



BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS



The Great Commission at Twenty-Three

By DeAnna Rudisill

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out the workers into his harvest field.’” - Matthew 9:37-38

App State: A few years ago, a young college sophomore concluded that he wanted to be a Christian preacher.

His name was Regin Larson, and he was at UNC-Charlotte.

“My sophomore year I re-dedicated my life to Jesus,” Larson said. “That is when I really had a burden in my heart to preach the gospel. Like Paul, ‘Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel.’

“I started hopping on my phone and printing out the Gospel on Instagram,” Larson added.

His enthusiasm is still palpable.

Then he started making Gospel podcasts.

He was a Business Marketing major that turned into an evangelist.

“I grew up in a Christian home and attended a Christian school,” Larson added. “So, I knew the apologetics.”

Now Larson works for Ignite Campus Ministry, a Christian organization that’s goal is to enter and plant churches on college campuses.

Or as Larson puts it. “To awaken a generation to the reality of the Gospel. I think college fields in America are white unto the harvest.”

Now 23 years old, Larson is a full-time evangelist at Appalachian State [App State]. This is the first time he has been full-time in the ministry. He was a student leader for Ignite for three years and did an internship at his home church in Charlotte – Vision Church.

Larson grew up in Charlotte with two older brothers.

“Some of my friends from Ignite started a worship night at App State and needed a leader on Campus,” he said. This is Ignite Ministry’s first year on the App State campus.

On Sunday now they have 50 to 60 students in attendance and have Bible studies and prayer meetings during the week.

“In the first three weeks of this semester, we had 11 people saved!” Larson proclaimed. “We are celebrating what the Lord is doing. Every day... every week.

“We had 8 saved the first gathering, then one the next week and two the following!”

A brave feat to preach the gospel to college students at 23.

When asked if he is ever mocked, Larson said, “Well, obviously we have backlash and comments, but we are doing what the Lord has called us to do. The joy outweighs the hardship!”

Larson has an intern and a handful of volunteers on his staff and Ignite is



also set up on multiple campuses, like UNC-Charlotte, NC State, and University of Alabama – Birmingham.

In addition to Sunday service, Bible studies, and prayer meetings, the App-State-Ignite staff also does evangelism on campus.

This too helps bring students in. Larson pointed out that they were in their sixth week of the semester and had up to 60 students at their Sunday service.

For their on-campus evangelism, Larson said, “We go on campus with a white billboard with questions on it. What are the core longings of humanity? Who is Jesus? Where are you going when you die? [Etc..] Then conversations we have lead to the gospel and saving lives.”

They do this 2-3 times a week. Their services are at the student union, so they are in the thick of student activity.

“On Sunday, we have fellowship, worship, and then preach the gospel,” Larson said. “And then we ask people to surrender their hearts to Jesus.”

Then Larson brings up Matthew 9:37. *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”*

Later Jesus says to pray for workers to come. Those last few words had a profound effect on young Larson.

“Matthew 9:37-38 is an invitation to participate in the eternal mission of Heaven: To win souls and make disciples. It’s in a place of prayer that our hearts start to get aligned with Jesus’ heart, and we no longer pray for the Lord to send out laborers and we actually become an answer to the prayer. “And we say, like Isaiah, *“Here I am Lord, send me!”*

Larson then added, “We get to partner with God in His mission, in his Harvest. As the Lamb that was slain receives the reward of his suffering.”

Larson and others in his generation are reaching out to others their age in a way the older generations cannot. No wonder revivals are popping up all over the US and the world.

“Jesus here am I, send me!” - Young Hearts around the World



DeAnna Rudisill is a U.S. Army Veteran and long-time journalist. She left a 20-year jaunt in the secular media to write the unadulterated truth and bring God back into the public forum, finding her niche at Blue Ridge Christian News / BRCNews.Com.

Here are some of the essential elements of our faith at the Blue Ridge Christian News:

God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has existed eternally in three persons and chooses to manifest Himself in these three ways: as God the Father, as God the Son, and as God the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who is fully God and fully human in His incarnation. He lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humanity by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God, fully divine, manifested in the life of every believer from the moment of salvation. He is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His daily control. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

The Bible

The Bible is the divinely inspired, authoritative, infallible, living and active Word of God to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. In it we find a guideline for right relationship with God and God's creation, and a blueprint for personal, emotional, and spiritual growth. (2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-21; Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

Humanity

Humanity is designed and made by God in His image. We have been created as cognitive, moral, ethical, and physical beings and have been equipped by God for both relationship with Him and with one another. Both male and female are gifted by the Creator with characteristics which equip them for the purpose for which they have been created: relationship, dominion, and responsibility. Although God designed us to have fellowship with Him, we became alienated from God through disobedience. As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and choose to sin against God. We are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts. (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:22; Colossians 1:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Eternity & Eternal Security

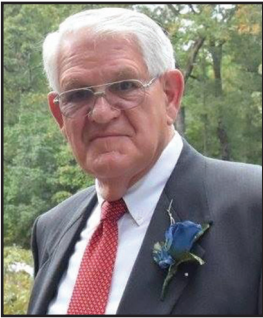
Our soul, the essence of our being, was created by God to exist forever. That forever is spent in one of two places: eternally present and in union with God because of His forgiveness and salvation or eternally separated from God because of sin and unbelief. At the moment that our physical body dies, those who are saved are immediately taken to heaven. Those who have rejected God's gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from God in hell. Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and eternal power of God that gives this security. (John 3:16; 5:11-13, 10:29; 1 John 2:25; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Salvation

Salvation is God's gift of redemption and reconciliation to Himself and is offered freely to all who accept, by faith alone, Jesus Christ as God's only son and receive Him as Lord and Savior. We can never make up for our sin with self-improvement or good works. It is only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness that you can be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment you receive Jesus Christ into your life by faith. (Romans 5:1; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26)

New Beginning

By Doug Harrell
Mitchell County



Each day of our lives is a new beginning. We get out of bed and prepare to face the day and its rewards and challenges. When I got out of bed about 3:30 this morning the first thing that I saw was my dog Taz lying at the very foot of my bed. Now he has a Serta dog mattress with blankets all at the other end of the room that he is usually on, but this morning it was as if he was saying “I want to be close to my master”. Rather than just seeking the comforts, he wanted the closeness! Man, that is the making of a sermon for sure and the making of pure joy in our lives. We need only to heed the message.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33 KJV
The song “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” came into my mind as I thought about this. The song includes these words:

**“I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee
Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be”**

The Scriptures tell us that our God is jealous and we cannot serve two masters, a little paraphrase by Harrell here this morning, but that is so true. Our first love needs to be our Lord God Almighty, not things of this world. Get a grip today, draw your mind and soul a little closer to your Master, and feel His presence. Leave the stress and enjoy the restfulness that only a personal relationship with our Lord and Creator can provide!

How do you obtain joy in your life? Are you focused on work and attaining big houses, nice cars, fancy clothes, and a big bank account? We are told in the scriptures that we cannot serve two masters and we cannot serve God and money. We will learn to love one and hate the other.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 KJV

God wants us to be contributors to society and to use our talents to the best of our abilities. Just constantly focusing on things on this earth never gives us true happiness. We are told over and over to put the Lord first in our lives, to give freely and joyfully of our riches to our church, and those around us in need. The Lord knows our needs and I do feel that he provides in wonderful ways if we only put Him first.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Matthew 6:33-34 KJV

Strive today to be a joyful giver. Be willing to give of yourself, your love, your time, and your money to those around you. We oftentimes put too much emphasis on the money.

In the twinkling of an eye, we can become a new person. That sounds like a crazy notion and in many cases that is a crazy thought. The truth is that with God all things are possible. I have seen people that have made changes overnight and become different people. It was amazing to watch. I personally have never felt that I had a complete transformation such as this, but wish that I had at times. God works in different ways in each of us, in my case, even though the day I gave my life to the Lord was an emotional day, I still remember the day well. Growth has been a process of years and events, exciting events, and lots of hard knocks along the way. Some days I feel like I have gone backwards rather than forward and I have no doubt that most of you have traveled and are traveling that same road.

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25-27 KJV

This passage made me really think of what our profession of faith does for us! Being Baptized in the power of the Spirit affects our hearts and minds. A new heart, a new spirit, wow what a blessing! Many of us have had new replacement parts installed in our bodies, new knees, new shoulders, new hips, new lungs, and even new hearts and heart parts, and what a difference it has made in our physical lives. As amazing as medical science is, the changes made in our lives when we come to know Jesus are even greater.

Give thanks today for God's unlimited love and grace that watches over us. Give thanks that you were washed in the blood. Give thanks for the renewing of your mind and heart, even though that is important, giving of self is even more important. Just focus on putting Jesus first, the rest will fall in line.

In the society of today, where if it feels good just do it, we need to really think

continued on page 5

Hope 4 Mitchell County

Martial Arts Academy

KARATE CLASSES

Kids & Adults

Mondays – Thursdays

Kids 5:30-6:30 Adults 6:30-8

For Info 828-385-1704

Each class

Contents

In Every Issue

Your Government - p. 32-33

Life Lessons - p. 2

BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

Publisher/Co-editor – Brian Barrier
828-413-0506
brianb@brcnews.com
Office Manager/Co-editor – Cathy Pritchard
828-765-6800
cathyp@brcnews.com
Sales:
Brian Barrier
828-413-0506
brianb@brcnews.com
Church Directory:
Brian Barrier
828-765-6800
brianb@brcnews.com

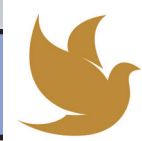
Distribution:
Deborah Slagle
Doug Braswell
Amanda Silver
Ashley Hoilman
Albert Kaylor
Graphic Design / Layout
Lynn Elliott
lynny@brcnews.com
Blue Ridge Christian News
152 Summit Ave.
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Office – 828-765-6800

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion. Thy God reigneth!”

Isaiah 52:7 KJV



Visit Us Online At: www.brcnews.com



Thank You For Supporting Our Advertisers!

Serving: Avery - Burke - Madison - McDowell - Mitchell - Yancey Counties

ADVERTISER CLASSIFICATIONS

APPLIANCES Jonathan's Used Appliances (27)	Plumtree Presbyterian (4) Spruce Pine United Methodist (4) The Rock Church (4) The Bridge (4) West Burnsville Baptist (4)	Freedom Life (27) Spruce Pine Baptist (2) Valdese Tourism (29) Yancey Baptist Assoc. (14)	HOUSING Clayton Homes (40)	REALTORS Whitson Realty (15)
AUTOMOBILES - Dealers Marion Chrysler Dodge (27) Spruce Pine Chevrolet (23)	CHIROPRACTIC Cruz Chiropractic (22)	FINANCIAL PLANNING Retirement Resource Management (20)	HUNTING SUPPLIES Cooper Trading (18)	RESTAURANTS Abele's (26) Appalachian Java (35) Bantam Chef (31) Bubba's Good Eats (37) Chic-Fil-A (30) DT's (24) Granny's Country Kitchen (21) Western Sizzlin (7)
AUTOMOBILES - Repair/Supply John's Precision Auto Body (5)	COLLEGE McDowell College (31)	FUNERAL SERVICE Beam Funeral Service (29) Heritage Funeral Home (15) McCain Funeral/Cremations (20) Sossoman's Funeral Home (27)	INSURANCE eBen Insurance (36) Fortner Insurance (7) Jeff Kincaid Insurance (4) McDowell Farm Bureau (37, 13) Miller Insurance Group (11) Mitchell Co. Farm Bureau (31) Premier Insurance (9, 35) State Farm Insurance (6) The Medical Insurance Lady (6) Thrive Insurance (17)	RETAIL Burnette's Country Store (31) Grassy Creek Clothing (17) Radio Shack (40)
AUTOMOBILES - Tires Buff Tire & Service (5) McCabe Tire & Service (17) Spruce Pine Tire (9)	CPA Jamie Miller (30)	FURNITURE Buck Stove (25) L&B Furniture (6) L&L Furniture (30)	PAWN Mountaineer Pawn (16, 34)	SHOE REPAIR Hedgerow Repair (5)
BANK United Community Bank (17)	DENISTRY Dr. Michael Magnotta (19)	HARDWARE Three Nails Hardware (10)	PLUMBING/HEATING Burleson Plumbing Heating (21) Benjamin Franklin Plumbing (9)	STORAGE DR Storage (23)
CHURCHES Bear Creek Baptist (4) Berry Chapel Baptist (4) Burkemont Baptist (4) Bridge Worship Center Church (4) Faith Fellowship (4) First Baptist Spruce Pine (4) Grassy Creek Baptist (4) Landis Orthodox Presbyterian (4) Morganton Seventh day Adventist (4) Newland Christian Church (4) Pine Branch Baptist (4) Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (4)	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE New Hope of McDowell (8)	HEALTH CARE Carolina Home Care (19) Yancey Health Dept. (8)	RADIO STATION WSVM (19) WMNC (26)	TRAVEL AGENT Wilcox Travel (6)
	DISCOUNT FOODS B&S Discount Foods (28)	HOSPICE Hospice of The Blue Ridge (24) Compassionate Care of Western North Carolina (18)	REAL ESTATE Newton Real Estate (38)	TREE SERVICE Ray's Tree Service (24)
	DSS McDowell DSS (14) Mitchell DSS (8)			
	EVENTS Catawba River Baptist Assoc. (5) Christian Perspective Representatives (30)			

Church Directory



Jeff Kincaid
— INSURANCE GROUP —
jkinsurancegroup.com

Jeff Kincaid proudly sponsors the Church Directory and
hopes you find the church of your choice this week.

Auto • Home • Life • Business • Farm



Grassy Creek Baptist Church

793 Old NC 226 Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC
828-765-4620
www.grassycreekbc.org

Disciple Life 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10:55AM
GCBC Kids 5:30 PM
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
Youth 7:00 PM
"That the world may know Christ"

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church

2187 Jamestown Road
Morganton, NC
828-584-8212

Pastor Steve Bietz

Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study - 9:30 am
Sabbath Worship - 11:00 am
Vegetarian Buffet after church
Wednesday
Praise, Prayer & Proclaim -
7:00 pm
www.morgantonsda.org

Altapass Baptist Church

3631 Altapass Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC
828-765-0660
altapassbaptistchurch@ccvn.com
www.altapassbaptistchurch.org

Dr. Marcus R. Benfield
Rev. Tony Lominac -
Associate Pastor

Sunday School - 10:00am
Worship - 11:00am
Sunday Evening - 6:00pm
Sunday Youth Program - 7:00pm
1st & 3rd Sunday
(Conductors for Christ ages 5-11)
2nd & 4th Sunday
(Teen Discovery ages 12-18)
Wednesday - 7:00pm

Plumtree Church

4527 Hwy 19E
Plumtree, NC 28664
828-765-6919
www.plumtreechurch.com

Pastor Ryan Bridgeo
pastor@plumtreechurch.com

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Life Groups Tuesday-Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm
Healing Services 2nd Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that
will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you
ask in my name.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

2396 Enola Road
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 437-4082

www.pleasanthillbc.church

Senior Pastor
Dr. Jack Hodges

Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday Evening: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm

"Love All, Reach All, Teach All, Send All"

Newland Christian Church

2800 Millers Gap Highway
Newland, NC 28657
Phone (828) 260-1404
www.newlandchristianchurch.com

Pastor - Phillip Greene

Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am
Sunday Evening Bible Study: 6 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting: 7 pm

"A Local Congregation of Christ's Church"

Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-2357
www.burkemontbaptist.org

Sr. Pastor - Dr. Luke Lane

Sunday Services
8:30a - Early Worship
9:45a - Sunday School
11:00a - Worship
Wednesday Services
6:30p - Adult Choir & Orches-
tra, Adult Bible Study, Youth
Discipleship, Preschool &
Children's TeamKid

Mount Carmel Baptist Church

195 Gouges Creek Rd.
Spruce Pine NC 28777

John 3:16 says that YOU are
loved!

Find out why at
www.mcfamilyforchrist.org

Sunday School - 10am
Sunday Worship - 11am and 6pm
Mid-week Service - Wednesdays
at 6:30pm

"A Family Focused On Christ"

First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine

125 Tappan Street
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-9411
www.sprucepinefbc.com
www.spfbc.blogspot.com

Dr. Rocky Branch
Senior Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship - 10:45 am
Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

*Knowing God, Seeing God, Serving
God, Submitting to God!*

Pine Branch Baptist Church

48 Church Road
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Phone: (828) 765-9101
www.pinebranchbaptist.org
Email: info@pinebranchbaptist.org

Rev. Bruce Cannon, Interim Pastor

Sunday School • 9:45-10:45am
Worship Service • 11:00am
Sunday Evening • 6:30pm
Wednesday Evening • 6:30pm

Growing Together in Christ

Berry Chapel Baptist Church

280 Chapel St.
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-6590
www.berrychapelbaptist.com

Pastor - Steve Williams

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Care Meal/
Ministry - 5:30 PM
Wednesday Evening
Service 7:00 PM

Where Everybody is Somebody
And Jesus Christ is Lord!

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

11090 Hwy. 226 South
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
sprucepineumc@gmail.com
828-765-7446

Pastor Richard Schilling

Sunday Worship - 9:00am
Sunday School - 10:00am
Sunday Worship - 11:00am
Choir Wednesday - 7:00pm

The mission of Spruce Pine United
Methodist Church is to be a beacon on
a hill spreading the Good News of Jesus
Christ through: Worship, Fellowship,
Education, and Nurturing Service

Bear Creek Baptist Church

327 Bear Creek Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
www.bearcreekbaptist.com

Interim Pastor Blake Glenn

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Discipleship 6:00 PM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Worship 6:30 PM

*"For God so loved the world, he
gave his only Son..."*

Landis Orthodox Presbyterian Church

4975 US 221
Marion NC 28972
(828)-756-7470
www.landischurch.org

Elder Mike Cloy
opcmiceloy@gmail.com

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Fellowship Meal Following Worship
Thursday Bible Study & Prayer 6:30pm

*Come Celebrate the Glory of God in Reverent
Worship Ps. 96:3; John 17:1*



**You can let tourists, visitors and even neighbors know where your church is and when
you meet by listing in the BRCN Church Directory. This visible and effective advertising
is specially priced at \$300.00 per year for our churches - approximately \$5.75 a week!**

*Call us at 828-765-6800 to enroll in
this important outreach effort.*

When Jesus Shows Up

By Toby Crowder
Mitchell County

“Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.” John 21:12

Many of us attend churches that come together weekly for worship, and we gather desirous of seeing God move and experience His presence in our lives. In John 16, Jesus had spoken to the disciples and promised them the coming of the Holy Spirit, but the Comforter would not come until the day of Pentecost, and by the time we see them here in John chapter 21, they must certainly have been in despair. They had walked with Jesus for 3.5 years, and now after His death on Calvary, they were dismayed and trying to return to the normalcy of their lives. Jesus had appeared earlier to Mary at the tomb, and to the disciples (less Thomas) and then eight days later appeared with Thomas being present. Now on the Tiberian seashore, Jesus chose to reveal Himself to seven of His followers that day and fellowship with them.

This record of Jesus’ appearance has considerable encouragement for the weary in the heart. Much can be said about Jesus’ timing... which is always perfect! He knew exactly when these discouraged disciples needed this miracle. We can also benefit from looking at those to whom He appeared on this day. Simon Peter was present; the one who had denied that he ever knew the Lord. You will also find Thomas there, the same one who had doubted the Lord and demanded proof of His bodily resurrection. Nathaniel was also present, the same one who asked in John 1:46 *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”* The Scripture here also records the presence of James & John, who had earlier caused a commotion by arguing over their seat in Jesus’ kingdom. All these were present that day, along with two other disciples who remain unnamed. This may not sound to us like a prime list of suspects for Jesus to appear and speak to, but that is the beauty of this passage! This ragtag band of disciples who had, by all accounts, let Him down and failed Him... were the very ones to whom He spoke and chose to spend time. They were downcast, doubting, and discouraged, and at Peter’s leading, they had turned back to life as usual, yet Jesus chose to abide with them and invite them to *“come and dine”* with Him (v. 12)

I encourage you to take a few moments and read the account of this story in John 21:1-14. In reading this, three simple thoughts stand out to me and encourage my heart. First, verse four tells us that Jesus stood on the shore. Notice that He was watching over them, just as a caring Father does. They may have thought that He was gone and felt far away from His presence, but He was there! We can rejoice in the fact that He knows our situation and what we are going through and so He knows when we need Him to “show up!” Secondly, v.5 tells us that He spoke to them. At this point, they had not recognized Him as Jesus yet, but He certainly knew them and called them “Children.” It is striking to me that He still called them “children.” Even after the denials, the arguing, the desertion, and their combined failures, He did not forsake nor abandon His children!

Lastly, notice that He invited them to come and fellowship with Him, and He fed them there. Jesus calls these tired, hungry, discouraged fishermen to come and dine with Him! Not only did He feed them there... but they enjoyed rest and fellowship with the Master around the fire. The Gospels teach us that Peter had warmed his hands with the enemy’s fire while Jesus was being tried and questioned during his trial. How fitting that gathered around a fire kindled by the Lord God Himself, Peter and these other men would be allowed to fellowship with the Master and Peter would be allowed to declare His love for the One he had denied. I pray that we will respond to His still-standing invitation to “come and dine.” Discouraged hearts will be warmed, fed, and encouraged when Jesus shows up!

Toby Crowder serves as Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Spruce Pine. He and his wife Leslie have been married for 28 years and have two daughters, Emilee, and Katy. He can be contacted via the church’s website MCfamily-forChrist.org or mtcarmelsprucepine@gmail.com



about where we are going and what we are doing. Every one of us, if we are honest with ourselves, have sinful thoughts, if not actions. We have earthly desires and lusts that would be frowned upon by our Lord, at least I freely admit that I do! So many preach from the pulpit that God is just a loving God who forgives and forgets our sins and shortcomings. We tend to use God’s Grace as a coverall for our want to do all kinds of things. The Bible is clear that God is a just God. Proverbs states clearly that the fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom. While Grace is sufficient, we must confess our sins and turn our eyes on Jesus, not use Grace as an excuse to live any way we want. We must become a new person in Christ.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV

Be careful what you say and what you do, and be conscious of how you act around your children. As the saying goes, little pitchers have big ears. Strive to set the right example in all that you do. Give thanks that God’s grace is sufficient when you do fall short, but let your faith be shown by your works. Realize the greatest gift you ever received was God’s grace given freely, that that is your ticket into heaven if you truly believe and get on board the train of faith and repentance.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God,” Romans 3:23-25 KJV

Doug Harrell is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, Owner of Harrell Hill Farms, Inc, a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church.



HEDGEROW CRAFTERS
Hedgerow Crafters of Marion can fix your favorite shoes, boots, and sandals.

828-460-7913

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News.” Romans 10:15

John’s Precision Auto Body

Experienced Body Tech Needed

1385 Rutherford Road
Marion, NC 28752

(828) 652-2018
Fax (828) 652-4896

GIVE THANKS

Buff’s Tire & Service

YOUR ONE-STOP TOTAL CAR CARE EXPERTS!



FOR ALL THINGS AUTO, TAKE IT TO BUFF’S!

Check Engine Diagnosis • Alignments • Brakes • Oil Changes • Inspections

1211 BURKEMONT AVE., MORGANTON, NC

Located in: Magnolia Plaza • 828-438-3800

“We’ve Moved Across the Street next to Rural King. Come See Us!”

29th Annual Catawba River BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TOY STORE

We need your help!

Can you sew a stocking, or help collect Toys?

Toy Store donation boxes, stocking fabric, and stocking patterns are available for pick-up at the CRBA office.

The children of Burke County appreciate you.

Please contact the CRBA office for more information at (828) 437-0137 or use QR code



The Medical Insurance Lady, Inc.
Over 30 Years Experience

Serving Medicare Clients Since 1989



Medicare Advantage Plans
Medicare Supplements and
Medicare Prescription Drug Plans
Medicare Dual Eligible Plans for
Medicare/Medicaid Beneficiaries

SUMRA
SALAME

Licensed Insurance Agent

Call Today

1 (800) 434-1677

Part C, Part D Plans or Medigap Policies

Sumra Salame is an Independent Insurance Agent representing Alignment, Aetna, BC/BS NC, Cigna, Humana, United HealthCare, WellCare and other Medicare Supplement carriers. She services Medicare Recipients regardless of age, ethnicity, health status or income.

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 7 organizations which offer over 70 plan products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get more information on your options.



New, low auto rates. Same good neighbor.

Here's the deal, MORGANTON.

State Farm® has new, lower auto rates, so you can save more cash and get local service that's always the real deal. Call me today for a quote.

Rick Franklin, Agent
507 A Burkemont Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655
Bus: 828-437-6285
rickfranklin.bwmq@statefarm.com

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there®



WILCOX
World Travel and Tours



From Avery to Africa, and all points in between,
we specialize in domestic & international mission
travel and Holy Land Tours

www.wilcoxtravel.com

4417 NC 105 S., Boone, NC 28607

Chad Cole

(828) 210-8166 or chad@wilcoxtravel.com

L&B FURNITURE

NC Lowest Priced Furniture

(828) 652-7667

Exit 81 1-40 · 136 Worley Road · Marion, NC
www.landbfurniturestore.com

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday & Monday Closed

McDowell's
ONLY ASHLEY
GALLERY



John Paul Jones

By David Streater, Ph.D.
Burke County, NC



This article is an educational moment in American history about those who made a difference during the Revolutionary War era and how they served our country.

