

Faith Family

News

A Spiritual Resource For Your Family



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The Role of Women—Part 2

by Mike Ennis

My wife and I will have been married for 43 years this coming June 24. I know, she deserves a sympathy card! The longevity of our marriage cannot be attributed to my personality or good looks. The fact is if I had not asked the Lord Jesus Christ to save me and take over my life, I would have been divorced by now. It is not just that I became a Christian, but that I began to study His Word and find out what He wanted me to do in every area of my life, including my home. Here is the absolute truth: our lives are much better when we follow the Creator's plans for our lives, including His plans for our homes.

In God's plans for our homes He has certain roles for each of the members of the home. He has a role for the husband/father, He has a role for the wife/mother,



and He has a role for the children. In our last article we began to look at the role of the wife, which can be defined by three words. The first word, and the most controversial in today's world, is the word **submit**.

Ephesians 5:22 (KJV) *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* Ephesians 5:24 (KJV) *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

Submission to the husband is the wife's primary role. It means that she submits to the husband's God-given role as head of the home. It is God's divine plan for function and order in the home. It does not mean that her views, desires, and counsel are not considered by the husband; wisdom on the husband's part means that he does consider these things. But it does mean that

he makes the final decision and she submits to it. Some women think of submission as slavery, but it is not. It is actually the ultimate in freedom because the husband is responsible for what happens in the home.

A word to the men who may be reading this, a husband's leadership cannot be that of a dictator, always reminding his wife of her duty to submit. He must focus on his roles as husband/father and make it easy for his wife to submit to him.

The second word that defines the role of the wife is the word **helper**. Genesis 2:18 (KJV) *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Meet in the Hebrew here means *as before him*. *Help*=completer; *meet*=fitting. The wife is the completer of the husband. They complement each other to make one.

Matthew 19:5-6 (KJV) *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

The woman completes the man in God's divine design for the home. She is ideally suited for him.

Also, her husband is the wife's main ministry. Proverbs 31:10-11 (KJV) *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

She exhibits joy and contentment in her role and contributes as a

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Make Reading Fun This Summer

by Jill Garrison

Homework wouldn't be such a chore and that summer reading list wouldn't seem like an insurmountable obstacle if your child enjoyed reading. The problem is how to get him to take pleasure in what he finds distasteful. Try some of the following suggestions for making reading fun this summer or come up with some ideas of your own.

- Play games. Playing board games with your child is a good way to associate reading with fun. Many board games require reading instructions on cards or on the board. Talk to your child's teacher to find out if he is struggling with reading comprehension or a specific reading skill. Then go to a teacher supply store or look online for board games that address those skills for your child's reading level. Lakeshore (www.lakeshorelearning.com) is an excellent place to order such games. You may be thinking, "My kid hates reading. He won't fall for that." For two



years I worked with 5th graders who struggled with reading and I never had one turn down the opportunity to play a reading game. Your child likes to play games and wants to spend time with you. He won't turn down the opportunity to play a game with you as long as you treat him with respect.

Learning to play a new game is a great opportunity to work on reading comprehension. Read through the instructions together with your child. Have him tell you each step in his own words. This is also a good opportunity for your child to pick up some new vocabulary since games tend to have their own terminology. As you play, consult the instructions whenever there are disputes over the rules or whenever you are unsure how to proceed.

- Create a reading game. My childhood predates built-in en-

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Editorially Speaking

You Couldn't Pay Me To Be A Christian!

That's right; you couldn't pay me to be a Christian. Now, let me qualify at the outset that nobody has ever offered to pay me to be a Christian. That being said, far too many Christians act, talk and serve as if being a Christian was some kind of employment relationship—with medical benefits, a retirement package and a sociological peer group. As long as the expected “perks” of being believers are there, they can be counted on to be in their places, going about the business of doing what is expected as “followers” of Christ. However, the lingering question is: Are they truly following Christ, or are they just religious mercenaries, working or doing something for payment only?

Mercenary believers serve for a benefit, not out of love. We need to ask ourselves as Christians, “What is my premise for serving God?” If it is to be blessed only in this life, we are aiming too low. The love of Christ should be the motivating factor that keeps us on the firing line for our Lord. It is He who paid the price for our awful load of guilt, sin and shame. Wouldn't that be sufficient for Him to be our all in all?

Mercenary believers serve an anticipation, not a Savior. Far too many today serve because they think that if they don't, they may not get that anticipated benefit they want. When you extrapolate that out, you discover that this is attempting to gain God's grace by good works. There are many that quit serving the Lord when God seems to close the door on their expected blessing. Disappointed and often mad at God, they choose to embrace the erroneous thinking that it doesn't “pay” to serve God. Is pay what they are seeking, or is it the desire to give glory to God for Who He IS? How many have walked away from God's work

because they concurred with the world, that this world is all there is, forsaking the “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” awaiting the true follower.

Mercenary believers don't long for a country; they long for comfort. Life isn't easy. It rains on the just and the unjust alike. That's a hard lesson to learn for many, including Christians. Yet Jesus said, “My yoke is easy, my burden is light.” Compared to what we could get, what others get, and what we deserve, the believer's yoke is easy. The Psalmist said when he “. . . went into the sanctuary of God; then [he] understood their end” (Ps.73:17). Unless we have an eternal perspective about serving God, we will never be able to endure the hardships. Galatians 2:20 says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” We serve because we belong to God, not to the world with its focus on material and sociological benefits. A mercenary believer will serve out of greed, but a true believer will serve because of grace.

Galatians 2:20 teaches me that I am to sacrifice because I belong to my King. A Soldier doesn't fight to become a National they fight because they ARE a national. My righteousness does not come from my obedience, my obedience comes from the righteousness applied to me of my King.



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

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

THE BOOK SHELF

by Jeanine Garrison



*When all seems lost, God's grace is enough.
God does not give a Gift inferior to Himself.
-Augustine*

There are many books about the subject of grace in the Christian book publishing world, and to some, grace may seem to be a dry, theological topic. The concept of God's grace is, after all, incomprehensible, unfathomable, immeasurable, unknowable; yet man keeps printing more books and keeps trying to wrap his mind about the subject. One may have been a Christian for years and still have only a vague, fuzzy idea of what grace really is. Lee Strobel, however, says his new book *The Case for Grace: A Journalist Explores the Evidence of Transformed Lives* (Zondervan, 2015) is not an attempt to define grace, but is rather to “. . . illustrate the power of God to revolutionize human lives . . .” through a collection of stories.

Today Strobel is well known for his “Case” books—*The Case for Christ*, *The Case for a Creator*, *The Case for Faith*, etc. But before coming to Christ, he spent years as an atheistic legal editor for *The Chicago Tribune* and other newspapers. Strobel begins his book telling about the disillusionment and confusion he felt as a youth regarding spiritual matters. A poor relationship with his father led to his leaving home and pursuing a life of skepticism and atheism.

In the ensuing chapters Strobel relates how his journey to grasp grace intertwines with eight people who had their own stories of saving grace. He travels to meet with each person and relates his interview with them—an orphan, an addict, a professor, an ex-

ecutioner, a homeless person, a pastor, and a prodigal. After each interview Strobel returns to his own story and relates the impact of the interview on his own search and understanding of grace.

