be spending more time with our friends and family. Hebrews 10:25 says, *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* There is much more to this verse than what I am using here, but He means for us to "GET TOGETHER" with our friends and family to encourage one another and give each other company! We all need each other and especially those that are an encouragement to us!

I have a simple, clean line invitation that is very easy to make for even the novice "card-maker." The supplies needed are: cardstock of varied colors (I made mine for a nautical occasion), scissors, double-sided tape, ruler and an envelope! I make most of my cards 3.5" x 5.5". This is because I can get two cards from one piece of heavy cardstock. You can, of course, make yours larger if you choose, but I would not recommend making them smaller. When you cut your cardstock you will want to cut it 5.5" x 7" so that when you fold it, it is the 3.5" length. The folds are

going to need to be 1.75" from the outer edges. The last step for this part is that you will want to punch small holes in the middle of the flaps so that you can tie it closed with a ribbon once everything is finished.

Now you want to cut another piece of cardstock to 5.5" x 3.5". This will go inside the previous step and will be the back of the invitation. You will then want to cut a piece of cardstock that is a solid color, (preferably a light color) to stamp the "You're Invited" stamp. This should be cut to 5.25" x 3.25" so that it fits nicely on the background piece and you can still see the design or color of the background. First you want to stamp your image on this paper so that you can discard it easily if you make a mistake. Once you are finished stamping the necessary amount, you can assemble them with the double-sided tape. These will not be taped into the folded paper, but rather they will just sit inside. Now you can place your invitation in the fold and use ribbon to tie the folder closed. Your invitation is complete! You can use any envelope you like, but I get mine from Meijer because they are 80 for \$1.29. And this is another reason I make my cards at 5.5" x 3.5". Have fun making them; you can even have your children help you. If you would like, contact me and I will gladly make them for you!!

Andrea Cardenas is married to David and they have one son. Andrea's website is www.luvnotsbyandi.webs.com.



My Light Shines

by Terry Seagraves

Have you ever heard a Christian say, "I want my light to shine bright for the Lord," and you wonder what in the world they are talking about? I would like to share my thoughts on this subject and I hope it helps.

Picture yourself alone in a small boat; you're out in the ocean and you have gone farther than you normally would have. But it's been a good day, so you test the waters and take some chances. Why not? You're young. So far, so good, right? Storm, rain, lightning, huge waves. You can't see land and you are lost. The first thing you say is "Oh God, help me." Now it sounds serious. Then the biggest wave you have ever seen comes at you with full force. All you can do is scream. That was a close one. You just got knocked down and bruised but something else is coming; you can hear it. What are you going to do? "Please God, give me a sign; get me out of here. I'll do anything you ask; just save me."

Then all of a sudden there is what seems to be a flash. You're not sure where it is coming from but you pray it shines again. There it is; it's getting

brighter. Wait, is that a light shining for you? It's as if it is calling your name. Please God, just get me to that light; I know I will make it then. You take your last oar and you row with all your might. How did that light know I was lost? How did it know where to shine for me? As you get closer to the light, you come upon huge rocks in the water, but the light guides you around them—almost leading you by the hand. Sounds like a great thriller, doesn't it?

Now let's look at your life. You are living in a world of sin, hanging out with friends, having a few beers, telling a few jokes that sort of make you feel funny. Then you remember the last time your mother was at your house. She is a Christian and she tried to talk to you about the Lord and you made a joke of it. You asked her why is she always talking about that Bible stuff and using words like, shine your light? She said, "By shining my light, I am trying my best to tell you that there is a Heaven waiting for you or a Hell. I want to show you in my actions and my speech that the Lord has changed me and I am blessed and you can be too."

She showed you some Bible verses and with disappointment left.

But wait, you start thinking. What was that she said? *But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man but of God* (John 1:12-13). What were those other verses? Do you see how as a Christian, this person's mother was leading him to the Lord? As a Christian we are to lead, teach, and pray for the lost and be their light in the darkness of sin. You might be their last shining light before the wave of sin overtakes them and they are lost forever. I pray my light shines for you. If you are lost, don't be that lonely soul in darkness. God's eternal light is there for you; just reach out.



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

The Flat Tire

by Morris Starkey



The other day the wife and I were driving into town and spotted an old van jacked up alongside the road with a tire removed. Nobody was around so I surmised that they either had no spare or the spare was flat. On our return home several people were near the van, some watching and some involved in re-mounting a tire. Without thinking, I said out loud, "You know, I haven't had a flat tire in ages." If ever you say this, immediately pull over, fall prostrate in the dust and gravel, toss some of the same upon your head, and cry out to God to forget what you just uttered from your foul lips.

The day following this event, I awoke to a flat tire. I thought I would just put in a can of that emergency tire inflating stuff and drive it into town to have them pull the screw out and repair the tire. NO PROBLEM! I know the tire people hate that stuff, but I figured since I was old they would expect something like that. Anyway the stuff would not go into the tire. NO PROBLEM! I would pull the compressor out to the car and run an extension cord and air it up. It should hold air for 15 miles. The compressor oil was too cold and the extension cord too light duty so it wouldn't pump. NO PROBLEM! I would jack the car up, remove the tire and put on the temporary donut tire and drive it in on that. The donut tire was really low so I finally got a can of that emergency tire inflater to go in it, which didn't seem to make much difference in how the tire looked, but I was sure it would get me to Kokomo. One mile from the house the donut tire came off the rim. NO PROBLEM! The Schwartz Ford business was open so we pulled in. A nice young man got us right in and fixed our tire.