Ironically, a great American patriot was born in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, on July 6, 1747, and educated at the Kirkbean Parish School. John Paul would explore all parts of the ships at the local Port of Carsethorn. He and his friends would talk to the sailors about their adventures and imagine being at sea with them. Paul would bark out orders to his friends, pretending to be the ship's captain in battles.

At 12, John started his naval career as a cabin boy working for the Younger Shipping Company. His first voyage was on the Friendship, which allowed him to see his older brother in Virginia. Younger Shipping soon went bankrupt, and John worked aboard slave and cargo ships. By 19, Paul earned the first-mate rank from the knowledge and experiences he acquired.

In parts of the United Kingdom, Paul was known as a kidnapper and a pirate. In 1773, John Paul found himself in a problematic situation: while sailing in the West Indies, he killed a mutinous sailor. Even though John claimed self-defense, he knew that he would not be believed in an English court.

Disgusted with slavery and his current predicament, he hurried to America. John Paul added Jones to his last name, as an alias, to conceal his identity. John's seamanship and his new identity put him in a position to become a Revolutionary War hero and a gallant naval officer.

Arriving in Philadelphia, Jones joined the Navy and was commissioned as a first lieutenant on December 7, 1775. Mentored by Commodore Esek Hopkins, the first commander of the American Navy, Jones received his own ships and gained victories over and possessions from British frigates. In June 1776, Congress appointed Jones as the captain of the Ranger and introduced him to Benjamin Franklin. During the next two years, John captured and destroyed British vessels. These encounters earned him the command of the French-built ship, Duc de Dures, which he renamed Bonhomme Richard to honor Benjamin Franklin. On September 23, 1779, John Paul Jones led history's most famous naval battle. Aboard the Bonhomme Richard in the British Isles, Jones and a small flotilla blocked a British convey. During a several-hour barrage with the British ships Serapis and the Countness of Scarborough, the Bonhomme Richard started sinking. With the Bonhomme Richard burning, British Captain Richard Pearson commanded Jones to surrender. Jones replied, "Surrender!? I have just begun to fight!". At battle's end, Jones and his crews captured the British ships. The American flag was transferred to and hoisted on the Serapis with John Paul Jones in command, as the Bonhomme Richard sank. With the event at Yorktown and the Battle of Chesapeake bringing the Revolutionary War to an end, the Continental Navy was dissolved.

As an admiral, Jones served Empress Catherine the Great in the Russian Navy for a year after the war. His leadership and experiences had a significant role in capturing the Ottoman (Turkish) fortress at Ochakov and in the Black Sea campaign. After these battles, Jones then relocated to Paris in 1789.

"In June 1792, Jones was appointed U.S. Consul to treat with the Dey of Algiers." However, at age 45, on July 18, 1792, he died from a brain tumor and kidney problems before he could begin his diplomatic duties. All, including his adversaries, remembered Admiral Jones. He was buried in an untended cemetery for foreign-born Protestants in Paris and forgotten.

In 1905, Jones' body was relocated to the United States Naval Academy and laid in an ornate sarcophagus. Despite his troubled times in the U.K. and Russia, John Paul Jones was honored during his life with many accolades and awards, including the title of the Father of the United States Navy.

Please visit your Charters of Freedom setting in most western North Carolina counties. A Charters of Freedom setting consists of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. They are on permanent display analogous to the Charters of Freedom in the National Archives, Washington, DC. Please visit FoundationForward.com to learn more about our existing settings. Vance and Mary Jo Patterson are the benefactors and originators of Foundation Forward, a 501(c)(3) education non-profit.

Teachers are encouraged to contact Dr. Streater for information and complementary student education materials to enhance experiential field trips to Charters of Freedom settings. In addition, everyone is welcome and urged to obtain a personalized engraved legacy paver for placement at their local Charters of Freedom setting. Please contact Dr. Streater (david.streater@mymail.barry.edu) for engraved legacy paver information and complementary educational materials.

Dr. David Streater is the director of education for Foundation Forward. He is a retired college instructor and administrator, and a retired probation and parole officer/administrator. David is a criminologist who has an acute history interest, served in the Navy, and is a resident of Burke County, NC.



Love the Lord, Lose the Bitterness

By Amber Houk
Burke County



Psalm 119:165 *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”*

“She called me a cream puff.” a student wailed from the other side of my classroom. Is that a bad thing? I wondered inwardly. A cream puff sounds pretty good right now. I smothered my smile and turned to address the situation. While talking with the offended student I realized she needed the sweetness of love to dilute the bitter insult from her friend.

This comical classroom conundrum reminds me of a verse I read recently - Psalm 119:165 which says *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”* Psalm 119 includes many synonyms for God’s Word such as law, statutes, and commandments. When we love God’s Word, we can exchange the bitter taste of offense for the sweetness of peace as we notice His love for us.

Offense often tastes like rejection from family and friends, poor customer service, or ignored relationships. As I contemplated Psalm 119:165 I wondered how the Bible defines the word offend.

Here’s how I satisfied my spiritual appetite. Because the Bible is its own dictionary we can read all of the verses in the Bible containing a particular word to help us define it. I visited BibleGateway.com and searched for the word offend. Note: You could broaden your search to include other forms of the word such as offending, offender, or offense but for the purpose of this study I focused on the root word offend and the word offended. Twenty-three verses in the Bible use the word offend and twenty-four verses use the word offended. I skimmed them, noticing patterns as I read. Many verses mentioned relationships, breaking the law, and wronging others. And, of course, I noted the famous passages in the gospels teaching us to cut off something that offends us. (See Matthew 5:29-30, Matthew 18:8-9, Mark 9:43, 45 & 47.)

Through considering each letter in the word offend a definition formed in my mind: Offense comes through the open door of a relationship. It is formed by actions and words that engage the senses. How do we react? We say no to the things that bring us down. We cut them off.

Feast on the following verses to expand your spiritual palate. Allow God’s Word to tantalize the taste buds of your understanding about the word offend as you dine on His Word.

O - Offense oozes through the open door of relationships.

When we form close connections with others we have more opportunities to be offended by them. Proverbs 18:19 tells how an offense can affect our relationship with our brother. It says, *“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”*

FF - The two Fs in offend form a disarming duo of actions and words which can turn a sweet union into sour discord.

James 3:2 reminds us how our words and actions affect others. It says, *“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”*

E - Offense engages our senses by opening up a palate of emotions.

Matthew 24:10 says *“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another; and shall hate one another.”* This verse highlights how a bite of acerbic offense leaves a bitter aftertaste of betrayal and hatred.

How do we sweeten the bitterness of offense? The last two letters of the word offend answer.

N - We say “no” to the offense.

Instead of focusing on the offense we concentrate on the Bible’s big goal which is to share the feast of gospel peace with others. Mathew 11:5-6 seasons our meal with truth, *“...the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, who-soever shall not be offended in me.”*

D - We cut off the rottenness of offense which threatens to bring us down. Matthew 18:8 defines this process. It says, *“Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”*

“I’m sorry for calling you a cream puff.” offered the offender with a sweet smile. The offended student realized the love her friend showed was more important than remaining offended over the gooey insult. The next time the aftertaste of offense flavors your day, remember my “cream puff” labeled student and sweeten the bitterness of offense with the love of Jesus, the Living Word.

Amber Houk loves to fuel passion for God’s Word, one conversation at a time. She writes @readtruthtogether on Instagram and <https://readtruthtogether.substack.com>



WANTED

THE WESTERN SIZZLIN STEAK OF THE WEEK





- NOTORIOUS FOR BEING A GREAT VALUE •
- KNOWN TO BE “FLAMEKIST” TO LOCK IN THE JUICES •
- LEGENDARY FOR A BOLD AND DELICIOUS FLAVOR •

South Hwy 226
Spruce Pine, NC
Spruce Pine Shopping Center

828.765.9151



we protect your house.
because to you
it’s home.

simple human sense.

“Wishing you and your Family a Very Blessed Thanksgiving”



FORTNER
INSURANCE AGENCY

www.fortnerinsurance.com

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

The Bloated Christian: Reimagining the Church Experience

By Alex Cummings
Burke County



Imagine if you will, sitting in the fellowship hall of your Church during a potluck lunch after service. Think about how loud the atmosphere is and how many different conversations are taking place at the same time. Your table might have eight people with four different conversations going on and you're only able to catch a little bit of each due to the difficulty of hearing so many things at once.

In marketing, we use what we call the "rule of 7's" which states that a consumer must see a message at least 7 times before it makes an impact on them or they take action. Essentially, we utilize the same marketing messaging repeatedly so the prospect hears the same thing over and over again making it much easier for them to not just remember our messaging but also so it makes an impact on them.

You may be asking how does that relate to the Church? Many of us probably have a similar schedule to what is below:

- Sunday morning bible study
- Bible study on a singular topic
- Sunday morning worship
- The pastor is doing a 12-week study on the Beatitudes
- Sunday night bible study
- Here you're in a 12-week marriage study with your spouse
- Monday night discipleship training
- You're going through the entire New Testament in one year
- Wednesday night bible study
- You're going through a bible study on a different book of the Bible
- Thursday nightlife group
- This could be a 16-week Revelations study
- Throw in a Tuesday night men's coffee outing or dinner to discuss spiritual growth

This type of schedule creates a culture of information overload where people can't effectively learn and retain the message because the message is constantly being diluted.

Robby Gallaty calls this "The Bloated Christian" and states that every time you learn something new that week, the original message retention is cut in half. With that said, if you take the weekly schedule above, you can only retain 1/64 of the information you consumed at the Sunday morning bible study because you attended seven different sessions over the week.

How do we move from the model of Church consumers to true disciples? What if we took a moment and reimagined the way we experience Church? What if each of those seven opportunities were built upon one another? The messaging we receive is valuable, life-altering, all-consuming. What if we treated it that way?

We should be setting ourselves up for success not failure. Only being able to retain 1/64 of what we learn each week is not a recipe for success, especially considering that we probably spent ten-plus hours in those seven different sessions.

I'm in no way, shape, or form saying that consuming too much of God's word is bad, I encourage everyone to be in his word daily, but we need to create a culture of understanding God's word, slowing down, taking time to digest what we have learned and apply it to life?

So, you might be saying, what does that look like? An optimal Church experience might look like something I have outlined below:

- Sunday morning bible study
- All groups do HEAR/SOAP journals and review them on the past week's sermon, pick 3-5 verses to do a HEAR/SOAP journal on and share with the group, groups to broken down by age
- Sunday morning worship
- Typical worship service with a 20-30-minute sermon
- Sunday night bible study
- Extended deep dive study into the worship topics from that morning, reiterate what was discussed but take a deeper dive into the content and context
- Tuesday night discipleship training
- A concentrated practice to transform into true disciples with a focus on Sunday's message
- Wednesday night
- NO bible study, local missions focus to help bring the word of Christ to your neighbors, create prayer cards, welcome baskets for new homeowners, community mission work and projects, discipleship in action, be the hands and feet of Jesus

There may come a time in the future when we can't gather together as frequently as we do now. We will have to know God's word inside and out, to hide the word in our hearts because Churches might be closed and Christians will have to gather underground due to persecution.

This makes it all the more important that we ensure the messaging is impactful and easily digestible. A message that is heard repeatedly over time and touches multiple senses is more likely to stay with you; you will hear God's word, and understand God's word, therefore you will live God's word.

In my personal life, I recently spent 500 hours obtaining my Firefighter certifications. Each class would focus on just one or two core topics and be broken down this way to ensure students are not overwhelmed with information overload while learning critical skills that are literally life and death. We would repeat the same drills over, and over, and over again, not until we got them right but until we couldn't get them wrong. The same concept needs to apply here, we need to repeatedly stay in God's word, the same word over the week so we hear it, understand it, and live it.

Alex Cummings is an NC transplant from the northern woods of Upstate NY and has lived in NC for the last 13 years with the love of his life Krista and two beautiful daughters. The Cummings Clan resides in beautiful Morganton, NC, and attends Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Alex is the marketing manager for a SaaS technology company - HPA, A Cognizant Company.

HEALTHY OPPORTUNITIES PILOT



Do you have
enough
to eat?

You may qualify for free services

Thanks to a new pilot program in North Carolina, if you are a Medicaid Managed Care recipient, you may qualify for FREE services like:

- Healthy Food
- Transportation
- Housing Assistance
- Support for stressful family situations

Contact New Hope of McDowell to see if you are eligible today!

828-652-8538 or 828-460-2803



YANCEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Clinic

Looking for a local, trustworthy provider? Come see Victoria our FNP at Yancey County Health Department

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

SERVICES:

- ✓ Adult Primary Care
- ✓ Child Primary Care
- ✓ Adult & Child Acute Visits

HOURS



Monday - Friday
8:00am- 5:00 pm
Closed for lunch
12:00 pm- 1:00 pm

CONTACT US

828-682-6118
202 Medical Campus Dr.
Burnsville, NC



Our Kids Need YOUR Help!

There are children in our county with no homes and little hope. Please contact us today to find out how you can make a Difference in the life of a child.

Mitchell County Department of Social Services wants to help you learn about becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent!



Call Mitchell County Department of Social Services
Today for More Information
828-688-2175

Bits 'n Pieces

Please send church or community events to be included in Bits and Pieces each month to cathyp@brcnews.com by the 15th of the month before publication.

Avery County

Mt Zion Community Church will host a Gospel Singing Worship Service featuring congregational singing of beloved old hymns on Friday evening, November 3, 2023, beginning at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served following the service. Everyone is invited to come and Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord. For more information call 828-284-7759.

Community Good Friday Service at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church

Pleasant Hill Baptist in the Frank Community of Avery County will begin hosting our weekly Masters Club Youth Group starting this evening and will be every Wednesday from 6:45-8

Burke County

November 10, 2023, Christmas in November Craft Show, Fri, 4–8 PM
The Old Rock School, 400 Main St W Suite 35, Valdese, NC
November 14, 2023, The Mylon Hayes Family, Tue, 10:30 AM–2:30 PM
FAM Church, 1955 US-70, Morganton, NC
November 23, 2023, Silver Creek Turkey Trot 5K, Thu, 9 AM, Morganton, NC, 201 N Green St.

McDowell County

November 15, 2023, Community Thanksgiving Meal, Wed, Nov 15–Thu, Nov 16, 1150 E Court St, Marion, NC
November 23, 2023, 2nd Annual Turkey Trot, Thu, 1–3 PM, Commerce St Old Fort, NC

Mitchell County

Bakersville Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 2, 2023, Downtown Bakersville, Main Street, Bakersville, NC 28705
Start: Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM End: Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Journey to the manger Saturday, December 9 to Sunday, December 10, 2023 Bakersville, 31 N Mitchell Ave, Bakersville, NC 28705
Start: Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM End: Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:00 PM

Mitchell High School will host a Veteran's Appreciation program on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the school library beginning at 10:30am until 11am followed by a special ceremony held in the auditorium from 11:15am until 11:45am. A catered BBQ lunch will be served in the library immediately after the ceremony. All veteran's are invited to attend this special program.

Spruce Pine Events:
November 25th – Small Business Saturday
November 25th – Kiwanis Christmas Parade – Downtown Spruce Pine, Upper and Lower Street, Start: Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM End: Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Boot Scootin' BBQ Fundraiser, Saturday, November 11, 2023, Cross Street Commerce Center, 31 Cross Street, 11 Crystal Street, Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Start: Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM End: Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Sunrise at the Swinging Bridge, Saturday, November 25, 2023, Grandfather Mountain, 2050 Blowing Rock Highway, Linville, NC 28646
Start: Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 6:30 AM End: Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 7:00 AM

Yancey County

West Burnsville Baptist Church invites you to join us for what has become a holiday tradition in our area. The 21st Annual West Burnsville Christmas Pageant - Jesus, the Heart of Christmas - will be presented November 30 through December 2 at 7 pm and again Sunday, December 3 at 10:30 am and 3 pm. Wrapped in the love of God, our special gift to the community will include familiar carols, the majestic proclamation of the birth of our Savior, and the celebration of His life, death, and resurrection through drama and music. We are located at 222 West Burnsville Church Road in Burnsville and all performances are free. Call 828-682-3990 for reservations for large groups.

November 8, 2023, 5 Day "Courage To Heal" Retreat for Moms in..., Wed, Nov 8–Sun, Nov 12, Burnsville, NC, Information and Tickets: [Retreat.guru](https://retreat.guru)
November 9, 2023, November Community Night-- Bare Dark Sky Observatory Thu, 6–8 PM, Mayland Earth to Sky Park, 66 Energy Exchange Dr, Burnsville, NC, Information and Tickets: [Eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com)

SPRUCE PINE TIRE SERVICE

977 OAK AVENUE
SPRUCE PINE, NC 28777
828 765 2186
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7AM - 5PM



GET UP TO

\$100

BACK
ON A SET OF 4 ELIGIBLE
COOPER TIRES



PROMO FROM: OCT 1st – NOV 30th, 2023

THIS REBATE IS VALID ON THE FOLLOWING TIRES:

\$100 REBATE \$75 REBATE \$50 REBATE
COBRA INSTINCT ProCONTROL ZEON RS3-G1
DISCOVERER AT3 LT DISCOVERER ENDURAMAX
DISCOVERER SNOW CLAW
DISCOVERER AT3 XLT DISCOVERER TRUE NORTH
DISCOVERER ROAD+TRAIL AT EVOLUTION WINTER
DISCOVERER RUGGED TREK
DISCOVERER STT PRO



COOPERTIRES®

Premier INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.



Providing you knowledgeable assistance
and high quality service.

Contact one of our
knowledgeable
agents today

Proudly serving the great citizens of Western NC
for 25 years with Health,
Employer Group Health Plans, Medicare Plans, Life,
Annuities, 401K Transfers and Long Term Care Coverage
Now also offering Auto, Home, RV & Commercial Coverages

361 North Main Street • Marion, NC 28752
828.652.1553 local • 888.528.1553 toll free



If there's any delay, it's you we pay!

Servicing the Morganton Area

828-544-1776

www.benfranklinplumbingmorganton.com



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Straightforward Pricing® • Same Day Service

Fully Licensed and Insured • Drug Tested, Background-Checked Employees



CHECK OUT THESE GREAT OFFERS!

\$75 OFF

New Water Heater
Installation

\$50 OFF

ANY Drain Cleared

\$25 OFF

Any Repair

Benjamin Franklin
Plumbing, Inc. (Morganton, NC)
Expires 08/31/23
License # BF0241

Benjamin Franklin
Plumbing, Inc. (Morganton, NC)
Expires 08/31/23
Each location independently owned and operated.

Benjamin Franklin
Plumbing, Inc. (Morganton, NC)
Expires 08/31/23
©2019 Clockwork IP, LLC

If there's any delay, it's you we pay!®

“I have found my sheep which was lost!”

By Chris Rathbone
Mitchell County

Many years ago my family decided to travel to the Linville Falls picnic area for an evening of grilling out and hiking to the overlooks to see the falls. My boys loved going to places where they could run, jump, and explore the woods. The evening had been wet from a strong storm which had passed through that afternoon but was gradually clearing. We were able to grill our hot dogs and enjoy our evening together despite rain dripping off of the trees. The weather cleared and we left the picnic area and traveled across the Blue Ridge Parkway to the visitors’ center to park and began walking the trail to the overlooks.

There were only a couple of other vehicles in the parking lot. I guess the earlier rain had kept most people away that evening. There was a small group of people that walked passed us as we were getting ready to start across the bridge and continue out the trail. We had only been walking for a minute or two when we heard someone frantically calling out a name. Being parents, I and Michelle both knew by the way the woman was screaming out the name what was going on. A mother had been separated from her child and was searching desperately for him. We immediately turned back and started toward the voice and saw her running across the bridge toward us.

She told us that she thought the boy had gone to the restroom and had been waiting for him but he never came out. You can imagine what must have been going through her mind. There was a ten-year-old boy in the woods by himself close to a river and high cliffs all around, not to mention thinking that there could have been someone who took him. As a parent, I could tell by the look on her face with the tears flowing down her cheeks how distraught and helpless she felt. I asked the boy’s name, age, and description of what he was wearing. I told her to go back where he was supposed to be and we would search along the trail. While we were searching, we could hear the mother’s voice screaming and calling out in anguish the boy’s name, hoping and praying for a response. I whispered a prayer, “Lord, please help us find this boy!”

We walked out the trail, keeping my boys close, and I began to call out the child’s name. Thankfully, in just a few minutes, I saw a young boy peering around a bush beside the trail that matched the description the mother had given. Though I knew his name, he was a little reluctant to respond to a stranger’s voice. I introduced myself and my family and told him his mom was searching for him. A look of relief came across his face. As we came across the top of a hill where I thought his mom could hear me, I cried out loudly, “We found him!” She immediately came running and the boy ran to his mom and what a wonderful reunion we witnessed. It was such a blessing to see them both together, with tears flowing down their faces, so relieved to be together. My wife was holding back tears and I was holding back from shouting! The boy had simply taken the wrong trail.

Through this experience, the Lord reminded me of a parable that He gave in the scriptures. In Luke 15:1-7, Jesus spoke of how if anyone had a hundred sheep and one was lost, that man would leave the 99 and search in the wilderness until he found the lost sheep. When he finds that lost sheep, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. When he returns home, he even calls his neighbors together and says, “*Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost*”. Jesus teaches in verse 7, “*I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*”

Friend, if you are lost without Jesus, if you are on the wrong trail in life, I want you to know that He is searching for you. Unlike that child who was reluctant to respond to a stranger’s voice, when you hear Jesus calling, you will immediately recognize Him. My plea is that you will respond to Jesus, repent of your sins, place your faith in what He has done on the cross, and follow Him as a sheep follows a shepherd. He is waiting for you to answer Him back in faith so that there will be joy in heaven when that announcement is made, “*Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!*”

Preacher Chris Rathbone is former Pastor of Mine Creek Baptist Church.



What Happens When We Sin?

By Ryan Bridgeo
Avery County

One day I was speaking to a lady in our community about salvation. She believed that we are initially saved by grace through faith, but it was our job to maintain our salvation through good works. Therefore, if our good works outnumbered our bad works, we would be saved. However, if our bad works outnumbered our good works we would go to hell. She had basically been taught that there is a large scale in Heaven constantly remembering and weighing everything we do or don’t do.

Growing up I was taught that we could lose our salvation, so I had very little confidence or assurance of my salvation. I remember one day while I was at a youth conference, I was speaking with a young lady during one of the breaks. I mentioned in passing that I had probably been saved 100 times. She looked stunned and said, “You can’t get saved 100 times. Either you’re saved or you’re not.” I walked away thinking, that girl didn’t know what she was talking about. But after much study, I believe that she did.

So, what happens when we sin?

1 John 3:9 says, “*Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*” And 1 John 5:18 (NAS) says, “*We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.*” These verses make it sound like Christians can never sin again. However, we know from experience and from other verses that sometimes we do. For example, 1 John 2:1 says, “*My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*” So here we see two verses implying that Christians will never sin again and another saying that if we do sin, Jesus will speak to the Father in our defense. So how do we rectify the two as they seem to contradict one another? One way to rectify them is by adding the word “practice.” A Christian doesn’t practice sinning anymore. I think this is fair and accurate, but I also believe there is more in these verses.

Notice in the second half of 1 John 5:18, “*but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.*” This is referring to Jesus being born of God, and He keeps us. The word “keeps” means to attend to carefully, to take care of, and to guard. This says that Jesus carefully attends to us in such a way that He guards us and protects us so that the evil one cannot touch us. But we have all been touched in one way or another at some point by the evil one, so what does this mean?

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 says, “*Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us [is] God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*” Ephesians 1:13 says, “*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*” Notice you were sealed, past tense, when you believed.

Imagine that I had you over for dinner one evening and I offered you a nice big, juicy piece of steak. But then I told you I had previously dropped it in a mud puddle and before I had a chance to pick it up, my dog took it and ran off with it. I chased him all around the house and finally caught him in the driveway. The steak had gravel, hair, and dog saliva all over it, but I washed it off. Would you still want to eat this steak? I think most people would say no. Now if the same scenario happened but the steak was vacuum sealed in thick plastic most people would still eat it.

That is what happened to our born-again spirit. It has been vacuumed sealed by the Holy Spirit and sin cannot penetrate our spirit again. Jesus keeps us safe and the evil one cannot touch our spirit. When Adam sinned one time he died spiritually, and his nature changed. He now had a sinful nature and was totally contaminated and defiled. When we sin today, because we have been made righteous, because we are born again, with a divine nature, because we have been sealed by the promised Holy Spirit as God’s purchased possession, the evil one cannot touch us. He cannot get to our perfected forever spirit. He cannot change our divine nature. Just like this meat or a bottle of jam that has been preserved until the day we want to eat it, so we have been preserved.

So, are we only sealed until the next time we sin? No! Ephesians 4:30 (KJV) says, “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*” Our spirit is sealed until the day of redemption, until the final day of judgment. That is why 1 John 4:17 says, “*Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*” We can have confidence, boldness, and assurance today of our salvation because our spirit has been sealed, protected from sins contamination, never to be touched by the evil one again. We are saved and Jesus keeps us safe in Him.

Ryan Bridgeo can be reached at 828-765-6919. For more information you can visit the church website at www.plumtreechurch.com or email pastor@plumtreechurch.com



THREE NAILS HARDWARE

110 Estatoa Ave. • Newland, NC • 828-733-0408

“Where nails and seeds are still sold by the pound, and thank-you’s are given by the bushel.”

