

July 2007

## CLASS TIDBITS:

- Congratulations to Jenn & Rich VanTol, daughter of Jim & Judy Dayton. Jenn is expecting triplets in February.
- Thanks to Bill and Pat Love for the lovely Newlywed reception for son Steve and Prisiai Love.
- Congratulations to newly weds Clark and Alicia Baggett, son of Windell and Gayle Baggett.
- Remember to class party July 14th at 6:00 PM.

# The Kum Doubles Messenger

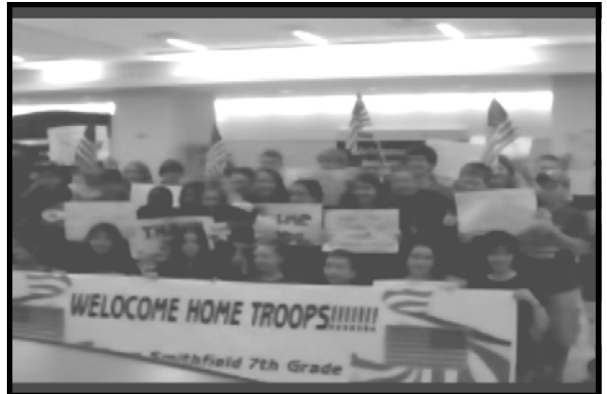
## Welcome Home Troops!

By Bill Monty

Smithfield Middle School is filled with and led by very competitive students, teachers and administrators. One of the competitions during the 2006/2007 school year was to demonstrate school spirit. There was a sign-in book at all athletic, choir, and band performances. The seventh grade was the winner of this year's school spirit award. The 195 seventh graders recorded over 5,000 appearances to support Smithfield students and teams.

With all competitions over and finals getting ready to begin, our principal offered the seventh graders one more opportunity to show their spirit before school ended for the year. He invited the seventh graders to attend a welcome home for our troops arriving at DFW on Saturday morning May 19. It was short notice and many of the students were already committed to select baseball, volleyball and basketball games and tournaments. Because the plane would arrive early, it would be necessary to be on the buses at school at 6:30 a.m.

It was a gray morning with light showers, but our principal with 49 seventh graders, 7 teachers and 10 parents loaded up in North Richland Hills to make the journey to the airport to welcome home young men and women only a few years older than our students. One dad drove



his daughter with four of her teammates that were to appear in a select basketball tournament in Allen at 9:30. Their plan was to see the

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Monty Thanks Students and Teachers

Dear Smithfield Students and Teachers, support were truly felt by those you welcomed.

I would like to express a personal message of thanks to all the students and teachers that gave of their time Saturday morning to welcome home 188 men and women serving in the armed forces of the United States. Your warmth and enthusiasm; your caring and sup-

You may have noticed that there were several older men and women who were there to also welcome our soldiers home. From their insignia and patches and their grey hair, you could see that they had represented America at a time from the past. They came who you were, but they knew

*(Continued on page 7)*

# The Kum Doubles Messenger

Page 2

## Announcements

- Remember the class picnic on July 14th at 6:00 PM in the Family Life Center.
- July 16-19 is VBS. If you want a lot of fun, volunteer to help out. Last year there were nearly 100 Volunteers. This year the volunteer count is down and they desperately need your help.
- Block Out October 20th for the Annual Fall Craft Show & Sale.
- Block Out November 10th for the Annual Lord's Acre Auction.
- Block out December 15th for the Annual Christmas Party.

July 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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				

## Birthdays

9 Jim Dayton  
 11 Jim Street  
 14 Doug Pierson  
 18 Paul Mitchell

## Anniversaries

19 Novice & Ann Nicholson  
 20 George & Jo-Carol Adamson

## July Sunday School Study Plan

Date	Teacher	Study	Scripture
1	Street	Doing The Right Thing	Micah 3
8	Dame	Getting Ready For Judgment	Zephaniah 3
15	Baggett	A Reason To Hope	Habakkuk 2
22	Parsons	Your Actions, Your Consequences	Jeremiah 7
29		Getting Through The Pain	Jeremiah 29