Although the purpose of *The Case for Grace* was not to “define” grace, its pages are rich with theology and spiritual teaching. And yes, definitions of grace do abound—both through the teaching and through the page-turning testimonies of real people who, like Strobel, discovered God's grace.

In his chapter “The Orphan” about the interview with the Korean orphan Stephanie Fast, Strobel includes this inspiring quote from J. I. Packer:

Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption. . . . Of all the gifts of grace, adoption is the highest (p. 21).

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers, and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. . . . To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the father is greater (p.42).



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

VOICES FROM THE PAST

True Prayer—True Power!

“To make prayer of any value, there should be definite objects for which to plead. My brethren, we often ramble in our prayers after this, that, and the other, and we get nothing because in each we do not really desire anything. We chatter about many subjects, but the soul does not concentrate itself upon any one object. Do you not sometimes fall on your knees without thinking beforehand what you mean to ask God for? You do so as a matter of habit, without any motion of your heart. You are like a man who should go to a shop and not know what articles he would procure.”

Rev. C. H. Spurgeon

Disguised Gifts

by Emily Pier

We could hear the distant thunder rolling in. Still the guide assigned a horse to each in our group. We watched the gray clouds heading our way, threatening us with rain. Still we sat, waiting for our guide to lead the way. Then off we went towards the woods, trying to block out the impending storm and enjoy our moment away.

The rumbling thunder grew a little louder. I pleaded, "Lord, what are You up to?" I watched our two 7-year-olds just ahead of me ride with pride and excitement. I looked at the sky and frowned. I glanced over my shoulder at my husband. We exchanged a worried look and a nervous chuckle.

I probably wouldn't have gone through with it, but our grafted-in daughter had never ridden a horse before. It was promised and predicted the week before, one of our surprises planned over break—horseback riding! My natural daughter has ridden several times. I might have tried to coax her into waiting for another day, and although disappointed, she probably would have agreed. But here we all plodded along, not listening to logic, but instead encouraging a brokenhearted little girl to lead us into the unknown on an adventure, (Yes, it's very symbolic!)

To complicate my own hesitations about possibly riding in a storm, this youngest, newest romper of ours is terrified of storms. She clearly recalls and mentions often last year's tornado. One of the first things she asked when she moved in was the details of our family's tornado plan. She has repeatedly told us of her fear of storms. It's with a certain amount of dread that we have waited for the coming summer storms. Even noises like dump trucks and water heaters invite her to worry, create fear, and have often disrupted her sleep. However, on this day she didn't seem to notice the rumbles of occasional thunder—at least at first.

Ten minutes in, it was drizzling. Our newest horseback rider looked over her shoulder and asked timidly, "Do horses get scared of the rain?" A moment later it was, "Do horses get scared of thunder?" Unfortunately, those were followed soon by, "Emily, do horses get scared of lightning?"

Yes, we were in an all-out downpour at this point with thunder and lightning to boot. She looked back at

me, and I flashed a huge smile. "This is awesome!" I reassured her. It was the first of several times that I could see the hesitation, the fear behind those eyes. She looked at me, and I offered her bravery by being present with her. I commended her courage as Jesus helped her work through her fears. And she did it!

When we got back soaked and covered in horse hair, I hopped off the horse and immediately went to the girls. "Sweet Girl, God gave you such a gift today. You thought you were afraid of storms, but you rode your horse in one. Wow! Thanks, God." Our new adventurer beamed. It was a perfect gift for her. My oldest one had a different gift—maybe because she was not so afraid of storms. Her horse sometimes had a mind of his own, so she had to listen as the guide coached her on how to get him to go faster and stay on the trail. It was a gift to her to be the one in control. She used her listening skills and applied his instructions to get results with her horse. It was an awesome gift, and we thanked God, too.

As I stood up and walked hand in hand with the girls to the van (and by the way, the rain had stopped, of course), I felt gratitude. I repented to God for thinking I knew best, and I thanked Him. A verse from Psalm 119 that I have often pondered ran through my mind, "I know. . . that in faithfulness You have afflicted me." Only God would know that the perfect way for my newest kiddo to face one of her greatest fears is on the back of a horse with all of us right in the thick of it with her, soaked to the bone. What felt like an "affliction" of sorts at the time, ended with a beautiful memory for us all, newfound courage for our little rider, and a song of His grace and gratitude in my heart.

Hubby and I think none of us will ever forget that ride. This mom will always remember and be thankful for the lesson. Yes, the lessons for the kids, but maybe most especially for the momma.

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.



We Need Each Other

by Marlin Carpenter

An apple tree planted alone won't bear apples!

Many fruit trees require another variety of the same kind of fruit to pollinate. If you plant a Fuji apple tree, then you need to plant a Honeycrisp or Red Delicious or some other compatible variety. Otherwise, the Fuji apple tree will bear little to no fruit. Many types of fruits and vegetables don't even have all the components needed on one plant to pollinate and bear fruit. These types of plants are called dioecious, meaning they have male flowers on one plant and female flowers on the other. Other plants are monoecious, meaning they have both male and female flowers on the same plant. Some plants have complete flowers, which means they have both male and female parts within the same flower. All of this is important to understand because plants that need others to bear fruit will not serve their purpose when planted alone.

So it is with Christians. We need each other to bear the most fruit we possibly can! When left alone, we become less effective and often wither away. God created us to need each other. He made us relational beings. Thus, we thrive when we are together. Hebrews 10:25 says, ". . . not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." And Hebrews 3:13 tells us, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

You may have heard the story of the pastor who visited a parishio-

ner who had not attended church in quite some time. They sat quietly with few words spoken, then the preacher walked over to the fireplace and with tongs reached in and pulled out one coal. After placing it on the hearth, he returned to his seat. Both sat in utter silence as they watched the coal slowly lose its glow and fade.

After the once hot and fiery coal grew completely cold, the pastor rose from his seat and left his parishioner's home. His point was well made. We need each other to keep the fire going. This is why God placed such

significance on believers meeting together to encourage and learn from one another. We find this meaning in the aforementioned verse that reads "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." The verse right before that says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). This is the basis of human interaction. We are all driven and inspired by our relationships with one another. We bear more fruit, bigger fruit, and better fruit when we work together, just like the fruit trees.

I am also reminded of watching sporting events. I am an active, hands-on person, so it can be quite mundane for me to just sit and watch other people play! However, if I find myself in the stands surrounded by people who are excited, I soon find myself becoming much more engaged and enthused about what is going on. Enthusiasm is contagious.

Another example would be conventions. We homeschool our children, and at times it feels that we are all alone and that there is no one else out there doing what we are doing.

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VOICES FROM THE PAST

"O that kings and princes would consider what account shall be craved of them, as well of their ignorance and misknowledge of God's will, as for the neglecting of their office! But now, to return to the words of the prophet. In the person of the whole people he complains unto God, that the Babylonians (whom he calls, "other lords besides God," both because of their ignorance of God, and by reason of their cruelty and inhumanity,) had long ruled over them in great rigor, without pity or compassion upon the ancient men, and famous matrons: for they, being mortal enemies to the people of God, sought by all means to aggravate their yoke, yea, utterly to exterminate the memory of them, and of their religion, from the face of the earth."

(John Knox 19th of August, 1565. From a sermon on Isaiah 26:13-14 that greatly upset the king.)