CASE, CASE XX, TESTED XX, XX, and various other marks used herein are registered trademarks of W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company.

Out of town? You can still check out our new Website www.brcnews.com And find us on Facebook

Drones

By Todd Abraham
Athens, Tennessee

Technology is developing at lightning speed. Surveillance technology has become so dangerous and invasive that human rights are all but gone. It doesn't matter what they tell you in the news via the smoke screen because the powers that be are pretty much doing whatever they want now. God is allowing it. As we've stated before, all this technology seems wonderful until it isn't. The wisdom of God tells me that when the major shift from the sovereignty of nations to the one world government takes place, it's going to be fast, destructive, and chaotic. Remember, to control society, the three most important things you need are fear, disinformation, and gun control. But what makes this modern world scary is how closely they are and will be able to watch everything you do shortly.

We've seen drone technology progress so rapidly that it's mind-numbing. At the last Olympics, they had what looked like a hundred drones flying in perfect, fast formation making all sorts of neat images. Really cool right? Now imagine waking up every day and going outside your front door to see the sky filled with them. Consider they can be equipped not only with long-range cameras but night vision too. Think about every move you make outside of a motor vehicle and you have those creepy little devices just above you following you. Can you conceive making one false move and having one of those things immediately in your face with some voice on the other end questioning every motive you have; even if it's completely innocent? Sound crazy? It won't. What if those same droids were equipped with various weapons like the technology of a stun gun or just enough explosives to kill a man? Or chemical weapons that could either kill and/or disable you long enough for the authorities to arrive to detain you. Perhaps tranquilizer darts to render you helpless. You don't need an army of humans do you if you have these wicked little devices watching everything going on do you?

Some of you may think I'm off my rocker but God Almighty is Who gives me what I write here. We know enough with simple common sense when we read about the antichrist in Revelation to know that he will be monitoring the world. And it makes perfect sense to use all this technology to do so right? But what you and I don't know is the full extent of just how advanced it is and what volume of them is ready to be deployed. The man who headed up the Roswell, NM project for many years confided in someone before he died the following. He said whatever you can imagine in your mind, read in a book, or see in a movie, they were about 50 years ahead of that. Friend, Americans aren't ready for the kind of cruelty and subversion of freedom and rigid control the antichrist will inflict on this world! No one hardly is heeding the warnings. Many who claim to be Christians are buying into the same blissful ignorance the world is subject to. But the apostle Paul told us plainly in this verse. 1 Thessalonians 5:4 *"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."* And the Lord Himself warned us. Luke 21:36 *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."* Are you ready? The strongest and most impactful exhortation I can give you is that you better pray with all your might that you are because God is no respecter of persons!

My name is Todd Abraham. I'm an evangelist of the gospel of Jesus Christ and publisher of Heartbeat Christian News which has been in publication for 9 years now by the grace of God. You can read all about it at www.HBCNewsMonthly.com.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Colossians 4:2



Be Prepared

By Steve Williams
Mitchell County

Be Prepared is the motto for the Boy Scouts. When I was a youth I was in the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts. There I learned a lot about life skills on how to survive in the great outdoors. We learned to build fires, to forage for food to be able to survive. We learned to cook, swim and fish, shoot bow and arrows, canoe, and apply first aid. They also taught us to respect God and our country, our community, and our earth. The Scouts were teaching me how to survive in the future by being prepared for things I would face in life.

I took the words to Be Prepared very seriously. I remember during my time in Scouts my preacher would preach about how one day the world would come to an end and that you needed to be prepared for that day. I did not understand all that he was saying about the Lord's return, but I had learned that I needed to be prepared. So what I did was I got my backpack and filled it with all kinds of food, a first aid kit, matches, a compass, and many other things I thought that I would need. I was going to Be Prepared for when the Lord returned because I was not sure of what was going to take place. Well, in my eyes I was prepared in many ways for something to happen but I was not prepared for the Lord's return. See, if you are going to be prepared for the Lord to return you must have a personal relationship with the Lord. Yes, the Scouts helped me learn many of life's survival skills, but life's survival skills are not going to be able to get you into heaven.

The more I listened to the preacher the more I started learning about how to be prepared for the Lord's return. He was not talking about having a backpack filled with stuff to survive. He was talking about having Jesus Christ living in my heart. The more I listened to the preacher the more I started listening to God speaking to my heart. I understood that I did not want to be left behind when the Lord returned. I was a small youth when I asked Jesus Christ into my heart. I'm ashamed to say that several years of my Christian walk were not pleasing to God, and that is why I am so thankful for His Forgiveness, and the Grace and Mercy I have received during my life.

I have learned two great truths in life. A man must learn how to live for Christ so that he will also know how to die with Christ when that time comes. Too many people today are waiting on the big event of Christ Returning when they need to be preparing their heart and lives for His Return. There is no second chance to get right with God after you die. That is why it is so important to Be Prepared before you die. People have to understand that God sends no one to hell. If you go to hell it is because you chose to go there, that you decided to reject Jesus Christ, live your life your way, and on your own terms. By doing this you were not willing to Be Prepared to go to heaven, so you chose hell instead. Now you see the people who chose to ask Jesus Christ to come into their hearts and lives were Preparing for their future and Christ's Return. It's your choice if you want to Be Prepared or not.

Word of Wisdom:

- To win you must be prepared to sometimes lose. N/A
- We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free. Ronald Reagan
- Be prepared to die so that you can see Jesus Christ. N/A
- Be prepared so you don't have to live scared. N/A
- Be Prepared Jesus Christ is on His way back. Steve Williams

Steve Williams is the Pastor of Berry Chapel Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.





Miller
Insurance Group, Inc.
AUTO•HOME•BUSINESS•LIFE
(828) 765-1711

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO
DOING OUR BEST FOR YOU!
And Our Community**

*“INSURANCE is the most IMPORTANT thing
a person has because it protects him against
the loss of everything he has in the world.”
-H.O. Hirt, ERIE Founder*



Erie
Insurance®

7548A Hwy 19E, Spruce Pine, NC • www.miller-insurance-group.com

A Man Named Jabez

By Steve Henry
Burke County



We live in a society where many want to blame their bad behavior on the dysfunctional family they grew up in. One well known pastor says he is sick of hearing the term "dysfunctional family" as a way to explain away bad behavior. He also said he grew up in a dysfunctional family and is presently the leader of a dysfunctional family. I believe we would all have to admit that we come from families with varying degrees of dysfunction and those of us who are parents would have to admit to our role in contributing to and leading a dysfunctional family.

From the very beginning God wanted us to function according to His guide-lines, but when sin entered the human race dysfunction also entered. Man has been trying to do things his way ever since the fall, leading to the problems we see in ourselves and others and will continue to see until He comes to deliver us from these bodies of death in which we presently dwell.

Books have been written; many sermons have been preached about the life changing power of the prayer of Jabez. We will look at the elements of the prayer later but right now I would like for us to look at the man the prayer was named after. As we think about this man it is intriguing to note that there is something we don't see in this story that makes what we do see so significant for us, i.e., no mention of a father.

Three chapters of genealogy, two verses about Jabez, and then the genealogy starts again. Nothing else is said about Jabez. Enough begats to drive most Bible students up the wall, but as usual, God has a purpose for what He does. With no mention of a father, it's almost like the two verses about Jabez are out of place. Nothing else is mentioned about Jabez in the entire Bible. As we study the lives of the great leaders from Adam through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we also see what would be called in today's vernacular "great dysfunction".

1st Chronicles 4:9-10
"And his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow." Jabez was no different than his ancestors in the fact that he was born into this dysfunctional line of humanity. His name means "to grieve; sorrowful." Could it be that he was raised by a single mother that faced the daunting task and all the frustrations of being both mother and father? The word "name" in the Hebrew means "a mark or memorial of individuality." How would you like it if every time your name was called you were reminded of grief and sorrow? How many of us heard our parents say "good grief" when we did something wrong. Some may have heard them say "I'm sorry you were ever born." It is quite possible that Jabez grew up with a lot of verbal abuse from his peers, maybe even from those closest to him.

"And Jabez was more honorable than his brothers."
Jabez could have blamed his parents for naming him with such a degrading name. He could have played the blame game for the rest of his life; however, it is apparent that he chose to turn from everything his name represented to choose the higher path God had in store for him. His name may have reminded him of grief and sorrow, but God's Word reminds us that he chose a more honorable path than his brothers.

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel"
"Israel" means "he will rule as God"; "to prevail: -have power; "strength." If Jabez was a student of history, he would realize that the God of all strength had always blessed and used mankind in His eternal plan in spite of all their weaknesses. Maybe God was teaching Jabez the principle taught in Joel 3:10 *"Let the weak say, I am strong."*

When we are faced with a difficult situation, we will either call on man with all his weaknesses or God in all His strength. Needless to say, when we call on man (or call up from our sub-conscience mind some wrong programming of our past) many times we will be disappointed with the advice we receive and the direction the advice will take us. But, calling on His Name changes everything, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). God is eager to hear from us so that He might respond to us and save us out of any trouble we get ourselves into. The choice is always ours.

"Oh, that You would bless me indeed"
The words "bless" and "indeed" come from the same Hebrew word that means "to kneel; by implication to bless God (as an act of adoration)."
It seems like Jabez was declaring, "You, God of all strength, bless me, bless me." Maybe Jabez never had a daddy that ever blessed him, but He knew God was eager to do just that.

The Apostle Paul declares the same thing about the same God in Eph 3:20-21 *"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen."* In fact, the greatest blessing of all is to discover our true identity in Christ and the benefits we have as depicted in the three chapters preceding this declaration by Paul. We receive the power of God and the subsequent blessings of God the same way Jabez received them, i.e., by calling on the God of all strength.

"and enlarge my coasts"
"Enlarge" means to increase...abundance; be in authority.
"Coasts" means properly a cord (as twisted), that is, (by implication) a boundary; by extension the territory inclosed.

As joint heirs with Christ, God wants us to see ourselves as a people of His authority; the same authority that Jesus has, over the boundless territory He has given us, especially the territory of our minds.

Jabez was expressing in his prayer something that our Heavenly Father wants

every one of us to get down into the innermost recesses of our being, i.e., THINK GREATER, SPEAK GREATER, PRAY GREATER, EXPECT GREATER. After all, He has promised us to *"make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert"* (Isaiah 43:19) and as mind blowing as it is He has also promised that we would do greater works than Jesus did (John 14:12-14).

"and that your hand might be with me"
"hand" means a hand (the open one indicating power, means, direction). With the possibility of much dysfunction in his life it might be that Jabez never had anyone in his life to empower or direct him. But somehow, he knew to call on the One that could give him the power, the means, and direction he needed to fulfill his dream of being blessed despite any setbacks he had encountered.

"and that you would keep me from evil"
"keep" means "to do or make". Obviously, Jabez had come to the realization that his God could help him become who he wanted to be, but he realized also that he had some enemies that only his God could overcome for him. Those enemies were the devil and his sub-conscience mind that had probably been programmed with some very dysfunctional junk. In fact, one of the definitions for "evil" is "to make or be good for nothing." Do you think Jabez might have ever thought "I'm good for nothing"?

"that it may not grieve me"
"Grieve" means to carve, that is, fabricate or fashion; hence (in a bad sense) to worry, pain or anger. Many have allowed grief and pain to fashion them into angry adults that continually blame their dysfunctional family lives for their lack of success. They continually look at themselves as good for nothing. However, Jabez called on God to change all that. He knew from where his help comes and continued to call on his God to rescue him.

The apostle Paul knew this same God when he called on Him as recorded in the seventh chapter of Romans. Keep in mind that he was not a novice in the faith but a man that had walked with the Lord for years, had written a majority of the books in the New Testament, and one who had been through hell on earth for what he believed. He declared "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (sounds like the great apostle Paul had a problem with dysfunctional thinking). Also, he found himself declaring, "Oh wretched man that I am". But the last verse is the most significant as Jabez would attest to, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." The apostle Paul was still struggling with the old programming of his flesh that reduced him to thinking of himself as a wretched man (a man of great dysfunction, if you will), but he was still recognizing and calling on the God of Israel as his source of deliverance. Two thousand years later we still have the same struggles but most importantly, we have the same source of deliverance. He, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

"And God granted him that which he requested"
"Granted" means "to go or come." Our God is a God of action, especially when His children cry out to Him. He empowers us "to go" and "comes" to us when the challenges of going get tough.

All this talk about dysfunction in Jabez' life is speculation on my part. It could have been true about Jabez, or I might be totally off base. But, let me share with you a story about a young man named "Jackie."

He grew up in a family of great dysfunction. Jackie's father never knew his father and never had a Godly influence that taught him how to love. Jackie's father died when he was twenty-two years old. He never heard his daddy say, "I love you son" or "I'm proud of you". In fact, he never heard much of anything from him unless he messed up.

Because of his feminine sounding name, he suffered a lot of verbal abuse from his male peers, but worse than that was the intense sense of worthlessness he carried within himself. He never felt worthy enough to be loved or accepted by anyone.

He fought back by developing some very destructive habits "just to prove what a man he was." He walked in those ways for many years until God and His Church intervened by sharing the good news that Jesus loved him and wanted to save and deliver him from who he was.

Then he called on the God of Israel and everything changed. Some things changed immediately, others took some time, some things he is still working on. That's been almost fifty years ago, and Jackie has realized many of the blessings of God, especially the blessing of realizing how unconditionally loved and accepted he is by His Heavenly Father.

Unfortunately he finds himself declaring the same thing brother Paul declares in the seventh chapter of Romans, i.e. "the evil I would not do I find myself doing" and is even reduced to feeling like a "wretched man" from time to time, but he also continues to call on the only One, his only Source of deliverance, Jesus Christ his Savior.

P.S. I shared with you in a previous story how Satan used this sense of worthlessness to almost destroy me and how God and His Body intervened to save me from the destructive programming of this flesh. My prayer for you is that you will turn from believing Satan's lies if he has you entrapped in this "worthlessness" prison and call on the One that loves you just the way you are and loves you too much to leave you the way you are. You are of great worth to Him!

God's Word reminds us of three very important facts about Jabez' and Jackie's God that we find applicable for our lives today: Jabez chose a higher path, the path God wanted for him; He called on the God of Israel; God listened and responded to him.

Steve Henry has been a lifelong resident of Burke County. God blessed me with an incredible lady that I have been married to for 43 years. He has blessed me with two wonderful children and two beautiful granddaughters.

Thanks for the Solitude

By Timothy W. Tron
Burke County

Inside the ancient farmhouse, the family had gathered. Some were familiar faces, while others, having traveled from distant locations, were new. All were part of that annual joyous occasion of gathering together to give thanks. From the outside, the warm glow emanating from the windows conveyed the soothing sound of voices that drifted upon the aroma of turkey baking in the oven. Yet, the happiness was too much. The lad had to escape for some crisp fall air. He wasn't used to that many bodies being under one roof at a time. His world, the place most often he found himself, was alone with the Creator and his creation. So, for a short time, to give himself a moment to repose, he escaped to that familiar place far from the others.

Before him, a seemingly endless field of tall golden grasses swayed in the late autumn breeze. Waves of lightness washed across the expanse as if a mighty hand was pushing the blades aside, living pulsating, the breath of life unseen. The heads of seed atop each stalk were like tiny tufts of an abundant sacrament that tickled beneath his open palms. Walking along, arms slightly outstretched, he appreciated the feeling of God's creation on his skin. Alone in the world, yet not alone, he welcomed the quiet even though his world had yet to become consumed by the rush of humanity. The gray clouds of winter weren't far away. Later in life, he would return to this place, if only in his mind, to reconnect to that feeling of appointed isolation. There would always be a welcome Spirit within his soul that embraced solitude – loneliness became his friend only because he felt deep within, through the pain of longing to be with others, that there was one there with him no matter the depths of despair, no matter the pain of illness, nor through the darkest anguish of hurt that the world could inflict – he was never truly alone.

There was no early teaching about how to seek that being that hid with him beneath the shroud of darkness - no direction on how to adequately ask of Him that offered the peace of understanding and love. He did not comprehend what it was to pray. It was only through those multitudes of experiential torments that he came to learn that there was something there that he could not see, something beyond the end of the hospital bed that stood watch, healing and comforting the small heart within the chest of the tiny form that would speak to him, and he to it. Somehow, without evidence of direction, as if the clouds overhead could guide one along their way, he was led on a journey that would eventually bring him closer to the One.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Isolation – a two-edged sword; chosen of our own accord, it can be a time to pray and reflect, something quite rewarding; imposed, it can be an eternal hell, a pain so deep that our entire being longs for the companionship of another soul – anyone, anything. Christ's separation from the Father on the cross became his hell on earth. For those few hours of his earthly presence, Jesus faced the ultimate anguish – being removed from the presence of God.

Throughout our lives, we chase after the longing to be part of a community. In that pursuit, our fear of becoming isolated, we often find ourselves in unintended, uncomfortable, or irrational relationships. Those consequences of interaction push us to do things that usually feel wrong or unnatural to our moral compass. Those interactions create indifferences within our spirit that displace God's will, revealing our true nature and creating in us a false sense of being. When we finally separate ourselves from these unhealthy situations, whether purposefully or by irrevocable actions, we find ourselves standing alone, put aside. Misunderstanding the result of the need to separate from that which causes discomfort, we again pang for the longing to be with others, someone, anyone who will truly understand us for who we are and not for what we should become. For some, this cycle of longing, misguided relationships, and expulsion from said associations can never end. College campuses are full of students searching for identity, seeking community, often turning away from their church upbringing to ‘find’ themselves. What they don't see is that the background they spurn came from a divine covenant, which, left in the hands of humanity, became twisted and impure. Fleeing what they call ‘church trauma,’ they feel justified in their search for anything that provides a sense of belonging regardless of how unholy or sinful it appears – oftentimes, the more so, the better. Ultimately, they are left abandoned because what they seek cannot be found in manufactured realities.

Then, what to me is probably the worst loneliness becomes abandonment. If you've ever visited a Nursing Care Facility, you will be familiar with that term. There, often tossed aside like the dinner dishes, the elderly are left to die alone. Families unable to care for their loved ones put them there, assured that they will be cared for and properly medicated. Those residents, most suffering terminal illnesses, spend their days trapped in a body that can no longer function, which, in a sense, becomes their final earthly imprisonment. Some, having spent their lives without purpose, face a bleak and weary end. But for those who knew Christ, their last days are one of continual worship, unafraid of the next chapter in their lives. Seeking finality, if their minds allow, they pray for the end to come – their seclusion becomes a willing imposition refining their relationship with God.

As many of you will remember, during the bleak times of Covid, the forced solitary confinement we found ourselves in for some created a nightmare scenario. The rates of suicide skyrocketed as we say many were unable to face the torture that being alone created. In their self-identity, whether it was from society or their life's ambitions, all were mere shells of individuality. They had nothing beyond that noble cause they called career.

Some find a way to eventually escape this tortuous treadmill. C.S. Lewis put it this way, “And even where the planners fail and someone is left physically by himself,



the wire- less has seen to it that he will be—in a sense not intended by Scipio— never less alone than when alone. We live, in fact, in a world starved for solitude, silence, and privacy, and therefore starved for meditation and true friendship.” As Cicero attributed to Cato, who is often cited as saying, “never is a man more active than when he does nothing, never is he less alone than when he is by himself” (Numquam se plus agere quam nihil cum ageret, numquam minus solum esse quam cum solus esset).

When our isolation is an option we choose, the circumstances change drastically. What was once a painful experience becomes a time to grow and an opportunity to find that still-small voice. Jesus often stole away to be alone with his Father, taking a break from the crowds and those ever-questioning disciples.

“And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.”

Finding that with God, we are never alone and that all along, even when we realized it least, He was there with us, guiding, directing, and comforting us without our recognition of him or our appreciation for him, we escape this cycle of anguish. But as is often the case, we can only find the way out by first putting ourselves into solitary confinement, so to speak – finding a place where we can be alone with God, lifting our voices to honor and Glorify His Holy name. He became flesh so that we might have a personal relationship with him, not impersonal, but very much becoming someone to whom we could go in times of struggle. It was a revolutionary approach, as John described in his gospel, how the Word, Logos, became flesh and dwelt, Tabernacled, among us. No longer was it the High Priest alone who could enter into the Holiest of Holies, but by the blood of Christ, we were afforded the ability to have a mighty Counselor at the right hand of the Father, who grants us access to the Father, by prayer and supplication. We are given the ability to have a personal relationship with God, a concept unlike any other religion in the world. In this connection, we are never separated unless it is by our choice, not His.


Eventually, the little boy found his way back into the hospitable abode. Most hadn't noticed his absence, but the keen eye of the grandmother realized he had gone, spying him through the draped window shortly after he departed. In her grandmotherly sense, she knew that he needed a moment alone. Upon his return, as he meekly snuck in the back door, her heart was blessed to see him return. As he came near, she warmly pulled him in and brought him close, thankful that God had placed this tiny being in her life.

The boy, embraced by the love of his grandma, was once more reminded that he was not alone.


In his heart, he sighed the words he always thought but never said out loud, “Thanks be to God.”

May you find peace and solitude, if you choose, this Thanksgiving, and remember, you are never truly alone. Pray for those who are alone. If possible, welcome them into your home, or make an extra plate and share the season's abundance with those in less fortunate situations. And as always, let us say together as one, “Thanks be to God.”

Timothy W. Tron lives in Collettsville, NC. with his family. He is currently the Systems Administrator for the Computer Science Department at App. State. Timothy is the former Director of the Trail of Faith in Valdese, where he still volunteers and helps with tours. He is the author of a new Christian series, “Children of the Light”, with the first book being, “Bruecke to Heaven”, revised as “Bridge to Heaven”, and his recent book, being the second, “The Light in the Darkness”. He is an active blogger, artist, and musician. Timothy also has a BSEE from UF, and is a Lay Speaker. He is currently acting as the Faculty/Staff Liaison for the Ratio Christi campus ministry at App. State. He can be reached at trontw@appstate.edu You can visit his website at <http://www.timothywtron.com/> or see more of his writings [HERE](#).



Auto Insurance Made In North Carolina




828-652-4525


Kenneth W. Day
FSS, LUTC
Agency Manager
kenneth.day@ncfbins.com

Real service. Real people.

An Authorized Agency for



BlueCross BlueShield
of North Carolina



**FARM
BUREAU
INSURANCE**

Auto • Home • Life • Health • Bank

10400943511

*North Carolina Farm Bureau® Mutual Insurance Company
*Farm Bureau® Insurance of North Carolina, Inc.
*Southern Farm Bureau® Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS
*An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword Solution

A	B	A	G		A	R	O	M	A		H	A	R	P
R	E	V	E	N	G	E	D		G	R	E	C	I	A
T	R	I	M		A	B	O	V	E		R	O	B	S
S	E	A		S	T	I	R			S	E	W	S	
	A	L	E	P	E	R		T	H	I	S			I
A			V	A	S	T		A	U	T	H	O	R	S
S	H	E	E	T		H	O	U	S	E		N	E	R
H	E	A	R		H		A		K		H	E	N	A
H	A	S		W	E	E	K	S		T	A	S	T	E
U	T	T	E	R	L	Y		O	M	A	R	No.280	L	
R			M	A	D	E		M	O	L	E	S	T	
	S	T	E	P			W	E	L		H	I	T	
D	O	E	R		E	P	H	O	D		G	A	T	E
I	M	A	G	E	S		O	N	E	S	I	M	U	S
M	E	R	E		T	A	M	E	D		N	E	S	T

COPYRIGHT 2022 BIBLEWORDGAMES.COM ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

FM 104.7

REAL COUNTRY

WICYK

AM 940 • WKYK.COM

LISTEN: 11A.M.
EVERY SATURDAY
GOSPEL PREACHING

Brought To You By:
YANCEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Anne Ministries

Thankful Mama Part 2: Extra Thankful

By Mary Kathryn Laws
Avery County

We are coming up on the season of thanks. This is a time for us all to look back on what we are thankful for. Last year I was thankful to be able to spend our first Thanksgiving as a family of three. This year I am thankful I will be able to spend it as a family of four.

Although I’m thankful, this is a new and intimidating season of my life. I was just starting to get the hang of having one, but that’s all changed now. As it got closer for Micah to be born, I began having mixed emotions. How would I love another baby as much as I did JC? Would he be jealous of Micah? How will I manage two under two? I tried to put on a brave face for everyone, but if I was being honest I was scared.

My mom told me before Micah was born that I would have plenty of room to love them both. If she was able to do it with six of us, then I for sure could do it with two boys. When Micah was born it was love at first sight, just like it was when JC was born. We are three weeks in as a family of four and JC loves his little brother. I can’t imagine life without these boys.


Some would consider the emotions I was feeling as “anxiety”. I heard it once said that gratitude and anxiety cannot coexist. You have to choose one. I am choosing to be grateful for the two boys God has blessed me with. I am choosing to rely on Him through this new, unfamiliar season of motherhood. I am choosing to give thanks.

If you are feeling stressed, anxious, or overwhelmed this holiday season, I challenge you to practice gratitude. I hope you find that there is always something to be thankful for and that through challenging times we can rely on God to get us through.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” Psalm 34:8

Mary-Kathryn Laws is a follower of Jesus Christ. She is a volunteer at Anne Ministries which offers pregnancy support and recovery support services in Avery County. She is very involved in the new moms support group at the ministry. She is a wife, young mother, daughter, sister, teacher, and friend. Mary-Kathryn and her family attend Emmanuel Baptist Church in Newland. She is the daughter of Director Chastity Ogburn at Anne Ministries. For more information about Anne Ministries please visit www.anneministries.com or email anneministries@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook!





