

**Free**

March 2017

# Street Talk America<sup>®</sup>

*In God We Trust!*



*Tale as old as time,  
Song as old  
as rhyme...*



*Nikki Emore*  
Photography

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A small boy was pushing a gasoline-powered lawn-mower down the street with a "For Sale" sign on it. A man stopped him and asked if the mower would run. The boy told him it would, so the man bought it. A while later, the boy was walking past the man's house and saw him pulling repeatedly on the starting rope with no success. The man noticed the boy and said, "I thought you told me this mower would run!" The boy replied, "Well you have to use some cuss words to make it start." The man responded, "Son, I'm a preacher; I don't know any cuss words!" "You keep pulling on that starter rope and some'll come to you!"

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*I love you! ~ Aunt Kelley (aka Aunt Crazy) STA Publisher*

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## Street Talk America<sup>®</sup>

Crossroads Publishing LLC.  
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*On Christ, the solid Rock we stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

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## KILL IT

By: Tim Patton

Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church

Living in the country, snakes are just a part of everyday life. That is why we have a cat. When we first moved to the house, I asked about a dog to help keep snakes away. I was told that I needed a cat. I was told that cats did a better job and would also keep mice away from the house. We had a cat that showed up one day at the house and we took her in. She became part of our home although she wasn't much of a hunter; a lizard here and there but no mice and no snakes. Finally, one week, while we were gone on vacation, she disappeared. I decided that I was misinformed about the prowess of cats and chose not to replace her. A couple of months ago, I pulled up to the church office and discovered a small, malnourished cat. She was sweet and friendly so I took her home. She quickly became part of the family.

Sure enough, with an early, warm Spring, we had a small black snake come up near the house. As he was making his way across the driveway just out from the carport, he was spotted by my kids. They go crazy, jumping up and down, pointing at it and trying to decide whether to throw something at it, poke it with a stick, or just leave it alone. As they were standing there debating suddenly the cat sprang from the carport and attacked the snake. Grabbing it by the neck, the cat bit the snake in half! The kids went nuts! As soon as I come home, they could not wait to tell me about what happened. "What do you think about that, Daddy?" they exclaimed. "I think she gets to stay," I replied.

That cat demonstrated something I think we would do well to put to work in our own lives. When the cat spotted a predator, it immediately attacked it and killed it so that it would not continue to be a threat. The Apostle Paul said we should do the same thing with sin!



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In Colossians 3, Paul wrote, *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”* Paul uses rather graphic and sudden language here: *we are to kill our inclinations to sin!* He is telling us that sins are not simply issues in your life to be managed – they are highly destructive sins and are to be destroyed! Paul gives two reasons to kill these vices in your life: God’s wrath is poured out on these sins because He is abundantly aware of the effect of such sins on your life. Secondly, there is no fulfillment in this lifestyle. All of these sins are unending appetites that never bring satisfaction or fulfillment in your life. They only lead to more desire and more hunger—it never ends. They are predators that will destroy your spiritual vitality and your fellowship with God. Sin steals our joy, ruins our fellowship with God, diminishes our fruitfulness, robs us of peace, renders our service useless, destroys the effectiveness of our evangelism, hinders our prayers, and brings the discipline of God. As one author has said, *“You look at your life and generally speaking you are distressed about your calamities and you are distressed about your miseries but you are tolerant about your sins.”*

So, don’t play around with sin in your life—*KILL IT* before it brings destruction to your life! Oh, if you are looking for a pretty good snake killer, the cat is pregnant. You can pick up a kitten or two in a few weeks!

*Bea Tamm*

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### Five Horses

A man asked an American Indian what was his wife’s name. He replied, “She is called Five Horses”. The man said, “That’s an unusual name for a wife. What does it mean?” The Old Indian answered, “It old Indian name. It mean NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG!”

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An older couple was asking for a room with a king, queen or double bed. The clerk apologized and said that the only rooms available had twin beds. Disappointed, the man remarked, "I don't know. We've been sharing the same bed for 44 years." "Could you possibly put them close together?" the wife asked. Several people nearby smiled, and someone commented, "How romantic." Then the woman finished her request with, "Because if he snores, I want him close enough to be able to punch him."

### Can't Take No More

Sally found her husband hanging in their bedroom. There was a note on his bed which read, 'I can't take the criticism anymore.' She quickly cut the rope, lowered him down and revived him. As her husband lay in her arms and slowly opened his eyes, she remarked, "That's NOT how you spell criticism my dear!"

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### Moral of the Story

A teacher gave a writing assignment to her fourth grade students. They were told to interview their parents and have them tell a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories. "Johnny, do you have a story to share?" "Yes, ma'am, my daddy told a story about my Uncle Bob. Uncle Bob was a pilot in Desert Storm and his plane was hit. He had to bail out over enemy territory and all he had was a small flask of whiskey, a pistol and a survival knife. He drank the whiskey on the way down so it would not break and then his parachute landed right in the middle of twenty enemy troops. He shot fifteen of them with the gun until he ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, 'till the blade broke and then he killed the last Iraqi with his bare hands." "Good heavens," said the horrified teacher, "What kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?" "Stay away from Uncle Bob when he's been drinking!"

### Concerned Customer

The speaker at the bank's drive-through window had been broken for weeks, and the tellers had to resort to miming or writing notes to communicate with the frustrated customers. One day a sweet elderly lady who came to the bank every week pulled up to the window, leaned out of her car and smacked the glass in front of the teller's face. "Hope this is bulletproof," she yelled. There had just been a robbery at another bank nearby so the teller was touched by her concern. "It is," the teller yelled back. "Good," the elderly lady continued, "because someone is going to shoot you if you don't get that speaker fixed."

My salvation and my honor depend on  
God, He is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Psalm 62:7 NIV

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# Aunt Judy's Kitchen

*Southern Recipes from  
"The Old House"  
By: Judy Jenkins*

By His hands we are fed,  
thank you Lord for daily bread.

## Crockpot Mongolian Beef

1 ½ lbs flank steak  
¼ cup cornstarch  
2 tbs olive oil  
½ tsp minced garlic cloves  
¾ cup soy sauce  
¾ cup water  
¾ cup brown sugar  
1 cup grated carrots  
1 small onion – chopped  
green onion for garnish  
Cut steak into think strips. Place steak and cornstarch in ziplock bag. Shake to coat. Add olive oil, minced garlic, onion, soy sauce, water, brown sugar and carrots to slow cooker and stir. Add coated flank steak, stir until coated in sauce. Cook on high 2-3 hours or until tender. Serve over rice. Garnish with chopped green onion.

