

August 2007

CLASS TIDBITS:

- VBS was a great success; lives changed and hearts saved
- Save Tuesday, August 21st—Ladie's Craft Night
- Welcome to Jim and LeQuita Davenport, out newest class member. We are so pleased to have them as part of our class

The Kum Doubles Messenger

Atheists and Agnostics Take Aim at Christians

June 11, 2007

(Ventura, CA) - A new evangelistic movement has emerged in America. Yet this effort does not spring from those loyal to a particular faith or religious view.

The new evangelists are atheists. People who have determined there is no God or who doubt his existence (a group commonly known as agnostics) are adopting a more aggressive, intentional effort to discredit the notion that God exists and to critique people of faith. Widely reviewed new books such as *The God Delusion* and *God is Not Great* represent this movement.

Beyond the bestseller lists, however, a new survey shows there is indeed a significant gap between Christians and those Americans who are in the "no-faith" camp. For instance, most atheists and agnostics (56%) agree with the idea that radical Christianity is just as threatening in America as is radical Islam. At the same time, two-thirds of Christians (63%) who have an active faith perceive that the nation is becoming more hostile and negative toward Christianity. ("Active faith" was defined as simply having gone to church, read the Bible and prayed during the week preceding the survey.)

A new study by The Barna Group examines the numbers, lifestyles and self-perceptions of America's atheists and agnostics, contrasting the no-faith audience with those who actively participate in the Christian faith. Surprisingly, not every measure shows points of differentiation; there was also some common ground between the two groups who are at opposite ends of the faith spectrum.

Two Worlds...Colliding?

In the study, the no-faith segment was defined as anyone who openly identified themselves as an atheist, an agnostic, or who specifically said

they have "no faith." In total, this group represents a surprisingly small slice of the adult population, about one out of every 11 Americans (9%). However, in a nation of more than 220 million adults, that comprises roughly 20 million people.

Interestingly, only about five million adults unequivocally use the label "atheist" and, when asked to describe the nature of God, staunchly reject the existence of such a being. In other words, most of those who align with the no-faith viewpoint harbor doubts as to the existence or nature of a supreme deity but do not express outright rejection of God.

Atheists and agnostics are distinct demographically from the active-faith segment. The no-faith audience is younger, and more likely to be male and unmarried. They also earn more and are more likely to be college graduates.

Perhaps partly due to the younger nature of the audience, atheists and agnostics are more likely than are active-faith adults to say they are into new technology (64% among no-faith individuals versus 52% among active-faith adults) and to assert that they adapt easily to change (81% versus 66%). Atheists and agnostics are also significantly less likely to say they are convinced they are right about things in life (38% versus 55%).

One of the most fascinating insights from the research is the increasing size of the no-faith segment with each successive generation. The proportion of atheists and agnostics increases from 6% of Elders (ages 61+) and 9% of Boomers (ages 42-60), to 14% of Busters (23-41) and 19% of adult Mosaics (18-22). When adjusted for age and compared to 15 years ago, each generation has changed surprisingly little over

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Announcements

- 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.

August 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

4 Mary Holcomb
 7 Cindy Alleman
 10 Shirley Reynolds
 13 Mary Lou Niethamer
 15 Allan Knott
 24 Mary Moore
 26 Lee Moore
 27 Les Flanery
 27 Harrold Henson

Anniversaries

15 Gerald & Shirley Carver
 17 Jim & Judy Dayton
 21 Harrold & Ruth Henson
 29 Windell & Gayle Baggett
 30 Bill & Mary Holcomb

August Sunday School Study Plan

Date	Teacher	Study	Scripture
5	Street	Maintaining Hope!	Lamentations 3
12	Dame	Personal Consequences of Sin	Ezekiel 18
19	Baggett	Call for Repentance	Zechariah 1 & 7
26	Pierson	Living Responsibly in the Community	Malachi 2 & 5