Hey y’all, we are Steven and Jennifer Painter. We started out as some of those folks who saw a sad story on the news about a child who had been neglected or abused and said, “why did this have to happen? We would have gladly taken that child and loved him/her!” Yet we didn’t make a move to actually BECOME that family because “it was never the right time” or “we don’t know where to start”. But really, when IS it the right time? Answer: now. How do we get started? Answer: just make the call! There are children NOW who need someone to bridge that gap. Contact McDowell DSS to learn more. 828-652-3355.

Lakeview Missionary Church

The Resurrection Remodel

By Christopher L. Scott
Moses Lake, Washington

In a recent trip to Barnes and Noble bookstore, I was reminded how large the “mystery” section of bookstores normally is. Several bookcases with five shelves per case were packed with eye-catching art and edgy titles designed to elicit wonder and draw me into the content.

While our culture is intrigued with the “mystery” genre of books, the Bible contains mystery as well. Mystery is defined as "a religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand."

Two parts of that definition relate to the passage I'm about to share with you from 1 Corinthians. First, religious truth is only revealed by God. The Bible is God's inspired Word to us. It reveals God's character, the truth about our world, and principles for Christian living. Second, we cannot fully understand it. Some parts of Scripture and doctrine are not as clear as we would hope.

The apostle Paul describes some of the "mystery" of the end times when describing the rapture and resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52:

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed."

The mystery that Paul is describing is the resurrection of believers when Jesus Christ returns to the earth. What Paul was telling the believers in Corinth was that when Christ returns all the dead believers will have resurrected bodies.

But what about the believers alive when Christ returns? Those alive when Christ returns will be transformed and changed. This is called the rapture. Our new body at the resurrection and rapture will be unlike the one we have now. It will be "a Spiritual Body partaking of the nature of God's own Heavenly Glory."

When Christ returns we will be raptured (if still alive) or resurrected (if dead) and taken away to spend eternity with God. We should look forward to the rapture and resurrection with hope and positive anticipation. Our physical pain will go away. Our emotional strain will disappear. And our spiritual sufferings will be gone!

Christopher L. Scott, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, is a pastor and freelance writer. Learn more about his writing ministry at ChristopherLynnScott.com.



Grand View Baptist

Personal Quiet Time

A Time To Still Your Heart To Hear From God

By Glenda Ward
McDowell County



Personal quiet time with God is a welcome invitation to slow down. Amid a full, busy life, you can spend quiet time with God. You don't need to be inactive, static, or remain the same for your heart to be still. Being a static person is remaining the same without growing in one's Christian belief. It is one's shortcoming that proves to be their downfall. They choose not to grow in their relationship with God. Your beliefs, motivations, and principles should not all remain unchanged when you still your heart and listen to God speaking to you. One should undergo internal change over time. This is a change that should be apparent to people you interact with in your daily life. God's original creation intent: It was where He walked and talked with Adam and Eve regularly.

With a journal, Bible, and reference books in hand, settle down and take time to place yourself in a space that is conducive to encountering an experience with God. Prayer – a devotion to a relationship, encounter, and conversation with God – prayer is the root of all we do. Directionless lives are given meaning in a relationship with God! This relationship is grown by establishing and developing a personal devotional life. Just as Adam and Eve walked with God in the coolness of each day, you can grow a relationship with Him through the practice of quiet time specifically to tune into God through prayer, reading of God’s Holy Word, and reflection. This is a time not only for you to speak to God but also to ask God to speak to you. Quiet times are about encountering God. To meet with Him intentionally is the key. In the beginning, God began with a regular intentional encounter in a specific place at a specific time. Humanity’s original space for an encounter with God began in a garden.

Imagine Adam and Eve in the garden in the cool of the evening stopping, waiting, and listening for God, stilling themselves getting ready to walk and talk with Him. This is what the original quiet time, as God had planned looked like. God created us to interact with Him and to have an intimate relationship with Him. God desires that we walk with Him daily, enjoying the rich fellowship that He offers.

In Genesis 3:8 – Two humans trying to hide themselves of their sin from an all-seeing, all-knowing God. How could they think they could actually hide from God? But yet we do the same thing when we try to hide from God the things we have done. Correctly we are to share all we do and think with God and not try to hide. To hide from God – It can't be done. These verses in 8 and 9 show God's desire for our fellowship. Sin had broken Adam and Eve's fellowship with an all-loving God. God longs to be with us. He actively offers His unconditional love. When we sin, our natural response is fear because we can't live up to His standards. But if we recognize His love for us, regardless of our brokenness, it will help remove that fear so we can draw close and have the right relationship with God our Father.

The power of the Bible is a guide for our feet in our daily walk with God: and a light on our path as we journey through life. *“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105). For an effective quiet time, the Bible is an essential tool to commune with God. The Bible must be approached with prayer, and you must approach prayer with the Bible. The order doesn’t matter, but your Bible should always be at hand when you pray. We need to allow what we read in the Bible to challenge, inspire, and shape us and the way we live our lives. As we meditate on the Scriptures we read we are to take a stand in respect for what God has given to us written within the pages of the Bible. We are to meditate on the Scripture day and night. You can learn how to follow God by meditating on His Word. Meditating means spending time reading and thinking about what you have read: asking yourself how you should change so you are living in God’s Will. Knowing and meditating on God’s Holy Word are the first steps toward applying God’s instructions to your everyday life. The more you delight in God’s presence, the more fruitful you will be. God provides whatever you need when you live in submission to Him. God moves out ahead of us, preparing our way, and bringing us into good and pleasant places. He does not promise a lack of trials but does promise eventual victory. We will be perfectly secure because He is our eternal shelter. To achieve anything worthwhile, we must have God’s Word in our hearts. (Reference Psalm Chapter One). Stop to meditate and absorb the full flavor of what you are reading. Biblical meditation is not an emptying of one’s mind, but a filling of one’s mind and thoughts with the Word of God.

Committing verses from the Bible to our memory is to hide God's Word in our hearts. It takes the Word of Scripture from the page into our souls, from our head to the heart. Bible verses that you have memorized will sustain and strengthen us throughout life. *"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* (Psalm 119:11).

Glenda Ward is a member of Grand View Baptist Church in McDowell County. She is the mother of five grown children. Glenda is a Christian writer/author of "Something to Think About" – weekly Christian Articles. She writes Church Programs & Bulletins, VBS Material, Christmas and Easter Programs; all material based on the KJV of the Bible. Also testing the field in tributes, individual memorial writings, etc.

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with
my song will I praise him. Psalms 28:7*

**CHRISTMAS LAYAWAY 30%
DOWN WITH NO LAYAWAY FEES**

Gift ideas for the entire family! gaming consoles, guitars, tools, guns, brand new household appliances. Too much to name. We are so much more than just a Pawn Store!!

Need extra money for Christmas? We Buy and loan money on any item of value. Its easy! Bring it in, we evaluate your item, and you leave with Cash.

Lots of new and used inventory

New shipment of 10k, 14k, and silver jewelry.

- NECKLACES
- BRACELETS
- EARRINGS
- RINGS



**IN HOUSE JEWELRY REPAIRS.
43 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN GOLD, SILVER,
AND PLATINUM.**



MOUNTAINEER PAWN SHOP

12513 S226 HWY Spruce Pine, NC 28777

828-765-7651

Mon-Fri
9-5pm
Saturdays
9-12 noon

Fireside with Freedom Life

By Jim Smith
McDowell County

As 2023 comes to an end, we want to take a moment to thank you for all your kindness and support. Your frequent donations helped us give reentry families and individuals a new start. To this day for 2023, we have served over 250 clients across the McDowell and Avery region with not only life coaching, housing, and job placement they needed urgently but also hope and happiness.

Last Year I introduced you to Ashley and her two boys. Ashley started using substances at 14 years old. She would be around good people then would shift to people that were a negative influence. This battle went on for several years. Ashley held things together for a good while and was able to begin a college journey. Soon after she lost her grandma and it pushed her back to substance abuse. As with most users, there comes a time to seek a bigger high. This led to her experimenting with hard drugs. During this phase of her life, she began her journey to “rock bottom.” She lost her kids in a custody battle and soon after went to prison. While incarcerated, she began to reflect on her life choices and relationships. She realized that she needed to return to her walk in her Christian faith. God used Freedom Life to give Ashley the boost she needed to overcome her fears of rejection and failure. Ashley enrolled in the program, attended group meetings, life coaching, and counseling, and was housed in the Freedom Life women’s transitional house. Fast forward many months later and Ashley is doing well and has both her boys in her life! She now has her own place to live as well as her own car. Her kids are involved in the community and sports. Ashley is working full-time at a restaurant. She would like to be a full-time peer support specialist in her life career, in moving toward that goal she is a mentor at the McDowell County jail. Ashley is still progressing and now serves on the McDowell Reentry Counsel. Ashley received her certification as a peer support specialist through Vaya Health and graduated from the Freedom Life Program in 2022.

At Freedom Life, we see so many clients who want to return to help others. We believe there is a powerful movement happening when formerly incarcerated clients have a calling to help others out of the same trench. There is a calling and purpose in this powerful movement of recovery.

Hence, as we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas and New Year, we urge you to come forward and support more individuals and families who need the services we offer.

Freedom Life has expanded its services in Avery County and will be expanding our services into Yancey counties this fall. We are a 501 3c nonprofit ministry and we cannot sustain our services without donations from individuals, businesses, and churches. Please reach out if you would like more information about Freedom Life. We will send you information, and meet with you or your organization to share the vision and insight about all the amazing things God is allowing us to do. This November we will have our 4th annual Fireside event at Grace Community Church in Marion NC. We will share stories from and with clients, a look at what Freedom Life has accomplished for the year, and celebrate what God is doing in our expansion to Avery and Yancey. Everyone will be served a special edition Smores Cinnamon Roll from Gogos along with water or coffee. We hope you plan to join us for this celebration.

We have a goal of \$15,000 to finish out our year. We received a matching challenge donation of \$5000 toward this goal. You can double your donation by helping us with this goal through this first \$ 5,000 challenge. You can give by mailing a check, or going online and clicking donation in the top right corner.

Freedom Life Ministries, PO Box 1134 Marion, NC 28752 www.freedom-lifeministries.org 828-559-2224



I Am Come That They May Have Life
at
Grace Community Church ~ Marion, NC

Live In Person

Streaming on Facebook

Fireside with Freedom Life

Monday, November 27th @ 6:30 pm
Hopelessness Ends Here
A Celebration of Giving

Live AT
Grace Community Church

Streaming on
Facebook Live

Music by Heart Cry
and Guests

Client Stories

Special Appearances from
Community Leaders

And a little bit of fun!

PLEASE RSVP
to
jsmith@freedomlifeministries.org
or
828-559-2224
to reserve your seat &
HOT
GOGOS Cinnamon Roll

Jim Smith is an area Worship Arts Director; He is the Development Director at Freedom Life Ministries, and run a production company wjscreativegroup.com

Give Thanks



carhartt

Men's Loose
Fit Midweight
Hoodie K288

7 Colors Available



“SHOP LOCAL”

**Grassy Creek
CLOTHING**

12451 Hwy 226 S., Spruce Pine (828) 766-7502

www.grassycreekclothing.com

Monday-Saturday 8:30. 5:30 pm | Closed Sunday
-Go to Church



**United
Community**

Committed to Our Customers and Communities

Strong bank, strong service since 1950.

800 Summit Avenue • Spruce Pine, NC 28777

(828) 766-3300



**McCABE'S
TIRE & SERVICE**

Manager:
Nicholas McCabe
828-608-0840

NOW OPEN!!!

A family owned & operated business
(an entity of Buff's Tire & Service)

**Located at 303 Burkemont Ave,
Morganton, NC**
(across from Freedom Insurance)

We offer multiple services including:

- New Tires
- Brakes
- Alignments
- NC State Inspections
- General Repairs



Thrive Insurance Solutions

Call For Appointment
828-442-9681, TTY 711
elhobson@live.com
myuhcagent.com/thrive.ins



Ellen Hobson
Licensed Sales Agent



The Answer
By Billy Graham

Q:
I run a small business with about a dozen employees. I became a Christian about two years ago and I want to run my business according to Christian principles but I'm not sure exactly what that means. Any suggestions?

A:
I'm grateful for your concern, and I wish more Christians who are in business shared it. When Jesus Christ comes into our lives He wants to influence everything we do — including our jobs or business.
Certainly, one principle the Bible gives us is to do everything with honesty and integrity, both in our business and in our personal lives. *“Use honest scales and honest weights,”* the Old Testament law declared (Leviticus 19:36). Don't cheat or take shortcuts in your business; keep your promises; be truthful in all you do. Not only will it help your business in the long run, but it will bring honor to Christ. The Bible says, *“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful”* (Proverbs 12:22).
In addition, treat your employees the same way you would want to be treated. The Bible says, *“Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven”* (Colossians 4:1). Thankfully slavery is a thing of the past for us — but the underlying principle still stands: If we are employers or supervisors, we are to do what is right and fair to those who work under us.
Finally, be on guard against letting money or success take the place of God. Jesus warned, *“You cannot serve both God and Money”* (Matthew 6:24). Greed is very dangerous, and it easily creeps in if we don't guard against it.




“About 3,000”
By Kurt Bomar
Avery County

The phrase “about 3000” is mentioned twice in scripture. Not “just 3000” or “over 3,000” or “exactly 3000”, But “about 3000”.
The first time we see it is in Exodus 32:20. *“You shall count all fifty days to the day after the 7th Sabbath. Then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.”* This is the ordinance of the Feast of Shavuot, which takes place seven weeks or 50 days after the Passover. The rabbis calculated it out and discovered that this was the same time that Moses ascended Mount Sinai to receive the Law. Thus, Shavuot became the day that commemorated the giving of the law. It became a feast day on the Hebrew calendar.
What happened on that day? When Moses descended from Mount Sinai, he saw that the Hebrews were indulging in immorality. And God in his wrath destroyed “about 3000” people. Ex.32:20.
Now let's jump forward 1000 years. The Hebrew word “Shavuot” had been translated into the Greek word “Pentecost”. So, on that same holiday, the spirit of God was given to the believers. Guess what happened? Salvation happened, eternal life. And the number of those who came to new life. Was recorded at “about 3000”. Acts 2:41.
So “about 3000” died and centuries later “about 3000” came to life on the same exact holy day. On the first event, the law was given. In the second event, the Spirit of God was given. Perhaps this is why Paul said *“the letter (law) kills, but the spirit gives life.”* 2Cor.3:4-6.
You see, the law can tell us the will of God, but only the Spirit can give us the power to live it. Therefore, we should not live by the spirit of the law (focusing on rules and regulations for our righteousness). Rather we should live by the Spirit of God, fulfilling the will of God for our lives.
I admit it is a radical concept. But it is also very freeing. Instead of struggling to accomplish the will of God, live, move, and be moved by the Spirit of God and you will fulfill His will.
Selah (think about it).




Kurt Bomar is pastor of Walnut Grove Church.



COOPER'S TRADING, INC.

Archery · Hunting · Fishing
Guns & Ammo

*Bowtech, Mathews, Hoyt, Mission, PSE, Diamond, Elite
Bear Archery*



1995 West US Hwy. 19E
Burnsville, NC 28714

Shannon Cooper
828-208-0898
828-678-9929

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6



Compassionate Care

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



**“Does your provider
make house calls?”**

“Ours do!”

**Call our Hospice & Palliative care
team today for more information.
Serving Mitchell, Yancey, Madison &
Buncombe counties.**

828-682-9675

Billboard Theology - Not So Simple - John 3:16

By Robert Garner
Rutherford County

“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.

Does this verse enable everyone to love the world, if they believe in Jesus?

John 3:16 is extensively used to promote a false narrative that God loves all men and the world. His Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross and took upon himself forgiveness of all the world's sins. All of mankind now has to make a simple decision. Believe in Christ, accept his gift of eternal life, or refuse to believe and suffer eternal death.

Jesus prays Not for the World. If God loved the world, is it not valid for believers to love the world?

Again, the Lord Jesus commands, 1 John 2:15-17. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father; but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”.

Praying to His Father in heaven, the disciples hear the Lord Jesus as He prays in John 17:8,9. “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine”.

John 17:9, Jesus prays for “them which thou [the Father] hast given me”. The elect (them) are chosen out of the world by the Father. The chosen are hated by the world. John 15:18,19, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” Luke 21:17, “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.”

“For God “So” (Strong’s, # G3778/G3779 “So”) in this manner, thus) Loved the world”, [in this manner], that he gave his only begotten son for the world God loved. God’s gift of giving his only begotten Son is the manner by which God shows His love for the world. God loves only those who have been redeemed by the blood, (death) of Christ. The Scriptures clearly show God does not love all men. “The World” as defined by various scripture contexts includes the whole human race. Those of all the unsaved who have ever lived in the world, and all the elect, those chosen by God who have ever lived in the world. Parallel verses of the world, John. 1:29, 3:17, 4:42, 12:47.

Psalms 11:5, “The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth”. Two types of mankind in the world. Those tried and righteous; Strong’s # H974 trieth, “to examine and prove the heart of man”. Strong’s # H6662 righteous, “justified and vindicated by God” Psalm 26:2, “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart”. Psalm 11:5, “the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth”.

The elect of God is saved by His grace, which requires no action on the part of mankind whatsoever. Strong’s # G5485 Grace, loving-kindness, favor by which God exerts his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Jesus Christ. Spiritual discernment by the Holy Spirit must be given to understand the spiritual nature of God’s Word. John 6:44, “no man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” To Draw (G1670 to drag by the inward power of God Almighty).

Only the Work of God can give the ability for an individual to “believeth in Him”, (Christ). John 6:29, “and Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent”. To believe and accept are verbs that require a work of action to produce a desired effect or result. Believing is “not of yourselves”, we must be chosen by God to believe his gift of grace.

The statement of believing, without recognizing an individual must be chosen of God to “believeth in Him” John 3:16, fits perfectly with Romans 11:6. “And if by grace, then is it no more works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work”.

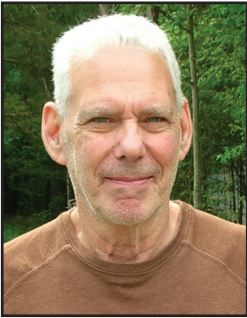
The Scripture declares the following; John 15:16, ye have “not chosen me, but I have chosen you”; 1 John 4:19, we love him, because “he loved us first”. Mathew 22:14, “for many are called but few are chosen”. John 3:27 “A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven”.

Two worlds are in view in the scriptures. The world God loves includes His chosen elect, who are “chosen out of the world to believe in Him”. The world God hates, are those who love the world. “Any man loves the world; the love of the father is not in him”.

The prophecy of scriptures was written and recorded exactly as God intended them to be. 2 Peter, 1:21 “not in old time by the will of men, holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”. Understanding the (hermeneutics) of scripture study demands the following discipline 1 Corinthians 2:13, “comparing spiritual with spiritual, [that’s comparing scripture with scripture] which the Holy Ghost teacheth”. 2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”.

Billboard Theology, displays a single scripture verse (John 3:16) to show God’s love for the world and all men; that’s a half-truth, which is a whole lie. Billboard Theology - Perhaps John 5:39?

JOHN 5:39



“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”

Inspiration for “Billboard Theology” - Homer C. Hoeksema (1923-1989) “the most misused and misinterpreted in all of Holy Scripture” John 3:16. Interested in the End Times Study, Unsealed, as recorded in Daniel 12:4? “Shut up the words, seal the book, to the time of the end, knowledge shall be increased”. Email valleygravel@otlook.com. Your comments are always appreciated.

My name is Robert W. Garner; my wife and I live in Union Mills, Rutherford County, NC. I’m a Christian Bible study researcher/writer/coach allied with other Biblical Scripture investigators unaffiliated with any church denominations. Our Scripture research spans 600 years of Christian Bible languages which include English, Hebrew, and Greek. As God Almighty commands in 1 Corinthians 2:13 we search the scriptures; “not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but what the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual with spiritual”; which is a scripture with scripture.

Check out our Website-
www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

WSVM 96.5
1490
The Best Mix On The Dial

Carolina Home Care Specialists, INC
Excellence in Personalized Care

Medicaid Covered Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-Home Care for Children & Adults• CAP for Disabled Adults & Children• CAP Choice• Pediatric Nurse Aids	Other Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private Pay• Insurance• VA Homemaker Service• Companion/Sitter• Respite
--	---

Now Hiring CNAs

Our In-Home Aides are supervised by a registered nurse who is available during all hours worked by the aide.

Phone (828) 765-4343 • (866) 765-4340

<p>We make a lifetime of smiles, JESUS makes smiles last Forever!</p>	<p>Dr. Michael MAGNOTTA, DDS at MORGANTON FAMILY DENTISTRY</p> <p>801 W Fleming Dr • Morganton, NC 828-430-3264 • www.msmls.dental</p>
---	--

Something to Think About

Taste and See that the Lord is Good

By Dennis Love
McDowell County

Psalm 34:8 says, “*O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him.*” It seems like the older I get the more I miss my childhood. Even the simplest of things. Like for example. . . our plates.

Nowadays, we often eat on Styrofoam plates because, in such a busy lifestyle, it’s much easier to be able to throw them away and not have to wash a sink full of plates. Even when we are not using disposable plates, we mostly use some fancified plastic ones. It’s becoming more and more rare that we use real plates. Have you noticed that or is it just me?

When I was growing up, we used real plates all the time. About the only time we ever saw paper, plastic, or Styrofoam plates was when we had a cookout. So, the sound of forks (which weren’t plastic of course) clanking against those plates was a common, everyday sound of my childhood, that’s now mostly gone.

Even though we used plates every day, our plates were not much to look at. Sure, we had a good set, which was only used for special dinners or special company. But our everyday plates were mix-match, well worn, with even chips and cracks. But. . . they were always clean.

I knew the hands that washed them, so I never had to worry about whether they were clean. Not to mention, a plate is only noticed when it’s empty. So, once my momma’s fantastic cooking was placed on them, nobody cared about what the plate looked like.

Now as for us, we too have some chips and cracks in these plates we call our lives. Had anyone else been given the choice, they may have figured we were only worth throwing away. But like my momma decided with her plates, God determined that we who have been called to Christ were worth washing and using again, and for that, we can all be grateful.

I just pray that as He uses us as His servants, people will look past what He is serving the Gospel on, and see what He is serving. Our cracks and chips obviously reveal that we are less than perfect, but that doesn’t take away from the fact that God is more than wonderful to wash us and use us over and over again. I know we need to be continuously washed because no matter how good the Gospel might be, no one wants to eat it off dirty plates.

I hope and pray that I will continue to hear the spiritual sounds of forks and spoons clanking on the plate of my ministry. I want everyone I meet to taste and see that the Lord is good, and I hope you do too! “*O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him.*”

Dr. Dennis Love is the Associational Missions Strategist for the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in McDowell County. Dr. Love has been in full-time ministry work for 31 years. He and his wife Vicki have been married for almost 42 years, and they have lived in Marion for almost 8 years. They have two sons, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. He can be reached via email at: dlovebrba@yahoo.com

McCain Funeral Home & Cremations, LLC

220 Avery Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655
office: (828)-608-0873
fax: (828)-608-0874
www.mccainfuneralhome.com

Community News

Hilloween Announces Del McCoury and the Del McCoury Band to Headline 2023 Festival

By Gina Phillips
Mitchell County

Mitchell County will host a multi-day festival celebrating the history and mystery of the Blue Ridge McCoury and the Del McCoury Band will headline the Spruce Pine Street Festival on Saturday, October 28 with a free concert. With nine IBMA Entertainer of the Year trophies, numerous Grammy wins, and membership in the legendary cast of the Grand Ole Opry, we are honored to welcome Del “home” to Mitchell County.

A few things to mark on your calendars. Full details about each event can be found at www.hilloweennc.org

- Home + Business Decorating Contest. WHAT: Contest open to all residents and business owners in Mitchell County. WHERE: Countywide. WHEN: All month.
- Hilloween Book Distribution. WHAT: The Hilloween team will be distributing 1,000 + new books to children in the region. WHERE and WHEN: Private event with Mitchell County Schools on 10/24 + public distribution at the Ole-Fashioned Children’s Carnival in Bakersville on the evening of Friday, 10/27.
- Haunted Schoolhouse in Buladean. WHAT: This signature haunted school-house—created in partnership with the North Carolina School of the Arts—is a one-of-a-kind experience and recommended for adults and children ages 13 and up. WHERE: Buladean Community Foundation. WHEN: Wednesday night, 10/25 – Saturday night, 10/28.
- Trick or Treat Spooktacular. WHAT: A fun event for the entire family at Mayland Community College. WHERE: Mayland Community College. WHEN: Timing TBA.
- Bakersville Night Festival. WHAT: Street festival with WNC’s largest outdoor sound and light show, the Ali Randolph band, storytelling, axe-throwing, a neon dance party, and other surprises. WHERE: Downtown Bakersville. WHEN: evening/night of Thursday, 10/26.
- Ole-Fashioned Children’s Carnival. WHAT: Party like your grandparents did... plus The Ali Randolph Band, axe-throwing, and carnival games for kids of all ages. WHERE: Bowman Middle School. WHEN: Friday evening, 10/27.
- Ghost Stories at The Old English Inn. WHAT: Join us for a free evening of Appalachian Haunted Tales and Spooky Old Songs in the region’s BEST setting for ghost stories. WHERE: Old English Inn. WHEN: Friday night, 10/27.
- Photo Scavenger Hunt. WHAT: This photo scavenger hunt offers teams the opportunity to explore the history and mystery of the Blue Ridge, plus cash prizes! WHERE: Leaves from Spruce Pine Visitor Center (165 Locust St.). WHEN: Saturday, 10/28 at 11 a.m.
- Treats’ Homemade Costume Contest. WHAT: Store-bought costumes won’t cut it for this competition, so dust off your glue guns and your creativity—plus cash prizes! WHERE: TREATS Studios. WHEN: Saturday, 10/28 at 2:30 p.m.
- Street Festival in Spruce Pine. WHAT: Outdoor street festival with free musical performance by Del McCoury and the Del McCoury Band and other performers, axe-throwing, games for children, food + drink, and more. WHERE: Lower Street in Spruce Pine. WHEN: evening of Saturday, 10/28.