*A dollar may not go as far as it used to,  
but what it lacks in distance,  
it makes up for in speed.*

## Lemon Meringue Pie

9 inch baked pastry shell  
1 ½ cups sugar  
7 tbs cornstarch  
dash of salt  
1 ½ cups water  
3 beaten eggs  
1 tsp grated lemon peel  
2 tbs butter  
½ cup lemon juice from fresh lemon  
Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in water and bring to a boil over medium heat stirring constantly until thick, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, stir small amount of hot mixture into egg yolk, then return egg yolk mixture to pan. Bring to a boil and cook 1 minute stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add lemon peel and butter. Slowly stir in lemon juice. Cool to lukewarm and then pour into pre-baked and cooled pastry shell.

## Meringue

3 egg whites  
1 tsp lemon juice  
6 tbs sugar  
Beat egg whites with lemon juice until soft peak forms. Gradually add 6 tbs sugar, beating until stiff. Spread meringue over filling, sealing to edge. Bake 12-15 minutes or until it is golden brown. Cool before serving.

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3 large yellow squash  
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 1/3 cup chopped onion  
 1/2 cup chopped green peppers  
 1/2 cup chopped tomato  
 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese  
 3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Cut squash in half lengthwise, scoop out pulp and seeds leaving a 1/4 inch shell. Set shells aside. Cook sausage, onion, and green pepper in skillet over medium-high heat until sausage is browned, drain well. Stir in tomato and parmesan cheese. Spoon mixture into squash shells and place in a shallow dish. Bake uncovered at 350° for 20 minutes. Sprinkle with mozzarella; bake additional 5 minutes until cheese melts.



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## THE TESTIMONY OF JAMES EVANS

Hello, my name is James Evans. I want to share with you what Jesus has done for me and my family.

On September of 2004, I went in for a yearly prostate/kidney exam only to find out that I had a tumor on my right kidney about the size of an orange, which turned out to be cancer. Surgery was scheduled for November 3, 2014, to remove the right kidney. All went well with no complications and *PRAISE GOD* that this particular type of cancer does not spread to other parts of the body.

On June 30, 2015, I went in for a routine colonoscopy, only for them to find that I had several tumors in my colon and one large rectal tumor, all were biopsied and the diagnosis was Colon/Rectal cancer. The next step was to have a PET scan done to see if there was any cancer elsewhere. The devastating news came, I had Pancreatic Cancer. We were sent to a Radiation Doctor to discuss what plan of action could/would be taken now that we were dealing with two totally different types of cancer.

The plan: sixty-six radiation treatments, ten weeks of chemo treatments with a port placed for the chemo, and I would have to have a chemo pump to deliver the chemo meds daily. During this time I became very weak, some days I could hardly go, and some days I could not go at all. I lost 93 pounds. Finally after all the treatments, I had surgery on April 25, 2015 to remove over half of my pancreas and my spleen.



Recovery was long and difficult. In December of that year, my wife of fifty-three years became very sick and it was discovered that she had Congestive Heart Failure and two of her heart valves were not functioning properly. Open Heart Surgery was scheduled within one

week. There we were, I could not be there for her and she could not be there for me. Yvonne went in for surgery on December 1st, she was supposed to get out on the 11th, her birthday, but she had complications after her surgery which resulted in having a pacemaker put in. On December 14, she was finally able to come home.

Our next journey began on September 21, 2016, surgery for the colon/rectal cancer which resulted in permanent colostomy.

We have been through some tough times, but were never alone. The Word of God says, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* we have found that to be so true.

That was then and this is now, what a difference prayer makes. I am able to go wherever and whenever I want to go. I have a walking stick that I carry with me that I made, it has a carving that reads, *"Jesus saves the worst of us."* That is my testimony, not only did He save me, but He also healed me, I am now cancer free. *PRAISE GOD* for what He has done for me and my wife.

There have been a lot of people praying for me and my wife, and that is what has kept us going. Thank you for your prayers, and most of all, *THANK YOU JESUS FOR SAVING AND HEALING ME!*

*James & Yvonne Evans*

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# Dear Sherri,

*My son is not a student! He is smart in many other ways, but he really struggles in school. My daughter, on the other hand, is a star pupil. I promised myself I would always treat my children the same. Now I am not sure how to handle things. Any advice?*

*Perplexed Parent*

Dear Perplexed Parent,

It is amazing how different people can be- even within the same family. It is wise of you to recognize the differences and tailor your response to the needs of each child.

There are many types of intelligence- verbal, social, mechanical, etc. It is important that you identify where your son's gifting lies. Once you have identified the areas that he excels in, help steer him into these as often as practical. Doing so, will build his self-confidence and allow him to develop his abilities and find his life's purpose.

However, this does not mean that we ignore the weak areas. Assist your son to learn basic skills that will enrich his functioning. A wise parent helps their child come up higher in all areas of intelligence and education. This can be accomplished in several ways:

- Encourage a good work ethic.
- Learn when to ask for help.
- Obtain a tutor.
- Find teachers who instruct with different methods.
- Teach the child to be satisfied with his best effort.



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Some people are academic geniuses, but can be seriously stunted in social or emotional intelligence. Their academic brilliance may lead to isolation and loneliness. In those instances, it is important for the parent to intervene and teach basic courtesy and thoughtfulness. Just because we are not a "natural" in an area, does not mean that we cannot learn to be proficient in it.

Continue to encourage your daughter to bring home A's and pursue the college track. Let her know that you are proud of her. Provide the same type of encouragement to your son when you know he is performing at his peak. Choose to praise each child based more on their effort than on their baseline intelligence. A person has no control over their intelligence, but effort and work ethic should be encouraged in all circumstances.

Enlist the help of the school's guidance counselor to find areas that your son excels in and give him as many opportunities as you are able. Plenty of people succeed in life without being a traditional student. We must remember that each person is created by an intelligent Creator who has a specific purpose for them in mind. Helping children discover their gifts, goes a long way in uncovering their purpose.

*Wishing you- and your children- success!*

*Sherri*



Sherri Evans is a wife, and a mother of three boys. Sherri is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and an Associate Pastor at a local church. To read more from Sherri, visit her blog 'When God Whispers Over Your Life' @ [sherrievans.blogspot.com](http://sherrievans.blogspot.com).

*The advice offered in Dear Sherri, is intended for informational and inspirational purposes only. Use of the column is not intended to replace or substitute for any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice. If you have specific concerns or a situation in which you require professional, psychological or medical help, you should consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist.*

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## Got Mail

A man was in his front yard mowing grass, when his attractive blonde female neighbor, Judy, came out of her house and went straight to the mailbox. She opened it, then slammed it shut and stormed back into the house. A little later she came out of her house again, went to the mail box, and again opened it and slammed it shut again. Angrily, back into the house she went. As the man was getting ready to edge the lawn, she came out again, marched to the mail box, opened it and then slammed it closed harder than ever. Puzzled by her actions the man asked her, "Is something wrong?" To which she replied, "There certainly is! My stupid computer keeps saying, YOU'VE GOT MAIL."