2007 Party Planner

Mon	Day	Host	Activity	Time	Notes
Jan		Committee	Chili Dinner		
Feb	12	Street	Gaither Concert		
Mar	17	Monty	Amazing Grace movie		
Apr	21	Patrick	BBQ Dinner		
May	5	Dame & Street	Dinner		
Jun		Committee	none		
Jul	14	Alleman & Dayton	Picnic		
Aug		committee			
Sep		Love & Holcomb			
Oct	20	Committee	Fall Craft Sale		
Nov		Henson & Carver	Build-a-Soup		
Dec	15	Committee	Christmas Party		Fellowship Hall

Prayer Requests

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

Praises

Politics & Religion

EDITORS NOTE: The following letter is dated, but it points out the stupidity of our US Congress.

Becoming Illegal (from a Maryland resident to his senator)

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
Senate Office Building
309 Hart
Washington DC , 20510

Dear Senator Sarbanes,

As a native Marylander and excellent customer of the Internal Revenue Service, I am writing to ask for your assistance. I have contacted the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to determine the process for becoming an illegal alien and they referred me to you.

My primary reason for wishing to change my status from U.S. Citizen to illegal alien stems from the bill which was recently passed by the Senate, and for which you voted. If my understanding of this bill's provisions is accurate, as an illegal alien who has been in the United States for five years, all I need to do to become a citizen is to pay a \$2,000 fine and income taxes for three of the last five years. I know a good deal when I see one and I am anxious to get the process started before everyone figures it out.

Simply put, those of us who have been here legally have had to pay taxes every year so I'm excited about the prospect of avoiding two years of taxes in return for paying a \$2,000 fine. Is there any way that I can apply to be illegal retroactively? This would yield an excellent result for me and my family because we paid heavy taxes in 2004 and 2005.

Additionally, as an illegal alien I could begin using the local emergency room as my primary health care provider. Once I have stopped paying premiums for

medical insurance, my accountant figures I could save almost \$10,000 a year. Another benefit in gaining illegal status would be that my daughter would receive preferential treatment relative to her law school applications, as well as "in-state" tuition rates for many colleges throughout the United States for my son.

Lastly, I understand that illegal status would relieve me of the burden of renewing my driver's license and making those burden-

some car insurance premiums. This is very important to me given that I still have college age children driving my car.

If you would provide me with an outline of the process to become illegal (retroactively if possible) and copies of the necessary forms, I would be most appreciative. Thank you for your assistance.

Your Loyal Constituent,
Pete McG.....

Trivial Pursuit

NEED CHEERING UP?

Happy, Texas 79042
Pep, Texas 79353
Smiley, Texas 78159
Paradise, Texas 76073
Rainbow, Texas 76077
Sweet Home, Texas 77987
Comfort, Texas 78013
Friendship, Texas 76530

SUN WORSHIPPER?

Sun City , Texas 78628
Sunrise , Texas 76661
Sunset, Texas 76270
Sundown, Texas 79372
Sunray , Texas 79086
Sunny Side , Texas 77423

HUNGRY?

Bacon , Texas 76301
Noodle , Texas 79536
Oatmeal , Texas 78605
Turkey , Texas 79261
Trout , Texas 75789
Sugar Land , Texas 77479
Salty, Texas 76567
Rice , Texas 75155

AND TO DRINK?

Sweetwater , Texas 79556

FEEL A NEED TO TRAVEL?

Detroit , Texas 75436
Colorado City , Texas 79512
Denver City , Texas 79323
Nevada , Texas 75173
Memphis , Texas 79245
Miami , Texas 79059
Boston , Texas 75570
Santa Fe , Texas 77517
Tennessee Colony , Texas 75861
Reno , Texas 75462

FEEL A NEED TO TRAVEL OUT OF COUNTRY?

