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JULY 2026



THE

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KY'S CHRISTIAN NEWS



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CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHMOND HOUSE OF PRAYER



ON THE REOPENING of their newly restored Mule Shed Lane location! This marks the first time the congregation has gathered in its original sanctuary since the severe storm damage sustained on March 16, 2025.

To celebrate this special homecoming, RHOP hosted its "Welcome Home" Father's Day service, Sunday morning, June 21st. Hundreds gathered to give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout this journey and celebrate this exciting new chapter. And check out this divine sign by Tim Revel of Rev Man Graphics in Richmond.



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THE SEEKER
KY'S CHRISTIAN NEWS

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO THEIR 2026 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION



UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH WARMLY INVITES friends, family, former members, and the community to join them for their 2026 Homecoming Celebration, taking place July 24–26 at the church's campus located at 1290 Barnes Mill Road in Richmond.

The weekend will feature fellowship and food as the congregation celebrates God's faithfulness and looks ahead to what He has in store for the future. Special guest, Carroll Roberson will be returning to preach his messages both in word and in song.

Please join Pastor John Cravens and Faith Cravens, Music Minister Michael Tilley, Youth Minister Joseph Stanley, and Unity's congregation for this special weekend of worship and encouragement.

Services will begin Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25, at 7:00 p.m. each evening. A fish fry and fellowship meal will be held Saturday at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening service.

Homecoming Sunday services will follow the church's regular schedule on July 26, providing a wonderful opportunity for former members, family, and friends to reunite and worship together, and celebrate the exciting growth and ministry opportunities in recent years. These have been instrumental and encouraging and discipling people within the church community.

Everyone is welcome to attend this special Homecoming weekend. Come enjoy uplifting worship, Christ-centered fellowship, and a time of celebration as Unity Baptist Church gathers to honor its heritage and continue its mission of sharing the Gospel.

For more information, visit Unity Baptist Church or attend any of the Homecoming weekend services.



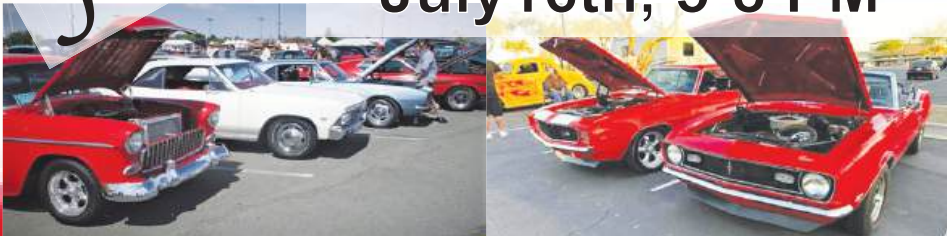
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Ronnie "Gator" Crabtree

Oct. 9, 1949 - June 6, 2026

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Trang Thi Hong Nguyen

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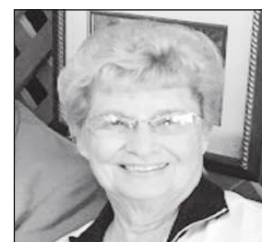
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THE MOUNTAIN AND THE VALLEY

I recently heard a sermon from I Kings 18-19. If you are not familiar with the story, you might take a moment to read it. The jest of the story, there was a showdown between the gods of Baal and the God of Elijah or the real God. Included in the story were the emotions of Elijah, the main character of this account. That brings us to the title of this article, The Mountain and the Valley. Elijah experienced both the mountain moments and the valley moments. The mountain moments seemed to be high but the valley moments seemed to be lower or else he forgot the high moments. During the low moments he experienced several things: Self-pity, loneliness, depression, questioning, loss of direction, forgetfulness of past blessings and he could not see beyond tomorrow. Have you experienced any, many or all of these? In my times of grief, I think I have experienced them all. Can self-pity be part of grief? I believe it can. Why me, why now, why these circumstances. Loneliness can be a big one and many times leads to quick solutions that will lead us in the wrong decision. Depression is often talked about more than experienced. There is a difference between clinical depression and feelings of sadness. Seek help when real depression sets in. Questioning happens in many areas of our grief

and every day living. Seek outside help or a listening ear during times of questioning. Loss of direction is often part of grief. Plans for the future can be interrupted without warning. Sometimes these plans have to be set aside, delayed or moved ahead with plans. Any major decisions for the future should be given much prayer and thought. The main thought is the last thought for us in this article as well as what Elijah experienced. Elijah forgets God's blessings from the past as well as promises for the future. Three things helped Elijah and will help those who are grieving. One, he rested, two, he got nourishment and three, he waited on the Lord to renew his strength and give direction. The Lord sent a strong storm, an earthquake and a fire, but the Lord was not in any of these. The Lord spoke in a still small voice. Don't let the noise of grief, silence the voice of the Lord. Listen for HIS still small voice.



