

Sep 2007

CLASS TIDBITS:

- Congratulations to Ed & Jan Dame on the birth of granddaughter Emily Grace Buck on Aug 9th.
- Jenn VanTol, daughter of Jim & Judy Dayton, found out that her triplets are three girls.
- Brad Holcomb, son of Bill & Mary Holcomb is moving to Houston from New Jersey.
- Bear Denton recently had surgery to install a Pacer-maker.

The Kum Doubles Messenger

Grandma's Letter to Her Grandson

By Pat Love

Editors Note: This month we celebrate National Grandparent's Day. Most of us have cause to celebrate. The following letter from Pat Love to her grandson, Jordan, sets a benchmark for expressing our love for our grandchildren. We would all do well to follow Pat's example, and communicate our love and appreciation to our grandchildren in a personal letter. Thank you, Pat for giving us a model for communicating to our grandchildren.

May 9, 2007

Dear Jordan,

Now you know why older people say, "Time Flies" or "It seems like only yesterday..."

We also say, "how can he possibly already be 18 years old and graduating from high school?" It seems like only yesterday he was that little guy

who got Granddad to go to WalMart to buy Ninja Turtles or he got his first BB gun and learned to use it at the farm in Ranger.

There were also those young days in First



The Love Family

(Continued on page 7)

Americans Are Most Worried about Children's Future

August 20, 2007

(Ventura, CA) - With the 2008 presidential election campaign well underway, a new survey suggests that the biggest issue of them all may well be one that leaders do not seem to be focused upon: the well-being of America's children. When asked to indicate which of eleven changes were "absolutely necessary" for the U.S. to address within the next ten years, the issues that emerged as the frontrunners were "the overall care and resources devoted to children" and "the quality of a public school education." Each of those challenges was listed

as changes that were absolutely necessary within the coming decade by 82% of the adult population.

Trailing the focus on children were matters such as improving national security (72%); helping the poor and disadvantaged (69%); upgrading the reliability and honesty in news reporting (63%); increasing the nation's investment in environmental protection (60%); and enhancing the state of marriage and families (60%).

The least significant issues to address were improving the spiritual state of the country

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Announcements

- Come to the Sunday School party on September 15th in fellowship hall. The theme will be country and western so be sure to wear your cowboy and cowgirl duds. See Pat Love or Mary Holcomb for food to bring.
- September 21st is our classes turn to feed the Golden Agers. See Becky Flanery to help out.
- 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.

September 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						

Birthdays

3 Nita Patrick
 3 Anna Kirkland
 20 Bill Monty
 22 JoCarol Adamson

Anniversaries

None

September Sunday School Study Plan

Date	Teacher	Study	Scripture
2	Street	God created the Heavens and the Earth	Genesis 1
9	Dame	God created Humankind	Genesis 1:26-30
16	Baggett	Abraham, Sarah & Isaac	Genesis 15
23	Parsons	Abraham, Hagar & Ishmael	Genesis 21
30		Isaac & Rebekah	Genesis 24

2007 Party Planner

Mon	Day	Host	Activity	Time	Notes
Jan		Committee	Chili Diner		
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	None		
Sep		Love & Holcomb	Cowboy Dinner		
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



Trivial Pursuit

Submitted by Mary Moore from Parade Magazine

Does a ten-gallon hat really hold that much? They don't

the Weasel" why does a clown always pop out instead?

—Miamisburg, OH

Can a ventriloquist converse with his dentist while his teeth are being worked on?

—Brooklyn, MI

After I began experiencing menopausal hot flashes, I wondered: Could we harness all this free heat generated by millions of women for a practical use?

—Stuart, FL

Who gets to peel all those popcorn shrimp?

—Kansas City, KS

Why do birds sometimes pick a single vehicle to make a mess on? Do they have a warped sense of humor, or are they not capable of this kind of thought?

—Williamsburg, VA

I just noticed a flock of geese flying in "V" formation. Is that the only letter they know?

—Holbrook, NY

I noticed that you have the same first name as Marilyn Monroe. Are you two related?

—Portland, OR

Didn't Louis XIII have any furniture? Everybody's heard about his son's furniture, but what about him?

—Philadelphia, PA

look big enough.

—Oak Park, IL

Suppose we could get all living beings on Earth to face one direction and then begin running. Would this influence the speed of the Earth's rotation?