Athens , Texas 75751
Canadian , Texas 79014
China , Texas 77613
Egypt , Texas 77436
Turkey , Texas 79261
London , Texas 76854
New London , Texas 75682
Paris , Texas 75460
Ireland, Texas
Tokio, Texas
DC OR TEXAS?
Whitehouse , Texas 75791
SOLAR SYSTEM OR TEXAS?
Earth , Texas 79031
WHICH CAME FIRST?
Texas City , Texas 77590
EXHAUSTED?
Energy , Texas 76452
COLD?
Blanket , Texas 76432
Winters, Texas
ENJOY READING HISTORY?
Santa Anna , Texas
Goliad , Texas
Alamo , Texas
Gun Barrel City , Texas
NEED OFFICE SUPPLIES?
Staples , Texas 78670
MEN FROM FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM?
Venus , Texas 76084
BORDER CITY?
Texline , Texas 79087
OK, KIDS, WHO IS?
Kermit , Texas 79745
Elmo , Texas 75118

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A Unifying Wall

Submitted by Lee Voss

February 4, 2007

READ: Nehemiah 4:10-18

So we built the wall, . . . for the people had a mind to work. —Nehemiah 4:6

Walls divide. That's the reason they're built. The Great Wall of China was built to keep back marauding tribes. That remarkable line of defense once snaked for 4,000 miles across Asia, and much of it still stands. In contrast, the Berlin Wall kept people in instead of out. Its destruction in 1989 brought people together in a joyous celebration.

Centuries ago, the reconstruction of another wall served to bring people together. God had told Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. It was essential for protection but had been demolished during the Babylonian invasion. But the enemies of the Jews opposed the reconstruction project and looked for ways to sabotage their efforts (Neh. 4:7-8). While half the men worked, the others stood guard to protect them.

In addition to providing protection, this wall was a demonstration of teamwork and unity (Neh. 3). All the team members brought their talents and skills, blending them together to accomplish far more than they could have achieved as individuals.

It should be that way in the church today. Our talents are gifts from God to be used for building His kingdom. We work better when we work together. —Cindy Hess Kasper

God builds His church with different stones,
and makes each one belong;
All shapes and sizes fit in place
To make the structure strong. —Sper

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. †

Mrs. Goodnest

Submitted by Gerald Carver

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl, Marcy, set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?" Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is". The friend said, "Well, who is she"? "That's just Shirley Goodnest", Timmy replied, "and her daughter, Marcy". "Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us"? "Well", Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it"! The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:22-26 May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today, and always. †

Smiles to You

Submitted by Christine Burkett

I dialed a number and got the following recording:

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call.

I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the Beep.

If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

~~~~~

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

~~~~~

My wife and I had words, But I didn't get to use mine.

~~~~~

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

~~~~~

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

~~~~~

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

~~~~~

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

~~~~~

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