Hilloween, Inc. is a Mitchell County nonprofit organization and we are so grateful to our many community partners. We look forward to seeing you later this month!

Gina Phillips is the Founder and Executive Producer of Hilloween. For more information -- or to volunteer -- visit www.hilloweennc.org.

Give Thanks!

Steven W. Gaito

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™
"Create a Plan, Not a Portfolio"

Have you saved money for retirement in an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or another qualified plan?

If so, you need to understand how taxes reduce your retirement.

I am a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner who specializes in helping people pay less taxes on these plans. It is not the product or the portfolio that is the problem, it is the Government!

Let me show you how to get the Government out of your RETIREMENT.

Schedule your free initial consultation to see how much we can save you in retirement. Contact us by calling (828) 559-0299 or by emailing my assistant Morgan at Morgan.wylie@retirerm.com.

Discover your potential retirement tax bill here!

Take our '35 Questions You Need to Answer in Retirement' Survey!

Tax Shield Biblical Stewardship

By Steve Gaito
McDowell County



Biblical Stewardship: Safeguarding Your Financial Future

As faithful stewards of God's blessings, it is our responsibility to manage our resources wisely, including the finances we have saved in qualified retirement accounts such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457s, TSPs, or IRAs. While we diligently save for retirement, we must also consider the potential impact of taxes, which represent one of the most significant risks to our financial well-being. With a national debt of \$33 trillion and a history of tax increases to address this debt, our retirement accounts are susceptible to future taxation. In response to this challenge, we present the Tax Shield Program—a solution grounded in biblical stewardship principles, designed to help you protect your wealth, navigate tax complexities, and secure your financial future while honoring God with your financial decisions.

Maximize Your Wealth

Biblical stewardship encourages us to be wise and faithful managers of God's resources. The Tax Shield Program empowers you to protect and grow your wealth strategically, in alignment with these principles. Rather than allowing your assets to erode due to rising taxes, you can use those funds to fulfill your financial goals—whether that's retiring comfortably, supporting your children's education, or pursuing your God-given dreams.

Proactive Tax Planning

Being proactive in our financial planning is a biblical principle too. In Proverbs 27:12, we are reminded that "the prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty" (NIV). The Tax Shield Program is dedicated to staying informed about tax laws, ensuring that you benefit from every available tax-saving opportunity. By being proactive in your tax planning, you can honor God by maximizing your resources for His purposes.

Tailored Solutions

Just as God uniquely created each of us, our financial situations are also unique. The Tax Shield Program is customized to your specific needs and circumstances, recognizing that one size does not fit all. By tailoring our approach, we help you make the most of your financial resources, in harmony with biblical principles of stewardship.

Affordable Fee Structure

Biblical stewardship includes being responsible for what God has entrusted to us. The Tax Shield Program's fee structure is designed to be fair and based on the tax savings we provide. This approach ensures that you can secure your financial future without compromising your financial stewardship principles. It's a win-win scenario, allowing you to honor God through your financial choices.

Peace of Mind

The Bible reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) to "not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." With the Tax Shield Program, you can let go of worries about rising taxes and find peace in knowing that you've taken proactive steps to protect your wealth and honor God through your stewardship.

Expert Guidance

In Proverbs 15:22 (NIV), we are encouraged to seek advice: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed." The Tax Shield Program offers expert guidance to help you make informed decisions that align with your long-term financial objectives. We are committed to being one of those advisers, helping you navigate the complexities of the tax code while honoring biblical principles of stewardship.

Don't Let Uncertainty Jeopardize Your Biblical Stewardship

The uncertainty of future taxes should not jeopardize your biblical stewardship of God's blessings. The Tax Shield Program offers a comprehensive solution to help you maximize your wealth, be proactive in tax planning, customize your approach, honor God through an affordable fee structure, and enjoy the peace that comes from trusting in Him.

Conclusion

Biblical stewardship extends to all aspects of our lives, including our financial decisions. The Tax Shield Program aligns with these principles, allowing you to protect your wealth while honoring God with your finances. By investing just \$200 to see how much you can save in taxes, you can take the first step toward securing your financial future in accordance with biblical stewardship. With the Tax Shield Program, you can look forward to a brighter and more secure retirement while continuing to honor God with your financial choices.

Steven W Gaito is a certified financial planner, owner of Faith Based Health Care and Retirement Resource Management, National Speaker on the topic of Social Security optimization, quoted in national publications like Money Magazine, US News and World Reports and Fox Business. Loves to educate and teach on financial topics like taxation of retirement accounts, long term care, healthcare, and efficient savings plans for small businesses. Has provided financial planning for missionaries through the International Mission Board.

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Psalms 107:1

The Greatest Gift

By Caron Cline
Burke County



Luke 5:17-26

As word spread concerning the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, Pharisees and teachers of the law traveled from every village in Galilee and Judea as well as from Jerusalem, to investigate this new teaching. These men intermingled with the crowd, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to judge the words and deeds of Jesus. Despite their skepticism, the power of the Lord was present to heal. Some men arrived, carrying a paralyzed friend on a stretcher, however, the crowd surrounding Jesus was too dense to penetrate. Rather than yielding to defeat, the men climbed to the roof and lowered the paralytic through the tiles to the very feet of the Healer. Jesus stopped the sermon; the crowd grew still; the power to heal permeated the atmosphere. However, Jesus astounded the crowd by saying, *‘Friend, your sins are forgiven you’*. Were the friends of this man disappointed with these words? After all, this man’s greatest need appeared to be physical healing. Jesus’ words produced self-righteous indignation in the minds of the Pharisees and Scribes. Only God can forgive sins, an accurate assessment, meaning Jesus was equating Himself with Jehovah. The implications were not lost on these religious leaders, who considered His words blasphemy against God. Reading the minds of the men, He turned and asked this question: *“Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven you’, or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”* As the Son of God and the Son of Man, Jesus had the authority to both forgive sins and restore mobility to this paralyzed man. In the presence of all, Jesus revealed His true identity by speaking words of healing, *‘I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home’*. Immediately, he followed Jesus’ instructions and joyfully received complete deliverance, giving glory to God. Regardless of the doubts of the religious leaders, this man knew he had been touched by Almighty God through Jesus Christ. Everyone present was struck with astonishment and joined their voices in praise and thanksgiving. The fear of the Lord filled these witnesses at the realization that this man had been changed inwardly as well as outwardly. He was now completely whole. Our physical needs, regardless of their severity, pale in comparison to our spiritual needs. Jesus has been given the Name that is above every Name; He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth to forgive our sins, cover them by His blood, and remember them no more. Forgiveness is the greatest gift anyone could ever receive yet, He has also been given the same authority to heal all our diseases, for by His wounds we are healed! May we offer the sacrifice of praise this Thanksgiving to our Savior, Who sacrificed Himself for our redemption and restoration.

Psalm 103:1-3

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases”.

Caron Cline is a follower of Jesus Christ who loves to teach the word of God. Her desire is to see every believer growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

3448 Miller Bridge Rd
Connelly Springs, NC
(828) 397-3588
OPEN • MON-SAT 6AM - 8PM SUN 6AM-3PM

Let Us Cater Your Next Event

The Taste That Takes You Back

HVAC MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

WHY ENROLL IN OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM?

- ★PREVENT COSTLY REPAIRS AND BREAKDOWNS
- ★CORRECTION OF DEVELOPING PROBLEMS
- ★LONGER EQUIPMENT LIFESPAN
- ★SAVE 10% ON REPAIR PARTS
- ★FRONT OF THE LINE SERVICE
- ★REDUCE ENERGY USE

141 HIGHLAND AVE
SPRUCE PINE, NC 28777
828-765-4042
BURLESONPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM
BURLESONPLUMBING.COM

Burleson Plumbing & Heating

STARTING AS LOW AS \$129 OR \$12 MONTHLY

The Waldensian Trail of Faith

Burke County

VALDESE — The Waldensian Trail of Faith in Valdese will light up again this year in shining holiday splendor.

The annual “Lighting of the Trail” ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, at the Waldensian Trail of Faith located at 401 Church St. NW, Valdese.

The Trail of Lights features more than 100,000 LED bulbs fashioned into favorite Christmas scenes displayed throughout the outdoor museum. All of the scenes relate to the history of the Waldensian people, but the most important thing is that the displays are focused on Jesus, according to former NC Sen. Jim Jacumin, Trail of Faith founder and president.

Founded in 1993, the Trail of Faith portrays the history of the Waldensians dating back to the time of the biblical apostles, according to the museum’s website, waldensiantrailoffaith.org. The Waldensians were a pre-Reformation religious group who translated scripture into their own language. They were excommunicated in the 12th century by the pope and moved to the Cottian Alps between France and Italy, where they resided for many years and were under fierce persecution. A group of Waldensians immigrated to America and founded the town of Valdese in 1893

The Trail of Faith property features 15 buildings and monuments that detail the history of each phase in the Waldensians’ journey. The museum tour brings to life the struggles they faced, pays tribute to their sacrifices, and celebrates their successes and triumphs.

“The Waldensians were considered to be people who lived by Scripture and were tortured, exiled, and martyred, and still the faith that drove them from the Alpine Valleys of Italy to the foothills of North Carolina survived,” said Sheryl Tron, office manager at the Trail of Faith.

Volunteers at the Trail of Faith, also known as “trail friends,” begin testing the lights and setting up the Christmas scenes a month in advance to prepare for the lighting ceremony and nightly viewing. Tron said the event relies entirely on volunteers, and the ceremony would not be possible without their help.

The lighting ceremony on Nov. 21 will feature holiday music performances by students from the Morganton Day School in Morganton, led by teacher Amethyst Stark, and Marty Jacumin reading the biblical Christmas story.

“It’s important for us to share the Christmas story with the kids because the kids are what this event is really about,” Jim Jacumin said. “Children play an important role in Christmas, and it is important for us to pass on what we know.”

As in years past, three students will be chosen to turn on the lights at the end of the ceremony, marking the traditional lighting of the trail.

Guests at the lighting ceremony and nightly viewing are encouraged to stop by the visitor’s center to enjoy hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and other refreshments.

The Trail of Lights will be open 6-9 pm daily from the November lighting ceremony through Dec. 24. The visitor’s center will be closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day for concessions. There will be no lights on Christmas Day, but the lights will be on during Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. The Christmas display attracts a steady flow of traffic through the museum, generally averaging 40 to 50 vehicles a night to enjoy the lights display, Jacumin said.

“We love having families bring their children, walk the trail, and enjoy the Christmas carols and the hot drinks,” he said. “We have visitors that come all the way from Charlotte for our lighting ceremony and to see the Trail of Lights. Each year, we have between 7,000 and 8,000 visitors. The whole event really reminds us what Christmas is about, and that is giving to others. It enriches the building blocks of society, and it’s a joy to be able to give back — and that’s a big part of community.”

The Trail of Faith Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group funded by donations from guests. There is no admission fee to the Christmas lights display, but the Trail of Faith will accept donations to help fund December’s utility bill.

For day-to-day announcements and possible weather-related changes in viewing the lights, check the “Waldensian Trail of Faith” Facebook page.

For information on the Christmas lights display, the lighting ceremony, or the Waldensian Trail of Faith, contact the trail office at 828-874-1893 or trailoffaith1893@gmail.com or visit www.waldensiantrailoffaith.org.



Stop Neuropathy pain in its’ tracks:
Get effective relief NOW with laser therapy

- Fast Acting relief: Experience significant improvement within weeks.
- Effective for diabetic, idiopathic and chemotherapy induced neuropathy.
- Long lasting relief means you can get back to living your life without constant pain.
- Laser therapy is an FDA approved therapy and completely safe.



CRUZLife
CENTER

Natural Health Care
Solutions for Your Life

- CHIROPRACTIC
- HEALTH COACHING
- LASER THERAPY

Laser Therapy • Health Counseling • Chiropractic
390 East Main Street • Burnsville NC 28714 • 828-682-6157 • 800-772-7955
www.cruzlifecenter.com

Thanksgiving

By Bruce Cannon
Mitchell County



Psalm 150:6 commands: “*Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.*”

Having just witnessed the amazing color of the trees in these North Carolina mountains, the harvest of the apples, and all that is associated with the fall, this verse is very relevant! How God has blessed us not just in the fall but throughout the year(s)!

I began a series of messages recently on the life and times of Elijah. So much of what the nation of Israel was going through and doing in his day can be seen in the America of our day. Yet, God took care of him and used him as He, the Lord, brought down judgment upon Israel and the nations surrounding her. False gods were being worshipped, cultic practices practiced and God’s mercy ran out. Judgment fell.

How did God provide for His prophet? He sent him to the brook Cherith which, even though a drought had a stranglehold on the land, continued to flow. He fed him through ravens bringing him bread and flesh in the mornings and evenings. When the brook dried up, as was purposed by God beforehand, He sent Elijah to a widow who was preparing the last bit of meal for her and her young son to eat one last morsel of bread before they died. Again God provided. The meal never failed and the oil was always there for the widow, her son, and Elijah to eat even though so many around were dying due to hunger.

I am so thankful for stories like these in the Word. They teach us that God always provides for those who walk in fellowship with Him. Just as He did for Elijah, God will take care of His people!

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving don’t we have a lot to be thankful for? The Lord spared us through the COVID-19 disaster, He is sparing us through this current economic downturn, and He will continue to provide for us until that day we go Home to be with Him.

Several verses speak to this. For instance, David said in Psalm 37:25, “*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*” The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:19, “*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” No matter what our nation does against His will and purposes and no matter how bad the economy gets somehow, someday God is going to provide for our needs.

God does not need anything to give us everything we need and can provide everything out of nothing just as He did when He created the heavens and the earth. He is unlimited in His power and ability and can still today work tremendous miracles on our behalf. Amen! Rejoice this Thanksgiving season that our God reigns and will meet our needs in the future just as He has done in the past and is doing in the present.

May I share a few things we should always praise the Lord for:

- 1) He will give grace for everything that comes our way. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- 2) He will meet every need that arises. (Matthew 6:25-34)
- 3) He will walk with us every step of the way through life. (Hebrews 13:5)
- 4) He will carry us when we can no longer walk. (Deuteronomy 33:27)
- 5) He will use every pain, every problem, and every pitfall in life for His glory and our good and will use it all to grow us in the faith and make us more like Jesus. (Romans 8:28-29)

Amen! Remember these amazing truths and recall how good the Lord has been to you and yours throughout the years and rejoice. Rejoice this Thanksgiving season that we are the recipients of the wonderful blessings of God and that these blessings will continue as long as we walk in fellowship with Him.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Bruce Cannon is the retired pastor of Bear Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville. Formerly he served as Director of Missions for the Bladen Baptist Association and has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Give Thanks!

Roan Mountain Baptist Church

"Limburger Cheese, Traffic, & Roses"

By Russell McKinney
Mitchell County

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”
(Psalm 100:4, N.K.J.V.)

Evangelist R.T. Kendall tells the story of some youngsters who played a prank on a man who had a prominent mustache. Somehow they got hold of some limburger cheese and gently rubbed it on his mustache while he was napping. When the man awoke, he said, “This bed stinks.” Then he got up off the bed, walked around the bedroom, and said, “This room stinks.” Next, he walked through all the rooms of his house and said, “This whole house stinks.” Finally, he walked outside, took a deep breath, and announced, “This whole world stinks!”

Like that fellow, we can sometimes start thinking that the whole world stinks. Isn’t it funny how we can get up from a comfortable bed in the morning, put on nice clothes, enjoy a filling breakfast, walk out of a good home, start up a reliable vehicle, head off to a job that keeps all the bills paid, and then, as soon as someone cuts us off in traffic, decide that the whole world stinks? What about being thankful for another day to live? What about being grateful for that comfortable bed? Those nice clothes? That breakfast? That home? That vehicle? That job? For that matter, what about just appreciating the fact that we have the health and ability to get out there and ride that big wave called the “modern world”? I’ll guarantee you that there are people in hospital beds and nursing homes right now who would love to get up tomorrow morning, hit the highway, and have someone cut them off in traffic.

Our text verse is one we hear quoted a lot around the holiday we call Thanksgiving. But the truth is that God bestows His blessings upon us every day, which means that He should be thanked every day. That goes for saved believers as well as lost unbelievers. On the subject of God bestowing blessings upon everybody, Jesus pointed out that God makes His sun rise on not only the good but also the evil and sends rain on not only the just but also the unjust (Matthew 5:45). By the way, Jesus said that as part of His teaching about how God loves His enemies, teaching in which Jesus commanded His followers to likewise love their enemies (Matthew 5:43-48).

Of course, it’s hard to show much love (either to our friends or to our enemies) when we go around grumbling all the time about life’s assorted problems. Unfortunately, we seem to have too much in common with that father whose son was once asked, “Does your dad spend a lot of time in his den?” To that, the boy replied, “No, he just growls all over the house.” I myself shutter to think what answer my two sons would give if someone ever asked them, “Does your dad complain much?” Let’s just hope they never get asked that.

Someone has said, “What a grand world this would be if we could forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings.” All I can say to that is, “Amen!” I only wish that my saying, “Amen!” to it automatically equated to me actually living it. Another quote I picked up somewhere along the way goes like this: “Don’t be mad about roses having thorns; be thankful that thorns have roses.”

Along about now, I can hear someone saying, “But that cutesy little saying ignores the problem. What we really need is some way to eliminate the thorns from the roses. That’s how we can truly make this world a better place.” Well, my answer to that is, “Good luck, let me know how that goes for you.” Until someone actually succeeds in eliminating the thorns, I think the best way I can make this world a grander place overall and build a more enjoyable life for myself and my family is for me to do a better job of focusing on the roses rather than the thorns. And I’m sure that I’ll do that, every single day I live, that is at least until the next time someone cuts me off in traffic.

Russell Mckinney lives in the English Woods area of Spruce Pine and serves as the pastor of Roan Mountain Baptist Church in Bakersville

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Ephesians 5:20



ALL
NEW!

Spruce Pine Chevrolet Buick GMC!

We are working hard to provide the best customer experience EVER!

- Factory Certified Personnel in every Department
- Genuine GM Parts
- Growing Inventory - New & Pre-owned
- Facility Upgrades Underway
- Factory Certified Service Technicians

We are upgrading the facility, filling the lot with New and Pre-Owned inventory, and adding staff, All to provide the best customer experience for **YOU!**

36 Chevrolet Boulevard, Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Phone: (828)765-4234

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Camper & Boat Storage

DR•MINI
STORAGE

14307 Hwy 226 • Spruce Pine, NC 3/10 mile North of Walmart

1485 Elk Park Highway • Newland, NC Climate Controlled

4057 Hwy 19E Burnsville, NC


828-260-3396 • 828-766-4585

www.drstoragenc.com

www.brcnews.com

November 2023 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 23

Breakfast • Lunch



DT'S BLUE RIDGE JAVA
COFFEE SHOP & CAFE

Deli Sandwiches
Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Soup & Salad
Ice Cream
Pastries

828-766-8008

169 Locust St. (Lower St.)
Spruce Pine, NC

Daily: 7:00am - 5:00pm
Closed Sunday
Go to Church

Don't Forget
Gift Cards!

Count Your Blessings

By Steve Bietz
Burke County



Willie Nelson is one of the most iconic singer-songwriters of all time. He has been nominated for 56 Grammys, winning 10. He has made 98 studio albums and 14 live albums while collaborating on a couple dozen more. He is 90 years old and has led a life of highs and lows. Something that he said about his life has stuck with me. Nelson said, "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

The practice of "counting your blessings" is backed up by the scriptures. In Psalm 18: 1 we read, "*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*"

And the practice of counting your blessings is backed up by science, which makes sense since it is God who is in charge of science. Counting your blessings can help you improve your well-being, performance, sleep, relationships, blood pressure, and stress levels. When we count our blessings, we take time to appreciate the good that we have experienced, are experiencing now, and will experience in the future.

Unfortunately, scientists tell us that we seem to have a "negativity bias" that causes our brains to prioritize, seek out, and lock on to negative information in the world like a heat-seeking missile. I've noticed that negative emotions seem to hang around longer than positive emotions. At times when I get home at the end of the day, I'm more likely to mull over the one negative comment someone made about my work and ignore the many positive comments I received from others. Why do our brains do that? I suspect that negativity bias is helpful in many ways, but the key to maintaining good mental health is to find balance. So, what can we do? Make it a regular practice to count your blessings.

One way we can fight negativity bias is to work each day to find good in people, places, and life events. When I think back, I can see that many of the biggest blessings in life come through little moments. It's easy to let those little moments pass by in a blur if you don't count your blessings.

One thing I try to avoid is taking things for granted. Maybe it's the time you get to spend with your kids, spouse, or friends. Perhaps it's your health or good weather. Maybe it's the technology that you have that allows you to connect with others far away.

My wife and I live in a two-story home that has a separate heat and air system for each floor. The unit for downstairs went out last week and we will need to pay to have it replaced. I would consider this a very negative event. But my wife and I looked at the temperatures on the 10-day forecast for our hometown and saw that we are going to be in a warm trend for the end of October. Praise God that we would have probably not even needed much heat with the temperatures each day reaching into the 70s!

I want to make gratitude a priority in my life. I have seen how practicing gratitude enhances my spiritual fitness, mental health, and performance. I think the psalmist was on to something. "*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*" So, go ahead and count your blessings! Like Willie Nelson, you may see that counting your blessings can turn your life around.

Steve Bietz, Pastor, Morganton Seventh day Adventist Church.





Hospice and Home Care
of the Blue Ridge, Inc.
Hospice, Palliative Care & CAP

Services Offered

Pain and Symptom Management
24 Hour Nursing Support
Chaplain Visits
Social Work Support
Certified Nursing Assistant Services
Respiratory Therapy
Physician and FNP Visits
Volunteer Support
Ongoing Support and Education for
Loved Ones.

For more information about our services or if
you would like to make a referral call:
828-765-5677



RAY'S TREE SERVICE

- Hazardous Tree Removal
 - View Clearing
 - Pruning
 - Chipper Service
 - Bucket Truck Service
- Hedge Trimming
 - Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Control
 - Landscaping & Grading
 - Retaining Walls
 - Stump Grinding

Certified Arborist • Insured • Free Estimates
Serving This Area 10 Years

(828) 467-1113

Humor

By Buddy Freeman
Madison County



Everyone in the nursing home had joined the special hospitalization plan except a fellow named Maynard. Since the deal required 100 percent participation, the [plan could not operate without Maynard. Everyone talked to him, pleaded, argued, and pressured him but nothing worked. He would not sign. Finally, one old boy, a former professional wrestler until he grew too old for it, came up to Maynard and said, “Man, if you don’t sign that hospitalization plan, I’ll break every bone in your body, then reduce the bones to toothpicks!” So Maynard nods, takes out his pen, and signs the paper. A bit later, the home manager came to him and asked, “How come it took so long to make up your mind?” “I finally found somebody who could explain it to me.”

One day I answered the phone and the voice at the other end said abruptly, “Whosiz?” “With whom did you wish to speak,” I said, being an English major. There was a long pause and then, “I kin tell ye right now by the way yer a-talkin’ its not who I’s a-wantin!”

A woman in East Tennessee ordered a monkey for a pet, but after several months it became wild and troublesome. She went to see the veterinarian about it. Right away he said, “My advice to you is to take him to the zoo down in Knoxville.” She said she would. When the vet saw the lady a few days later, he asked, “Did you take your monkey to the zoo?” “Oh, yes,” she replied, “and we had so much fun I’m going to take him to the movies next Saturday.”

A woman who lived close to the swimming hole called the sheriff one day and said, “I’m just shocked. A bunch of boys are down there swimming without a stitch on! I want you to come out here and do something about it.” The sheriff drove out, went up on her porch, and knocked. The woman came to the door. “Where is it that you can see them boys from?” he asked. “Up yonder in my bedroom,” she said. So he followed her up to her bedroom, went over to the window, and looked down at the swimming hole. “Why, I can’t see anything from here because of the bushes around the hole,” he said. The woman replied, “Oh, you have to get up on this trunk here.”

Dr Buddy Freeman is the former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Marshall, NC.

Mitchell Yancey Family & Pregnancy Services

By Leah Johnson
Mitchell County



I’m not a huge fan of statistics. They make my eyes glaze over most of the time. However, they are useful when we need to see the larger picture and zoom in on areas needing improvement. I decided to look up our numbers for 2022 compared to this year just to see how we are doing.