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Aging Gracefully

Making Melody in Your Heart (Part Three)

by Morris Starkey

[Ed. Note: This article is the third in a series on music in the church and its relevancy to the senior citizen believer. Younger believers would 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)

The Psalms: God’s Faithfulness in Poetry and Song

In Part One of this series, I wrote of the historic connection of music and the church. In Part Two, I dealt briefly with how church music is an invaluable tool to teach both biblical truth and musical structure. In this third part we will begin to examine Ephesians 5:19 and consider the spiritual and musical nature of the Psalms.

Simply put, a psalm is a poem. It is Hebrew poetry, meant always to be read and usually to be sung. Advocating the reading of poetry these days is almost a lost cause. People don’t offhandedly ask “Read any good poetry lately?” when bumping into one another at the market. But an elementary understanding of poetry is helpful to cultivating a comprehension and appreciation of the biblical psalms.

In *Reflections on the Psalms*, C. S. Lewis emphasized the importance of studying the Psalms as poetry, with its unique forms and characteristics. He wrote: “Most emphatically the Psalms must be read as poems; as lyrics, with all the licenses and all the formalities, the hyperboles, the emotional rather than logical connections, which are proper to lyric poetry. They must be read as poems if they are to be understood; otherwise we shall miss what is in them and think we see what is not.”

Christian teacher and pastor Bob Deffinbaugh writes: “When we read



in Psalms that the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing for joy (Ps. 98:8), we interpret these words in light of the fact that we are dealing with poetry and not prose.”

Ronald Barclay Allen, professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, quoting Laurence Perrine’s *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*, remarks that . . . “poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more and says it more intensely than does ordinary language.” Poetry is not designed basically to communicate information . . . Poetry is the language of experience. It is powerful in its communicative ability” (*Praise! A Matter of Life and Breath*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1980, pp. 23-24). That being said, there are beautiful and profound truths contained in the poetry and music of the Psalms.

Several years ago my wife and I began to collect many of the old church hymnals and chorus books whenever we happened upon them in antique shops or auctions. On one occasion we picked up an old, but wonderfully preserved, copy of a German Baptist psaltry. A psaltry is a collection of psalms set to music. I marveled at not only the faithful wording of the tunes derived from the biblical Psalms, but also of those that had even been penned many years after the Psalms in the Old Testament. Granted, they were not penned under the inspiration of God, yet they were true to the message, applied to a more contemporary time. It was as if the writers of the latter psalms experienced identical situations and found identical assistance from God as did the former. This caused me to realize anew, that contemporary music can reflect biblical truth without sacrific-

Summer Reading cont. from page 1

entertainment systems in vehicles, so we had to provide our own entertainment on long trips. One of the games that we played to help preserve our sanity, as well as that of the adults in the car with us, was the “Alphabet Game.” We had to keep our eyes peeled for words that began with “A,” then “B,” then “C” and so on until we reached the letter Z. We looked on road signs, billboards, semi trailers, license plates, and any other place we could see words. When a person spotted a word beginning with the desired letter, he had to shout out the word, such as “Arby’s” for “A.” Then that person moved on to the next letter. The person who reached the end of the alphabet first won. If someone shouted out “Arby’s” for the letter “A”, no one else could do the same unless they saw the same word in a different location. If we got stumped by those letters that aren’t used as frequently at the beginning of words such as X, Y, and Z, we would often agree that any spotting of these letters was sufficient to proceed.

Did we think about the fact that we were reading? No, we were just keeping ourselves occupied and having fun.

- Read books that have been made into movies. The whole family can get in on this one. Read the book together as a family. Then have a movie night after you’ve finished the book. After you watch the movie, discuss the movie and the book. How was the movie like the book? How was it different? Was the book better or the movie? Why? There are tons of children’s books that have been made into movies such as *Sarah, Plain and Tall*; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; *Mary Poppins*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; and *War Horse*. Caution: Make sure both the book and movie are age-appropriate for all the children in your household if you are making this a family activity.
- Enroll your family in the summer reading programs offered at the local library. Each year the Collaborative Summer Library Program selects a theme, and local libraries develop their activities and

programs for the summer around that theme. This summer they have chosen a superhero theme. Not all the programs involve reading. Some may be art, music, or science programs. All activities are designed to make learning fun. By taking your child to these programs, you help him associate reading, learning, and fun with the library. Most libraries have programs designed not only for children, but also for teens and adults. By participating in the adult program, you can model how important reading is for all ages. To top it off, libraries usually offer prizes for those who participate in their summer programs.

- Read about a place and then visit it. Most families take vacations, or at least go on day trips during the summer months. Tying these trips to your child’s reading can help make his reading come alive. Plus, his experiences will be all the richer for his reading. Such reading does not have to be books. It could be magazine articles, encyclopedia articles, travel guides, or brochures. Some children enjoy reading for information more than reading for entertainment
- Supplement reading with writing and art activities. After you read about a place and visit it, have your child write about his experience. It doesn’t have to be a report. It can be a letter to Grandma. Have him draw a picture to illustrate a new vocabulary word or paint a picture of a major event from a book he just finished. Maybe your child would like to write a play or movie script based on a book he has read. The whole family could join in putting on the play or making the movie.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many other ways that you can make reading fun for your child. Be creative. Think outside the box. More importantly, don’t give up. If your child learns to enjoy reading, it will go a long way in facilitating his future success.

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



If your child learns
to enjoy reading,
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his future success.

Nature Reveals God, But...

by Matt Turner

I'm sure you have all figured out by now, I am a nerd. I love nature and science as well as God's Word. Now that I am out of college, I love watching the History Channel, Discovery Channel, or the National Geographic Channel.



interstate system, you can tell I've basically only been up and down Interstate 75. But I have a great desire to someday see the Rocky Mountains, Grand Canyon, and of course Yellowstone National

Park.

The best thing about that is I know there will be no tests over the material just covered.

My wife, son, and I used to take day and weekend trips to our state parks to hike the beautiful trails. At one time it was our goal to visit every state park. However, baseball season seemed to eat up more and more of the summer as our son grew older. (I'm not complaining; I'm a baseball fanatic as well.)

I remember going to Brown County with my parents and brothers when I was young. I was overwhelmed by the park in the fall. So much so, I had to take my wife and son horseback riding there when he was about ten years old. (By the way, if you are looking for a cheap weekend getaway, you can't beat our state park system.)

Since my parents were from and now live in Kentucky, we have also had the pleasure of visiting several of their state parks as well. My favorite place I have been to is Cumberland Gap National Park where Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia come together—not just because of its beauty, but also because of its historical significance. When you are on Pinnacle Overlook, you can see nothing but rugged mountain tops for literally hundreds of miles north and south. To the east you can see the plains of Virginia which lead to the Atlantic Ocean. To the west you can see the Cumberland River valley with its gateway to the Ohio River and eventually the mighty Mississippi River. However, when you look straight down, you can see the Cumberland Gap. It's as if someone cut a wedge out of the mountains so Daniel Boone could lead thousands of our ancestors into the wilderness of the west. For a history and nature buff like me, it doesn't get any better than that.

Then I could go on about the splendor of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast of Florida. If you know your

Since I was a child I have had a great appreciation for the great outdoors. However, when I went to college and began studying biology, I was literally blown away. Nearly every living animal has a digestive, respiratory, circulatory, nervous, endocrine, and reproductive system all working in perfect harmony.