~~~~~

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

~~~~~†

**A** little known fact: A 2006 study by Texas A&M University found that the average American walks about 900 miles per year.

Another study by the American Beer Institute found that Americans drink an average of 22 gallons of beer a year.

This means, on average, Americans get approximately 41 miles per gallon.

(Continued from page 1)

the past decade and a half. Each new generation entered adulthood with a certain degree of secular fervor, which appears to stay relatively constant within that generation over time. This contradicts the popular notion that such generational differences are simply a product of people becoming more faith-oriented as they age.

**Independent...and Disengaged**

One of the most significant differences between active-faith and no-faith Americans is the cultural disengagement and sense of independence exhibited by atheists and agnostics in many areas of life. They are less likely than active-faith Americans to be registered to vote (78% versus 89%), to volunteer to help a non-church-related non-profit (20% versus 30%), to describe themselves as "active in the community" (41% versus 68%), and to personally help or serve a homeless or poor person (41% versus 61%). They are also more likely to be registered to vote as an independent or with a non-mainstream political party.

One of the outcomes of this profile - and one of the least favorable points of comparison for atheist and agnostic adults - is the paltry amount of money they donate to charitable causes. The typical no-faith

A Secular, Faith-Resistant Mindset is More Common among Young Adults

| Generation  | Current | 1992* | 2007* |
|-------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Adult Mosa- | 18-22   | --    | 19%   |
| Busters     | 23-41   | 16%   | 14%   |
| Boomers     | 42-60   | 8%    | 9%    |
| Elders      | 61+     | 4%    | 6%    |

\*% Atheist and Agnostic c  
(Source: The Barna Group, Ventura, CA)

American donated just \$200 in 2006, which is more than seven times less than the amount contributed by the prototypical active-faith adult (\$1500). Even when church-based giving is subtracted from the

equation, active-faith adults donated twice as many dollars last year as did atheists and agnostics. In fact, while just 7% of active-faith adults failed to contribute any personal funds in 2006, that compares with 22% among the no-faith adults.

**Lifestyle Gaps...and Common Ground**

The study produced a mix of findings when it came to lifestyle and personal priorities. In terms of differences, Christians were more motivated by faith, as expected. Yet, just one-quarter of active-faith adults identified their faith as the primary focus of their life. For their part, atheists and agnostics were more likely than were Christians to be focused on living a comfortable, balanced lifestyle (12% versus 4%) or on acquiring wealth (10% versus 2%). Three-quarters of no-faith adults said they are clear about the meaning and purpose of their life and a surprising one-quarter said the phrase "deeply spiritual" accurately describes them. One of the largest gaps was the perception of being "at peace," a description less frequently embraced by no-faith adults (67% versus 90%).

Nevertheless, there were a number of areas of commonality between the two audiences. The two groups were equally as likely to think of themselves as good citizens, as placing their family first, as being loyal and reliable individuals, as preferring to be in control, and as being leaders. Each group admitted to experiencing personal difficulties with similar frequency, including being in serious debt (11% versus 10%), dealing with a personal addiction (13% versus 12%), and trying to find a few good friends (41% versus 40%). Christians admit to being overweight with greater frequency (26% of no-faith, compared with 41% of active-faith), while atheists and agnostics are more likely to feel stressed out (37% versus 26%).

In their interactions with others, the two groups also share common ground. Both audiences were equally likely to say they have discussed political, moral, and spiritual issues with others in the last month. In addition, about one-fifth of both active-faith and no-faith adults said they often try to persuade other people to change their

views.

**Research Details**

This report is based upon a series of nationwide telephone surveys conducted by The Barna Group with random samples of adults, age 18 and older. These surveys were conducted from January 2005 through January 2007. In total, those studies included 1055 adults who identified themselves as atheists or agnostics. The maximum margin of sampling error associated with the aggregate sample of atheists and agnostics is ±3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The cumulative sample of active-faith adults was 3011 interviews, accurate to within +1.8 percentage points. The minimum number of active-faith adults interviewed in each study was 250 individuals (+6.5 percentage points), while each study included a minimum of 100 atheists and agnostics (+10.0 percentage points). Statistical weighting was used to calibrate the sample to known population percentages in relation to demographic variables.

The Barna Group, Ltd. (which includes its research division, The Barna Research Group) conducts primary research, produces media resources pertaining to spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families and Christian ministries. Located in Ventura, California, Barna has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984. If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each new, bi-monthly update on the latest research findings from The Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org).