## Tugboat Signals

Way down upon the Mississippi, two tugboat captains, who had been friends for years, would always cry, "Aye!" and blow their whistles whenever they passed each other. A new crewman asked his boat's mate, "What do they do that for?" The mate looked surprised and replied, "You mean that you've never heard of ... an aye for an aye and a toot for a toot?"

# Jim's

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## Dear Diary

(Wife's Diary)

Dear Diary,

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting strange. We went to a nice restaurant for dinner. I thought he was upset by the fact that I was a bit late, but he said nothing about it. I asked him what was wrong, He said, 'Nothing.' I asked him if it was something I had done. He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving. I can't explain his behavior, I don't know why he didn't say, 'I love you, too.' When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, and again he said nothing. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. He fell asleep - I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm sure his thoughts are with someone else. My life is a disaster.

(Husband's Diary)

Dear Diary,

Boat wouldn't start, can't figure it out.

## Lines

A drill sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets. As he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said, "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave." The cadet replied, "Not me, Sarge...no sir! I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line!"

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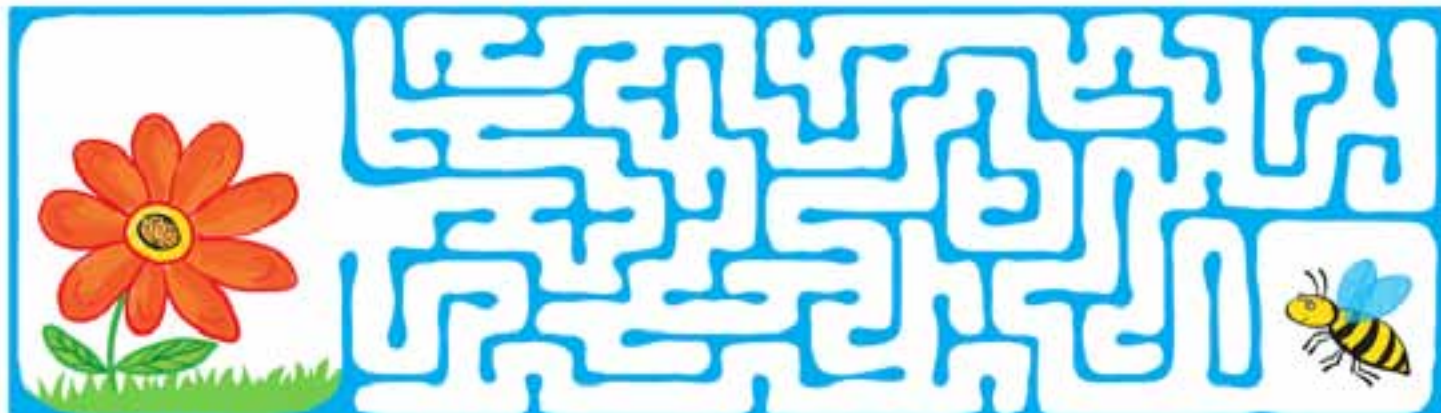
R	B	A	N	A	N	A	A	C	B
E	A	P	P	G	S	P	P	O	L
G	S	S	E	G	A	E	R	R	U
G	I	T	P	E	E	A	I	N	E
P	L	O	P	B	P	C	C	O	B
L	P	R	E	L	E	H	O	L	E
A	E	R	R	U	M	R	T	E	R
N	A	<del>A</del>	<del>P</del>	<del>P</del>	<del>L</del>	E	R	M	R
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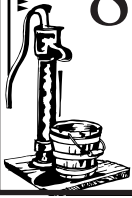
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Find the 11 hidden starfish and color the picture.

## No Red in Russia

Two men were talking one day and one mentioned he was visiting Russia. The friend tells him that it's politically rough over there and that they check letters leaving the country for dissenters. So, he instructs the man to use a code- write in black ink if everything is fine and red ink if things are bad. The man goes to Russia. A couple weeks later the friend gets a letter in black ink. It says all sorts of positive things about Russia- how rich it is and how nice the people are to him. "My only complaint," he writes, "is that they don't have red pens."

## First Blonde on the Sun

There was a blonde and a man from the Soviet Union at a coffee shop. The man said, "My country was the first in space," and at that time a red head came up, she said, "My country was the first to go to the moon." Then the blonde said, "Oh yeah, well I am gonna go to the sun!" The red head said, "Stupid, you can't go to the sun, it is too hot." Then the blonde replied, "That is why I'm going at night!"



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- In his sock drawer, you find pictures of women without bonnets.
- Shows up at barn raisings in full "Kiss" makeup.
- When you criticize him, he yells, "Thou sucketh!"
- Defiantly says, "If I had a radio, I'd listen to disco!"
- You come upon his secret stash of colorful socks.
- Uses slang expression, 'Talk to the hand, cause the beard ain't listening.'
- He's wearing his big black hat backwards.



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## Making the Right Call Changed My Life

In this new year of 2017, I'm going to change my writing habits. Instead of writing about outdoors stuff, I want to write about people. If you know of someone that you want to recognize, let me know. We all have kin folks or friends who are weird, crazy and have done some strange things.



This story is an example of one of my many weird friends, Tom. Tom was a few years older than me and could do everything except stay out of trouble and jail. His wife divorced him because of his love for alcohol and guns. He was one of the best gunsmiths around and reloading ammo was a hobby. Being half drunk, he would keep the neighbors awake all night shooting and target practicing. One day when his wife returned home from work she got the shock of her life, literally. He had run an electric wire to the front door knob and soaked the welcome mat with water. She found out

that electricity and water don't mix. When she placed her hand on the knob, the electricity grabbed her and she couldn't let loose. She stood there shaking until her knees gave way and she fell, removing her hand from the knob. That was it for her and none of us blamed her for leaving while still alive. I could go on and on about Tom's adventures and how he continued to cheat death, but enough about him for the time being.

The people I write about don't have to be crazy or weird, It could be someone who inspires you. What about your hero? Tell me about them and why you look up to them. We all know that each of us have a story that needs telling. Anyone who knows me knows that my mom was one of my favorite heroes. I didn't think that I could love anyone the way I loved her. Well, that was before I met my future wife, Lilla Jane Brock.

Let me tell y'all how I was introduced to Lilla. I had just pulled a hitch in the Navy and while I was in there, I had saved most of my paychecks. I was drawing pay for dive, demolition, jump, combat, and on top of that, my regular monthly Navy pay. I used the money I saved as my operating funds for my slush fund. Some of the boys would need a loan until payday so I would loan them \$5 until payday and then they would owe me \$7 in return. If they needed \$20, they owed me \$30. I sure made good interest and most of the boys were glad to pay it. Back to Lilla, since I had saved my money, and had been paid such good interest, I didn't work. I drove a new Mustang and sported a Rolex Diving Watch. Lilla's Uncle P-nut wanted me to go on a double date and he told me to phone his niece and ask her out. It just so happened she couldn't go, but said she was free the next day and could go then. I told her okay but had no plans of calling her back. I was so macho, if a girl didn't go out with me when I asked,

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then it was over. P-nut said that his cousins were in town from Pensacola and to phone one of them. I asked which one was the best looking and boy, he didn't lie, she was a knockout and fun to be with.