## 2007 Party Planner

Mon	Day	Host	Activity	Time	Notes
Jan		Committee	Chili Diner		
Feb	12	Street	Gaither Concert	6 PM	
Mar	17	Monty	Amazing Grace		
Apr	21	Patrick	BBQ		
May	5	Dame & Street	Dinner		
Jun		Committee			
Jul	14	Alleman & Dayton	Picnic		Family Life Center
Aug		Committee			
Sep		Holcomb & Love			
Oct	20	Committee	Fall Craft Show		
Nov		Hensen & Carver			
Dec	15	Committee	Christmas Party		Fellowship Hall

## Prayer Requests

[Pages 3 & 4 are not published on the internet]

## Praises

## Politics & Religion

### Identity 'Crisis' Nazarenes rethink entire sanctification.

By Brad A. Greenberg 6/22/2007

The Church of the Nazarene is in a "theological crisis," general superintendent Jerry Porter announced five years ago at a global theology conference in Guatemala City. As the 1.5-million member denomination approaches its 100th anniversary next year, leaders are rethinking their central holiness doctrine of entire sanctification.

Some Nazarene theologians dispute Porter's interpretation and say the denomination is rearticulating, not reforming, its beliefs. But other scholars insisted to ct that the crisis persists.

"A lot of the folks who have been around the church awhile thought of themselves as being characterized by things they don't do: You don't smoke, you don't drink, you don't go to dances, and in some parts of the denomination, you don't wear makeup or go to clubs or some parts of society," said Thomas Jay Oord, professor of theology and philosophy at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, and co-author of Relational Holiness. "That kind of Christianity loses steam really quickly. It's not something you can give your whole life to."

Nazarenes belong to an evangelical church that formed in 1908 when various groups in the holiness movement came together under the leadership of Phineas Bresee, a former Methodist minister. This new denomination, which stemmed largely from Methodism, emphasized entire sanctification as an "act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state

of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect." But it hasn't always, if ever, been clear what such a sanctified life should look like.

"[T]he question in the last decades of the 20th century was whether or not the Church of the Nazarene had a coherent and cogent doctrine of holiness at all," Mark Quanstrom, professor of theology and philosophy at Olivet Nazarene University, wrote in A Century of Holiness.

Oord has been working to redefine holiness and to persuade the church to drop the word entire in its Article of Faith on sanctification. He said the Wesleyan tradition has more to do with social justice than social conserva-

tism. In particular, Oord focuses on Jesus' "love command" in Luke 10:27: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself."

While theologians, including those involved with the Wesleyan Holiness Study Project, continue trying to rearticulate entire sanctification, the Church of the Nazarene's six superintendents have already taken action. In February, they released this revised mission statement: "To make Christ-like disciples in the nations."✠

Copyright © 2007 Christianity Today.

## Trivial Pursuit

1. Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton.
2. The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.
3. The dot over the letter i is called a "tittle".
4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
5. Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller.
6. 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.
7. 315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.
8. The 'spot' on 7UP comes from its inventor, who had red eyes. He was albino.
9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents, daily.
10. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister.
11. Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small sized dog.
12. Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.
13. Most lipstick contains fish scales (ewww).
14. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
15. Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine.
16. Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.
17. Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time ... hence, multi-tasking was invented.
18. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
19. There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
20. The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan; there was never a recorded "Wendy" before!
21. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple, and silver!
22. Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
23. A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make it instantly go mad and sting itself to death.
24. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was a Captain Kirk mask painted white.
25. If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar (good to know.)
26. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand
27. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

## Holiday for Athiests

Submitted by Christine Burlett

In Florida, an atheist became incensed over the preparation of Easter and Pass-over holidays. He decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while atheists had no holiday to celebrate. The case was brought before a wise judge.

After listening to the long passionate presentation by the lawyer, the Judge banged his gavel and declared "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. Jews have Pass-over, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!"

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said, "Obviously your client is too confused to even know about, much less celebrate his own atheists' holiday!"

The lawyer pompously said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any such holiday for atheists. Just when might that holiday be, your Honor?"

The judge said, "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st! Since our calendar sets April 1st as 'April Fools Day,' consider that Psalm 14:1 and Psalm 53:1 states, 'The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, in my opinion, if your client says there is no God, then by scripture he is a fool, thus April 1st is his holiday! Get it?"

PRAY THAT SOME DAY OUR COURTS WILL BE FULL OF THESE KIND OF JUDGES...MAYBE THEN, WE CAN PUT GOD BACK WHERE HE BELONGS --- IN EVERYTHING WE DO.✠

## Grandma's Sleeping Pills

Submitted by Lee Voss

The doctor that had been seeing an 80 year old woman for most of her Life finally retired.