Scientists spend a lifetime on just one of those areas, and it seems the more they learn the more questions they have. I realize as expansive as the universe is, you can go inward just as much. After all, who really knows what atoms are like? Sure, they are made of electrons spinning around a nucleus with protons and neutrons inside. But what are they made of? Oh, I understand there is the theory about quarks and sub quarks—whatever!

Then I hit the jackpot to satisfy my extreme nerdiness. (Yes, I just made up a word.) I took a course in microbiology. I believe this to be the true final frontier of science. The more we learn about the language system and machinery and the replication processes of the cell, the more Darwinian Evolution is losing its grip on the scientific community. Even scientists who are not Christians understand Darwinian Evolution collapses in light of the fact that all the machinery and language system of DNA are necessary to reproduce any life form. It is impossible for life to evolve without ALL the basic parts of a living cell being present. I understand you cannot prove God exists, but the more we learn about the genetic code, the more evidence we see for an Almighty, Creator God of the universe Who spoke the world into existence.

You may be asking yourself, "Why is this article in *Faith and Family News*?" Well, let me explain.

If you have done much witnessing and inviting people to church, I'm sure you've come across the guy who

Nature Reveals God cont. on page 11

"I Wouldn't Buy A Used Car From Him"

Most of us have heard that saying at some point in our lifetime. I think, if memory serves me, there was even a song with that phrase as the title. It addresses one of the key aspects of keeping ourselves effective in witness and in ministry—the aspect of integrity. We have all heard it stated that if we take care of our character our reputation will take care of itself.

What is integrity? Integrity issues from character. The dictionary gives us a straightforward answer. Integrity: adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. The state of being whole, entire, or undiminished: a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.

In the spiritual realm integrity is expected to be one of the most important attributes of those who serve Him. When integrity is compromised, the work of God is hampered, if not completely destroyed. History bears it out that loss of integrity by a servant of God, a church or any Christian organization most often spells the end of that ministry.

God counts on and expects His churches and servants to abide by ethical principles (Biblical principles). He expects his churches and His servants to be honest in their dealings. When people lose confidence in a church or its leaders they can become disheartened and wander away. The world doesn't expect the church to be perfect, but, like it or not, they expect it to be pretty close. Is that fair? Of course not, but the Devil who is behind criticism (remember he is the "accuser of the brethren") doesn't operate from the principle of fairness.

So, what do we do in the light of these realities?

The work of the Lord isn't selling used cars, but the principles of integrity are even more important. A car salesman friend of mine once told me, "Anybody can sell a car to somebody one time. The real test is will that same person buy a car from you the second time."

Think about it. *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God* (Romans 12:1-2).

~Editor~

The Role of Women cont. from page 1

member of their partnership. No one can contribute as the wife can. She should be the man's chief source of counsel and companionship.

The third word that defines the role of the woman is **reverence**.

Ephesians 5:23-33 (KJV) *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 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: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his*

wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The dictionary definition for reverence says: Respects, regards, notices, honors, prefers, esteems, praises, loves, admires. The husband should be his wife's hero. She is to reverence him, not seek to revamp him. The wife is not his personalized Holy Spirit. Her focus on the husband's negatives is often just an excuse for her not doing right. In fact, if a wife wants to change her marriage for the better, she should focus on changing herself.

If both husband and wife embrace their God-given roles, their marriage will be beautiful and lasting. It will also be a fit picture of the relationship of Christ to His church.

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 9 grandchildren.



Cookin' Corner

by Donna Starkey

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth (Psalm 104:14).

I always look forward to summer and being able to enjoy the fruits of our garden, even though I know that it also means a lot of work when it comes time to can or freeze the fruits of our labor. I have included two recipes this issue that use fresh vegetables or fruit. The Baked Corn Pudding Casserole was sent to me by Cyd Allen Adams. I have known Cyd and her family since I was a teenager growing up in the great state of Kansas. The Easy Banana Cake was sent to me by Sue Starkey. Sue is family as she is married to my husband's nephew. I hope that you enjoy trying both of these recipes.

Baked Corn Pudding Casserole

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
6 large eggs
2 cups whipping cream
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
6 cups fresh corn kernels or an equal amount of frozen corn

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and cayenne pepper in small mixing bowl. In separate medium bowl, whisk together eggs, cream and butter. Whisk flour mixture into egg mixture until mixture is smooth. Stir in corn. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Put baking dish in a large pan filled halfway with hot water (hot water bath). Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45-50 minutes or until a skewer inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serves eight. This recipe is easily halved.

Easy Banana Cake

2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup butter, melted (1 stick)
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 ripe bananas, mashed (about 1 cup)

For the Topping:

1/4 cup all purpose flour
1/4 cup dark brown sugar
1/2 cup buttermilk

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar. Blend in the melted butter, mixing together until moist. Add 1/4 cup of the buttermilk and combine. In a separate bowl, combine the other 1/4 buttermilk with the eggs and blend into the flour mixture. Add the vanilla and mashed bananas. Beat for 1 minute. Place the batter in a greased 13x9 pan.

Topping:

Mix flour, brown sugar and butter together. Crumble the topping over the cake batter. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 300 degrees.

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



The Log Cabin Quilt

by Terry Seagraves

In a quilt pattern there is a theme, and the Log Cabin is my favorite. There is a unique story behind this pattern, and it has been told by quilters for many years. The center square is 3X3 inches and always in red. This symbolizes the hearth or heart of the home. In the olden days the fireplace was the only source of heat in the home, so the cabin was built around it. The stripes are sewn around the center to make a perfect square.

Now that I have told you the story of the Log Cabin Pattern, let me tell you my story of the family pattern. You see the 3x3 inch square in the center is red, which symbolizes God and the blood that Jesus shed for our sins. No home should be without God as its center. God is the heart and soul of the home, and without that foundation there is always fear of the home crumbling.

Everything in our lives should be centered around God. How we live, act, speak, and present ourselves should demonstrate that we are Christians.

The stripes next to the center represent the family—the father, mother, and children always touched by His love and protection. No matter where we are in our daily lives, God is with us, and when we lay our heads down at night, He gives us rest. Family is very important

to us, and we are very important to God. We have a great influence on our family members, and there is always opportunity to share God's word to those closest to us each day.

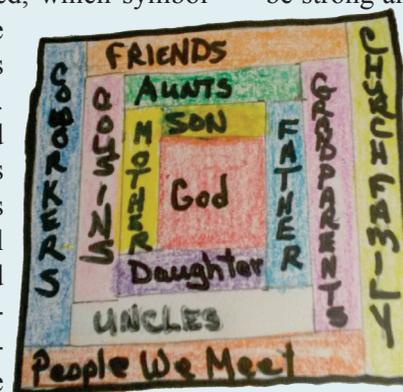
As our pattern grows, the stripes represent the different people we come in contact with. We do not realize how many lives we touch each day, and we must always be prepared to help open eyes and hearts to God. We have great opportunities to be missionaries, teachers, and disciples for Christ.