The next day I had a choice to make, call Lil or hang with Cuz. Cuz was leaving to go back to Pensacola and Lilla was a hometown girl and wasn't going anywhere. Boy, did I make the right call, not only was she beautiful but she was the sweetest and kindest girl that I ever met, and still is.

Later,  
GATOR

*If you have someone you'd like featured in Tales By Gator Brown, shoot an email to: [Streettalkamerica@live.com](mailto:Streettalkamerica@live.com)*

### You Used To

An old man and an old woman were sitting together on their front porch. "You used to sit closer to me," said the woman. So the man moved closer. "You used to put your arm around me." So the man put his arm around her. "You used to nibble on my ear." "Let me get my teeth."

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If anyone, then, knows the  
good they ought to do and  
doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

James 4:17 NIV

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## Whodunnit?

*By: Dr. Charlie Hinson*

I looked in the mirror, and didn't like what I saw. I tried to explain a subject to some friends, and really messed up. I was upset. I couldn't get my clothes to match this morning. Devastating. I took my wallet out to see if I had enough money for this week. Well, that one never works out. Everything I examined about "me" was not a very pretty picture. Lord, I've done the best I can. I guess I'm looking for someone to blame for my not being as perfect as I wanted to be. Somebody, somewhere, messed up. Whodunnit?

He-dunnit! Yep! He made me as I am. If He had wanted me to be different, He would have made me different. I am exactly the way I am--personality, physical features, sense of humor, the whole ball of wax, because He thought I'd be a great idea.

I was talking to a couple in Church a little while back, and they'd just had a new baby. It didn't take much encouragement to get them to whip out a picture of the new-born. I asked if I could have one (the picture, not the baby), and without a thought I took the proffered photo and put it in my wallet. I afterward went to pick up something at the store, and when I opened my wallet to pay, the picture fell out. The clerk exclaimed, "How cute! Is that your baby?" Without thinking, I replied, "Nope."

Well, God has a picture of me in His wallet, and when He is asked the same question, He proudly replies, "Yep!"

*A man says to his friend, "I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months."*

*The friend says, "Why not?"*

*The man says, "I don't like to interrupt her."*

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## Out the Window

A Frenchman, an Englishman, an American man, and a lawyer were sitting on a train. The Frenchman offered everyone some of his baguette, then threw it out the window, saying, "Don't worry - we have plenty of those where I come from." The Englishman offered everyone a crumpet, then threw the rest out of the window, saying, "Don't worry - we have plenty of those where I come from." Then the American threw the lawyer out the window, saying...

## Inadequate

I feel inadequate when talking with a mechanic, so when my vehicle started making a strange noise, I sought help from a friend. He drove the car around the block, listened carefully, then told me how to explain the difficulty when I took it in for repair. At the shop I proudly recited, "The timing is off, and there are premature detonations, which may damage the valves." As I smugly glanced over the mechanic's shoulder, I saw him write on his clipboard, "Lady says it makes a funny noise."

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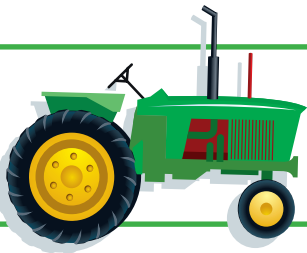


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By: BN Heard



## The Hatfield's, McCoy's & Us

Everyone, I assume, has heard the story of the family feud between the Hatfield and McCoy families back in the late nineteenth century in Kentucky and West Virginia. Some people even know about how the feud started and how it ended or dwindled out. Each side had a leader or patriarch who fanned the flames, or perhaps lit multiple fires.

William Anderson Hatfield, or "Devil Anse," as he was called was just what you think he would be – a backwoods fellow who lived and worked hard in the mountains. He was a successful timber merchant, who in fact, employed some of the McCoy family. His nemesis on the other side was Randolph "Old Ranel" McCoy. Old Ranel was not as prosperous as Mr. Hatfield, but he did own some land and some livestock.

Some say, the first event that led to the long drawn out feud was actually a murder of Old Ranel's brother, Asa. It had to do with Asa's loyalty to the Union during the War Between the States. Historians bicker about whether or not this actually started the feud, many holding to the "Brother Asa Theory," while more pointing to the "Pig Theory."

It seems McCoy accused a Hatfield cousin of stealing his hog. Pigs and hogs being a valuable commodity in this region and folks being so poor; one could kind of see how this would lead to the mess that followed. There were trials, crooked judges, folks getting away with things they shouldn't have and then the fighting and killing just kicked in.



"Devil Anse" Hatfield

Over the years, they fought, died, were put in jail and even sentenced to death. Honestly, it was just a mess. They say that "Devil Anse" Hatfield found Jesus at age 73 and lived about ten years more in peace until his death in 1921. Old Ranel McCoy became a ferry operator and died at age 88, in 1914.

Whether the feud was started by crooked judges, being on the side of the north or the south, or about pigs, the fact is, it was just a big mess. A mess that brought on a lot of sorrow and death and things that could have been avoided. Also, they wasted a lot of time fighting, when they could have been cutting trees or raising hogs, or just plain working.

I think about this because of all of the bickering we are having all around us after the latest round of politics. It seems like folks are always wanting to start a feud or a fight without realizing the consequences or the waste of time. I understand being upset when things don't necessarily go your way, but I don't understand wanting to hurt people and tear up other folks' stuff. I just don't understand what is proven when you smash stuff and burn things that are not yours. I understand putting the old Christmas tree in the lake in hopes of drawing a few more fish closer to the bank or cutting it up and putting in the fireplace. They snap, crackle and pop and smell kind of good while burning.

Like the Hatfield and McCoy situation, it seems some folks waste a lot of time tearing stuff up, lighting fires and making messes when they could be cut-



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ting trees, raising hogs, or just plain working. This is America and we have the right to voice our concerns out loud, but more importantly we have the right and the obligation to build things up and make things better for our family, friends and future generations. Most folks understand this and go about their way doing just that, but it seems like the Hatfield's and McCoy's of the world are those who seem to get on the evening news. The news folks seem to think their audience enjoys seeing these feuds and that it is necessary to give blow by blow commentary.

I just don't... Let the feuds dwindle out, maybe a few of them will find Jesus, take up woodworking or some other line of work that will contribute to the overall good of our wonderful country. I want things to be good for my children and yours. I want them all to have the opportunity to learn, work and prosper. Last time I checked, those were the things we were guaranteed to be able to do... And if you have time, you can go down to the courthouse and shout at the city council about your property tax, or leash laws, or whatever you want to shout about.