I’ll keep it brief, but here are a few stats for you! 2022: We served 39 women and 8 men and had 190 total visits to the center. 2023: We’ve served 82 women and 22 men and have had 386 total visits to the center. We knew we had been busy, but these numbers show just how quickly things are growing! Bigger numbers don’t necessarily mean better, but every single person; every single visit represents an opportunity to share the love of Jesus and strengthen families.

The bulk of our visits have been for physical resources such as diapers and strollers, parenting classes, and ultrasounds. Being pro-life doesn’t end when a woman gives birth, it’s only the beginning, and we are committed to walking with women and their families for however long it takes!

We are not seeing many abortion-minded clients reach out for help though. Roe v Wade being overturned is nothing short of a miracle. The decision was given to individual states, and NC recently dropped from a 20-week to 12-week abortion ban. While it’s a step in the right direction, we know women are still having abortions, and we are not seeing many come through our doors right now. Chemical abortion is on the rise, and women are having abortions earlier than ever. Before COVID, chemical abortions were being utilized, but during COVID-19, chemical abortions accounted for as much as 50% of abortions performed. Now in 2023, they are accounting for around 70%. This means less time for women to carefully consider their options and less time for us to reach them. We are diligently seeking God for wisdom about new ways to let them know we are here to help and would appreciate it if you prayed about this as well!

As 2023 starts to wind down, we continue to serve more women and families. Each one has a unique story and a variety of needs. Statistics may be boring, but the people they represent definitely aren’t!

M.Y. Life Center (Formerly Tri-County Pregnancy Center) is located in Burnsville at 112 Mercy Street. We offer compassionate support and love to anyone facing an unexpected pregnancy or wishing to prepare for childbirth and/or improve their parenting skills through the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. To contact us or learn more about our services, visit www.mylifefamilycenter.com.

Leah Johnson is a wife and mom of two. She is the Executive Director at M.Y. Life Center and volunteer Advocate for Mitchell/Yancey Forgotten Initiative.



Heating Hearts And Homes Since 1975.

WWW.BUCKSTOVE.COM

Unmatched People, Unmatched Product, Unmatched Pride



Manufacturer of Wood Stoves, Gas Hearth Products, and Outdoor Leisure Items to include a full line of Outdoor Furniture, Fire Pits, Grills and More!

Find the dealer nearest you by using our Dealer Locator on our website, or Visit our showroom located at:
200 Ethan Allen Drive • Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-6144 • info@buckstove.com

Have a Great Day

By Ken and Jan Merop
Cleveland, Tennessee



“Are we going to pray first?” our granddaughter asked.

“Yes!” we said. “Why don’t you pray.”

This conversation occurred when we were about to teach the Bible curriculum over the Internet for her homeschooling.

We love this time together . . . first with her older brother . . . and then with her.

Together we are growing and learning to know the Lord better and how to apply his teachings to our everyday lives.

But that morning, we were ready to plunge in until she reminded us that we had forgotten to pray first.

She readily accepted our invitation to pray and, as always, her prayers brought a smile to my face. She approaches Jesus so naturally and genuinely. She tells him what is in her heart, asks for his help, and lets him know she wants to know him better. We are so blessed and I know the Lord is, too.

This time, as she closed in prayer, and asked that we might have a great day, she surprised me with her closing words. She said, “And you have a great day, too, Jesus. Amen.”

Wow! I think the Lord must have loved her heart in this.

We often pray that we might have a great day. But have we ever considered that the One who made the day and brought it to us should also have a good day?

So, how is it that we can ‘help’ God have a good day?

The first word that comes to mind is that we approach him with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Psalm 100:4 NLT speaks of thanksgiving as a depth of gratitude. It says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.”

This speaks of how we are to approach God . . . with thankful hearts for all he is and all he has done.

Then in Colossians 2: 7 we read how we are to build our lives on him which brings a smile to his face and joy to his heart. We read, “Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”

Therefore, if we live our lives with the desire to please him, we will bring joy to him as this is what he longs for. His heart and ours to be one.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of heartfelt gratitude to the One who sacrificed it all for us. May he be pleased (and have a great day!) with our genuinely thankful hearts. Selah

Welcome to a great day

*Brilliant fall leaves cascading to earth,
pumpkins, bright mums,
and whimsical scarecrows . . .
closeout spring and summer . . .
ushering in winter white.*

*All given by our God for us to enjoy.
Seasons of the earth remind us
of seasons of life.*

*Live each day to make it great
for you and the Lord.*

*“This is the day the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118: 24*



After six years in the mountains of Avery County, Ken and Jan Merop are now living in the hilly Tennessee countryside of Cleveland, TN . . . just outside of Chattanooga. Ken’s photos can be seen at kenmeropphotography.com.



WMNC Big Dawg 92.1
and 1430AM / 106.3FM
Family-owned since 1947
Our 25,000-watt transmitter
serves 22 counties in the
foothills of NC and beyond



**Voted Best Breakfast & Salad Bar
in Morganton**

I-40 at Exit 105

Morganton, NC
828-433-5400

NCBAM Advises National “Steps to Safety” Initiative

By Angie Gregg

NC Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) was honored when the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) asked us to represent the faith-based community on its Advisory Committee for Older Adult Fire & Fall Prevention. With a passion for Fire and Life Safety Education and an extensive background in the fire service, I was thrilled to accept the invitation! We were tasked with updating the popular, evidence-based Remembering When program.

Like Remembering When Steps to Safety remains rooted in fire and fall key messages, still pairs fire service with community partners, and continues to use group presentations and home visits for sharing information. Our committee identified gaps and opportunities for older adult education, added medication messaging, created online training, and updated the website and printed materials. It was a great experience to represent faith-based organizations, to serve with multidisciplinary professionals, and to share my passion for safety and prevention! I’m eager for people to know that falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults—and to be aware that falls don't have to be an inevitable part of aging. When senior adults take a proactive approach to fall and fire prevention, it can be a life-changing investment that helps them age gracefully and confidently.

Steps to Safety emphasizes that it takes a village of stakeholders working together to prevent falls and reduce fall risk. NCBAM regional directors are trained in Steps to Safety and can provide Fire and Fall Safety group presentations. Call 877.506.2226 to be connected with your area’s director and learn how to share Steps to Safety in your church or community.



Scan to learn more about Steps to Safety!



Angie Gregg is the central west regional director for NCBAM.





Sossoman

Funeral Home & Crematory Center

Professional Service with Compassion and Care

1011 South Sterling St. • Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 437-3211 • www.Sossomanfh.com



Jonathan's

USED APPLIANCES

- OVER 40 APPLIANCES IN THE SHOWROOM
- IN-STORE & IN-HOME REPAIR SERVICE
- NEW & USED PARTS
- DELIVERY SERVICE

560 Oak Avenue
Spruce Pine, NC

828-766-9005



FREEDOM

PRESSURE WASHING

A DIVISION OF FREEDOM LIFE

BLACK FRIDAY

SALES EVENT





NEW 2024 RAM 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4X4

5.7 Liter HEMI V8 with eTorque, NIGHT Edition, 12" Touchscreen Heated Seats/Steering Wheel, Remote Start

SAVE TODAY!!



NEW 2024 RAM 2500 Powerwagon Crew Cab 4X4

6.4 Liter V8 Heavy-Duty HEMI Engine! Tru-Lok Front & Rear Axles
17 Speaker Harmon Kardon, Leather 12" Touchscreen

Drive it TODAY!



NEW 2023 Jeep Gladiator Sport S 4X4 – 3.6 V6 Engine

Trailer Tow Pkg., 3-Piece Hard Top, Remote Start, Automatic Transmission, Backup Camera

Ready for Winter Time Fun!!





**44 Worley Road
Marion, NC 28752
(828) 559-9014**

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Thanksgiving

By Naomi Houston
Avery County

We so often hear folks complain about how quickly Christmas merchandise begins to appear on the shelves of our stores. Almost, it seems, as soon as we’ve celebrated July 4th advertising for Halloween (and soon afterward Christmas) begins to appear. Lost between the two, Thanksgiving Day has become a time for economists to measure the national economic health.

From Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade (which had its inauguration back in 1924) to today’s Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping, whether in person or online, is watched closely. And, let’s not forget the plethora of football games (around which the timing of the Thanksgiving Dinner must be planned).

That small company of men, women, and children, who landed at Plymouth Rock and laid the foundations of a new nation, those survivors of the Mayflower who were summoned together on that day in 1622 to come together and praise God for their first harvest - the first tangible sign that their pilgrimage had divine approval and that “God was not ashamed to be called their God” established for us a time set apart to take a “time out” and be thankful for God’s faithful watchcare over our lives.

Of course, we know that, over time, this idea disappeared from our national life for a long time and it took the ravages of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln to bring a day of Thanksgiving back into our national focus.

America, as any community, requires traditions and celebrations to bind it together and our social glue is becoming increasingly thin. The fact that America’s origins lay in a people who acknowledged their dependence on God has become an embarrassing fact to many in our world today. We may speak publicly of “what” we are giving thanks for, but not to whom we are offering thanks.

In Luke 17: 11-19 we read the story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. Most of us have never seen a leper or know much about the disease, but had we lived in those days we would have known a great deal about it for leprosy was the most feared disease in the world, it was deadly, incurable, and hopeless. Those even suspected of having the disease were banished from society. To be cured of leprosy was like being raised from the dead. Here in this passage of scripture we find a colony of 10 lepers who encounter Jesus as he is traveling to Jerusalem. The passage says that they “stood at a distance and lifted their voices saying “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” If you are familiar with the story you know that Jesus told them to “Go, and show themselves to the Priest,” and, while they were going “they were healed”.

So they were healed. It is a marvelous miracle, but it is not the end of the story. When one of the lepers saw that he was healed he immediately turned back praising God with a loud voice and fell on his face thanking Jesus. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?”

Ten men were healed that day and only one came back to thank Jesus. Are we as a nation, as individuals, with the nine – or with the one? Far too many of us take our blessings for granted.

Praise is a choice. We can be thankful or we can be bitter. We choose the way we live. The one leper who returned to give thanks chose not to forget what Jesus had done for him. May we choose this Thanksgiving Day – and every day – not to forget what God has done for us.

Naomi Houston and her husband, Lt Col Clay Houston USMC Retired, live on Henson Creek in Avery County. They are members of Mt Zion Community Church where Naomi is the adult Sunday School teacher. Both have been actively involved in church throughout their 68 years of marriage and Naomi wrote a weekly column for the Avery Post for many years.

Sudoku

Solution on page 14

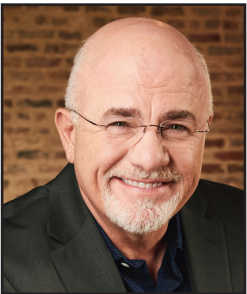
	2					3		
				3		8		
		5		9	8			
4		6						5
9		1	5		4	2		3
5						9		4
			4	6		5		
		8		7				
		9					7	

By Dave Ramsey

When you’re paying off debt, what do you recommend for 401(k) contributions?

Dear Dave,

I’m currently on Baby Step 2, and I have about \$7,000 in debt to pay off before I can move to bulking up my emergency fund in Baby Step 3. When you’re paying off debt, what do you recommend for 401(k) contributions?
Rae



Dear Rae,

I recommend putting a temporary stop to investing while you’re getting out of debt. Lots of people are shocked by this advice, and some disagree with it because they’re afraid of missing out on their employer’s match or the wonders of compound interest. But before we go any further, let me emphasize one thing. The key word here is temporary.

Baby Step 1 is to save \$1,000 as a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is paying off all of your debt, except for your home, from smallest to largest using the debt snowball plan. During this time you’re attacking your debt with incredible intensity, and putting every penny you can scrape together toward paying it off.

Working my plan, the average person can pay off all their debt, except for their home, in 18 to 24 months. Some folks can do it faster, and for some, it takes a little longer. But during this time I want your financial focus to be on nothing but getting out of debt. Once that’s done, you’ll find you have a lot more control over your biggest wealth-building tool—your income.

Trying to accomplish too many things at once diminishes the ability to focus. And when you spend all your time nickel-and-diming everything, the result is that nothing at all gets done very well. You need to really move the needle and see results because personal finance is 80 percent behavior and only 20 percent head knowledge. It’s not so much a math issue, because if you’d been doing the math all along you wouldn’t have a bunch of debt.

That’s why, for a short period, I want you to concentrate with laser intensity on knocking out debt. Once that’s out of the way, you can pour even more money into investing, saving, and giving!— Dave

What is your position on preplanning for a funeral versus prepaying?

Dear Dave,

I’m 67, and I’ve been wondering what your position is on preplanning for a funeral versus prepaying. Is one a better idea than the other, or should you do both?
Shannon

Dear Shannon,

This is a great question. I wish more folks would think about these kinds of things ahead of time.

Preplanning a funeral is truly a gift to your family. But if you prepay, it’s a gift to the funeral home. Doing the legwork and setting things up ahead of time so your family doesn’t have to make a lot of financial decisions in the middle of an emotional situation shows them respect and consideration.

When you buy a prepaid plan, you could be years or decades away from needing it. Plus the inflation rate on funerals is about 4%, so in essence, you’d be making 4% on your money. And, of course, you’re locked into everything at that point. If you took the cost of a funeral and invested it at age 30, instead of 4% on your money, you’d get an actual investment return. By the time you’re 80, you’d have about \$600,000. So prepaying in your 30s or 40s is mathematically ridiculous. Now, if you’re in your 60s, like you and me, there aren’t as many years for that money to grow. You wouldn’t see a huge return on investment, but it would still provide a nice service.

Believe it or not, it took me a while to figure out that the funeral world is an industry—an extremely profitable industry. And like with many things, when you add on stuff like financing or prepayment to a purchase, you’re adding to their profits. Most funeral providers make as much money on prepayment plans as they do in actual margin on the goods and services that go along with this kind of thing.

That being said, I’ve got no problem with a business or industry making money. If they treat their customers well, no one’s taken advantage of, and a quality product or service is provided, it’s all good. But when it comes to funerals, I tell people to preplan. Don’t prepay.— Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

B and S Discount Foods

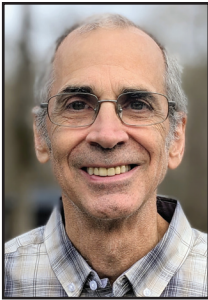
301 Old NC 18, Morganton

Our Family Taking Care of Your Family With
AFFORDABLE Groceries and Household Needs!

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life” John 3:16

How the Old Testament is Categorized

By Thomas Thorne
McDowell County



Christian scholars generally categorize the Old Testament into five parts. The Jewish sages categorize the Hebrew Bible (which is the writings of the Old Testament) into three parts. In my article today I want to describe the divisions used by Christians as well as the Jewish people.

At the beginning of an English Bible, before the text begins, there will be a table of contents, showing the names of the books included. Usually, it will be divided into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first book in the Old Testament is Genesis and the last book is Malachi. There are a total of 39 books. Christian scholars have divided the Old Testament into five parts:

- The Pentateuch includes the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy. The word Pentateuch is formed by two Greek words, pente (five) and teuchos (books). The word means “five vessels,” “five containers,” or “five-volume book.” This is a total of 5 books.
- Historical books: Joshua through Esther - 12 books
- Poetic books: Job through the Song of Solomon – 5 books
- Major prophets: Isaiah through Daniel – 5 books
- Minor prophets: Hosea through Malachi – 12 books

The one “exception to the rule” is the book of Lamentations, which is included in the major prophets division and comes between Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Lamentations is not a major prophet, in the sense of the words used. It only has five chapters and is a poetic book. I believe that the reason Lamentations is included among the major prophets is because it was written by Jeremiah, it deals with his lamentation for the fall of Judah, and it may have been felt that Jeremiah's writing/speaking should not have been sub-categorized.

The terms “major prophets” and “minor prophets” were mentioned above and must be clarified. The distinction between “major” and “minor” prophets has nothing to do with importance, but rather the size of the book. The major prophets (except for Lamentations) are generally larger books with more written content (for example, Isaiah has 66 chapters and Jeremiah has 51) whereas the minor prophets are shorter writings. Cases in point are Hosea, which has twelve chapters, Joel which has three, and Obadiah with only one. Indeed, smaller in length, but by no means lesser in importance.

Now let’s take a look at the division of the Hebrew Bible by the Jewish sages. The Hebrew Bible contains the 39 books that Christians recognize as the Old Testament. It is also known as the “Tanakh.” The word Tanakh is spelled with the three Hebrew letters: “tav,” “nun (pronounced as noon),” and “kaf.” Tav has the sound of a “t” in English, Nun sounds like an “n,” and Kaf sounds like a “k.” The three Hebrew letters of the word “Tanakh” can be used as abbreviations for the three categories of books included in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

- The first Hebrew letter, Tav, with the “t” sound can be thought of as representing “Torah” (To-rah). This Hebrew word designates the first five books of the Bible and the word itself means law, instruction, or direction.
- The second Hebrew letter, Nun, with the “n” sound, stands for “Neviim (Nev-ee-eem). The word in Hebrew means “prophets.”
- The third letter, Kaf, with the “k” sound, represents “Ketuvim” (Ket-oo-veem). This word means “writings.”

The Jewish division of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is as follows:

- The Torah (law, instruction, direction) consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (5 books)
- The Neviim – (Prophets) include Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi (21 books)
- The Ketuvim – (Writings) is made up of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 and 2 Chronicles (13 books)

So let’s do a little math. The Torah/Law contains five books, the Neviim/Prophets contains 21, and 13 books make up the Ketuvim/Writings. 5 + 21 + 13 = 39. There are also 39 books in the English Old Testament.

Some questions remain though. Why are the books of 1 and 2 Samuel as well as 1 & 2 Kings called part of the “Prophets”? Aren’t they historical books that would be better classified as part of the “Writings”? Why is the book of Daniel considered part of the “Writings” instead of the “Prophets”? What, specifically, is meant by the phrase “prophet” or “to prophesy”? Are the books of the Bible in chronological order by either activity or time of writing? These are subjects for the next couple of articles.

Shalom Shalom

Tom Thorne and his wife Amy are fellowship coordinators for Avdai El Elyon/ Servants of the Most High God ministries. Tom can be reached at servantsot-mhg@gmail.com

Christmas in November Craft Show



BROWSE OVER 75 HANDMADE CRAFT VENDORS!

TWO DAY EVENT!

**FRIDAY NOV 10TH 4-8 PM
SATURDAY NOV 11TH 9-2 PM**

**OLD ROCK SCHOOL
ADMISSION \$1 OR CANNED FOOD DONATION**

VISITVALDESE.COM



Beam FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATORY

2170 Rutherford Rd. • Marion, NC 28752
828-559-8111 • Fax 828-559-8112
www.beamfuneralservice.com
beamfuneralservice@gmail.com

**Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook**



Chick-fil-A
MORGANTON, NC
1006 Burkemont Avenue • Morganton, NC 28655 • (828) 439-2373





Jamie Miller, CPA

Jamie M. Miller, CPA, PLLC

1136 Greenwood Road Spruce Pine, NC 28777	2301 Rutherford Road Marion, NC 28752
phone: 828.765.4400 fax: 828.765.4880	phone: 828.652.6777 fax: 828.652.6755

jamie@highcountrycpa.com
www.highcountrycpa.com





Buck Stove



Rinnai Heater

Come In and Check Out Our Great Selection of Stoves and Heaters!



Toyostove



Vermont Casting



L&L FURNITURE COMPANY™

274 Oak Avenue
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Phone: (828) 765- 5557

Check out our website that is now live at www.L-Lfurniture.com



CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Join Our Mission

REVIVE Biblical support for our citizens, communities, employees, and elected officials by providing an avenue for aid, advocacy, accountability, and awareness.

PO Box 2587 Marion, NC 28752
www.CPRforYourCounty.org • support@cprformcdowell.org



Christian Voter Guides

By Regina McIntosh
Yancey County



Bountiful

*An aching sun falls, hesitant
Against the hills who tremble with autumn
Leaves, both gentle and fanatical,
Dancing to the melodies of truth, erasing
All of summer's golden muse...*

*Twirling through the moments, peaceful
Ever-changing, exchanging fresh green
For the hopefulness of blazing crimson, amber
And breathless golds who test the moments
With graphic breaths of toasty autumn....*

*Memorizing yesterday's kisses
With reassurance that comes from remembering
What is like the trails along gentle ridges,
Where moments become buried in embraces
Heaven's hold on the precious nostalgia,
The season of eternity, forever blazing on the hills,
Teaching the moments to see through pools,
Lakes of sensitivity, blazing flames of inspirational
Praises, awakened by the seas of admiration...*

*Longings from the tenderness, so gentle
Abiding inside those who see through the richest
Grace, into the eyes of a penetrating race
With destiny, stabbing away the aching dark
With lights, glistening on the heavens, remembering
Blessing the soul with a peace that is endless,
Serenity inviting the wings of angels to embrace
The soul...*

*A tender dawn sighs through the promise,
This moment in throbbing pulses, rhythms of light
Softly flowing against the flames of His truth,
Seasons pour out their beauty in colors so exquisite,
Charming the feelings, awakening prayers
Foreseeing the eventual in blessings who believe
Darkness will never succeed...,*

*Autumn lights, sun – stars – moon
God's design, lifting the shadows of gloom
Healing the heavy hearts and providing new
Beyond what we could imagine, grace and kindness,
Flowing through the veins, hastening to ride
Beyond the seas of intimacy, into the moments
Who risk everything to gaze into the eyes of the Son,
The One who erases every doubt and promises,
Life that will be everlasting light, the light of hope,
The light of faith, the light of a peace that is beyond
Anything we could possibly explain...*

*We'll never be able to explain this truth,
The one that promises forever, eternity with One
Who fights away the darkness with a light so pure
It feels like the heart and soul have been soaked
In a love that is beyond words, beyond comprehension,
A love so alive and wonderful it speaks in tones of everlasting,
Ambiances of grace, hope and faith – love that lives
Because He came to silence tears and to give each soul
A way beyond the darkness who haunts, the fear that taunts,
A way out of the crowded doubts where the soul cannot believe...*

*It is Him, Jesus... who loves like there is no reason to doubt
Because of Him, there is a joy that we'll never figure out
It is a perfect that silences every suspicion, replacing our fears
With the wonder of true love ... His gift to those who just believe
Him*

Regina McIntosh is a heart who loves Jesus. She is a poet and writer from the mountains of WNC. She has written two books of Inspirational Christian poetry - *A Light In The Darkness* and *Gift Of Grace*. All of her books can be found on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or Christianbooks.com. She is currently working on devotional books that will be published soon. Her words can be found on her website at <https://reginariddle.wixsite.com/reginamcintosh/blog>



Evergreen Church

Thanksgiving

By John McCoury
Roan Mountain, Tennessee

“Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High.” Psalm 50:14 What does God want from us? He does not want mere hymn singing, although that is fine. Nor does He want only prayer, although that too is fine. He does not simply want our attendance, although that is fine. What He wants, first, is a thankful heart. That is what He seeks, a thankful heart. Each one of us is to offer to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving. A sacrifice is something into which we put effort; it costs us. Have you ever asked yourself why the Scriptures stress Thanksgiving so much? Both the Old and New Testaments emphasize that above everything else, God wants thankfulness. “Give thanks in all circumstances, says the apostle Paul, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Why is this? It is because thanksgiving only comes as a result of having received something. You do not give thanks until you have received something that comes from someone else. Therefore thanksgiving is the proper expression of Christianity because Christianity is receiving something constantly from God. Of course, if you have not received anything from God, then you have nothing to thank Him for. Though you come to the service, you really have nothing to say. God is a realist. He does not want a fake Thanksgiving. I know there are certain people (and they are awfully hard to live with) who think that Christianity consists of pretending to be thankful. They think it means screwing a smile on your face and going around pretending that troubles do not bother you. That is a most painful form of Christianity. God does not want you to go around shouting, Hallelujah! I've got cancer! But there is something about having cancer to be thankful for. That is what He wants you to see. There are aspects of it that no one can possibly enjoy, but there are other aspects that reveal purpose, meaning, and reason. God wants you to see this--what He can do with that situation and how you can be thankful.

Thanksgiving is the first thing He wants in worship. The second thing is an obedient will. Fulfill your vows to the Most High. Notice the kind of obedience it is. It is not something forced upon you; it is something you have chosen for yourself. A vow is something you decide to give, a promise you make because of the truth you have seen. You say, I never saw it like that before. I really ought to do something about it. God helping me, I'm going to do such and such. That is a vow. God says I'm not asking you to do things you have not yet learned are important. But when you have vowed something, then do it. Act on it. Obey it. Lord, I offer to You right now the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Thank You that You are at work for good both in me and through me. Grant that I might obey your truth out of a heart of gratitude. We can expend much energy complaining, blessing no one. How can we re-focus our thoughts so that we have an attitude of gratitude no matter our circumstances?

John McCoury is pastor of Evergreen church in Roan Mountain, Tennessee and also chaplain at Roan Highlands Nursing Center.





NOW OPEN!
Camping • Hunting
Fishing Supplies
Apparel & Footwear
American Made Furniture
Amish Furniture
Country Collectibles
Mountain Collectibles

279 Oak Avenue • Spruce Pine, NC • 828-520-1223

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN.
BECOME AN APPRENTICE.