—Waterloo, NY

Where did all the stars go? In the 50's, the sky was loaded with them.

—St Petersburg, FL

If fish could sneeze, and a whole school of fish sneezed all at once, how big of a wave would it create?

—Wichita, KS

Do you think daylight-saving time could be contributing to global warming? The longer we have sunlight, the more it heats the atmosphere.

—San Antonio, TX

Do flies ever get sick?

—Riverside, CA

I see falling stars nearly every night. They seem to come out of nowhere. Have stars ever fallen out of any known constellations?

—Batesville, AK

When a jack-in-the-box plays "Pop Goes

Dame's Granchild

Ed & Jan Dame are the proud grandparents of a new baby daughter born August 9, 2007 in Flint, Michigan. Emily Grace Buck weighed 8lb 13oz and was 21 ½ inches long. Congratulations to the proud grandparents. †



Emily Grace Buck

A 3-year-old tells all * *

Submitted by Danny Parsons

A 3-year-old tells all from his mother's restroom stall.

My little guy, Cade, is quite a talker. He loves to communicate and does it quite well. He talks to people constantly, whether we're in the library, the grocery store or at a drive-thru window.

People often comment on how clearly he speaks for a just-turned-3-year-old. And you never have to ask him to turn up the volume. It's always fully cranked. There've been several embarrassing times that I've wished the meaning of his words would have been masked by a not-so-audible voice, but never have I wished this more than last week at Costco.

Halfway, through our shopping trip, nature called, so I took Cade with me into the rest-

room. If you'd been one of the ladies in the restroom that evening, this is what you would have heard coming from the second to the last stall:

"Mommy, are you gonna go potty? Oh! Why are you putting toiwet paper on the potty, Mommy? Oh! You gonna sit down on da toiwet paper now?"

Mommy, what are you doing? Mommy, are you gonna go stinkies on the potty?"

At this point I started mentally counting how many women had been in the bathroom when I walked in. Several stalls were full ... 4? 5?

Maybe we could wait until they all left before I had to make my debut out of this stall and reveal my identity.

Cade continued, "Mommy, you ARE going stinkies aren't you? Oh, dats a good girl, Mommy! Are you gonna get some candy for going stinkies on the potty? Let me see doze stinkies, Mommy! Oh Mommy! I'm trying to see in dere. Oh! I see dem. Dat is a very good girl, Mommy. You are gonna get some candy!"

I heard a few faint chuckles coming from the stalls on either side of me. Where is a screaming newborn when you need her?

Good grief. This was really getting embarrassing. I was definitely waiting a long time before exiting. Trying to divert him, I said, "Why don't you look in Mommy's purse and see if you can find some candy. We'll both have some!" "No, I'm trying to see doze more stinkies. Oh! Mommy!" He started to gag at this point. "Uh oh, Mommy. I fink I'm gonna frow up. Mommy, doze stinkies are making me frow up!! Dat is so gross!!" As the gags became louder, so did the chuckles outside my stall. I quickly flushed the toilet in hopes of changing the subject. I began to reason with myself: OK. There are four other toilets. If I count four flushes, I can be reasonably assured that those who overheard this embarrassing monologue will be long gone.

"Mommy! Would you get off the potty, now? I want you to be done going stinkies! Get up! Get up!" He grunted as

he tried to pull me off. Now I could hear full-blown laughter. I bent down to count the feet outside my door.

"Oh, are you wooking under dere, Mommy? You wooking under da door? What were you wooking at, Mommy? You wooking at the wady's feet?"

More laughter. I stood inside the locked door and tried to assess the situation.

"Mommy, it's time to wash our hands, now. We have to go out now, Mommy." He started pounding on the door. "Mommy, don't you want to wash your hands? I want to go out!!"

I saw that my "wait 'em out" plan was unraveling. As I sheepishly opened the door, and found an open sink, I thought, Where's the fine print on the 'motherhood contract' where I signed away every bit of my privacy?

But as my little boy gave me a big, cheeky grin while he rubbed bubbly soap between his chubby little hands, I thought, I'd sign it all away again, just to be known as Mommy to this little fellow.

(Written by Shannon Popkin, who is a freelance writer, and mother of three. She lives with her family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she no longer uses public restrooms)

Grandma's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

Methodist Day School when you and Joey together were responsible for the "Boot Ban Rule" when you got into a free-for-all kicking match and Miss Vickie announced you could no longer wear boots to school. Granddad and I used to tell our friends, "We are going to the Program at Church tonight because Jordan MIGHT sing." We never knew for sure you would sing but we wanted to be there in case you did!