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Little Billy was sitting on a park bench munching on one candy bar after another. After the 6th one, a man on the bench across from him said, "Son, you know eating all that candy isn't good for you. It will give you acne, rot your teeth and make you fat." Little Billy replied, "My grandfather lived to be 107 years old." "Oh?" replied the man. "Did your grandfather eat 6 candy bars at a time?" "No" replied Little Billy, "But he minded his own business!!"

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### Smart Girl on a Plane

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger." The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?" "Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly. "OK," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow and a deer all eat the same stuff – grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?" The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea." To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death, when you don't know crap?"

My kid threatened to hold his  
 breath until I gave him dessert.  
 He's now passed out on the floor.  
 I don't negotiate with terrorists.

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### What a Woman is Really Saying -A Man's Guide

- I just need some space - without you in it.
- Do I look fat in this dress? - We haven't had a fight in a while.
- No, pizza's fine. .... You cheap slob!
- I just don't want a boyfriend now. - I just don't want you as a boyfriend now.
- I don't know, what do you want to do? - I can't believe you have nothing planned.
- I like you, but... I don't like you.
- You never listen. - You never listen.
- I'll be ready in a minute. - I'm ready, but I'm going to make you wait because I know you will.
- Oh, no, I'll pay for myself. - I'm just being nice; there's no way I'm going dutch.
- I'm just going out with the girls. - We're gonna make fun of you and your friends.



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### Unhappy Tourist

The loud-mouthed tourist had been complaining a great deal about the food. "Here," he said to the waitress, holding out a piece of meat for inspection, "do you call that pig?" "Which end of the fork, sir?" the waitress asked sweetly.

### 24:7 Ministry to Women

The 24:7 Ministry to Women is a new opportunity in Holmes and Washington counties to help women who have been incarcerated. The mission of the ministry is to empower women to experience freedom and wholeness in Christ, break the pattern of destructive lifestyles, restore hope, and rebuild broken lives. The ministry will serve women 24/7, seven days a week, in a residential facility. The ministry is based on Jeremiah 24:7, *"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."*

The National Institute of Corrections reports that the number of female inmates is increasing significantly and female inmates must overcome unique social, emotional and physical challenges that impede their ability to integrate smoothly back into society following a period of incarceration.

The board of directors of the new ministry is composed of women representative of several local churches in both counties. The board meets monthly and is currently chaired by Linda Booth who has long visited and taught Bible Study at both county jails. She represents Courts of Praise in Chipley. Others currently serving on the Board are Rev. Jean Tippit, Gretchen Tindell and Chris Geise, First United Methodist Church in Bonifay; Tracy Barbee, Lynn Adams, Sandra Hardin, and Beverly Helms, First Baptist Church, Bonifay; and Juanita Wilson, Carmel Assembly in Bonifay. Many of the board members visit and conduct regular Bible Study for the ladies at both county jails.

The need for a 24/7 year long transition program is great in both counties as there are few, if any, programs available. Many women leave jail or prison with no place to go, no transportation, job, formal job training, source of income, functional support group and often have less than a high school education. Many of them return to jail or prison because they are ill-equipped to deal with the stresses of daily life in the community, often including probation requirements. The 24:7 Ministry to Women would provide a safe residential place for women receptive to transformation through a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ, enable them to experience the healing needed for personal woundedness, promote personal accountability, provide continued education, on the job training and employment.

The public can assist by praying for the ministry, donating, inviting a ministry member to speak to a church, class or civic group, volunteering to help or suggesting a site. Donations may be sent to Chris Geise, Treasurer, at 512 E. Nebraska, Bonifay, FL 32425. All donations are tax deductible as the Ministry is a 501C3 Non-Profit Corporation. Contact Tracy Barbee at [tbarbee1960@gmail.com](mailto:tbarbee1960@gmail.com) if you would like to have someone share about the ministry. To volunteer, contact Linda Booth at [lkbooth00@gmail.com](mailto:lkbooth00@gmail.com)



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### Cafe Chit Chat

At a local cafe, a young woman was expounding on her idea of the perfect mate to some of her friends. "The man I marry must be a shining light amongst company. He must be musical. Tell jokes. Sing. And stay home at night!" An old granny overheard and spoke up, "Honey, if that's all you want, get a TV!"

**He must become greater;  
I must become less.**

John 3:30 NIV



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After learning that her parents were in a minor car accident, my wife called her mother. "What happened?" she asked. "I was driving and fell asleep," said her mother, irritated, "and of course, your father wasn't paying attention!"

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# HEALTH TALK

by: Michael Kennedy, ARNP  
Hawkins Family Medicine

Whew, February has come and gone. I hope you didn't blink or you missed it. I have been busy dodging the flu, pond fishing with the girls, and general mischief. This warm weather has had the fish biting and I can't wait for the waters to warm up a little more. March looks to be just as busy. I celebrate another year my wife gets to call me her dreamy husband, lucky year 13 matter o'fact. My oldest will turn 11. March is also *National Kidney Month*. I won't go into specifics, but this is an important month applicable to myself and family and should be for every human breathing air!

The kidneys perform and aid in many functions of the body, primarily extracting waste from blood, balancing body fluids, and forming urine. In summary, the kidneys have very important jobs.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a disease marked by injury or decreased function of the kidneys due to a potential of many issues. If your kidneys are damaged, it decreases their ability to keep you healthy by doing their jobs. If kidney disease gets worse, wastes can build to high levels in your blood and make you feel sick. You may develop complications like high blood pressure, anemia (low blood count), weak bones, poor nutritional health and nerve damage. Also, kidney disease increases your risk of having heart

and blood vessel disease. These problems may happen slowly over a long period of time. Chronic kidney disease may be caused by diabetes, high blood pressure and other disorders, but diabetes and high blood pressure alone make up two-thirds of all cases. Other disorders can include inherited diseases such as polycystic kidney disease and malformations, autoimmune disease and obstructions such as kidney stones and repeated urinary tract infections.

Symptoms of chronic kidney disease basically cover my average Monday morning and can include feeling tired, having less energy, trouble concentrating, poor appetite (not me), trouble sleeping, swollen feet and ankles, dry itchy skin, and the need to urinate more often, particularly at night. With at least annual well visits, your healthcare provider can screen for kidney disease, but if you have any of the symptoms above together, you should probably give them a little visit.

Here is the prevention tips, I bet you can already name at least half of them! If so, I am doing my job. Prevention includes: if you smoke, quit! Maintain a healthy body weight/BMI, follow a healthy diet without excessive salt, exercise, and get regular check ups including monitoring blood pressure and appropriate testing for diabetes.

Happy March everyone, enjoy the warmer temps and blossoming flowers.