Life gives you challenges. God was there for us. I discovered my wife makes a great tire change helper, and nobody was hurt when the tire went flat. We also met some nice people at Ford. Am I frustrated at God? Not in the least. As a friend at church often reminds me, "Hey, it could be worse." There is always a reason for what God allows in our lives. It will be something for discussion with Him in the afterlife. One of us is sure to bring it up.

Morris Starkey is retired from Indiana University Kokomo and lives with his wife, Donna, in Miami County.



Cemetery Hopping cont. from page 9

etery books may include plot maps or give some sort of description of the graves' locations. One day, I arrived at a cemetery only to find it bigger than expected. Not wanting to spend a lot of time walking up and down rows, I checked my notes and found that I had written next to my ancestor's name "B-2", which I took to mean Section B, Row 2. Even without a plot map, I found the grave in relatively short order. Large cemeteries often have an office. Call in advance and ask for the office hours, cemetery hours, and the location of your ancestor's grave.

Now that you've done the research, it is time to plan the trip. First, check the weather forecast for a suitable day—sunny and not too windy. Then, if you are planning to hit multiple cemeteries, make an itinerary. I usually go from closest to furthest, but you want to make your itinerary according to which ancestors' gravesites are most important to you.

Now, it's time to get ready to go. Since it is best to take pictures in the morning light, all preparations should be done the day before, at the latest. You will want to wear something

you don't mind getting dirty, but also something nice enough to go into a cemetery or funeral home office if need be. Sensible, comfortable shoes are a must. Some of the terrain may be rough and hilly. If the cemeteries you are going to visit aren't in town, you'll probably want to pack a lunch. As you pack the car, you will want to include the following items:

- Camera with fully charged batteries, replacement batteries, and empty memory card
- Notepad and pens
- GPS
- Maps (Sometimes you have to be smarter than the GPS.)
- Your notes on cemetery and grave locations
- Mirror for hard-to-read stones (see: ctgravestones.com)
- Stool (makes taking notes easier and keeps you cleaner)

There are also some items that you should **not** take:

- Shaving cream, chalk, pudding mix, flour, or any other substance to put on the stone for the purpose of making it easier to read
- Materials for doing a rubbing of the stones

- Power washer
- Bleach or other chemicals to clean the stones

Residue from substances put on the stone keeps it from breathing thereby causing it to crack. Doing a rubbing, power washing, and using chemicals, all damage the surface of the stone and accelerates its deterioration. Before cleaning a stone, get some advice from an expert. Remember future generations will want to read these stones too.

Cemetery hopping is not only good for furthering our research; it also serves as a reality check. As King Solomon wrote, *It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart* (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."
—C. T. Studd

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



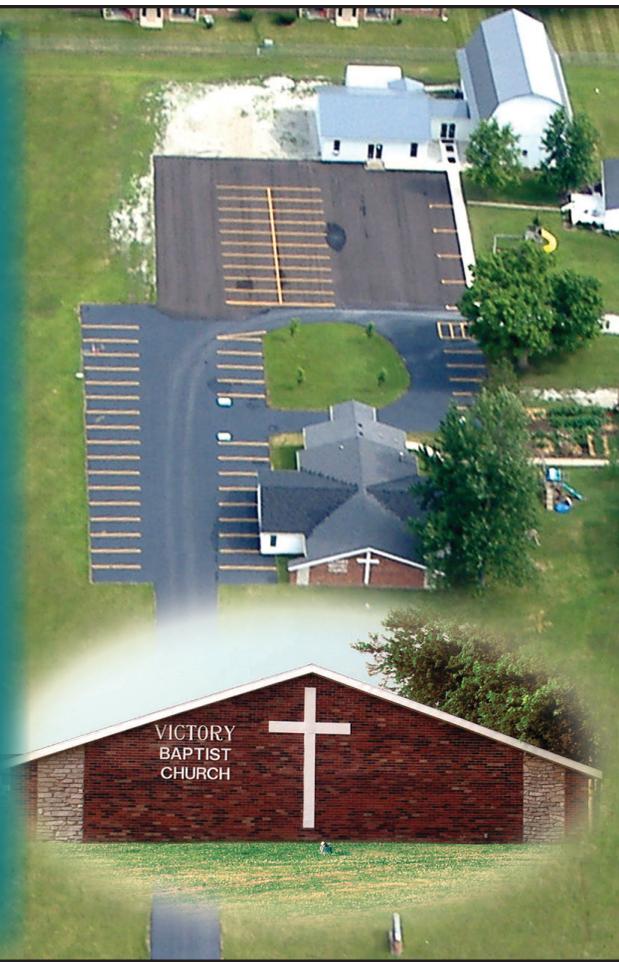
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Pastor Mike Ennis

Sunday
Sunday School..... 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service..... 10:00 a.m.
Evening Service..... 6:00 p.m.
(No evening service every 4th Sunday of the month.)

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.
Truth Trackers..... 7:00 p.m.
(Ages 3 - 6th grade)
Teens..... 7:00 p.m.
(7th grade - high school)




Do you need counseling?

Victory Baptist Church offers **FREE counseling** to families and individuals.

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

JUNE 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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AUGUST 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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June 3-7, 6:00 p.m. - **Vacation Bible School**
Sat. June 8, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**
Sun. June 9, 10:00 a.m. - **Wright Family Concert**
Sunday, June 16 - **Father's Day**

Sun., July 7, 10:00 a.m. - **Patriot Day at VBC**
Sat. July 13, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**
Sat.-Sun., July 27-28 - **Family Conference at VBC**

Sat. Aug. 3 - **Family Canoe Trip**
Sat. Aug. 10, 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Breakfast & DVD Series**

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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