At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all her medications that had been prescribed for her. As the young doctor was looking through these, his eyes grew wide as he realized she had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are BIRTH CONTROL pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely NOTHING in these that could possible help you sleep."

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee.

"Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16 year old granddaughter drinks...and believe me, it helps me sleep at night."

You Gotta Watch Them Grandmas...God Love Them.✠

## FIGHTING SKEETERS

Submitted by Danny Parsons

OK, mosquitoes.. prepare to be repelled!!!!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets...Best thing ever used in Louisiana...just wipe on & go...Great for Babies

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October . He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it.

Every one he has talked into trying it works on them.

Vitamin B-1( Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.) If you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you, - something about the banana oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

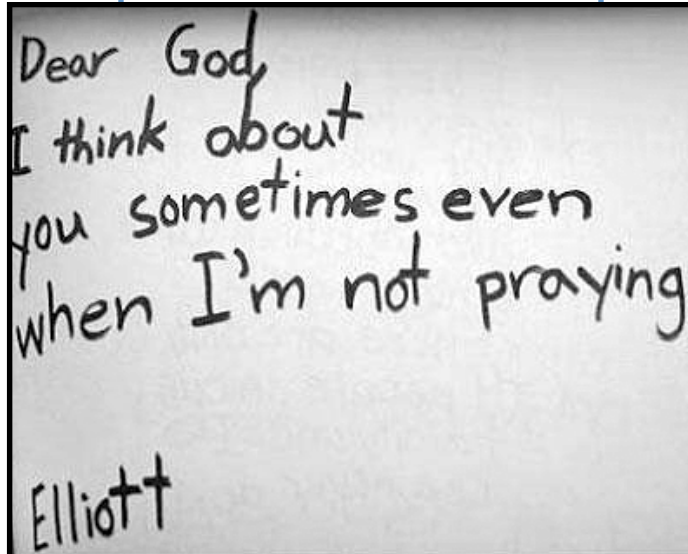
Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellents that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure Vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails--get a frog.

Fight West Nile...pass this along to all your friends in skeeter land!!!✠



Dear God,  
I think about  
you sometimes even  
when I'm not praying  
Elliott

*Welcome home troops cont.**(Continued from page 1)*

troops home and then rush on to their tournament. The other half of the team had gone on directly to the tournament. The principal brought his seven year-old son. One of the teachers brought his seven-year old grandson who wore his Cub Scout uniform. Other than our principal and his son, no one really knew what to expect. They had done this before over Spring Break.

When we entered Terminal D at about 7:00 a.m. we discovered that the flight was delayed from 7:40 arrival until 8:30. But, there was a snack bar open with juice, coffee and sweet rolls so no one was greatly disappointed. While waiting in line for a coffee several of us got to meet the wife and three children of a Fort Worth police officer who was serving his second tour in Iraq as an Army Reservist. They were so very excited and the children kept talking about their daddy.

Terminal D is where all international flights arrive. The military flights must always enter at the same gates because there are containers filled with American flags for welcomers to use. Our students had all made signs to hold up as well. By 8:00 a.m. our students were joined by middle school students from Rockwall, Vietnam Veterans, USO volunteers and a lot more military families. Then we got word that the flight was delayed again; this time to 9:10 a.m. The five girls who were to participate in the tournament in Allen had to make a decision leave or stay. I overheard Madison Young tell her father, "We don't need another trophy, let's stay." I was proud to be with these young people early on a Saturday morning.

For about an hour, as international travelers from Brazil and a few other foreign cities passed out the doors from Customs they were greeted with shouts of, "USA, USA" and the singing of, "God Bless

America." Some arrives smiled and waved, but many looked nervous and walked hurriedly away from the crowd of exuberant young people. Finally, an airport official came out and announced that our plane was arriving and invited families to come inside the barrier rails. He received a huge cheer and within minutes the first of our military passengers began to appear through the sliding doors.

We had been told that there were 188 military passengers arriving and that they would pass into our area in groups of 8-10 as they cleared customs. It took about half an hour for all to pass through our positions. The cheering never stopped. The families seemed to appreciate it as much as the men and women in uniform. Sometimes they would pause for a moment and then go to the barriers and shake hands with the greeters before finding their families and moving on into the world they had left. There were smiles mixed with tears and when the last had passed, everyone felt like they had done something good that day.