Anyone who sews knows you want each stripe to be as perfect as possible. This helps our pattern to be strong and last many years. This is how we want our lives to be, strong in His Word and straight on the path He has set for us. Just imagine a quilt with crooked, weak, and poor-looking seams. Would you stop and look at it? Would you buy it? Or would you continue

looking for a beautiful one with strong, perfect seams? Of course, you will pay a high price, but think of the high price that Christ paid for us. There is no higher price than the shedding of blood. If you found the perfect quilt, you would not question the cost. Christ knew what He was going to pay for us and He didn't say, "Well, let me pay a lesser price because people on earth are not worth it."

As for me and the pattern in my

Log Cabin Quilt cont. on page 10



DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

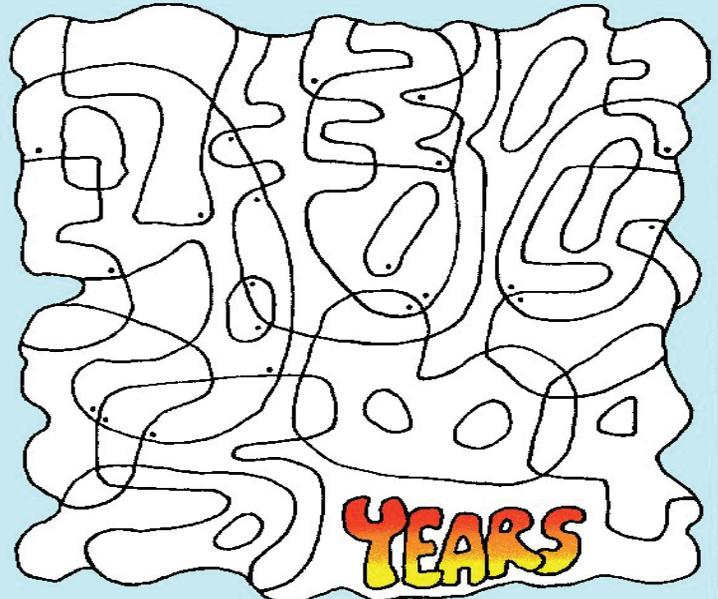


In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

— PSALM 62:7 KJV

FUN FOR KIDS (of All Ages)

HOW OLD WAS ADAM WHEN HE DIED?
To find out, colour in all the areas which have a dot in them, then Adam's age will appear.



Genesis 5:5

Used with permission: www.gunther.net.nz

“The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.”

Q: When should you buy a bird?

A: When it's going cheep!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Scold.

Scold who?

Scold enough out here to go ice skating.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground ?

A: To get to the other slide.

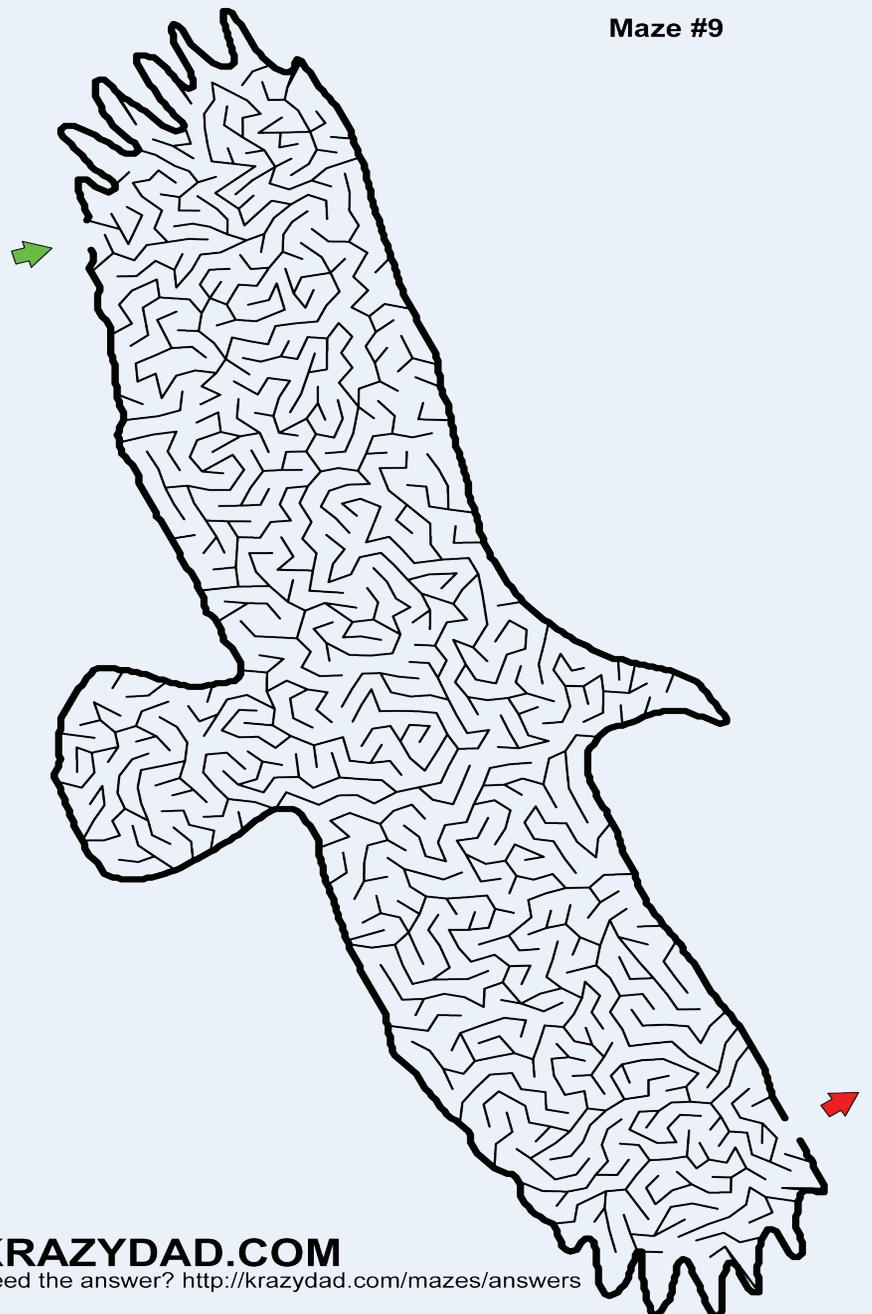
Q: What do you call an elephant with a carrot in each ear ?

A: Anything you want because he can't hear you!

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Maze #9



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Giving and Receiving Support in Your Life

by Rachel Irwin

There have been many times in my life that I really needed support—both support from God and from those that God had placed in my life. It has been four years since I graduated from nursing school and passed my State Boards to become a registered nurse. Going through school was often challenging because I had two children and a husband who needed me. I was extremely blessed by the support I received. God gave me the strength and wisdom to get through it. He often opened doors that I was not sure could be opened, helping me see that I was on the right path. My husband picked up a lot of the responsibilities with the children and also worked extra to make ends meet. My family also helped with the children when needed. Then there were my prayer warriors who prayed for me and encouraged me to keep going. My fellow nursing students and my friends also provided support and encouragement. When I achieved my goal, I felt such relief and thanked God for carrying me through.

Now looking back, I'm so happy that I became an RN. God placed me in an extremely wonderful area and has surrounded me with many Christian women who bless me each and every day. I have such an opportunity to serve others. I cannot say that every day is filled with a sense of great accomplishment. Most days I just get my job done. But other days I receive

such joy out of helping my patients. When I get someone who is nervous, I love to walk with them through the process and rejoice with them when it is all over. I have learned that we all need support and help at different times, and we must be willing to accept and provide support. I often find myself overwhelmed with my assignment for the day and need to humble myself and ask for help. God has blessed me with an amazing group of people to help me. Other times, I see someone overwhelmed and have an opportunity to support them.