## Soccer Ref

A soccer coach didn't care for the refereeing and had no problem letting the referee know it. Fed up, the referee politely threatened him with a send-off if he didn't can it. The coach calmed down, but an older woman took up where he left off. "You'd better control your sideline," the ref warned the coach. The coach turned to the woman and barked, "Knock it off, Mom!"

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Check out [www.floridastateparks.org/fallingwaters](http://www.floridastateparks.org/fallingwaters) or call 638-6130 for more information.

### Lot Flees

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

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Colossians 3:12 NIV

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1 small onion – chopped	¼ cup cornmeal
1 tbsp oil plus oil for frying	1 tbsp cornstarch
2 cloves garlic – minced	1 tsp baking powder
½ lb uncooked peeled and deveined shrimp, finely chopped	¼ tsp pepper
	1 cup cream style corn
	1 cup whole kernel corn
¾ cup all purpose flour	1 egg

In skillet, cook onion in a tbsp of oil until tender. Add garlic and cook a minute longer. Add shrimp and cook until shrimp turns pink. Remove from heat. In large bowl, mix flour, cornmeal, cornstarch, baking powder, salt and pepper. In small bowl, mix corn, eggs and shrimp; stir into dry ingredients. In small batches, drop corn mixture by rounded tablespoonfuls into heated oil. Fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels.

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## New Phone

Lincoln, a young man, wanted to get his beautiful blonde wife, Lucy something nice for their fifth wedding anniversary. So, he decides to buy her a cell phone. She was so excited, she loved her phone and he explained all the features on the phone. The next day, Lucy goes shopping. Her phone rings and its Lincoln, "Hi honey", he says "how do you like your new phone?" And she replies, "I just love it, it's so small and your voice is clear as a bell but there's one thing I don't understand." "What's that, baby?" asks the husband. "How did you know I was at Wal Mart?"

## Work Day

Smith goes to see his supervisor in the front office. "Boss," he says, "we're having a work day at the house tomorrow, doing some heavy house-cleaning, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff." "We're short-handed, Smith" the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off." "Thanks, boss," says Smith "I knew I could count on you!"

## All Ten

A man working with an electric saw accidentally saws off all 10 fingers. He rushes to the emergency room. The doctor says, "Give me the fingers and I'll see what I can do." "But I don't have the fingers!" "Why didn't you bring the fingers?!" asks the incredulous doctor. "Doc, I couldn't pick them up."

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## Hillbilly Fire

A hillbilly from back in the hills walked twelve miles, one way, to the general store. "Heya, Wilbur," said Sam, the store owner. "Tell me, are you and Myrtle still making fires up there by rubbing stones and flint together?" "You betcha, Sam. Ain't no 'tother way. Why?" "Got something to show you. Something to make fire. It's called a Match." "Match? Never heard of it." "Watch this. If you want a fire you just do this," Sam says, taking a match and striking it on his pants. "Huh. Well, that's something, but that ain't for me, Sam." "Well, why not?" "I can't be walking twelve miles to borrow your pants every time I want a fire."

## Golden Anniversary

An aged farmer and his wife were leaning against the edge of their pig-pen when the old woman wistfully recalled that the next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary. "Let's have a party, Homer," she suggested. "Let's kill a pig." The farmer scratched his grizzled head. "Gee, Ethel," he finally answered, "I don't see why the pig should take the blame for something that happened fifty years ago."

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# Things I learned in the Chemo Chair

By: Angie Knight

You wouldn't want to watch TV with me. Probably. I'm a flipper. I flip during commercials. I flip when something begins to happen that I don't like, and especially, if someone comes on the screen and I happen to not like the way they are behaving, I flip to another channel.

We don't have that luxury in life. We can't just flip the channel when the undesirable things begin happening...you must remain on the same station. Your life. My life. We can't even close our eyes and pretend it's not in front of us. It still is. We have to decide how we are going to deal with whatever the situation is. I have always gone to God. It's the way I was taught. My mother always went to God with everything that happened in our lives growing up—there was no one or no other way to deal with life...always God first. Then wait.

That's not to say I never get afraid in the situation or even question "why".

Around this same time last year I had detected a small knot in my left breast. I had regular check-ups like every woman is supposed to—and it wasn't quite time for my next appointment—you know, insurance dic-



Angie pictured with Jason Jerkins, Joan Hughes & Susan Roberts

tates so much of our lives. I remember distinctly—I didn't ask God "why". I am no different or any better than any other woman—but I did ask Him "why now?" We had "PLANS" for the mission field.... didn't that matter? **He began to quickly reveal HIS plan was best.**

After I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I immediately had surgery in Dothan. With the surgery behind me, the road opened up for the treatment plan. I could choose to go to Dothan for the weekly chemotherapy treatments, or my doctor named some well known cancer centers in the United States, but I chose to stay close to home.

Tucked in the Hudnell Building in Marianna, FL, is **The Infusion Center**. Inside this facility you will find some of the best medical staff, who continually strive for excellence in their service to the patients who grace their doors. They count it a privilege to serve them at this critical time in their lives. I was glad they were there, *because I just wanted to stay home*. But God had another reason for me choosing them—I needed to meet these amazing people and I soon learned to love them. It started with

Jason Jerkins, RN and Susan Roberts. These two individuals help patients "walk through the dark days of the unknown". They administer *the best medical care* possible; but they are also encouraging us with their words, their knowledge, along with their sincere hearts. They answer questions, provide Kleenex when the tears fall, and in general- become family for the next several months-or even years for some patients.

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One of the many things that God taught me from the chemo chair was cancer is not prejudiced. It doesn't matter how much you have or know. Cancer doesn't care where you come from—the color of your skin or your age. I learned that the love shown in that treatment center also knows no prejudice. God revealed His love to others through Susan Roberts. I have never seen such a little missionary at work. This woman meets each and every person with a genuine smile and heartfelt compassion as if she has walked in their shoes. She offers such understanding and her conversations keep the place alive with excitement and it helps us forget what is running through our veins or the anxiety we may be feeling. Her love is genuine and for every person who comes through those doors. I am a thankful recipient of that love.

The second thing God taught me was through Jason Jerkins, RN. My first day of chemo—was as frightening as the day I had surgery. Trust is a big issue for many people—it has been for me at times. Fear causes trust to weaken—But as I recalled a passage of Scripture and it brought peace (Isaiah 43:1-2), I began to feel this was a man I could trust to listen to not only me, and I began to sense he had a relationship with God. He did his best to calm my fears—and even though I had a small port situation that needed additional surgery, he was right there explaining everything to me—reassuring me that it was all going to be fine, and that he would be praying for me. Trust replaced fear.

God continued the teaching the day I learned Jason was headed to a new position at the hospital, I almost went into a panic attack. I was devastated. HOW could

God do this to me? (Oh -was I being the ultimate in selfish for about 1 minute of thought processes.) When I was JUST learning to cope with the things happening in my body! WHO would now take care of me and all these other patients who desperately needed him? I was quickly reassured—it would be fine, someone had already been hired and they would be amazing.