MAPMCDOWELLTECH.EDU

**For More Information or To Register,
Call Thomas Champ at 828-659-0454**

Est. 1971
Bantam Chef
Drive - Thru

1116 Rutherford Road • Marion, NC 28752
(828) 652-7023

Open Monday - Saturday
6:30 - 11am Breakfast
11am - 9pm Lunch & Dinner
(Winter Hours - Close at 8:30pm)
Since 1971, Serving Marion and the Surrounding Communities.
Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!!

Bantam Chef proudly practices and promotes **recycling** for a cleaner community and a greener environment.

Ask about our ongoing **recycling** program and how you can participate in our contributions to **Hospice of McDowell County.**



We serve
SOFT ICE CREAM
Cones • Shakes • Sundaes
Floats & Boats





Happy Thanksgiving

THERE WHEN YOU NEED US.

MITCHELL CO. FARM BUREAU
Spruce Pine
828-765-9678
Bakersville
828-688-3745



FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Auto • Home • Life • Health • Bank

An Authorized Agency for



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

MCNB 46236

*North Carolina Farm Bureau® Mutual Insurance Company *Farm Bureau® Insurance of North Carolina, Inc. *Southern Farm Bureau® Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS

*An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

NC Senate District 47



Sen. Ralph Hise
Ralph.Hise@ncleg.net
919-733-3460

As this legislative-long session draws to a close, it is a time of reflection on what we have accomplished for North Carolina this year. Lower taxes, expanded school choice, funding key infrastructure projects – I am proud of our Republican supermajorities for the policies we’ve advanced that will make North Carolina a better place to live and do business.

Some of the most impactful legislation of the session, though, was the policies and funding we passed to protect the rights of the unborn and support expectant mothers in our state.

This spring, the General Assembly passed legislation limiting most abortion procedures to 12 weeks of pregnancy. State law previously allowed abortions for any reason up to the 20th week of pregnancy. That bill also includes increased funding for childcare centers, paid parental leave for state employees, increased penalties for domestic violence or attacking a pregnant woman, regulations aligning surgical abortion clinic standards with those of other surgical centers, and more.

This fall, the state budget provided increased funding for crisis pregnancy centers and other programs that support expectant mothers and help them choose life for their unborn babies.

For example, the Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship received a recurring funding increase of \$6.25 million to provide grants to pregnancy centers for services, equipment, training, and instructional materials, as well as to support the CPCF Circle of Care program. This increase brings the organization’s total appropriation to \$6.8 million.

The Human Coalition, a pro-life nonprofit, received a nonrecurring appropriation of \$1.5 million to support their Statewide Continuum of Care Program.

Carolina Maternity Home Association, Inc., a nonprofit in Greensboro, received \$1.56 million to support their work providing housing and services to single pregnant women and single mothers.

Tides, Inc. received a \$500,000 grant to provide outpatient services to pregnant women with opioid use disorder.

These funds are part of a larger acknowledgment that strong families are critical to our society. We have made important steps in this legislative session to cultivate a culture of life in North Carolina through both policy and funding.

As always, please share your thoughts with me on issues related to state government by emailing me at ralph.hise@ncleg.gov or calling me at 919-733-3460.

NC Commissioner of Labor



NC Commissioner of Labor
Josh Dobson
1-800-625-2267

November is upon us, and it is finally beginning to feel like fall! This time of year is full of fun fall events and holidays spent with family and friends.

The 2023 N.C. State Fair was a success! The theme of this year’s fair was, “Best. Day. Ever!” and it was quite fitting because the citizens of North Carolina looked like they were enjoying themselves. I want to thank the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau inspectors for all of their hard work ensuring that rides were safe for all to enjoy. In addition to our inspectors, I also want to thank the NCDOL employees who volunteered at our department’s booth in the Kerr Scott Building. Our volunteers are vital to educating fairgoers about NCDOL as well as informing the public about North Carolina trivia. Did you know that our official state folk dance is clogging?

The Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council will be meeting on Nov. 1 in Asheboro. The Council is comprised of employer, employee, and public sector representatives who offer advice and feedback on our occupational safety and health program. I look forward to attending.

Our Employee Recognition Banquet took place on Oct. 11, and it was my second banquet as Labor Commissioner. It was a huge success, and it was great seeing employees from all across the department in one place. This banquet provides an opportunity to thank our employees for all of their hard work at NCDOL as well as their service to the state of North Carolina.

I want to recognize the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families. Happy Veterans Day.

Enjoy these cool, crisp days of November, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

NC House District 86



Rep. Hugh Blackwell
919-733-5805
Hugh.Blackwell@ncleg.net

There are a few new changes this year on how elections are to be carried out in North Carolina. I wrote in July about the newly effective voter-ID provision. To reiterate, North Carolina’s voter-ID law was approved with a constitutional amendment in 2018 by 55% of our state’s voters. However, actually putting it into effect was stalled in the courts by Democrat-party activists and allies who opposed the voter-approved constitutional amendment. Nevertheless, voter ID was finally allowed to go into effect by new court rulings early this year. As a result, it is now being implemented in municipal and local elections being held this fall. Voting at the polls with a photo ID is now a requirement. So, keep this in mind whenever you vote in the future. A list of acceptable ID cards is on the State Board of Elections website here: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id>

In addition to voter ID, the legislature passed two other laws intended to increase public confidence in the integrity of elections across the state. Although both bills were vetoed by Democratic Governor Roy Cooper, both vetoes were overridden by the legislature. They are in effect for coming elections, though further lawsuits by Democrats are almost guaranteed whenever there are efforts to strengthen voter confidence in our elections. Under the new law, one change to be aware of is that mail-in absentee ballots (except for military and overseas ballots) must now be received by the county board of elections no later than the time polls close on election day. Please plan accordingly if you mail your ballot. Do so well ahead of election day to ensure your vote will be counted.

The old rule that allowed mail ballots to be counted if received as much as three days after election day is no longer in effect. The idea is that voting should not be held open after all other votes are counted and announced on election night. The hope is to bring greater certainty to the election outcome in a timely manner. We also hope to eliminate opportunities for anyone to try to manipulate outcomes with “late” ballots.

Other changes affecting future elections, for instance, clarify the rights and duties of poll observers and elections judges. Observers for both political parties are intended to help keep an eye on the process to ensure its integrity. Election judges are responsible for ensuring that rules at the voting places are followed to allow privacy for individual voters and to avoid intimidation of or interference with voters casting their ballots.

At the statewide level, the State Board of Elections makeup is changed. Presently the Governor, through his appointments to the state board, controls not only the state board but also all 100 county boards of elections. The state board oversees, regulates, and provides guidance to the 100 local boards. The new law creates a state board with eight members, four Democrats and four Republicans. The intent is to ensure that some bipartisanship will be required for state board actions. The model for this new board is essentially that of the Federal Elections Commission which also has equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. While perhaps not a perfect solution because of the potential for tie votes, we hope to remedy the persistence of clearly partisan decisions designed to help one party or hurt the other based on one party controlling the state board and all 100 county boards.

God Bless America

YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

NC Senate District 46



Sen. Warren Daniel
Warren.Daniel@ncleg.net
919-715-7823

The majority of the 2023 legislative session business has concluded with 5 veto overrides and votes on new redistricting maps for Congress as well as for the state House and Senate. The conference budget has now become law and our office was pleased to award several special appropriations and directed grants for the 2023-2025 biennium. Multiple non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and municipalities in Burke, McDowell, and Buncombe counties received grant funds to serve our communities and for infrastructure and special project needs.

Grant recipients included: The Outreach Center, Burke Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation, Burke and McDowell County Sheriff's Offices, Foundation Forward, Burke River Trail Association, The Industrial Commons, Burke County Fire Departments, McDowell Technical Community College, McDowell County EMS, Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail, McDowell Pregnancy Care Center, Mission Ministries Alliance, McDowell LFAC Foothills Food Hub, Live Like Megan Foundation and Freedom Life Ministries. One of the most notable appropriations to our district was to Burke Partnership for Economic Development/BDI for the acquisition of a large tract of land to develop a western NC mega site. This site will be over 1,000 acres and will be set aside for the recruitment of a large industry within the next decade. The General Assembly has now adjourned for the month of November so that legislators can be in their districts more and celebrate Thanksgiving with their families. Thanksgiving is still that wonderful time of the year when we can gather with friends and family to enjoy fellowship and express our thankfulness to God for the blessings He has given to us.

I'm personally thankful to be your representative in the North Carolina Senate and will continue to work to protect the values that have always made our state a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We must continue to defend and protect unborn life, religious freedom, and the right to bear arms. I will also work to reduce your taxes, control government spending, and above all, keep North Carolina a family-friendly and business-friendly state for our children and grandchildren. Blessings to you and your family during this Thanksgiving season.



Seventh Day Adventist Burnsville

"Unity In Diversity"

By Art Dmytriiev
Yancey County



How does unity work with completely different and diverse people? Let's begin with the Bible verse where Jesus states that *"with God all things are possible"* (Matthew 19:26 KJV) and that *"with God nothing shall be impossible"* (Luke 1:37 KJV). To clearly understand the subject, let's briefly zoom in on Jesus' promotion of unity among His followers and what unity truly means. Also, let's look at unity through the model of the Body of Christ and why such unity is necessary.

The Bible makes it clear that the church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16). In Christ, we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who, by one Spirit, has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, we share the same faith and hope and reach out as one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.

Jesus made a point of reaching out to people who were categorically different from Him, sharing the good news of his Father's love. And, right before he went back to heaven, he instructed his disciples to do the same. Jesus created absolutely all humankind, and He died for all. In addition to it, He wants to save all (Acts 17:26-28; John 3:16-17; Matthew 11:28-30). So, a person's gender, financial status, or level of education should make no difference in the value of a person or their ability to work together with them. Jesus wants the good news of salvation to be spread across the entire world so everyone will have the opportunity to join God's family and be a part of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Look at the words of Jesus prayer to His Father: *"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."* (John 17:11 KJV). Unity doesn't mean uniformity. God recognizes and appreciates the skills and unique personalities of each one of us. When we accept Christ's forgiveness and choose to live for him, we become a part of his world-wide family. Jesus specifically prayed to God for his followers to be unified right

before he went back to heaven.

Christ calls us to be unified. This concept of church unity is referred to as being a part of the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ desires His people to be so connected with each other and with Him that they cooperate as if they were one body. (1 Corinthians 12:11-26). God designed us to need each other. It's our calling as Christians to lift each other up instead of isolating ourselves. Christ's people cannot function if they are unable to cooperate. If each of us believed that we knew best and split off to do our own thing, we'd never fulfill the mission our Lord gave us to spread His love and reveal His character to the world.

Dear reader, God doesn't want us to miss out on His lessons and His blessings because of our own pride. Remember that *"the things that are impossible with men are possible with God."* (Luke 18:27 KJV) We are called to be like a body: different parts working towards a common purpose, cooperating, and bearing each other's sorrows and joys. Jesus, even while He was on earth, was in perfect unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This Trinity is the perfect example of what unity should be. Would you join this awesome divine unity today?

Pr. Art Dmytriiev is originally from Siberia. He has traveled the world in Evangelism and pastoral ministry. He serves as a pastor in North Carolina, holds a Master of Divinity degree, and is currently a Doctor of Ministry candidate. More information at: <https://burnsvillenc.adventistchurch.org/pastors-blog>



By: Andrew Goins
Watauga County

“The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.” ~ Psalm 50:1

The movement of the mouth is like that of a mouse escaping the clutches of the hawk that is knowledge; the mouse runs in anxious hurry, scurrying into the mouth of a gopher snake; it is a slow digestion and a slow death for the mouse. As perfect love casts out fear, so perfect fear casts out knowledge. Filled with perfect fear, we run into our own death in trying to escape the clutches of knowledge. Like the mouse, we are afraid of silence because silence is revelatory, and so we unknowingly choose the slow death of the gopher snake.

I attended a high school football game. The announcer asked for a moment of silence. In this brief moment I stood observing, listening to the sporadic low hum of murmurs throughout the stadium. Out of boredom, perhaps anxiety, they spoke. Silence makes us anxious because silence is revelatory, and so we strangle silence in anxious chatter. We grip silence at the throat with our fist of pocket-sized smokescreens, television, and blundering babble. We kill silence within and without. In our cars we turn on music. At the dinner table we turn on the TV. At the dentist we pull out our phones.

Silence becomes awkward at best and anxious at worst. Why? Because silence is revelatory. Silence is animated by time and suffused in space. It existed before the creation of the cosmos. It has been before our existence and will continue to be after we mingle with the dust. We need silence just as we need sabbath, for silence is the sabbath of the mouth, where we cease making sounds and know our sounds do not sustain the cosmos; we do not speak into existence something out of nothing.

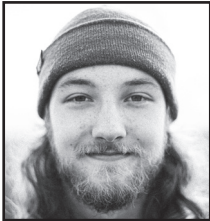
When we believe we are gods and glorify our speech to make things happen, we manipulate, coerce, control, and beg; in all of these, humanity's dignity is lost in one way or another. In the sabbath of silence, we remember our dustiness; we remember that we are not gods. In sabbath we remember that the weight of the world is not upon our shoulders, but on God's. Silence is emptiness. In silence we enter emptiness knowing and trusting that in emptiness the Spirit will hover over the waters, springs will puncture the cracked desert ground, and gardens will garnish the microcosm of the soul.

God will use the raw material of emptiness to form us out of dust and fill us with Spirit and make us New Creations. The metaphorical mud is silence, out of which God shapes humans and breathes the breath of life in our nostrils. Just as we return to dust, so we return to silence, the thing that has been and will be after we return to it. If one was painting the milky way, there would be a generous amount of darkness which provides the context for the color. The color inhabits the darkness. The color plays off the darkness. Without darkness the painting would be an unintelligible mass of brightness without depth, breadth, or beauty. Darkness gives depth by offering the color a context to live.

God is an artist who paints on the canvas of time and space. Colors clothe the canvas. Darkness is the emptiness of sound that gives context for the color. Thomas Merton writes, “The world and time are the dance of the Lord in emptiness.” Out of the Lord's mouth mountains spring. Out the Lord's mouth creation sings. All of life relies on the utterance of God in the emptiness of sound. All our praise and prayer relies on the utterance of God summoning our speech and sound. Thus, silence is not mere silence but rather the “simple stillness of the individual under the Word of God,” as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said. Silence has a trajectory. Listening to God. Coming under the Word of God. Knowing God and knowing ourselves by knowing God. If we do not spend time in the emptiness of sound, our sound will be empty.

As a child of Asaph, otherwise known as worship leader, it is my God given vocation to make sound and help others make sound. It is my hope that my sound is summoned by God's speech and suffused with God's speech through the time I spend in the emptiness of sound; for in the emptiness of sound God's Word resounds. So, when you get up, spend 3 or 30 minutes in silence where your attention is turned to God. When you drive your car, rather than listen to a podcast or music, turn your attention to God. When you are sitting in a dentist's office, don't reach for your phone but turn your attention to those around you, because silence always has the trajectory of vertical and horizontal connection with the great hope of communion.

Andrew Goins is on staff for a campus ministry at Appalachian State University called Ratio Christi. He also works as a youth leader and worship leader at Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church in Banner Elk. Andrew is committed to simply and thoroughly loving his wife Bethany, growing in his bible nerdiness, delighting in good books (theology, poetry, and select fiction), music, photography, creation, and in gathering people together for bible studies, a shared meal, or making music



Why Do So Many People Hate The Jews?
By Jim Denison, PhD

One of my dearest friends was born in a kibbutz two miles from Gaza. His village was able to evacuate when Hamas launched its murderous assault last Saturday. However, a neighboring kibbutz called Kfar Aza was targeted by the terrorists.

Yesterday, my friend forwarded to me a survivor's description of what happened:

A thriving community of one thousand people, men, and women, was brutally crushed within forty-eight hours. Whole families, parents, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, grandfathers, and grandmothers were murdered in cold blood. Their houses were turned into piles of earth and ashes, and their lives as they knew them—destroyed. They lost their homes, their livelihoods, and all their property. They lost neighbors, both relatives and beloved friends, in one of the greatest terrorist attacks in history. Those saved from the slaughter were trapped for two days under fire until they were rescued with only the clothes on their backs.

An Associated Press reporter quotes an Israeli army general who stood amid the wreckage of the village: “You see the babies, the mothers, the fathers in their bedrooms and how the terrorists killed. It's not a battlefield. It's a massacre.”

Harvard students blame Israel

The Israeli death toll has passed 1,100 at this writing. President Biden confirmed yesterday in his address to the nation that fourteen US citizens were killed in the conflict and that Americans are known to be among the hostages held by Hamas.

And yet . . .

- A coalition of thirty-four Harvard University student organizations signed a statement that they “hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence” and added that “the apartheid regime is the only one to blame.” A Columbia University student group also celebrated Hamas's “historic” massacre of Israeli civilians.
- A pro-Hamas rally held Sunday in Manhattan's Times Square praised the slaughter of Israeli civilians.
- Demonstrators in London launched fireworks in the direction of the Israeli embassy and British student groups praised the attacks as mobs around the UK cheered One demonstrator called the attacks “beautiful and inspiring.”
- Crowds in Germany celebrated the terrorist raids.
- The United Nations Human Rights Council held a moment of silence for the “loss of innocent lives in the occupied Palestinian territory and elsewhere,” nowhere mentioning the Israeli victims who were slaughtered.
- Horrifically, a group gathered in Sydney, Australia, to celebrate the attacks chanted, “Gas the Jews.”

From Egypt's genocide in the time of Moses to the devastation by ancient Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, to Hitler's “Final Solution” and its slaughter of six million Jews, the scourge of antisemitism has persisted for millennia.

Why do so many people hate the Jews today?
“Bad ideas have victims”

About Hamas's terrorist attack on Israel, three explanations are relevant. First, as I explained in my book, Radical Islam: What You Need to Know, and in my latest website paper, Hamas and their fellow jihadists would answer by claiming that the State of Israel stole its land from the rightful Palestinian owners and that its citizens are complicit in this “theft” by participating in their democracy. They believe they are required by the Qur'an (2:190, 192) to defend Islam by attacking Israelis and destroying Israel. Many have become convinced that Jews are in fact hostis humani generis, the enemies of mankind itself.

Second, those influenced by Critical Theory (which includes the Harvard and Columbia students and many of the West's intellectual, academic, and cultural elites) would answer that Israel is a majority oppressor of the Palestinian persecuted minority. They claim that the only answer is for the oppressed to reverse the equation by oppressing their oppressor.

Third, many of Iran's leaders believe the existence of Israel constitutes the “greatest barrier” to the reappearance of the Mahdi (a messiah-like figure). They therefore seek the eradication of the Jewish nation to hasten his arrival.

These are three tragic examples of a statement by my friend John Stonestreet that I quote often: “Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims.” In this case, the victim is Israel.

“There can be no appeasement with ruthlessness”

In this battle for the future of Israel, we are called by Scripture to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6) and to “seek [her] good” (v. 9).

This means that we repudiate the sin of antisemitism, a plague that is rising in the US and Europe today. It means that we pray for Israel's leaders and people to be safe from their enemies and resolute in defending their country. It means that we seek practical ways to support those in Israel and around the world devastated by these atrocities, knowing that our God “comforts the downcast” (2 Corinthians 7:6) and calls us to do the same (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

And it means that we do all we can to lead everyone we can to the only One who can truly heal our broken world.

When Christ is our Lord, we serve only one master. We serve him and not ourselves, whatever the cost to ourselves. We serve him by serving others whether they serve us or not. And we serve out of love for the One who first loved us (1 John 4:19).

John Piper was right: “Faith in Jesus Christ frees you from the slavery of sin for the sacrifices of love.”

How strong is your “faith in Jesus Christ” today?

Jim Denison Ph.D speaks and writes on cultural and contemporary issues. His daily column is distributed to more than 113,000 subscribers in 208 countries. See more on the website www.denisonforum.org. Copyrighted and printed by permission from Denison Forum.



Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Justified by Faith

By Dr. Jack R. Hodges, Jr.
Burke County



The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Roman believers has come to be considered as both one of the greatest theological books of the Bible as well as the most systematic presentation of doctrine in the Bible. The Book of Romans is the longest of Paul’s letters, possibly because Paul was attempting to introduce himself, the Lord he served, and the gospel mission to which he had been called. He wrote this letter so that the believers at Rome, and all Gentile believers throughout the Roman Empire, would specifically understand and accept the scope and magnitude of his apostolic calling by the Lord Jesus and his mission to the Gentile world. Although Paul was not intentionally writing a theological document, in God’s ultimate plan, he has provided us with an extraordinary definition of the purpose and plan of God.

In the introduction to Romans, Paul establishes his claim to speak with authority as an apostle of Christ Jesus. His claim, however, is not based upon a claim to rule, but rather a claim to serve as a servant of the Lord. Paul reveals that he is under obligation to preach the gospel to the whole world—to Gentiles, Greeks, the uncircumcised, the wise, and the foolish. Paul declares that he is not ashamed of the gospel—an answer to the prevailing view immediately after the crucifixion of Jesus. For the Jew, the gospel message merely represented a historical event when a Nazarene rabbi, who was accused of blasphemy, was put to death. But Paul, himself a rabbi of high standing, knew that Christ’s sacrificial death was the power of God for salvation for all—not only for the Jews but also for Gentiles.

Today, I desire that you consider what Jesus’ death accomplished for all of mankind. Paul writes in Romans 5:1-10 (NASV), *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

Notice that Paul begins with the transitional word, “therefore.” He is pointing backward to all that he has written before. Paul had already declared that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and that as a result, we are deserving of spiritual death and eternal separation. He had already proclaimed that because of God’s amazing gift of forgiveness, redemption, and reconciliation, we have been declared innocent of all sin. Because of what God has done in Christ Jesus on Calvary’s cross, we have been justified (“set free from the penalty of sin”), and believers stand to receive a precious gift from our awesome creator. Here in verses 1-10, Paul goes on to outline what we will receive as a result of the work of salvation accomplished by Christ. We have: (1) been set right with God; (2) peace with God; (3) joy in all circumstances; (4) deliverance from the judgment of God upon the separated.

The result of having placed our faith in the God who raised Jesus from the dead, who has died for our sins, and who has been raised from death is that we

have been justified with God by our faith. Justification is, of course, only the initial stage of God’s dealings with us for salvation. But before we may experience the fullness of God’s grace and mercy, we must be justified by God. We cannot be justified by any other means nor by any other person—it is only God who has the right and power to “declare us innocent.” And that is exactly what He did! That is precisely what He does! He declares you and me innocent! That’s what justification means. But how can that be? You and I are guilty! There are no excuses. How could a holy, righteous God offer such a gift and accept us and receive us back into full fellowship? The answer is simply our response of faith to the finished work of Jesus on Calvary. Romans 10:9 says *“...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* In other words, we who are dead in our trespasses and sins “abandon ourselves to God.” We offer ourselves to Him. We throw ourselves on the mercies of God and by simple child-like faith, place all of our trust in all of His goodness and love. At the same time, we submit to His claim and authority upon our lives and we obediently offer to sacrifice our old selves—to lay down and give up all of the layers of self-survival that we have learned throughout our lives—and begin to fully and wholly trust Him at His Word. It is then that we live victoriously over the flesh as we yield ourselves to God’s Holy Spirit at work in and through us.

May the peace and joy of your freedom in Christ and deliverance from the penalty and bondage to sin rest in your life today and forever more. Amen!

Dr. Jack R. Hodges, Jr. is the Senior Pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Morganton, Burke County. He has served as a pastor, a biblical counselor and a International Mission Board missionary.

**Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook**

Visit us at 8 West Main St. or our new Sweet Shop location at 601 E Main St. in Burnsville!



Your Health Insurance Enrollment Center

Premier
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

*Providing you knowledgeable assistance
and high quality service.*



Contact one of our knowledgeable agents today

Let us assist you with:

- Medicare Supplements
- Medicare Advantage
- Prescription Drug Plans
- Individual Health Insurance

- Medicare Annual Enrollment Starts Oct. 15th - Ends Dec. 7th
- Individual Health Care Enrollment (ACA) Starts Nov. 1st - Ends Dec. 15th

We have been proudly serving Western NC for over twenty six years and will always continue to offer you quality products and a staff that cares about you long after the sale.

Why I love Jews. - No Regrets Family

By Dean Honeycutt
Mitchell County

While in seminary in Texas I worked at a nearby Christian college. This college had students from Israel, both Jews and Palestinians. I had conversations with some of these students. I sat down beside a Jew from Bethlehem and asked him “Who is Jesus to you?” He replied, “Jesus is my Lord, my God, and my Savior.” This left no doubt in my mind that this young man was saved not by his lineage but by his faith in Jesus Christ. I love Jewish people because God loves His children and God loves all people. It is unconscionable that some people are anti-Semitic. God is not willing that any should perish but that all come to repentance and faith.

From a very early age, I understood the children of Israel are God’s people, and never questioned my connection to them. I understood that the nation of Israel was birthed by God through Abraham. And Abraham’s grandson Jacob (Israel) had the twelve sons who became the 12 patriarchs of the tribes of Israel. As a small child, I was introduced to the children of Jacob who is Israel through Sunday school lessons out of the Old Testament. We would sing a song called Father Abraham. It went like this, “Father Abraham had many sons, had many sons had Father Abraham and I am one of them and so are you, so let’s just praise the Lord.” It was in Egypt that the nation of Israel grew and became a mighty people. And after four hundred years of bondage, Moses delivered Israel from Egypt and Joshua brought them into the land of Cannan. God promised Abraham that he would multiply his seed as the stars of heaven and that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Through the family of Abraham God sent Jesus into the world to make atonement for our sin. Jesus was born by an immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary. Both Mary and Joseph are from the family of Judah and the lineage of David. So, Jesus is the Godman. One hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. Jesus is referred to as the Son of God and the Son of man. Jesus is referred to as Immanuel which means God with us. God of all glory came from heaven and humbled Himself taking on human flesh lived sinless in a sinful world and gave His life as a ransom for many. We are separated from God by our sin; however, Jesus paid our sin debt.