You just never know when God will use you to comfort and encourage someone in need. As Christians, we must be ready to be God's hands and feet. You do not have to be an RN to be a source of comfort and support to those around you. God provided opportunities to me when I worked in fast food as a teenager. I guess what I'm saying is look for opportunities. I feel so much joy when I help someone. Sometimes I get a thank you or someone at least notices it, but many times my help may go unnoticed. I'm here to tell you nothing goes unnoticed by God. He sees it all and rejoices in your efforts to honor Him by helping others.

He is the ultimate example of self-sacrifice and service. He, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, became a human, lived a life of poverty, and gave His all, His life to save

Support cont. on page 10



We Need Each Other cont. from page 3

But then we attend a homeschool convention with hundreds of other homeschool families, and we are reminded that we are not alone. This is a tremendous encouragement and inspires us to continue. Surrounding ourselves with people who are connected to our cause spurs us to continue on with renewed vigor!

If you're not part of a body of believers, I encourage you to find a good Bible-believing church. Yes, there are always conflicts and differences that arise in the Body of Christ. After all, we are all imperfect humans who are on a journey to become Christ-like. But none of us are there yet. However, if we keep perspective and a humble,

graceful attitude, we will enjoy the blessings of being surrounded by other believers! An apple tree left alone will never serve its true purpose, and a Christian left alone will struggle to bear the fruit that God intended for him to bear.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

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 Complacency

By Leann Wilson - Guest Contributor

For thousands of years God has been warning of a day to come, a day of reckoning. In Isaiah 32:9-10 which was written around the 700's BC, He warns the Hebrew children of Judah, prior to the Babylon captivity—"Rise up, you women who are at ease, Hear my voice; you complacent daughters, Give ear to my speech. In a year and some days you will be troubled, you complacent women." The Hebrew children were offering their sacrifices and praying, simply going through the motions, not minding in their hearts the things of the true living God, all the while looking to the ways of Egypt for the answers to their problems. Then in the mid 600's BC, in Zephaniah 1:12, He tells His children in Judah once again, of the coming destruction saying, "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The Lord will not do good, Nor will He do evil.'"

Complacency—a quiet or smug satisfaction with a given situation or condition, often while unaware of some potential danger lurking ahead. An "I'm comfortable with this, it's good enough" attitude that lacks any real passion or desire. If in your walk you are simply going along to get along, with nothing more than a friendly civility toward our Lord and Savior, and the Father; bromidic in your walk, trudging along, running on tradition instead of Holy Spirit inspired passion, with an "I know what I need to know, can do what I need to do, and I can do it by myself" attitude—you are in a dangerous spot! The wisest of men wrote "the complacency of fools will destroy them" (Proverbs 1:32 NKJV). In the words of Christ, *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see* (Rev 3:15-18 NKJV). Just as tepid water is of little use, not cold enough to refresh and

not hot enough to warm the belly, so goes the way of tepid faith.

A.W. Tozer wrote in his book *The Pursuit of God* "Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth." Content to be complacent you are asleep with no insight to the condition of your soul and "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich" (Proverbs 13:4 NKJV). Complacency is not merely a dry time. If you're dry you still have your peace and joy in the Lord and you know where to go to be refreshed by the "Living Water" (read John 4:7-26). Complacency says I know you're there God, but I'm busy; Your Word doesn't hold my interest and doesn't fit my lifestyle. Devoid of any devout feelings, complacency runs to comfort and not to God. Complacency doing its duty for an hour and half (if that) on a Sunday morning, will gather with the brethren as long as it's not too hot, not too long, not too loud and not too Christian. Complacency is anxious for services to finish so he can get to the mall, home to the crockpot, and back to the game. Complacency wants a worship service in concert form, forgetting that the performance (if you so choose to call it that) is for Him, and not for the congregation. Complacency desires a message that tickles the ears, so he doesn't feel too uncomfortable with his sin. Complacency may just be pandering to demons instead of edifying saints. And when despair comes for the complacent "Then they will cry to the Lord, But He will not hear them" (Micah 3:4 NKJV). "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray" (Proverbs 5:21-23 NKJV). But, God tells us, just as God told the Hebrew children when they went astray forgetting the commandments of God, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity" (Jeremiah

Spiritual Complacency cont. on page 11

Making Melody cont. from page 4

ing its spiritual relevancy.

Overview Bible Project, a website by Jeffrey and Laura Kranz, lists eight different types of psalms in our Old Testament book of Psalms. They also note that the little bits of text at the head of each psalm are the psalm title, often the author, and the type of psalm. These prefatory texts were part of the original manuscripts. There are Psalms (mizmor), Psalms of praise, Song psalms, Maskil psalms, Prayer psalms, Mikhtam psalms, Shiggaion psalms and Song of Ascent psalms (see <http://www.overviewbible.com/kinds-of-psalms>). A study of these would reveal that the Psalms deal with a plethora of circumstances in which believers might find themselves and can give us the necessary ministering in any one of those circumstances. So the next time you hear it said that the psalms aren't relevant, be assured that they are as relevant as twenty-first century believers need. Contemporary writers would do well to find again these rich resources of spiritual truth and from them pen relevant and biblical musical messages.

In our next issue this fall we will look at what constitutes a hymn. As older saints we must realize that change is happening all around us—some good, some not so good. Romans 12:9 challenges us to “cling to that which is good.” Sing the songs that affirm the truth of God, songs that appeal to the new person in Christ that you have become, and thereby age more 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.



**I have set the LORD
always before me:
because he is at my
right hand, I shall
not be moved.
Psalm 16:8**

It was 1953. I asked her to marry me on February 20th, four months to the day after our first date. She said no; it was too sudden. But we kept on dating. On March 20th I asked her again. She said, “No, nothing has changed.”

I replied, “Sure it's changed: we've known each other for five months now! And like I said before, the Lord has made it clear to me that we are going to be married. So when He tells you, I'll be around.” And again, we kept on dating. By this time she had begun attending our 5:00 a.m. Bible studies, along with a few others who were hungry for the Word. And on April 20th, I asked her again. Same results.

Graduation was May 16th, and she got her Bachelor's Degree. I had just finished my sophomore year. Her family from California was extending their trip for another week and invited me to come along. I jumped at the chance, and four days later when I managed to get alone with Lolly, I again asked her to marry me. Identical result. They dropped me off at my dad's farm in Oklahoma on their way home, and I helped with the wheat harvest and plowing until my greetings arrived. Yes, it was Uncle Sam, “inviting” me to two years active duty in the Army. I was to report to Chicago for induction on July 1st. In the letter to Lolly on June 20th, I told her about my draft notice and again, asked her to marry me. The reply came back a few days later. Guess what! No, same answer!

During basic training at Ft. Riley, many of the recruits around me were getting “Dear John” letters. I could imagine how I would feel if I got one. It would tear me up. In my prayers I asked the Lord why the delay. Why are you waiting? Why don't you tell her like you told me? I felt like getting desperate, but I knew mentally that the Lord had it all under control and that it would be all right. He used my desperation to prompt me to hatch a wild scheme: my J-3 Cub, which I had taken to JBU to work on and finish up to flying status, was not done. I had spent most of my spare time courting instead of working on the plane.