The bus was much quieter returning to school than it had been on the ride to the airport. The students were probably tired from getting up so early on a Saturday. The teachers definitely were. But one fact we now knew also weighed on our minds. The flight we had welcomed was an R and R flight. All of the 188 men and women we watched with their families would be returning in just a few days to this same airport. They would be saying goodbye to their families and the only smiles would be the brave smiles through tears that parents always have for their children. We had gotten close to many of the families while waiting and the thought of the coming goodbyes coupled with the knowledge that some of the 188 may not be having another happy homecoming resulted in a quiet ride back to our world.

I know some prayed. I know some cried. I know that they all will remember. ✚

*Monty Thanks Students and Teachers**(Continued from page 1)*

from a time of your grandparents. They came home at a time when they were not welcomed home. Some may have been spit upon or cursed by their fellow Americans when they arrived back in the United States from a war no one wanted. Speaking for those older veterans, what you students and teachers did on Saturday was in a way welcome those soldiers home, too.

Your cheers and applause; your spontaneous renditions of "God Bless America" and chants of, "USA! USA!" was a thanks a long time arriving for a generation of Americans who were never welcomed home.

Thank you for a day I will never forget.

William R. Monty

Lieutenant Commander

United States Navy Reserve (Retired)

**Bathtub Test**

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started.

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?" ✚

## TAXES

Submitted by Izzy Bishkoff

At first I thought this was cute and funny...then I realized the awful truth of it. Be sure to read all the way to the end!

Tax his land,  
Tax his bed,  
Tax the table at which he's fed.  
Tax his tractor,  
Tax his mule,  
Teach him taxes, are the rule.  
Tax his cow,  
Tax his goat,  
Tax his pants,  
Tax his coat.  
Tax his ties,  
Tax his shirt,  
Tax his work,  
Tax his dirt.  
Tax his tobacco,  
Tax his drink,  
Tax him if he tries to think.  
Tax his cigars,  
Tax his beers,  
If he cries, then tax his tears.  
Tax his car,  
Tax his gas,  
Find other ways to tax his ass.  
Tax all he has then let him know  
That you won't be done till he has no dough.  
When he screams and hollers, then tax him some more,  
Tax him till he's good and sore.  
Then tax his coffin,  
Tax his grave,  
Tax the sod in which he's laid.  
Put these words upon his tomb,  
" Taxes drove me to my doom..."  
When he's gone,  
Do not relax,  
Its time to apply the inheritance tax.

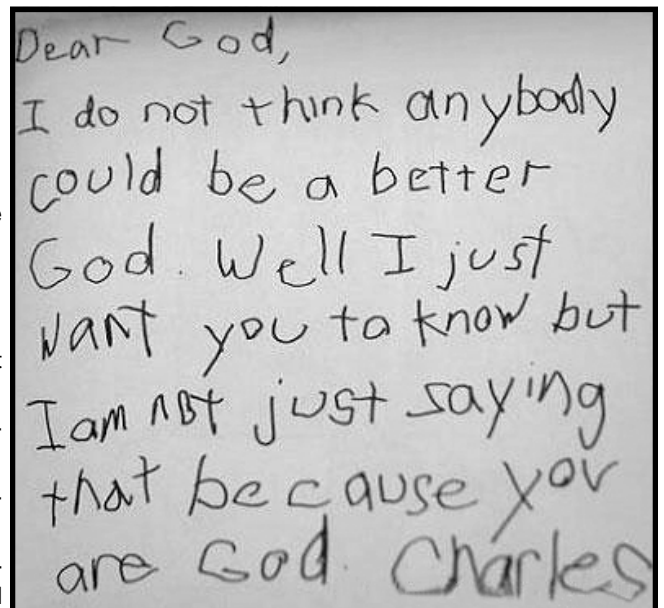
Accounts Receivable Tax  
Building Permit Tax  
CDL license Tax  
Cigarette Tax  
Corporate Income Tax  
Dog License Tax  
Excise Taxes  
Federal Income Tax  
Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)  
Fishing License Tax  
Food License Tax  
Fuel Permit Tax  
Gasoline Tax (42 cents per gallon)  
Gross Receipts Tax  
Hunting License Tax  
Inheritance Tax  
Inventory Tax  
IRS Interest Charges  
IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax)  
Liquor Tax  
Luxury Taxes  
Marriage License Tax  
Medicare Tax Personal  
Property Tax Property  
Tax Real Estate Tax  
Service Charge Tax  
Social Security Tax  
Road Usage Tax  
Sales Tax  
Recreational Vehicle Tax  
School Tax  
State Income Tax  
State Unemployment Tax (SUTA)  
Telephone Federal Excise Tax  
Telephone Federal Universal Service Fee Tax  
Telephone Federal, State and Local