Weeks earlier, Joan Hughes, RN, had been hired weeks before and I never even gave it a thought that it had anything to do with him leaving. But God was continuing the lessons...TRUST HIM. God is faithful. ***Circumstances are continually changing.*** People are continually being moved in and out of our lives, but GOD is forever the same, never changing—never leaving our side—even though the mountain seems monumental—and possibly the steepest we've ever encountered, and suddenly all the players on the field are different, **GOD is still who He says He is and HE can still do the impossible.**

I soon came to love Joan and her gentle, quiet ways, and soon Jason's replacement arrived: Cindy Brown,



Jason Jerkins passing the torch to Cindy Brown

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RN. A young lady with years of experience—and a personality that one quickly appreciates as she sits in front of the patient, face-to-face to explain what the drugs are going to do, and how one may possibly feel—just as Jason did. I saw God had covered every base. He always does! Why do we worry?

The day Jason officially passed the torch to Cindy; I stopped by for a visit and to take a picture. It wasn't the sad day I first expected, but rather a joyous day. God was doing something new. In all our lives—and I just needed to remember that in everything—**give thanks.**

I realize many people may feel more confident going to larger cities for treatment. I used to feel the same way, but for my treatment and the care I have received from my oncologist—I have been more than satisfied that I was getting the best care possible- comparable with anywhere else. I wouldn't change a thing. I learned much more than I expected to in the chemo chair—and I am grateful for every-single-thing. God is faithful.

When you are faced with something in your life that is beyond your comprehension, and you want to grab the remote and quickly change the channel, please do yourself a favor: Take a deep breath. Remember who God is and who you are not. You're not in charge-and HE will see you through. Keep your eyes and ears open. There are lessons to be learned. Even from the chemo chair. Although I hope you never have to sit there.

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### Jail Break

A brunette, a red-head and a blonde were in jail when they decided to break out. The girls broke out and the brunette said, "Let's hide in that barn, they'll never find us." So they climbed up the ladder and then the blonde threw it down. The next morning, the cops said, "Come out with your hands in the air!" The red-head said, "Hide in those baskets, they'll never find us!" So the Brunette got in the first one, the red-head got in the second one and the blonde got in the third one. Meanwhile, the cops were getting a ladder set up and trying to get up there. Once they got up, the sergeant ordered them to kick the baskets. So the cop kicked the first one: "RUFF." "It's just a dog!" yelled the cop. The cop kicked the next one: "MEOW." "It's just a cat," yelled the cop. The cop kicked the next basket and the blonde yelled, "POTATOES!"

Woman: Say something that makes me feel like a woman.

Man: You can't park the car.



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**Congrats Morgan Boyette!**

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## Healthy Place

Patterson, a tourist from Toronto, arrived in Barbados. In an airport taxi cab, Patterson asked the driver, "Say, is this really a healthy place to live?" "It sure is," the cabby replied. "When I arrived here I couldn't say one word. I had hardly any hair on my head. I didn't have the strength to walk across a room, and I had to be lifted out of bed." "That's wonderful!" said the tourist, "How long have you been here?" "I was born here."

## 3 Questions

A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer: "Excuse me, how much do you charge?" The lawyer responds, "I charge \$1,000 to answer three questions." "My goodness! That's a bit expensive isn't it?" "Yes. What's your third question?"

## Poker Tail

A guy walks into a bar and sees a dog playing poker. The guy is amazed that the dog is playing poker. "Bartender, is that a real dog playing poker?" the guy asks. "Yep, real as can be." the bartender replies. "Well is he any good?" the guy asks. "Nah, every time he has a good hand he wags his tail."

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## Street Talk Announcements

Free announcements for Church and Non-Profit Organizations.  
Announcements must be emailed to [streettalkamerica@live.com](mailto:streettalkamerica@live.com).

-**Would you like to know God?** Would you like to be one of God's children? If so, come join us at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday 8:15a.m. On Hwy 90 1 1/4 mile east of Bonifay. Let the Lord touch you with His love.

-**Marianna's Gathering Place Foundation** is holding a monthly meeting for senior singles on the last Friday of every month at 6p.m. at Eastside Baptist Church Hwy 90E. in Marianna. Speakers, entertainment and lots of fun. Call Lilia for more info. 850-272-6611

-**Free Health Clinic** for the uninsured. 203 W. Iowa Ave. Bonifay, FL. Open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. For more info call 850-510-3779

-**Alford Community Health Clinic** 1770 Caroline St. Alford, FL. 2nd & 4th Saturdays starting @ 10a.m. For more info call 850-272-0101

-**Life Recovery Meetings** The ReNEWed Lifestyle Group provides Christ-centered twelve-step addiction recovery meetings and is certified by the Chemical Addiction Recovery Effort (CARE) as a Faith Based Outpatient Recovery Group. Meetings are free and are offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 at Caryville Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at 4217 Old Bonifay Rd, Caryville, FL. For more info, call 850-326-0886

-**Senior Fellowship Association** meets the third Monday of each month, in the Youth Center of First United Methodist Church, Clinton Street, Marianna, at 12 noon for a potluck luncheon and meeting. The meat is furnished. Speakers and door prizes at each meeting. All seniors are welcome.

-**The Home Extension Club** would like to invite you to a luncheon and meeting at the Hinson Crossroads Fire Department in Vernon, FL. Come and join us on the third Tuesday of every month at 10a.m.. For more info call 850-547-3879

-**Washington County Council on Aging** is hosting BINGO for senior citizens 60 and over, every Thursday 12:30 - 1:30, For more information please call Kim @ 850-638-6216.

-**Holmes County Council on Aging** host BINGO every Monday, from 10:00, to 12:00. We serve lunch at 11:00. Everyone over 60 is invited to come. Call Michael @ 850-547-2345

-**Care & Share Food Ministry** - Cypress Creek Community Church, every 4th Saturday beginning at 8a.m. 1772 Macedonia Rd (Just inside Washington Co.) Alford, FL 32420. For more info call 850-718-7311

-**The AARP Tax-Aide Program** and Washington County Council on Aging will provide free income tax assistance, tax counseling and electronic filing for 2016 tax returns. Filers 60 and older but AARP membership is not required. February 7th thru April 11th on Tuesdays. Returns will be done by "Appointment" at the Council on Aging, 1348 South Blvd, Chipley, FL. Call 850-638-6216.

Wife: "Darling, look. I haven't worn  
this in 8 years and it still fits."

Husband: "For Heaven's sake.  
It's a scarf!"