I made arrangements to have the instructor at JBU finish my plane as a class project so that the labor would be free. I bought a diamond ring at the Post Exchange and air maps for

Old Timer's Corner Multiple Proposals

by Jim Wright

a flight to California. If I could actually pull this off and fly to Lolly with a diamond ring, wouldn't she just have to say yes? It was a long shot, I knew, but hey, what did I have to lose. I had to try it. Basic training ended the middle of November, and I scheduled my leave time from December 14th through the 25th. I was hoping and praying that the plane would be ready in time.

In the letters that I wrote on the 20th of each month, I asked Lolly to marry me. Each time the answer was the same. I wrote Lolly every other day. She wrote to me every day. I loved Mail Call! I hitchhiked to JBU on the weekend of December 6th. The plane was ready, so I flew it back to Manhattan, Kansas. I removed the



front control stick from the Cub so I could get my guitar in. I got a two gallon rectangular oil can and filled it with emergency gas and strapped it in the front seat (you fly a Cub from the rear seat).

On Saturday, December 12th I finally got my papers for the trip and took off about 3:00 in the afternoon. Now, I'm going to give you an abbreviated version of the flight. If you would like the full story of the “bumps in the road” of that flight, you can read it at www.jrwright.net under book near the bottom of the home page. At Pratt I slept in the loft of a hangar. I bought a loaf of bread, a can of creamed corn and a can of pork-n-beans. That was my cuisine for the trip. I got gas at Liberal, Kansas, Dalhart, Texas and, in New Mexico I gassed up at Tucumcari, Albuquerque and Gallop, where I spent the night sleeping on a couch in the lobby of the El Navajo Hotel. The next day Winslow, Flagstaff, and Kingman, Arizona were my gas stops. It was disconcerting, to say the least, watching the trucks on Highway 66 pass me up—headwinds going west,

you know.

Lolly was on Christmas break from Biola, where she was pursuing a Master's Degree, and was staying with her mother in Las Vegas. So from Kingman I flew up to Sky Haven Airport in North Vegas. It was Monday afternoon. When Lolly got off work at Penny's, I borrowed her brother's car and took her out to the Stardust Hotel. Oh, not to do anything, since we had no money—just to walk around in the moonlight. It was only the 14th, but I just couldn't wait for the 20th. So I said, “I've got something I want to show you,” and I took the ring from my pocket and opened the box.

“Oh, it's beautiful,” she glowed.

I thought good response, and said, “Now let's see if it's the right size. I guessed at the size when I bought it at the PX.”

She held out her finger, and just as I was ready to slip it on, she said, “But that would mean . . .”

I said eagerly, “Yes, that would mean . . .”

She pulled her hand back and said, “But no, this is still too sudden.”

I said, “Well, as I keep telling you, we are going to be married, and when the Lord tells you, and He will, it will be just the right time.

Oh, I'm out of space again. We'll continue in the next issue.

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.



ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK

*And I say unto you,
Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find; knock,
and it shall be opened unto you.*

*For every one that asketh
receiveth; and he that seeketh
findeth; and to him that
knocketh it shall be opened.*

Luke 11:9-10

Log Cabin Quilt *cont. from page 6*

life, I changed it. No, God changed it. I am not saying I live a perfect life; I am saying I make mistakes. But I am thankful for Jesus; just like a seam ripper, He forgives me, takes out the sin, and replaces it by all things new.

Now when you get all your quilt squares sewn together, you are ready to sew the cover together. There are three sections: the bottom, the batting (center), and the beautiful quilt top. In our lives the three sections would be the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God looks at our lives and puts everything together to make a beautiful pattern for each one of us. When your quilt is finished, you love hearing everyone say, "Well done." Just think, when our lives are over and we see Jesus face to face, there is only one thing that we are praying to hear—"Well done, my good and faithful child." Wow! That makes me want to shout. When I lay my head down to sleep each night, I can't wait to ask God in my prayers, "Did I do enough?"

Now I am asking you, how is your pattern? Is it a strong Log Cabin with the center being God and the blood of Jesus? Are the stripes in your pattern representative of a Christian life, being an example to everyone in your life? Have you shared God's word and been a beautiful pattern that others would want to sew. It is up to you. How do you want God to see your life? Are the colors in your pattern beautiful? Are the seams straight and strong?

There is only one way for me to close this article and that is with one question: have you looked inside your heart and changed your pattern? Will the day come when Jesus will welcome you in to Heaven and say, "Well done, my good and faithful child."

Prayers for you always,



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

DID YOU KNOW? Astronomical Clock, Prague

Useful for when you need the time in Babylonian Hours, this medieval astronomical clock is located in southern wall of the Old Town City Hall in the Old Town Square of Prague, Czech Republic.

It has inspired many legends including the tragic tale of its builder Master Hanus who was said to have been blinded by officials to prevent him recreating his work. Later it was discovered in a document dating to 1961 that the clock was made by Mikulas of Kadan in 1410.

The ornate clock features a calendar dial that makes one rotation a year, the old Czech time, and 12 wooden sculptures of the Apostles that pass by window above the dial on every hour.

It is the oldest working astronomical clock in the world. (didiyouknow.org)

Support *cont. from page 8*

mankind. He died, was buried and rose again three days later and now in Heaven prepares a place for you and me. He has carried me through so much and He wants to carry you, too. So if you have not received His gift of salvation, let today be the day. He is the ultimate life support. Nothing in my life has ever been done on my own; only by His grace are any of us here today. So let God in your life, either for the first time or through a rekindled relationship. Then get busy serving and supporting others around you. Go to church and look for and commit to opportunities to serve. God will bless you for it.

Matthew 25:34-4 (NIV): "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



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

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Faith and Family News [FAFN] reaches thousands of people in our area in its mission to be a spiritual resource to the individuals and families of our area. *FAFN* publishes four times a year and distributes copies through nearly 300 locations in the area. The reception of our publication has been phenomenal!

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THOUGHTS ON OUR FLAG

"We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear on earth—peace, security, liberty, our family, our friends, our home. . . But when we look at our flag and behold it emblazoned with all our rights we must remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties. Every glory that we associate with it is the result of duty done." -Calvin Coolidge

Lessons From Little Ones



"When I Am Afraid"

by Brenda Howard



When our daughter was young we often played children's Christian music in the house while she played. One of our favorite recordings was "Hide 'em In Your Heart" by Steve Green. This recording is of children singing Bible verses set to music. One of the Bible verses is, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid." (Psalm 56:3-4a NASB). One day during a particularly loud thunderstorm I thought it was odd that she hadn't come to be near me like she usually did. When I checked on her she was calmly playing in her room as if nothing had happened. Later in the day she told me that she had been afraid during the storm but then she told God that she trusted Him and she wasn't afraid anymore—just like the song said to do.

I was challenged by this example of simple child-like faith. As we struggle with fears every day, whether it be fear of the unknown/uncertain future, of failure, of what people think, of sickness, heartache, going through difficult times, or even death, God's

remedy is the same for adults as well as children—trust Him. Trust that His plan is perfect and He is in control. Trust that He loves you and desires your best. Trust that even in difficult times He is there to sustain. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB).