We understand from the Bible that this blessing to all the nations comes through Jesus Christ from the tribe of Judah and the family lineage of King David. The Old Testament portrays Jesus as the coming Messiah. The Old Testament is God’s promise to bless all the nations of the world. That Promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The blood of Jesus His sacrificial death is the New Testament whereby whosoever believes in him shall have everlasting life. Abraham believed this promise and God sealed Abraham’s faith declaring him righteous. (Gn. 15:6) Abraham looked forward to the cross, believers today look back on the cross. And we both come into a saved relationship with Jesus Christ through our faith in Christ.

By birth, Jesus is a Jew. That is why he was referred to as the King of the Jews. And that statement was written on a placard and affixed to His cross at Calvary. The Bible says he came to His own (Jews) and His own received Him not. (John 1:11) We can understand why Jesus had a great passion for His children. He made the statement: *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”* Matthew 23:37

We know that Jesus died for all people, red, yellow, black, and white are precious in His sight. Any person of any nationality can be saved in and by Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation both to the Jew and gentile. Do not be misled the god of Islam is not the God of the Bible. Religions that uphold other writings as sacred besides the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) and do not teach as doctrine that Jesus Christ is God and He arose from the dead are false religions and have false prophets. These include Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhists, and all practices that do not teach the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

Many people are being deceived and being led astray by false teachings. I stand with Israel, I stand on the Word of God, and I stand by faith in Jesus Christ alone. God bless you.

Pastor Dean Honeycutt shepherds Snow Hill Baptist Church in Bakersville, NC. He may be reached at 828-385-0213, snowhillbaptist@gmail.com , or visit their website at www.snowhillbaptist.com.



By Tammy Hopson
Mitchell County

In 2007 an old dusty box sat in an auction house in Chicago, Illinois waiting to be opened. The only thing known about its contents was that it held numerous old negatives and photographs. The box was placed in a blind auction and purchased by the president of the Historical Society of Chicago’s Northwest Side. His name was Mr. John Malloy. After his purchase, he decided that most of the negatives were unusable and so once again the old box was closed and placed in storage. Several years later he pulled it out again. This time he began to scan the negatives one by one into his computer. Soon the beautiful works of Vivian Maier began to display. It became apparent to John that he had purchased the photos of a great photographer. His research of the unknown author had begun. His discoveries led to more boxes of photographs done by this mystery artist. Unfortunately, Vivian had already left this world and there was no indication that she had become a known photographer. Apparently, she had been secretly taking photographs for 50 years and placing all of her work in storage since 1949. Throughout her years on this earth, very few of her photos were made into prints and none of her works were published publicly. However, after a search by Mr. Malloy and two other collectors, it was discovered that she had taken over 150,000 photos and hid all of the undeveloped film away.

Since then, most of her work has been obtained by the collectors and deemed to be of great talent. There now have been many portfolios published and she has become a famous street photographer in the photography world. Her obvious talent has inspired other photographers, and many have claimed to have learned from her without having heard a word of her instruction and only observing her photos. Vivian Maier’s works went on after her passing and accomplished the very thing that great photographs are intended to do, to inspire, to teach, and to display.

I have a Christian friend who reminds me of Vivian Maier. No, she isn’t a photographer or any kind of artist. However, her hands are always at work touching lives and inspiring people in the Lord. She isn’t sounding a bell or publishing the things she does, but I have known her a long time and she is always doing something for others. She is modestly out praying, helping, and ministering to hurting people in her own silent and secret way and I am sure that the evidence of her works is being stored up by the number.

I want to be like them both. As a photographic “hobbyist” the story of Vivian Maier intrigues me. I don’t know why she secretly hid her photography from others, but her photos were done with great skill and are touching enthusiasts and collectors to this day. Of course, I want to reach that same level of expertise in the hobby that I love.

In comparison, my friend is doing just what the Lord has required from all of us when He said, *“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”*. I know my friend’s motive to help others is not to gain notoriety or have her works “published” in any way. Like Vivian, she is too modest for that. I truly feel her heart is to just show people who Jesus is. Although she is doing her works in secret at times, she will be rewarded openly by the God she is serving. Just like Vivian, she is storing up treasures, but her treasures will go before her to heaven. One by one they are going into storage. God will have all of her “boxes” and when it is time, He will open them and go through them all. The beautiful works of my friend will not only be displayed in heaven but remembered for the lives she touched.

For now, I am watching from a distance as my friend continues to inspire me to reach out in love to those around me. I am learning from her as she teaches me without a word and displays the true light of Christ.

I have searched my own heart and considered my own “treasures” and if I too will have things in storage that speak of my good works and the times I have let my light shine to display Jesus to someone else. Am I teaching others to follow God and is my life inspiring someone to know Him? I have inwardly pictured my own “boxes” and how much I have in “storage” and have concluded that I most likely have some space to fill and that I better get packing because we never know when our box will be called and it is time for God to look inside.

Tammy Hopson has been a Mitchell County resident since 1992 and lives in Red Hill with her family. She is a mother of six children and grandmother of 14. She has been a member of Hoyle Memorial Christian Fellowship in Lawndale, NC since 1992 and helps lead The HMCF Youth Group. tammylynnhopson@gmail.com



Gale, Jennifer, Amy, Katie, Marsha

828-765-3499
www.ebenbenefits.com

MEDICARE
OPEN ENROLLMENT
OCT. 15 - DEC. 7

Here at eBen our family is your family. Our agents are here to learn more about your unique needs. We can create personalized policies to individuals including Medicare, and individual health insurance. We value long term relationships and are here when you need us. Our agents are very passionate about helping clients and will work with you one on one to create a personalized plan to ensure that you are receiving the best coverage based on your specific needs.

HEALTH INSURANCE
OPEN ENROLLMENT
Nov. 1 - Jan. 15

Growing in Christ – Little by Little

By Joyce Meyer

I often teach on a variety of subjects, but I believe my primary calling is to help Christians grow up and mature in Christ and really begin to enjoy the great life He has in store for them.

As a young woman, I went to church for years, but I really didn't know much about spiritual maturity. I loved God with all of my heart, but I wasn't changing—I was still as critical, judgmental, and rebellious as ever. And even though I knew my life should be getting better, I was still miserable from dealing with all of the same problems.

I believe this is one of Satan's greatest strategies. If he can't keep people from hearing the Gospel and accepting Christ, he will do everything he can to make sure they never grow spiritually and experience the peace and joy that's promised to them in the Bible.

You see, when we're born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts—God plants a seed of everything He is in our spirit. He instantaneously deposits inside of us everything we need to live a great life.

For instance, Galatians 5:22-23 (AMPC) says, *“The fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control....”*

Did you know all of these things already exist on the inside of you? You may wonder, Well, if that's the case, then why aren't I experiencing any of it in my life?

Well, when it comes to the maturity process, we have a part to play. Our part is to cooperate with God to cultivate and develop His character in our lives so we can grow and become more like Him. How do we do that?

It all begins by spending regular time in God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 (AMPC) says, *“The Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]....”*

When we spend time in God's Word, we are spending time with God. His Word changes us—it changes how we think and how we act. It changes how we see God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Romans 12:2 is a great scripture that shows us how we grow spiritually: *“Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God...”* (AMPC).

God has a “good and acceptable and perfect” plan for our lives, but we must renew our minds with His Word before we can experience it.

It's important to remember that growing spiritually is a process. When I first began to read and study God's Word, I immediately saw things I needed to change. For a while, I felt guilty and condemned that I wasn't “measuring up.”

However, God helped me to understand that He never shows us these things to condemn us and make us feel guilty. He convicts us of our behavior in order to help us grow and come up higher in that area.

For example, I was extremely rebellious in the early years of my marriage. Because my father sexually abused me when I was growing up, I had developed a distrust of men. I vowed that no man would ever again push me around.

But as I learned God's Word, I saw that my behavior toward my husband, Dave, was wrong. The Lord was asking me to walk in love with Dave in my speech, attitudes, and actions. This was easier said than done! But God always gives us the grace to do what He is asking us to do. He doesn't expect us to do it all on our own.

So, little by little, by God's grace, I began to change. The Lord transformed me from being rude, critical, harsh, and rebellious into someone who has real peace, love, and joy. But it was a process—it didn't happen overnight.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMPC). It says we *“are constantly being transformed into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another....”*

The Lord changes us a little at a time. None of us will ever be perfect until we get to heaven, and that's okay. But as long as we're here on this earth, God desires for us to continually cooperate with Him to learn and grow.

As we do—as we continue to grow spiritually and change “from glory to glory”—we will experience the incredible peace, joy, and fulfillment that only God can give us. And we will show the world around us what God is really like.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.



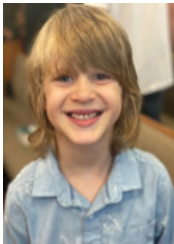
Good News From Covy Rock Free Will Baptist Church

Green Mountain, NC

Covy Rock Free Will Baptist Church wishes to welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ. They made professions of faith and were baptized over the summer. Welcome to our Christian family!



Haven Alexander



Oliver Laws



Kimber Carroll



Eli Buchanan

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook




CHOOSE BUBBA'S FOR ALL YOUR CATERING NEEDS



Inside dining with limited seating

- Churches
- Reunions
- Holidays
- Family Gatherings

828-678-3388 394 East Main St.
Burnsville, NC




Auto • Home • Life • Health • Banking

#1 AUTO INSURER IN THE NATION Again!



Per CRASH Network's 2020 & 2021 Insurer Report Card's Polling of Collision Repair Shops



828-652-4525
Kenneth W. Day
FSS, LUTCF
Agency Manager

ncfbins.com

*North Carolina Farm Bureau® Mutual Insurance Company *Farm Bureau® Insurance of North Carolina, Inc. *Southern Farm Bureau® Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS *A's Independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



Crossword

ACROSS
1 earneth wages to put it into _____ with holes. (1,3) (Hag 1:6) KJV
5 As an _____ pleasing to the LORD (Num 29:2)
9 Praise the LORD with _____: sing unto him with the psaltery (Ps 33:2)
13 and hath greatly offended, and _____ himself upon them (Ezek 25:12) KJV
14 And the rough goat is the king of _____ (Dan 8:21) KJV
15 Cut down the tree and _____ off its branches (Dan 4:14)
16 The alien who lives among you will rise _____ you (Deut 28:43)
17 He who _____ his father and drives out his mother is (Prov 19:26)
18 LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the _____ (Ex 14:26)
19 Mockers _____ up a city, but wise men turn away anger (Prov 29:8)
20 No one _____ a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment (Matt 9:16)
21 Uzziah the king was _____ unto the day of his death (1,5) (2 Chron 26:21) KJV
23 The man said, _____ is now bone of my bones (Gen 2:23)
27 Do you see this _____ army? I will give it into your hand (1 Kings 20:13)
28 Moses, Joshua, and David were _____ of some of the books of the Bible
31 I saw something like a large _____ being let down from heaven (Acts 11:5)
34 a foolish man who built his _____ on sand (Matt 7:26)
36 Abner son of _____, the commander of Saul's army (2 Sam 2:8)
37 The nations will _____ and tremble; anguish will grip the people (Exod 15:14)
39 Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, _____ and Ivvah? (2 Kings 18:34)
40 God _____ raised this Jesus to life (Acts 2:32)
41 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three _____ (Dan 10:2)
44 so that by the grace of God he might _____ death for everyone (Heb 2:9)
45 I will obey your decrees; do not _____ forsake me (Ps 119:8)
47 the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, _____, Zepho (Gen 36:11)
49 When the LORD God _____ the earth and the heavens (Gen 2:4)
50 "Will he even _____ the queen while she is with me in the house?" (Est 7:8)
53 Men stalked us at every _____, so we could not walk in our

streets (Lam 4:18)
55 His master replied, _____ done, good and faithful servant (Matt 25:23)
56 "They _____ me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! (Prov 23:35)
58 being not a forgetful hearer, but a _____ of the work (James 1:25) KJV
59 David, wearing a linen _____, danced before the LORD (2 Sam 6:14)
60 for wide is the _____, and broad is the way (Matt 7:13)
61 return to it and remove all its vile _____ and detestable idols (Ezek 11:18)
62 He is coming with _____, our faithful and dear brother (Col 4:9)
63 Man is a _____ phantom as he goes to and fro (Ps 39:6)
64 creatures of the sea are being _____ but no man can tame the tongue (James 3:7-8)
65 Like a bird that strays from its _____ is a man who strays (Prov 27:8)
DOWN
1 the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret _____ (Ex 7:11)
2 the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to _____ (Acts 17:10)
3 Then Samuel took _____ of oil, and poured it upon (1,4) (1 Sam 10:1) KJV
4 on the two stones the way a _____ cutter engraves a seal. (Exod 28:11)
5 I will make thy windows of _____, and thy gates of carbuncles (Isa 54:12) KJV
6 He saved us through the washing of _____ (Titus 3:5)
7 by this time there is a bad _____ (John 11:39)
8 Abraham died in a good old _____ (Gen 25:8) KJV
9 Bakkakkar, _____, Galal and Mattaniah son of Mica (1 Chron 9:15)
10 Do not slaughter _____ or a sheep and its young on the same day (1,3) (Lev 22:28)
11 He took one of the man's _____ and closed up the place (Gen 2:21)
12 He was with David at _____ Dammim when the Philistines (1 Chron 11:13)
19 He _____ on the ground, and made clay of the spittle (John 9:6) KJV
20 Sell me some property for a burial _____ here (Gen 23:4)
22 Nobody has _____ heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind (John 9:32)
23 The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet
24 twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the _____ thereof (II Ki 4:42) KJV
25 Jacobs new name (Gen 32:28)
26 the wife of Hezron bore him

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8		9	10	11	12
13									14					
15					16						17			
18					19						20			
	21		22						23	24				25
26			27						28			29	30	
31	32	33				34	35					36		
37					38						39			
40					41		42		43		44			
45			46						47	48				
			49						50			51	52	
	53	54					55					56		57
58					59						60			
61							62							
63					64						65			

COPYRIGHT 2021 BIBLEWORDGAMES.COM ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

_____ the father of Tekoa (1 Chron 2:25)
29 Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy _____ (Jude 14)
30 Joshua _____ his clothes, and fell to the earth (Joshua 7:6)
32 the sun rises with scorching _____ and withers the plant (James 1:11)
33 There were three gates on the _____, three on the north (Rev 21:13)
35 Absalom got his hair stuck in this type of tree (2 Sam 18:9)
38 My steps have _____ to your paths; my feet have not slipped (Ps 17:5)
39 rabbit (Deut 14:7) KJV
41 _____ your cloak around you and follow me (Acts 12:8)
42 The _____ is the lamp of the body (Matt 6:22)
43 If _____ forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles (Matt 5:41)
44 the _____ ones will be brought low (Isa 10:33)
46 represent four kingdoms that will _____ from his nation

(Dan 8:22)
48 Remember that you _____ me like clay (Job 10:9)
51 In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to _____ (Ps 71:1)
52 To _____, mine own son after the common faith (Titus 1:4)
53 As he was scattering the seed, _____ fell along the path (Mark 4:4)
54 Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will _____ them (Hos 13:8)
55 "May your God, _____ you serve continually, rescue you!" (Dan 6:16)
57 to see if you would stand the _____ and be obedient (2 Cor 2:9)
58 my eyes are _____ with grief. I call to you, O LORD (Ps 88:9)
59 abbr. for the 17th book of the Old Testament
60 for a _____ and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Isa 8:14) KJV

Solution on page 14

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**NEWTON
REAL ESTATE, INC.**

SPECIALIZED IN Residential - Land & Commercial REAL ESTATE







Serving Burke and Surrounding Areas Since 1986

OFFICE LOCATIONS IN DOWNTOWN MORGANTON & ON LAKE JAMES

Lake James Address 9066 NC-126, Nebo, NC 28761 828-544-2301	Downtown Morganton Address 203 East Union St, Morganton, NC 28655 828-433-1485
---	--

Each office is independently owned and operated BIC Email: timnewton@coldwellbanker.com

Armor Before Peace

By Jim Huskins
McDowell County



“O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.”

The opening verses of Psalm 79 were penned 2600 years ago, but they articulate a modern horror. How did Hamas terrorists catch Israel napping? What caused the failure of a legendary intelligence and defense network?

To make matters worse, cities across the US and Europe are witnessing jubilant crowds praising the slaughter. Thousands of Australian citizens paraded around the Sydney Opera House shouting “gas the Jews.” Some Americans proclaim that black lives matter, but Jewish lives do not. Our so-called journalists blame Israel for every problem in the Middle East. The U.S. House of Representatives is tainted by this rot. How did we come to this?

The stifling atmosphere of world politics has become even more laced with threats and insults. Any voice of reason is obscured by the clatter of rattling sabers. Our president talks about “unwavering support for Israel,” but he is attempting to hand over one hundred million dollars to Hamas. Does he believe they will buy rice and beans? No force on earth can prevent the war that will eventually resolve this ancient enmity. The Bible tells us what will happen. The only unanswered question is when will the final battle begin?

This struggle began as sibling rivalry in the home of Abraham. Descendants of older brother, Ishmael, insist that their ancestor is the legitimate heir of the Abrahamic Covenant. Genesis 16:12 describes Ishmael, “*He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.*” Ishmael’s descendants are called Arabs. The founding of Islam was an Arabian attempt to lay claim to the Covenant. Muslims insist that they worship the God of Abraham. They do not. Allah is no different than baal, molech, or chemosh. The phrase “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” distinguishes the Creator of All from the host of pagan impostors.

Younger brother Isaac is the true heir. “*I will establish my covenant with Isaac.*” (Genesis 17:21) Isaac’s family is the nation of Israel. The heart of the “Middle East Conflict” is the fact that God chose for Himself a people. He separated Israel from everyone else for His purpose. In the final battle of this age, every nation on earth will join forces to attack Israel. They will lose.

Between now and Armageddon, the spiritual battle will rage. “Powers and principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places” stand fanatically opposed to Messiah and His family. Matthew 24:21 says, “*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*” During that tribulation, everyone’s allegiance will be discovered. Many Christians think they will be removed before the tribulation. When that does not happen, some will lose their faith. The only way to survive the horrors foretold by scripture is to trust Jesus and become intimate with His Word.

Never has it been more important for God’s people to prepare for battle. That preparation involves putting on His full armor. We must first gird up our loins with truth. God’s Word is truth. Read it! Start today. Read every word over the next twelve months. No excuses.

Put on the breastplate of righteousness. You may have been taught that Christ’s righteousness is miraculously applied to you and that your righteousness is like “filthy rags.” These are both lies. As you immerse yourself in the truth of Scripture, you will learn how to live righteously.

Shoe your feet with the Gospel of peace. One of satan’s favorite tricks is infecting us with worry. We cannot “stand firm” if we are terrified about what “might” happen. Knowing God’s truth and devoting ourselves to righteous living will help us stand securely on the peace of Christ.

Take up the shield of faith. When we are convinced that God will always keep His promises, our enemy has no chance of defeating us. If we choose to believe the popular lie that God reneged on His many promises to His people, Israel, then we are doomed. As you read the Bible, you will discover that He did no such thing.

Put on the helmet of salvation. When we turn to Jesus in faith, repentance, and baptism, we begin a process which must be worked out with “fear and trembling.” Salvation represented by a helmet is a powerful image. It is in our minds that temptations and distractions take root. Let us surround our minds with the assurance that those who endure to the end will live eternally in God’s presence.

The last item in our armor is “*the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.*” (Ephesians 6:17) Our preparation for Spiritual battle begins and ends with God’s Word. Not with a devotional book. Not with watching or listening to someone talk about the Word of God. All of us will be judged based on what we do in this life. The only way to discover how God wants us to live is to read His book.

I do not know if the current war is the beginning of end time events, but I am certain that every person on earth has been given a wakeup call. Satan still holds incredible power over this world. Everyone will be forced to choose sides. Will you stand with the prince of darkness, or will you arm yourself and serve the King of Kings? No third option is available.

Obedient Heart Fellowship meets each Sabbath (Seventh Day) at 2460 US 221 Business N. Marion, NC. 10:00 A.M. 828-460-7910.

Jim Huskins is pastor of Obedient Heart Fellowship.

Animals That Like To Work?

By Christy Lowman
Burke County



Did you know that there are animals that work? Most love their jobs and look forward to working every day. Some even get excited about it. Some animals that have jobs are Beagles, hawks, doves, mules, Great Pyrenes, Rottweilers, Clydesdales, and Donkeys. I wanted to tell you about my favorite workhorse. It may be my favorite horse altogether. I first met this type of horse when I was a teenager in Newland NC. We would go to a tree farm there to pick out a Christmas tree. These horses worked at the farm. They were extremely tall, large, solid black horses. Their greatness was a little intimidating to me at first, but I soon realized they were gentle giants who were excited to see me, get some pets and scratches behind the ears. I would love to own one of these magnificent horses one day!

This horse is called a Percheron. Have you ever seen one? Percherons originated from France in the 732AD. Then they were used as warhorses. They were spirited, steady, and strong enough to carry full armored knights. Now they are used for farming, pulling logs, farm machines, and even carriages. They are great in parades and other public gatherings because they are so mild-mannered and calm. They are not scared easily. Their temperament is why people say they are “cold-blooded” horses. Even though Percherons have high energy and endurance they are also easygoing and love to please.

In 1915 Percherons were known as the largest horse in the world. Today the largest population of Percherons is found in the United States.

Most Percherons are black, gray, chestnut, or bay colored. Their bodies and fur are sleek and shiny. They do not have long fur on their legs around their hooves like other draft horses. Their mane and tail are very thick, and a lot of times are wavy.

Percherons can live to be in their 30s. They can weigh as much as 2600 pounds, but the average is 1900 pounds. They are usually 16-17 hands high. This large horse eats 30 pounds of hay along with 5 pounds of grain daily.

It is important also for us to work and have a job, it makes God happy and pleased. Sometimes it’s hard to enjoy our job. My husband pointed out that if you do your job to the best of your ability (whether you like your job or not) and do it for the glory of God, then it makes going to work much easier. In other words, we should work to please God and to bring Him glory. I’m not talking only about adult jobs but also jobs that you may have like chores. We don’t always get paid for working but we can always do everything we do with a joyful heart for the Lord. Sometimes this is very hard. Sometimes I don’t like some of the jobs I have to do either. That’s why it is important to stay focused on pleasing God in all that we do.

God also tells us to take a day of rest each week. This is so important to Him that He made it one of his 10 commandments. He wants us to take the Sabbath day off from work and keep it holy. God not only wanted to spend time with us on the Sabbath day through worship, but He also knew that it was very important for us to have a day of rest. Our bodies and even work animals need the day off to rest and reenergize for the next week. Sometimes we have to work on the Sabbath, and I think God is fine with this as long as we take another day of the week and set it aside to spend time with the Lord and rest.

Dear Lord, please help us remember to take the Sabbath off and to spend time with you. Show us dear Lord how to have a joyful heart when we must work and do chores. Help us bring glory to You in everything we do. I thank you for the animals you have given us who love to work. May they be a positive influence on all of us. In Jesus’s name, we pray, Amen.

18 *Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life.* 19 *And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God.* 20 *God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.* Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

“*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*” Colossians 3:23 NLT

Bibliography
<https://www.webmd.com/pets/what-to-know-percheron-horse>
<https://karinabrez.com/blogs/news/18-amazing-percheron-horse-facts>
https://www.percheronhorse.org/percheron_origin/

Christy Lowman is a Christian author and illustrator that lives in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with her husband and two children. She enjoys writing and illustrating books for all ages. Some of her short stories are published with Guideposts and HCI.. Christy gives all the glory to God in everything she does. A portion of every book sold from the Small Bible Character Series will be donated to battle human trafficking. You can buy her books at https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Christy+Lowman&search-alias=books&text=Christy+Lowman&sort=relevancerank. You can reach her at <https://www.facebook.com/authorChristyLowman/> or christysoaps@yahoo.com.





www.claytonmorganton.com



**EnergySmart
ZERO™**



(I-40 Exit 103)
1276 Burkemont Ave.
Morganton, NC
828-433-8455

**Our most energy efficient
home now available!**



RadioShack®
Of Newland

**YOUR R/C
HEADQUARTERS**



Come See Our Expanded R/C Car ShowRoom

We Offer

- QLED HD TV's
- Car Audio JVC, Pioneer, and Sony
- LapTops & PC's
- Tablets
- Hobby Grade RC Cars
- Home Theater
- Surround Sound
- Memory Cards

Certified Phone And R/C Repair

Phone

Internet

TV

**CarolinaWest
WIRELESS**
Authorized Retailer

bark
MORTAL
Authorized Retailer

CLEARSTREAM ▶
**Unlimited
Home Internet**

ROKU TV
dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

520 Pineola Street Newland NC 28657
828-733-5718

More Choices

- Printers & Ink
- Phone accessories
- TV Antennas
- Scanners
- CB Hunting Radios
- Electronic Tools
- Cellphone boosters
- Security Cameras
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Wireless Earbuds