All at once, you were in Middle School and playing sports and then, before we knew it, you were driving! We have so many great memories of you and how you have grown into the fine young man we are so very proud of. We have you and parents to thank for sharing all those memories with us.

You have lived those years and your time at Coppell High School have been the best. Your hours spent in football, baseball and wrestling were times when you played hard and always fair and that is really what counts. Again, we were there to watch you and to cheer for you and our hearts were so full of our pride and love for you.

You have almost completed that part of your life and then there will be only memories for you and you will think, "It seems like only yesterday when we were Freshman at Coppell High and we were "Cowboys" and proud of it." What a great time you had with all your close friends who were there with you.

In a few days, you will no longer be entering the doors at Coppell High School, but you will be taking so many wonderful memories with you because you were a "Cowboy."

It is time to move on to the next part of your life. You already know about pride, integrity, determination and love of your family. Trust in God and thank Him every day for making you the person you have become. Make your Life count and always remember... "Time Flies."

Your #1 Fan, ♡

Political Wisdom

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 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

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

-Mark Twain

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

-Herbert Spencer, English Philosopher (1820-1903)

There is no distinctly Native American criminal class...save Congress.

-Mark Twain

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

-Edward Langley, Artist (1928 - 1995)

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.

-Thomas Jefferson ♡

Why Do My Son Have to Die

Submitted by Harrold Henson

A mother asked President Bush, 'Why did my son have to die in Iraq?'

Another mother asked President Kennedy, 'Why did my son have to die in Viet Nam?'

Another mother asked President Truman 'Why did my son have to die in Korea?'

Another mother asked President F.D. Roosevelt, 'Why did my son have to die at Iwo Jima?'

Another mother asked President W. Wilson, 'Why did my son have to die on the battlefield of France?'

Yet another mother asked President Lincoln, 'Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?'

And yet another mother asked President G. Washington, 'Why did my son have to die near Valley Forge?'

Then long, long ago, a mother asked...'Heavenly Father, why did my Son have to die on a cross outside of Jerusalem?'

The answers to all these are similar -- 'So that others may have life and dwell in peace, happiness and freedom.' †

WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

Submitted by Lee Voss

A love that can never be fathomed;
A life that can never die;

A righteousness that can never be tarnished;

A peace that can never be understood;

A rest that can never be disturbed;

A joy that can never be diminished;

A hope that can never be disappointed;

A glory that can never be clouded;

A light that can never be darkened;

A happiness that can never be interrupted;

A strength that can never be enfeebled;

A purity that can never be defiled;

A beauty that can never be marred;

A wisdom that can never be baffled;

Resources that can never be exhausted.

†

Value of Money

Submitted by Bob Potter

Verily I say unto ye...
Money

It can buy a house But not a home.

It can buy a clock But not time

It can buy you a position But not respect

It can buy you a bed But not sleep

It can buy you a book But not knowledge

It can buy you medicine But not health

It can buy you blood But not life

So you see money isn't everything
And it often causes pain and suffering

I tell you this because I am your friend and
as your friend I want to take away your
pain and suffering!!

So Send me all your money and I will suffer for you!

Cash only, please!

After all, what are friends for, huh?? †

Submitted by Izzy Bischkoff

Google has a new feature that enables you to type a telephone number into the search bar, hit "enter" and be given the person's name and address. You can then hit "MapQuest" and get a map to that person's house.

This should concern you. It's a nationwide phone book in reverse. If your child gives out his/her telephone number, anyone can look for that number on GOOGLE and find out where the child lives. The safety issues are obvious-----and frightening.

NOTE: YOU CAN HAVE YOUR NUMBER REMOVED----OR BLOCKED. To verify that your number is mapped, go to www.google.com/ Type your phone number in the search bar [WITH area code] and hit "enter."

IF YOU WANT TO BLOCK "GOOGLE" from divulging your private information, simply click on your telephone number and then go to the "Removal Form." Removal takes 48 hours.

This may not apply to Unlisted Numbers or cell phones. Check it out!! And share this information with your contacts. †

Murphy's Law

Submitted by Harrold Henson

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

4. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

5. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

6. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90 percent probability you'll get it wrong.

7. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, some fool would try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.

8. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

9. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left over by those who got there first.

10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer. (not true for all men)

11. A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

12. The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

13. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

14. When you go into court, your fate is in the hands of people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Bill Clinton is getting \$12 million for his memoirs. Hillary got \$8 million for hers. That's \$20 million for the memories of two people, who for eight years, repeatedly testified under oath, that they couldn't remember anything. Is this a great country, or what?

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(53%); increasing people's sense of belonging to a community (45%); enhancing the moral content within entertainment (44%); and advancing the health of Christian churches (44%).

Desired Changes in the United States

Divisive Issues

Interestingly, there were four issues posed that generated the most divergent

opinions among adults - and all four pertained to matters of faith, morality and family. In examining the responses from adults in each of 80 different subgroups of the population (e.g., men, women, conservatives, liberals, Catholics, Protestants, etc.) and comparing the percentage of each segment who said change in a specific dimension was "absolutely necessary," the Barna Group reported that each of those four issues produced a range of more than fifty percentage points!

Enhancing the health of Christian churches over the coming decade was seen as absolutely necessary by 93% of evangelical Christians but by only 4% of adults who do not believe the Bible can be interpreted literally. That range of 89 percentage points was the largest gap recorded.

Improving the spiritual state of the country was viewed as an absolutely necessary action by 88% of the people who say that their faith is the top priority in their life, but by only 12% of those who do not take the Bible literally.

Upgrading the state of marriage and families was deemed to be an absolutely necessary undertaking by 91% of evangelicals, but only 30% of those who do not take the Bible literally concurred.

Addressing and bettering the moral content of entertainment was a hot issue for 73% of evangelicals, but a mere 16% of atheists and agnostics agreed.

In contrast, the issue that produced the greatest alignment across the board was enhancing the overall care and resources devoted to children. The range of response was 28 percentage points, which is less than half the difference registered for the four most divisive issues.

Groups That See Things Differently

The survey underscored that the most divergent opinions are held by groups distinguished by their affluence, ideology, faith, gender and race.

The survey revealed that there were statistically significant differences between upscale and downscale adults on 10 of the 11 issues. Similarly, evangelical Christians were significantly different from non-Christians on 10 of the 11 issues. Whites differed from blacks on nine of the 11 dimensions; likewise, conservatives and liberals substantially parted company on nine of the 11 items tested. Men and women exhibited notable differences of opinion regarding eight of the 11 items.

The average difference of opinion varied across those groups, however. The most

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Question: Think about how you would like the United States to change within the next 10 years. If you had the ability to make the decisions, tell me how important each of the changes I describe would be to you: absolutely necessary, somewhat important, not too important, or a waste of resources.

	Absolutely Necessary	Somewhat Important	Not too Important	A Waste	Don't Know
the overall care and resources devoted to children	82%	15%	2%	*%	1%
the quality of a public school education	82	15	1	1	1
national security in the U.S.	72	21	3	1	1
the lives of poor and disadvantaged people	69	25	3	3	1
the reliability and honesty in news reporting	63	26	6	4	1
the investment in environmental protection	60	33	5	1	1
the state of marriage and families	60	26	7	6	2
the spiritual state of the country	53	27	10	7	3
people's sense of belonging to a community	45	44	6	3	2
the moral content within entertainment	44	32	13	9	2
the health of Christian churches	44	28	16	9	4

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radical differences were between evangelicals and those who are not born again Christians. The average difference in the proportion of each group saying it was "absolutely necessary" to address a given issue was 26 percentage points. The average difference between conservatives and liberals was 22 points; between upscale and downscale was 19 points; between whites and blacks was 13 points; and between men and women was 10 points.

How Evangelicals View the Future

Evangelicals prioritized the eleven issues studied somewhat differently than did other people. The three highest priorities among evangelicals were enhancing the health of Christian churches, upgrading the state of marriage and families, and improving the spiritual condition of the U.S. In each case, evangelicals were more than 30 percentage points more likely than other adults to identify each of those issues as an absolutely necessary focus for the immediate future. They were also 29 points above the national norm in listing improvements in the moral content of mass entertainment as a priority.