I love how we can see David's heart throughout the Psalms. We see his struggles with fear, his triumphs, his sadness, his joy, his brokenness over sin and his humble repentance. Most of all we see his calm assurance that his loving, all-powerful God is on His throne, carrying out His plan and helping him through the journey of life. It is then that we can join with David in praising our awesome God and put our trust in Him!

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



USELESS FACTS?

A man named Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 69 years!

A moth has no stomach.

About twenty-five percent of the population sneeze when they are exposed to light.

Americans buy about 5 million things that are shaped like Mickey Mouse, or have a picture of Mickey Mouse on them in the course of a day.

Hong Kong has more Rolls Royce automobiles per person than anywhere else in the world.

In a year, the average person walks four miles to make his or her bed.

Spiritual Complacency *cont. from page 8* 29:11-14 NKJV). You can rest assured that complacency will hold you hostage just as Nebuchadnezzar held the Israelites captive in Babylon.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10 NKJV). Complacency and revival spring forth from the same source, from within the depths of the soul. When the complacent one in humility turns back to the Lord He will hear and He will rekindle the fire within. He will quicken the Spirit inside you and nourish the starving soul! "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8 NKJV). In Psalm 119 the psalmist writes, "I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word (vs. 15-16). "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (vs.18), "Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law" (vs. 33-34). "Revive me in Your righteousness. Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord" (vs. 40-41). Sincere prayer, worship and the study of His Word will bring us close to Him. "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19 NKJV). Be diligent in your pursuit of Him as "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over

you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17 NKJV). "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16 NKJV) Search for the deeper things of God, commit to love, and remember, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (2 Peter 3:9-10 NKJV). "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV).

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God" (Psalm 42:1-2 NKJV)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38 NKJV)

May God guide your path.....

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
James 4:17

Nature Reveals God

cont. from page 5

says, "I don't need Jesus or to go to church. I worship God simply by enjoying the great outdoors and marveling at His handiwork."

Please make sure that individual understands there is a tremendous difference between knowing God exists and knowing Him in a personal, intimate way! Remind him Satan also knows God exists and has a great love for His creation, and he will not get to spend eternity with God in Heaven.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by Me." It doesn't

matter how much you know about and appreciate God's majestic creation. If you have not come to the point where you understand you have a sin debt which can only be paid by blood, you are Hell-bound.

You must realize God understands the impossible situation in which everyone is born. That's why He planned in eternity past to send His Son to shed His blood on Calvary as the payment for everyone's sin. History tells us Jesus Christ came to this world over 2,000 years ago and died on the cross.

Every history professor I had at Indiana University acknowledged the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is a historical person. Unfortunately, most have not turned from their sin and asked God to apply the payment Jesus made on the cross to their personal sin account.

It doesn't matter how many goose bumps you get when you look out at the starry sky, or stand in awe of any part of this incredible universe. If you have not asked Jesus to save you based on His work, you do not have an intimate relationship with the

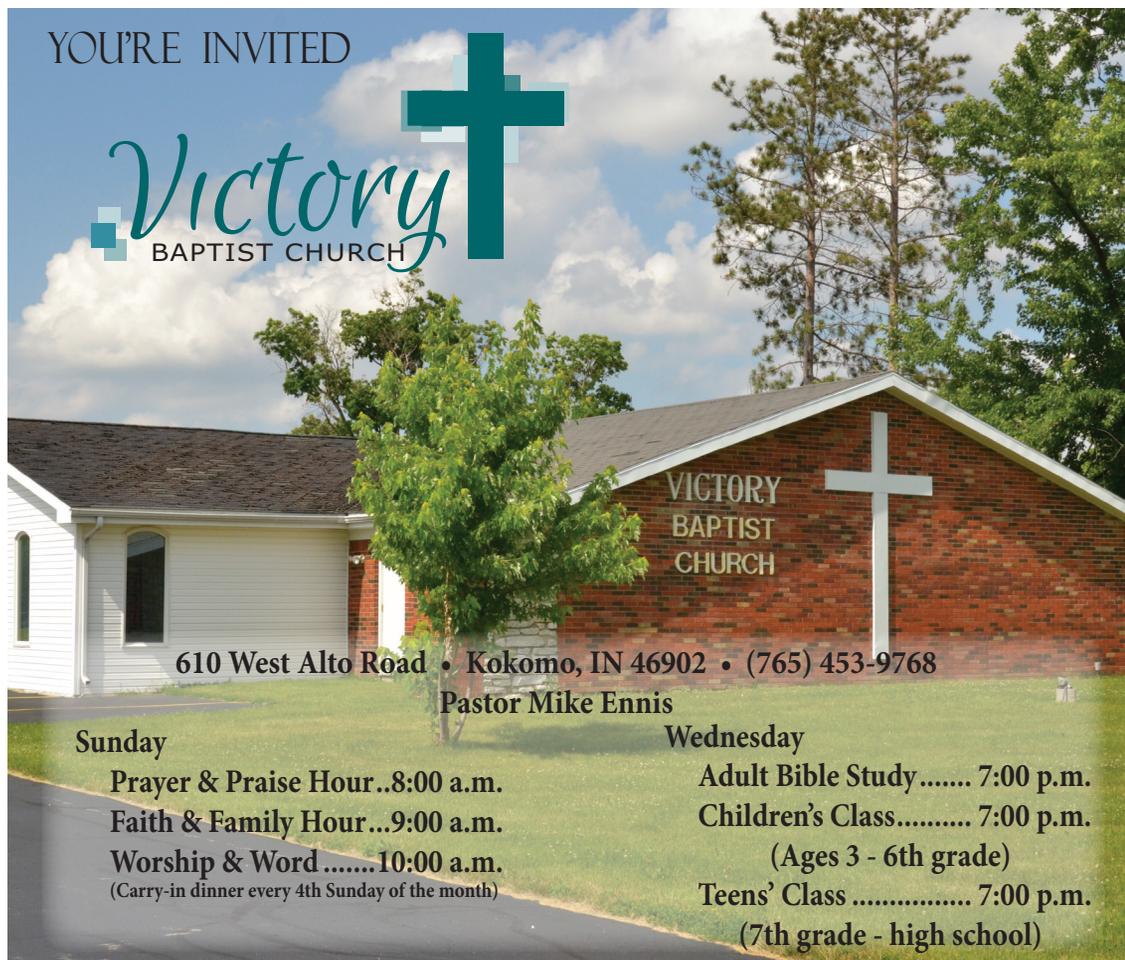
Creator.

Reader, I beg of you to email me, or visit our website at vbckokomo.com. Read the plan of salvation or listen to a message which has been preached from our pulpit. I would love nothing more than to introduce you to the One Who has given His all for you. May God bless you!

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



YOU'RE INVITED



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

Pastor Mike Ennis

Sunday

Prayer & Praise Hour...8:00 a.m.

Faith & Family Hour...9:00 a.m.

Worship & Word10:00 a.m.
(Carry-in dinner every 4th Sunday of the month)

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Children's Class..... 7:00 p.m.
(Ages 3 - 6th grade)

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



Do you need counseling?

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

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

COMING SOON!! OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB GRADES 1-6

CHECK OUR OUR WEBSITE: WWW.VBCKOKOMO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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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