Surcharge Taxes  
Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax  
Telephone Recurring and Non-recurring Charges Tax  
Telephone State and Local Tax  
Telephone Usage Charge Tax Utility Taxes  
Vehicle License Registration Tax  
Vehicle Sales Tax  
Watercraft Registration Tax  
Well Permit Tax  
Workers Compensation Tax  
STILL THINK THIS IS FUNNY?

Not one of these taxes existed 100 years ago, and our nation was the most prosperous in the world. We had absolutely no national debt, had the largest middle class in the world, and Mom stayed home to raise the kids.

Wanna' know what happened? Can you spell "p-o-l-i-t-i-c-i-a-n-s?!"

And I still #\*!# have to "press 1" for English!



Dear God,  
I do not think anybody  
could be a better  
God. Well I just  
want you to know but  
I am not just saying  
that because you  
are God. Charles

## The Fern and the Bamboo

Written by Jessica McAlister

Submitted by Cristine Burkett

One day, I decided to quit. I wanted to quit my job, to quit my relationships, to quit my spirituality; I even wanted to quit my life. I went to the woods to have one last talk with God.

"God", I said, "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?" His answer surprised me.

"Look around", He said, "Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes", I replied.

"When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo." "In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo." "In the third year there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit." "In the fourth year, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. Still, I would not quit." "Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant. But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots.

Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge they could not handle," He said to me. "Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots? I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you! Don't compare yourself to others. The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful. Your time will come," God said to me. "You will rise high."

"How high should I rise?" I asked.

"How high will the bamboo rise?" He

asked in return.

"As high as it can?" I questioned.

"Yes", He said, "Give Me glory by rising as high as you can. And remember...I will never leave you, nor forsake you. I will never give up on you. I will never, ever quit on you."

Everyone has days when they want to "quit". When there are struggles...obstacles in life, remember we're just growing roots!! God has a purpose in mind for each one of us and we need to talk to Him and let Him help us realize that purpose. Always remember, He'll never leave us, He'll never forsake us, and He'll never quit on us.✚

## UGH! BOO!

Submitted by Harrold Hensen

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. However, all the Swiss league records were unfortunately destroyed in a fire, and we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

Back in the 1800s the Tates Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to

produce other products and, since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California .. This, of course, is the origin of the expression, "He who has a Tates is lost!"

A thief broke into the local police station and stole all the toilets and urinals, leaving no clues. A spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have absolutely nothing to go on."

An Indian chief feeling very sick, summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

A skeptical anthropologist was cataloguing South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal brujo who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the brujo looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, who needs enemas?"✚



## Cowboy Advice

Submitted by Danny Parsons

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. †

Stupid computer  
keeps saying  
"you got mail"



the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

The Scripture teaches that God loves you. You are a child of God He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful.

He did not and will not ever let you go. †

## The Boy & The Alligator

Submitted by Danny Parsons

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went.

He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father working in the yard saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could.

Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his

father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed

## Jay Leno on unhappy Americans

Submitted by Lee Voss

If you're not a Jay Leno fan read what he wrote anyway. My respect and esteem for him has really increased.

"The other day I was reading Newsweek magazine and came across some poll data I found rather hard to believe. It must be true given the source, right?"

The Newsweek poll alleges that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69 percent of the country is unhappy with the performance of the president. In essence 2/3s of the citizenry just ain't happy and want a change.

So being the knuckle dragger I am, I started thinking, "What we are so unhappy about?"

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state? Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter? I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough. Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all and even send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings. Or if, while at home

watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss. This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90 percent of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world? Maybe that is what has 67 percent of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the president who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The president who has a measly 31 percent approval rating? Is this the same president who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The president that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession? Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled ungrateful brats safe from terrorist attacks?