In a different way, evangelicals stood out regarding their views on the environment. Only 35% said that protecting the environment should be a top priority - the lowest score recorded among any of the 80 subgroups studied. The national average was 60%. Oddly, evangelicals were also 20 percentage points below the national norm in saying that improving the overall care and resources devoted to children is an absolute necessity. Again, that placed evangelicals at the lowest end of the continuum in terms of support for that idea. Evangelicals were also 12 percentage points below the national average regarding the necessity of improving the quality of public school education and enhancing the lives of the poor and disadvantaged. That outcome also positioned evangelicals as the

group least likely to portray those two issues as top priorities for the nation.

Overall, evangelical Christians stood out as the segment that holds views that are most dissimilar from the typical perspectives of Americans. They were at least 10 percentage points different from the national average in relation to eight of the eleven issues tested. In comparison, that same level of differentiation was discovered among atheists and agnostics regarding seven of the eleven issues; and conservatives, liberals, and upscale adults all veered substantially from the norm on six of the 11 issues.

Currently, evangelicals represent 8% of the national adult population. That projects to approximately 20 million adults.

People Want a Different Future

The results of the survey struck George Barna, who directed the study, as suggesting that Americans want the future to be more different than similar to the way things are in the nation today.

"A majority of Americans said we need significant change in relation to eight of the 11 issues we posed to them," noted the California-based author of forty books on faith, leadership and social conditions. "The desire for a new direction is harbored not simply by those on the ideological extremes, but by a majority of those who hold the ideological middle ground, as well. Americans contend that they lead a good life, but the survey points out that it is not necessarily their desired life, nor are they comfortable with the society they are leaving to their children.

"The challenge for today's leaders is to find the intersection of doing what is right and best with doing that which is popular and achievable," Barna continued. "The lack of a common vision for the future is making the identification of such common ground increasingly difficult, if not impossible. The presidential candidates seem to delve rather quickly into promoting programs rather than establishing a consensus around the ideal of what America

represents and where it needs to go in the years to come. Gaining widespread ownership of such a broad-based vision of the character and goals of the United States must be the starting point for rebuilding unity and strength within the nation. Providing a compelling and comprehensive notion of who we are as a people and what we stand for as a nation would be the most valuable contribution our leaders could offer."

About the Research

This report is based upon a nationwide telephone survey conducted by The Barna Group in August 2007 among 1000 adults, age 18 or older, randomly selected from households in the 48 continental states. The sample has a maximum margin of sampling error of ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The survey was independently developed and funded by The Barna Group.

"Evangelicals" are people who meet the born again criteria (described below) plus seven other conditions. Those include saying their faith is very important in their life today; believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians; believing that Satan exists; believing that eternal salvation is possible only through grace, not works; believing that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; asserting that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches; and describing God as the all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the universe and still rules it today. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church attended. Respondents were not asked to describe themselves as "evangelical."

"Born again Christians" are defined as people who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and who also indicated they believe that when they die they will go to Heaven because they had confessed their sins and had accepted Jesus Christ as their

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savior. Respondents are not asked to describe themselves as "born again."

"Upscale" adults are those who have completed a 4-year college degree and reside in a household earning at least \$75,000 annually. "Downscale" adults are those who have not attended college and whose annual household income is \$20,000 or less.

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.

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FIVE FINGERED PRAYER

Submitted by Lee Voss

1. Your **thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The **next finger** is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3... The **next finger** is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

A Woman and a Fork...

Submitted by Lee Voss

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live.

Therefore, as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her.

"There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" the Pastor replied.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along it's message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.'

It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming, like

velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork, the best is yet to come.'

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death.

But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge.

She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket, they saw the cloak she was wearing, and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?"

And over and over, he smiled.

During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.✠

4. The **fourth finger** is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our **little finger** - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God

and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.✠

The Seamstress

Submitted by Marni Monty

One day, when a seamstress was sewing while sitting close to a river, her thimble fell into the river. When she cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "My dear child, why are you crying?" The seamstress replied that her thimble had fallen into the water and that she needed it to help her husband in making a living for their family.

The Lord dipped His hand into the water and pulled up a golden thimble set with pearls. "Is this your thimble?" the Lord asked. The seamstress replied, "No."

The Lord again dipped into the river. He held out a silver thimble ringed with sapphires. "Is this your thimble?" the Lord asked.

Again, the seamstress replied, "No."

The Lord reached down again and came up with a leather thimble. "Is this your thimble?" the Lord asked.

The seamstress replied, "Yes."

The Lord was pleased with the woman's honesty and gave her all three thimbles to keep, and the seamstress went home happy.