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## Just diagnosed with AAADD

Submitted by Harrold Henson

**R**ecently, I was diagnosed with AAADD [Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder]

This is how it develops:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox, when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table, and see that there is only 1 check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the

counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

----the car isn't washed,

----the bills aren't paid,

----there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter,

----the flowers don't have enough water,

----there is still only 1 check in my check book,

----I can't find the remote,

----I can't find my glasses,

----and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favor, will you? Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember to whom it has been sent.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

P.S I just remembered. I LEFT THE WATER RUNNING IN THE DRIVEWAY!†

## Questions to Ponder

Submitted by Lee Voss

**C**an you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Down Memory Lane

Submitted by Lee Voss

A little house with three bedrooms  
and one car on the street,  
A mower that you had to push to make  
the grass look neat.  
In the kitchen on the wall we only had  
one phone,  
And no need for recording things,  
someone was always home.  
We only had a living room where we  
would congregate,  
Unless it was at mealtime in the kitchen  
where we ate.  
We had no need for family rooms or  
extra rooms to dine,  
When meeting as a family those two  
rooms would work out fine.  
We only had one TV set, and channels  
maybe two,  
But always there was one of them with  
something worth the view.  
For snacks we had potato chips that  
tasted like a chip,  
And if you wanted flavor there was  
Lipton's onion dip.  
Store-bought snacks were rare because  
my mother liked to cook,  
And nothing can compare to snacks in  
Betty Crocker's book.  
Weekends were for family trips or  
staying home to play,  
We all did things together -- even go to  
church to pray.  
When we did our weekend trips  
depending on the weather,  
No one stayed at home because we  
liked to be together.  
Sometimes we would separate to do  
things on our own,  
But we knew where the others were  
without our own cell phone.  
Then there were the movies with your  
favorite movie star,

And nothing can compare to watching  
movies in your car.  
Then there were the picnics at the peak  
of summer season,  
Pack a lunch and find some trees and  
never need a reason.  
Get a baseball game together with all the  
friends you know,  
Have real action playing ball -- and no  
game video.  
Remember when the doctor used to be  
the family friend,  
And didn't need insurance or a lawyer to  
defend?  
The way that he took care of you or what  
he had to do,  
Because he took an oath and strived to  
do the best for you.  
Remember going to the store and  
shopping casually,  
And when you went to pay for it you  
used your own money?  
Nothing that you had to swipe or punch  
in some amount,  
Remember when the cashier person had  
to really count?  
The milkman used to go from door to  
door,  
And it was just a few cents more than  
going to the store.  
There was a time when mailed letters  
came right to your door,  
Without a lot of junk mail ads sent out by  
every store.  
The mailman knew each house by name  
and knew where it was sent;  
There were not loads of mail addressed  
to "present occupant."  
There was a time when just one glance  
was all that it would take, A  
and you would know the kind of car, the  
model and the make.  
They didn't look like turtles trying to  
squeeze out every mile;

They were streamlined, white walls, fins,  
and really had some style.  
One time the music that you played  
whenever you would jive,  
Was from a vinyl, big-holed record called  
a forty-five.  
The record player had a post to keep  
them all in line,  
And then the records would drop down  
and play one at a time.  
Oh sure, we had our problems then, just  
like we do today,  
And always we were striving, trying for a  
better way.  
Oh, the simple life we lived still seems  
like so much fun,  
How can you explain a game, just kick  
the can and run?  
And why would boys put baseball cards  
between bicycle spokes,  
And for a nickel red machines had little  
bottled Cokes?  
This life seemed so much easier and  
slower in some ways,  
I love the new technology but I sure miss  
those days.  
So time moves on and so do we, and  
nothing stays the same,  
But I sure love to reminisce and walk  
down memory lane. †

A little known fact: A 2006 study by  
Texas A&M University found that  
the average American walks about 900  
miles per year.

Another study by the American Beer  
Institute found that Americans drink an  
average of 22 gallons of beer a year.

This means, on average, Ameri-  
cans get approximately 41 miles per  
gallon. †

## Flying in a F-14 Tomcat

Submitted by Harrold Henson

**B**elow is an article written by Rick Reilly of Sports Illustrated. He details his experiences when given the opportunity to fly in a F-14 Tomcat. If you aren't laughing out loud by the time you get to "Milk Duds," your sense of humor is seriously broken.

"Now this message is for America's most famous athletes:

Someday you may be invited to fly in the back-seat of one of your country's most powerful fighter jets. Many of you already have . John Elway, John Stockton, Tiger Woods to name a few. If you get this opportunity, let me urge you, with the greatest sincerity...

M o v e   t o   G u a m .  
C h a n g e   y o u r   n a m e .  
F a k e   y o u r   o w n   d e a t h !  
W h a t e v e r   y o u   d o .  
D o   N o t   G o ! ! !  
I   k n o w .

The U.S. Navy invited me to try it. I was thrilled. I was pumped. I was toast! I should've known when they told me my pilot would be Chip (Biff) King of Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach.

Whatever you're thinking a Top Gun named Chip (Biff) King looks like, triple it. He's about six-foot, tan, ice-blue eyes, wavy surfer hair, finger-crippling handshake -- the kind of man who wrestles dyspeptic alligators in his leisure time. If you see this man, run the other way. Fast.

Biff King was born to fly. His father, Jack King, was for years the voice of NASA missions. ("T-minus 15 seconds and counting ..." Remember?) Chip would charge neighborhood kids a quarter each to hear his dad. Jack would wake up from naps surrounded by nine-year-olds waiting for him to say, "We have a liftoff"

Biff was to fly me in an F-14D Tomcat, a

ridiculously powerful \$60 million weapon with nearly as much thrust as weight, not unlike Colin Montgomerie. I was worried about getting airsick, so the night before the flight I asked Biff if there was something I should eat the next morning.

"Bananas," he said.

"For the potassium?" I asked.

"No," Biff said, "because they taste about the same coming up as they do going down."

The next morning, out on the tarmac, I had on my flight suit with my name sewn over the left breast. (No call sign -- like Crash or Sticky or Leadfoot .. But, still, very cool.) I carried my helmet in the crook of my arm, as Biff had instructed. If ever in my life I had a chance to nail Nicole Kidman, this was it.

A fighter pilot named Psycho gave me a safety briefing and then fastened me into my ejection seat, which, when employed, would "egress" me out of the plane at such a velocity that I would be immediately knocked unconscious.

Just as I was thinking about aborting the flight, the canopy closed over me, and Biff gave the ground crew a thumbs-up. In minutes we were firing nose up at 600 mph. We leveled out and then canopy-rolled over another F-14.

Those 20 minutes were the rush of my life. Unfortunately, the ride lasted 80. It was like being on the roller coaster at Six Flags Over Hell. Only without rails. We did barrel rolls, snap rolls, loops, yanks and banks. We dived, rose and dived again, sometimes with a vertical velocity of 10,000 feet per minute. We chased another F-14, and it chased us.

We broke the speed of sound. Sea was sky and sky was sea. Flying at 200 feet we did 90-degree turns at 550 mph, creating a G force of 6.5, which is to say I felt as if 6.5 times my body weight was smashing against me, thereby approximating life as Mrs. Colin Montgomerie.

And I egressed the bananas.

And I egressed the pizza from the night before.

And the lunch before that.

I egressed a box of Milk Duds from the sixth grade.

I made Linda Blair look polite. Because of the G's, I was egressing stuff that never thought would be egressed

I went through not one airsick bag, but two

Biff said I passed out. Twice. I was coated in sweat. At one point, as we were coming in upside down in a banked curve on a mock bombing target and the G's were flattening me like a tortilla and I was in and out of consciousness, I realized I was the first person in history to throw down.

I used to know 'cool'. Cool was Elway throwing a touchdown pass, or Norman making a five-iron bite. But now I really know 'cool'. Cool is guys like Biff, men with cast-iron stomachs and freon nerves. I wouldn't go up there again for Derek Jeter's black book, but I'm glad Biff does every day, and for less a year than a rookie reliever makes in a home stand.

A week later, when the spins finally stopped, Biff called. He said he and the fighters had the perfect call sign for me. Said he'd send it on a patch for my flight suit.

What is it? I asked.

"Two Bags." †

*(Continued from page 12)*

walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes. †

## Parachutes

Submitted by Gerald Carver

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and

not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?"

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory -- he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.✚

## House Cleaning

Submitted by Christine Burkett

Last Week I threw out Worrying, it was getting old and in the way. It kept me from being me; I couldn't do things God's way.

I threw out a book on MY PAST (Didn't have time to read it anyway). Replaced it with NEW GOALS, started reading it today.

I threw out hate and bad memories, (Remember how I treasured them so)? Got me a NEW PHILOSOPHY too, threw out the one from long ago.

Brought in some new books too, called I CAN, I WILL, AND I MUST. Threw out I might, I think and I ought. WOW, you should've seen the dust.

I ran across an OLD FRIEND, I hadn't talked to in a while. His name is GOD the Father, and I really like His style.

He helped me to do some cleaning and added some things Himself. Like PRAYER, HOPE, FAITH and LOVE, Yes I placed them right on the shelf.