The commander in chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me? Did you hear how bad the President is on the news or talk show? Did this news affect you so much, make you so unhappy you couldn't take a look around for yourself and see all the good things and be glad?

Think about it. Are you upset at the President because he actually caused you personal pain OR is it because the "Media" told you he was failing to kiss your sorry ungrateful behind ever y day.

Make no mistake about it. The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases may have died for your freedom. There is currently no draft in this country. They didn't have to go.

They are able to refuse to go and end up with either a "general" discharge, an "other than honorable" discharge or, worst case scenario, a "dishonorable" discharge after a few days in the brig.

So why then the flat-out discontentment in the minds of 69 percent of Americans? Say what you want but I blame it on the media. If it bleeds it leads and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner? The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells, and when criticized, try to defend their actions by "justifying" them in one way or another. Just ask why they tried to allow a murderer like O.J. Simpson to write a book about how he didn't kill his wife, but if he did he would have done it this way...Insane!

Stop buying the negativism you are fed everyday by the media. Shut off the TV, burn Newsweek, and use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage. Then start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad.

We are among the most blessed peoples on Earth and should thank God several times a day, or at least be thankful and appreciative."

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, "Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Jay Leno

## THE ALAMO

Submitted by Christine Burkett

A very gentle Texas lady was driving across a high bridge in Texas one day. As she neared the top of the bridge, she noticed a young man fixin' to jump.

She stopped her car, rolled down the window and said, "Please don't jump, think of your dear mother and father."

He replied, "Mom and Dad are both dead; I'm going to jump."

She said, "Well, think of your wife and children."

He replied, "I'm not married and I don't have any kids."

She said, "Well, think of the Alamo ."

He replied, "What's the Alamo?"

She replied, "Well bless your heart, just go ahead and jump, you dumb Yankee." †

## Texas GIRLS

Submitted by Gerald Carver

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their wives new duties.

The first man had married a Woman from Colorado and had told her that she was going to do dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man had married a woman from Nebraska He had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day

he saw it as better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a girl from Texas. He told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, enough to fix himself a bite to eat and load the dishwasher. †

## THREE THINGS

Submitted by Gerald Carver

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back -

1. Time
2. Words
3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person -

1. Anger
2. Pride
3. Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose-

1. Hope
2. Peace
3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable -

1. Love
2. Family & Friends
3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain -

1. Fortune
2. Success
3. Dreams

Three things that make a person -

1. Commitment
2. Sincerity
3. Hard work

Three things that are truly constant -  
Father - Son - Holy Spirit

I ask the Lord to bless you, as I pray for you today;

to guide you and protect you, as you go along your way.

God's love is always with you, God's promises are true.

And when you give God all your  
c a r e s ,  
you know God will see you through.  
†

## DEADLY PANCAKE MIX AND BOXED MIXES

Written by Snopes

Submitted by Izzy Bichkoff

I recently made a batch of pancakes for my healthy 14-year-old son, using a mix that was in our pantry. He said that they tasted "funny," but ate them anyway. About 10 minutes later, he began having difficulty breathing and his lips began turning purple. I gave him his allergy pill, had him sit on the sofa and told him to relax. He was wheezing while inhaling and exhaling.

My husband, a volunteer Firefighter and EMT, heated up some water, and we had my son lean over the water so the steam could clear his chest and sinuses. Soon, his breathing became more regular and his lips returned to a more normal color. We checked the date on the box of pancake mix and, to my dismay, found it was very outdated. As a reference librarian at an academic institution, I have the ability to search through many research databases. I did just that, and found an article the next day that mentioned a 19-year-old male DYING after eating pancakes made with outdated mix. Apparently, the mold that forms in old pancake mix can be toxic!

When we told our friends about my son's close call, we were surprised at the number of people who mentioned that they should check their own pancake mix since they don't use it often, or they had purchased it some time ago. With so many people shopping at warehouse-type stores and buying large sizes of pancake mix, I hope your readers will take the time to check the expiration date on their boxes.

Also, beware of outdated Bisquick, cake, brownie and cookie mixes. †

## Poking Fun At Seniors

Submitted by Gerald Carver

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me . your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you

are old.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

Two old guys are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide. The first old guy says to the second guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going." The second old guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence.