Some years later, the seamstress was walking with her husband along the riverbank, and her husband fell into the river and disappeared under the water. When she cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked her, "Why are you crying?"

"Oh Lord, my husband has fallen into the river!" The Lord went down into the water and came up with George Clooney. "Is this your husband?" the Lord asked.

"Yes," cried the seamstress. The Lord was furious. "You lied! That is an untruth!" The seamstress replied, "Oh, forgive me, my Lord it is a misunderstanding.

You see, if I had said 'no' to George Clooney, you would have come up with Brad Pitt. Then if I said 'no' to him, you would have come up with my husband. Had I then said 'yes,' you would have given me all three.

Lord, I'm not in the best of health and would not be able to take care of all three husbands, so THAT'S why I

said 'yes' to George Clooney.

And so the Lord let her keep him.

The moral of this story is: Whenever a woman lies, it's for a good and honorable reason, and in the best interest of others.

That's our story, and we're sticking to it.

Signed,

All Us Women✠

PROVERBS

Submitted by Lee Voss

If the rich could hire other people to die for them, the Poor could make a wonderful living.

Yiddish Proverb

The wise man, even when he holds his tongue, says more than the fool when he speaks.

Yiddish Proverb

What you don't see with your eyes, don't invent with your mouth.

Yiddish proverb

A hero is someone who can keep his mouth shut when he is right.

Yiddish Proverb

One old friend is better than two new ones.

Yiddish Proverb

One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.

Jewish Proverb

Old friends, like old wines, don't lose their flavor.

Jewish Proverb

A wise man hears one word and understands two.

Yiddish Proverb

"Don't be so humble - you are not that great."

Golda Meir (189 8-1978) to a visiting diplomat

Pessimism is a luxury that a Jew can never allow himself.

Golda Meir

Any intelligent fool can make things big-

ger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius --- and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.

Albert Einstein

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving

Albert Einstein

When his wife asked him to change clothes to meet the German Ambassador: if they want to see me, here I am. If they want to see my clothes, open my closet and show them my suits.

Albert Einstein

Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them.

Albert Einstein

The hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax.

Albert Einstein

You can't control the wind, but you can adjust your sails.

Yiddish proverb

I don't want to become immortal through my work. I want to become immortal through not dying.

Woody Allen

I'm not afraid of dying - I just don't want to be there when it happens!

Woody Allen

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Sign hanging in Einstein's office at Princeton

Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.

Albert Einstein

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein

Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school.

Albert Einstein

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.

Albert Einstein

CHURCH AND BIBLE HUMOR

Submitted by Mary Moore

STORY OF ELIJAH

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, " We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power.

Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Rickey was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

CHURCH SMILES

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

AMISH CARRIAGE

While driving in Pennsylvania , a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on

oats and grass.

Caution: Do not step in exhaust.

THE QUILT

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."✠

BOOKENDS OF LIFE

Submitted by Bob Potter

In life, we have two bookends
A beginning and an end
The things amid do fill the gaps
Whereby, our lives do blend.

The volumes which are written
Reveals the light of men
The print upon the pages
Contain the breath within.

The chapters stack so neatly
Are bounded at the seams
And filled with aspirations
Our failures and our dreams.

The many happy chapters
Hold sorrow in-between
The valleys and the mountains
Are parts of life's great scheme.

The fiber of our being
Is glue that makes it stick.
The text that fills the pages
Are choices we did pick.

It takes a set of book ends
To make one's life complete
The content comes together
When both the ends do meet.

One day upon completion
Our lives will be made whole
When Jesus reads our memoir
The mirror to our soul.

We cannot change the content
Once written, nevermore
It's stored amongst God's archives
Upon that golden shore.✠

**Kum Doubles Sunday
School Class**

First United Methodist Church

211 W. Third St.
Irving, TX 75060

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

Class Officers

President	Marni Monty
Vice President	Doug Pierson
Secretary	Shirley Reynolds
Treasurer	Harold 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

Chief Shopper Mary Holcomb

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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?

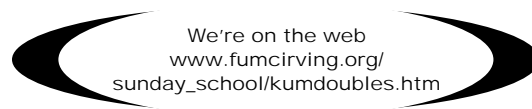
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ALL BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER, both *Kum Doubles Kapers* and *The Messenger*, are available on the web at:

www.fumcirving.org/sunday_school/kumdoubles.htm

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.