I picked up this special thing and placed it at the front door. I FOUND IT- its called PEACE. Nothing gets me down anymore.

Yes, I've got my house looking nice. Looks good around the place. For things like Worry and Trouble there just isn't any space.

It's good to do a little house cleaning, Get rid of the things on the shelf. It sure makes things brighter; maybe you should TRY IT YOURSELF.✚

## WHO TOOK OUR PLACE?

Submitted By Ed Dame

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said,

That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."✚

Author unknown

### Questions Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in your butt?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window? †

### **CAUTION: This joke may be Hazardous to Your Health**

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre. After careful planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, "Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings. I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

(And you thought I didn't have de Gaulle to send this on to someone else. Well, I figured I had nothing Toulouse!)

Que Serra, Serra!

(Groan quietly, please!) †

### Trivial Pursuit Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

Nemo , Texas 76070

Tarzan , Texas 79783

Winnie , Texas 77665

Sylvester , Texas 79560

HAVEN'T SMILED ENOUGH YET?

Frognot , Texas 75424

Bigfoot , Texas 78005

Hog eye , Texas 75423

Cactus , Texas 79013

Notrees , Texas 79759

Best, Texas 76932

Veribest , Texas 76886

Kickapoo , Texas 75763

Dime Box, Texas

Telephone , Texas 75488

Telegraph , Texas 76883

Whiteface , Texas 79379

Twitty, Texas 79079

HOW TO YOU FEEL ABOUT AL GORE?

Kilgore , Texas 75662

BUT WHAT ABOUT?

Muleshoe

Cut n shoot

Hoop and Holler

Ding Dong

A PUN OR A PLACE?

Knott, Texas

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I BID THEE.....

Farewell , Texas †

## THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE

Submitted by Gerald Carver

When everyone on earth was dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "I want the men to make two lines. One line for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women."

I want all the women to report to St. Peter." Soon, the women were gone, and there were two lines of men. The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves, I created you to be the head of your household! You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose! Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him." God turned to the one man, "How did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here." †

## Aprons

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a pot-holder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma

(Continued on page 10)

## NIGHT WATCH

Submitted by Christine Burkett

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength.

Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

The next time someone needs you ... just be there. Stay.

We are not human beings going through a temporary spiritual experience.

We are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience.

People will forget the things you've said, People will forget the things you've done, but They will never forget. the way you made them feel.†

at Georgetown University

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

Frederic Bastiat, French Economist (1801-1850)

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Ronald Reagan (1986)

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

P.J. O'Rourke

In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.

Voltaire (1764)

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!

Pericles (430 B.C.)

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

Mark Twain (1866)

Talk is cheap...except when Congress does it.

Unknown

The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.

Ronald Reagan

The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.

Winston Churchill

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

-Edward Langley, Artist (1928 - 1995)

## All About Politics

Submitted by Harrold Henson

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress....But then I repeat myself.

Mark Twain

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Winston Churchill

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

George Bernard Shaw

A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man .which debt he proposes to pay off with your money.

G Gordon Liddy

Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.

James Bovard, Civil Libertarian (1994)

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton

**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   |

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|            |                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
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| Sunshine   | Sylvia Mayhew, Jamie<br>Pierson, Jan Dame          |
| Nominating | Christine Burkett<br>George Adamson<br>Judy Dayton |

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Editor Jim Dayton

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| Prayer & Praise | Cindy Alleman, Becky<br>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<br>Clough                  |
| 4th Sunday               | Danny Parsons, Doug<br>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**

to be developed

**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?

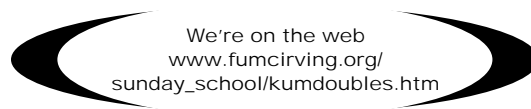
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