I'm looking for my wife, too. I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate. "The first old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her. What does she look like?"

The second old guy says: "Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, long legs, big bust, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"

To which the first old guy says, "Doesn't matter, --- let's look for yours."

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her out to some place expensive.

So I took her to a gas station!!!!!!

An older couple were lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk. She said: "You used to hold my hand when we were courting." Warily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep. A few moments later she said: "Then you used to kiss me. "Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek and settled down to sleep. Thirty seconds later she said: "Then you used to bite my neck." Angrily, he threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed.

"Where are you going?" she asked. "To get my teeth!" ☹

## The Brick

Submitted by Pat Love

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy! push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!" God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not. ☹

**Kum Doubles Sunday  
School Class**

**First United Methodist Church**

211 W. Third St.  
Irving, TX 75060

FUMC office: 972 253-3531  
FUMC Fax: 972 254-2498  
E-mail: carly@fumcirving.org

**Class Officers**

President	Marni Monty
Vice President	Doug Pierson
Secretary	Shirley Reynolds
Treasurer	Harrold Henson

**Committees**

Party	Pat Love, Shirley Carver, Mary Holcomb
Sunshine	Sylvia Mayhew, Jamie Pierson, Jan Dame
Nominating	Christine Burkett George Adamson Judy Dayton

**Missions Coordinators** Anna Wilkins, Ed Dame

**Travel Planner** Bill Holcomb

**Webmaster** Doug Pierson

**KUM DOUBLES MESSENGER Newsletter**

Editor Jim Dayton

**Correspondents:**

Chief	Christine Burkett
Prayer & Praise	Cindy Alleman, Becky Flanery
Circulation	Becky Flanery
Consultant	Judy Dayton

**Kum Doubles Sunday School Class Teachers:**

1st Sunday	Jim Street
2nd Sunday	Jan Dame
3rd Sunday (Alternating)	Gayle Baggett, Pat Clough
4th Sunday	Danny Parsons, Doug Pierson, Harold Henson
5th Sunday	Guest Speaker

**Kum Doubles members serving elsewhere during**

**Sunday School:**

Dottie Creech	SS Secretary
Paul Creech	Sonrise Village
Allan Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Pam Knott	Covenant Class Teacher
Mary Lou Niethamer	Ass't SS Secretary

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Kum Doubles class strives to please God through Bible Study, prayer, koinenia, service and gifts.**

**VISIT US**

Come as you are for coffee, fellowship and good Bible based instruction. We meet each Sunday morning [9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.] in room 315 [3rd floor at top of stairway near elevator].

**CONTACT US**

To activate prayer chain—Sylvia Mayhew [Phyllis Street, if Sylvia unavailable]  
General questions—Marni Monty  
FUMC Christian Education Director—Carly Abel 972 253-3531 ext. 27  
Newsletter—Jim Dayton  
Website—Doug Pierson

**SEND US NEWSLETTER MATERIAL**

We're always seeking stories and news for the newsletter. Please submit information on anything you think the class would enjoy. We'd love to hear you brag about your children or grandchildren. Forward me the emails that you get—inspiration, politics, jokes, one-liners, etc. What about photos that you think the class would enjoy? What about a letter to the editor expressing your opinion?

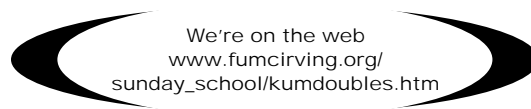
jimdayton@tx.rr.com

**ALL BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER**, both *Kum Doubles Kapers* and *The Messenger*, are available on the web at:

[www.fumcirving.org/sunday\\_school/kumdoubles.htm](http://www.fumcirving.org/sunday_school/kumdoubles.htm)

**THE NEWSLETTER PRAYER REQUEST PAGE** is only published in the classroom edition of the newsletter. If you receive the KUM DOUBLES MESSENGER over the internet, and you would like to receive the prayer request pages, please contact Jim Dayton or a member of the class to make arrangements for receiving those pages.

Kum Doubles Messenger is published on the First Sunday of each month.



*Kum Double Messenger is produced for the enjoyment of the Kum Doubles Sunday School class. It does not necessarily represent the views of the class, 1st UMC of Irving or the United Methodist Church. Kum Doubles is an adult Sunday School class of the 1st United Methodist Church, 211 W. Third St., Irving, TX.*