# On the **VERGE** with **BIRGE**

THOUGHTS, PUNS & FUN BY ROBERT BIRGE

- Coffee's a great way to fool yourself into believing you're going to have a productive day.
- If anyone ever tells you your dreams are silly, remember there's some millionaire walking around who invented the pool noodle.
- Men are like dogs. We're excited to see you, and we have no idea what you're mad about.
- Started working on my taxes today and learned why the form is called 1040. For every \$50.00 I make, I get \$10.00 and the government gets \$40.00.
- My wife woke up this morning with a huge smile on her face...I love sharpies.
- Oh, honey, you have gone beyond muffin top. That's a busted can of biscuits!
- Ever talk to someone so stupid you can hear them misspelling words?
- I farted on my wallet...Now I have gas money.
- I give great marriage advice if you want to be divorced.
- Remember to look both ways before crossing a woman!
- Happy 2 year anniversary to the Lean Cuisine in my freezer!
- Depresso: The feeling you get when you run out of Coffee
- Fingerprints are proof that God doesn't trust us
- It's frustrating to know, I'll never experience the exhilaration of getting to meet me.

*A boy asked his dad, "What's the difference between a woman and a slave?"  
His father replies, "I don't know, what?"  
His son says, "No, I was asking a question."*



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# Papa Shu's Movie Review

By: *Tim Shumaker*  
*Children's Minister & Christian Magician*

## The Space Between Us

*Spoiler Alert! If you do not want to know how this movie ends, please stop reading. Movie plots will be revealed!*

Children are not problems to be solved but people to be loved. In fact, there are no problems, only choices; and, all choices have consequences, both good and bad. Peter Chelsom's film "The Space Between Us" is an outstanding opportunity for parents to discuss the consequences of choices. Astronaut Commander Sara Elliott made the irresponsible choice of not checking to see if she was pregnant before lifting off on a four year Mars colonization mission. Traveling in space during the span of her pregnancy and delivering her baby son, Gardner Elliott, upon landing on Mars was only the beginning of the consequences of her choice. The birth of Gardner also cost the life of his mother, Sara. Gardner's entire being is adversely influenced by his prenatal development in space and the low gravity of Mars. The writers and filmmakers deserve a great deal of credit for not even mentioning the possibility of abortion which is quite unusual for Hollywood. This is especially unlikely in this film because everyone around Gardner Elliott continue to make poor choices which severely influence his entire life. NASA Mars agency decides to keep Gardner's existence secret in order to protect funding. This choice condemns Gardner to a difficult childhood of being raised by scientists and not experiencing normal childhood events, like stomping in a rain puddle.

Gardner is fortunate to have a surrogate mother, Kendra, who is one of the Mars inhabitants. She pleads his case to NASA for Gardner to come to Earth. She puts everything on hold to help Gardner to

achieve his dreams. Kendra is the one person in the film that makes positive, self-sacrificing choices which positively impacts Gardner's life. Gardner is a typical sixteen year old with a healthy sense of rebellion, a secret girlfriend named Tulsa which he hacked the Mars computer systems to talk with on social media, and dreams of finding his real father. Gardner is determined to go to Earth to meet Tulsa and find his dad, even though he faces insurmountable obstacles including the fact that his body can't handle Earth's gravity and no one knows his biological father. Gardner makes many reckless choices in his journey of self-discovery including crashing numerous stolen vehicles, like a Mars rover, airplane into a barn, and cars. After arriving on Earth, Gardner chooses to escape NASA's care and go on a joy ride to finally meet Tulsa, his only friend on Earth, and teams up with her to discover his father. In the meantime, test results show that Gardner's heart cannot handle Earth's gravity. The chase is on to find Gardner and Tulsa before it's too late. (Spoiler) Gardner's real father turns out to be the man behind the NASA Mars program, Nathaniel Shepard. In the end, Shepherd puts his life on the line in order to save Gardner and atone for his past choices.

Parents should be advised that there are some issues with this film, including smoking, alcohol, language, attempted suicide, and a steady stream of characters lying, stealing, and rebellion against authority. However, there are also some very positive ideas concerning courage, family, love, and identity, as well as a number of examples of self-sacrifice. Clearly, the main theme in this coming-of-age movie is the idea of choices and future consequences. When thinking about choosing this film for family movie night, parents should be careful to point out to their kids the positive aspects and don't miss the opportunity to discuss the consequences of poor choices.

Blessings,  
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Declaring Wonders to the Next Generation Psalm 71:17-18



## How the Fight Started

A husband and a wife sit at the table, having dinner. The woman drops a bit of tomato sauce on her white top. "Ugh, I look like a pig!" The man nods, "And you dropped tomato sauce on your top!" ...and that's how the fight started.

## Money Machine

A blonde walked up to a coke machine, put in a dollar, and got out a coke. She then put in another dollar, and got another coke. Again and again, she put in more and more dollars and got out more and more cokes. As she was doing this, a man came and stood behind her. He tapped her on her shoulder, and said "What on earth are you doing?" She replied angrily "Shut up! Can't you see I'm winning?!"

## Accident

A construction worker accidentally cuts off one of his ears with an electric saw. He calls out to a guy walking on the street below, "Hey, do you see my ear down there?" The guy on the street picks up an ear, "Is this it?" "No," replies the construction worker, "mine had a pencil behind it."



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Do not envy the violent  
or choose any of their ways.  
For the Lord detests the perverse but  
takes the upright into his confidence.  
Proverbs 3:31-32 NIV

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# Do You Live Next Door to a Meth Lab?

- ***Are there frequent visitors to the home at odd hours or late at night?***  
Meth cooks usually cook meth in the early morning hours when most people are sleeping.
- ***Do occupants appear unemployed, yet seem to have plenty of money and pay bills with cash?***
- ***Is there extensive security at the home?***  
“Private Property” or “Beware of Dog” signs may be posted as well as fences, large shrubs and trees. Security cameras may also be attached to the house.
- ***Are the windows blackened or curtains always drawn?***  
Meth users are prone to hallucinations and paranoia.
- ***Have you noticed chemical odors coming from the house, garbage or detached buildings?*** Ammonia, ether, nail polish remover, cat urine, cleaning products, etc.
- ***Does your neighbor set his/her garbage for pick up in another neighbor’s collection area?*** Garbage may contain numerous empty bottles, duct tape, red stained coffee filters, sandwich baggies.
- ***Is there evidence of chemical or waste dumping?***  
Burn barrels, burn pits or “dead spots” in the yard
- ***Unfinished projects?***  
Meth gives the user a lot of energy. When they’re high, they may be involved in several kinds of projects but seldom finish any of them.
- ***Have you noticed children at home during regular school hours?***  
If the dealer/user has children, they are typically neglected and in danger. While the user crashes, the children are left to fend for themselves. During those times, many children don’t go to school.

**“If you answered Yes to most or all of these questions, please contact law enforcement. Drugs ruin families and lead to other illegal activities such as spousal and child abuse, elder abuse, neglect, theft, robbery and sometimes even murder. My door is always open.”**

**-Kevin Crews, Washington County Sheriff**

**Text Anonymously: 847411**

**Keyword: WCSO**

**or call 850-638-6111**



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