Marian Abbott

Bereavement Specialist

RUGGED CROSS COWBOY CHURCH

Invites the community to the Back-to-School Roundup on Saturday, August 1, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Families will enjoy horse and pony rides, bounce houses, a petting zoo, free hot dogs, and a backpack filled with school supplies for students. Come out for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and family-friendly activities!

The church also welcomes everyone to their annual Wild Horse Ministries event on Friday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluegrass Stockyards Outdoor Event Area, located on K Street in Richmond. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

Each year, Paul Daily of Wild Horse Ministries, from Trout, Louisiana, demonstrates the gentle breaking of a horse while sharing the Gospel message. Traveling across the country with this unique ministry, Paul uses a local horse at each event so attendees can witness an authentic, unstaged demonstration. It is a memorable experience accompanied by a powerful message of faith. Both events are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome!

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Events

Faith Baptist Church July Events-

- FBA Day Camp- Jul 13-16, 10am-2pm, 1-6 graders, indoor & outdoor activities.

- Hyles Anderson College Tour Group, Boundless Grace, along with speaker: Anthony Collin, July 15, at 7 p.m.

- God & Country Conference-July 26-29, Sun. 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m., Mon-Wed 6:30 p.m. More info on p. 4.

- KYF Splash-July 31 (\$5) & Aug 1st (\$15)- Pickleball, Foam Party, Water Slide, Gel Blaster & more

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Madison County Ladies' GOP

Picnic - July 17, 6 p.m., at Madison County Fairgrounds, Richmond. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

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**THE SEEKER
KY'S CHRISTIAN NEWS**

CONGRESSMAN BARR TO HOST SENDOFF EVENT FOR SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINEES



Real Life Community Church-VBS

Theme: Emerald Crossing-An Irish adventure through Psalm 23. July 24-26, Friday Jul. 24, 6 p.m.; Saturday Jul. 25 10 a.m.; Sunday morning 10:45 a.m., with lunch afterwards.-Glyndon St., Richmond.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Warmly invite you to join them for their 2026 Homecoming Celebration. It's taking place July 24–26 at the church's campus located at 1290 Barnes Mill Road in Richmond. Special guest Carol Robertson will be returning. Services will begin Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25, at 7:00 p.m. each evening. A fish fry and fellowship meal will be held Saturday at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening service.

DOUG HAZELWOOD MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

Saturday August 1st, 9-2. Russell Acton Folk Center located at 212 Jefferson Street in Berea. Proceeds benefit local high school scholarships. Contact D. Kidwell at drkidwell2@gmail.com or 859-358-5665 for more information.

BEREA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"The Whole Town" Festival
Sunday, September 13 | 11:00 a.m.

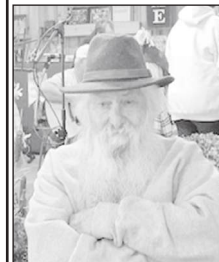
Come as you are—bring your family, invite your friends, and let's celebrate together! Music by Kristi Miller & Storm Chasers.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN ANDY BARR (KY-06) will host a sendoff event for nominees attending U.S. Military Academies at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky on Saturday, June 13th, from 8-9 a.m.

Barr and students will take on-topic questions only from the media following the event.

The keynote address of the ceremony will be given by Jarrett Millsaps, United States Navy veteran, President of three CommonSpirit hospitals, and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Lexington, KY

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Kristina Miller

Happy Joyous July!

As we continue celebrating America's 250th Anniversary, may we never take for granted the priceless blessings of faith, freedom, and the opportunity to worship the Lord without fear.

While this season has brought many joyful celebrations, our hearts are heavy for the families affected by the tragic boating accident on Harrington Lake over the holiday weekend. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers.

Don't forget—our Flip Book is available online at seekernews.com, along with extra photos, videos from regional events, and now memorials. Please like, leave kind comments, and share to help spread the encouragement.

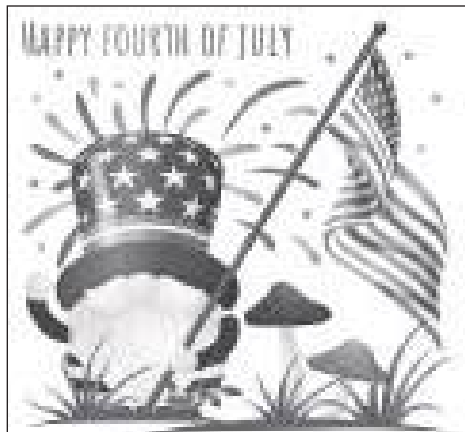
Life is a gift, and one wonderful way to enjoy it is by spending an evening with great music and delicious food at Charlie's Pickin' & Grinnin'—see pages 6 and 18 for more.

We also encourage you to worship at the church of your choice. Be sure to visit our Church Directory on page 9 to find a place to connect.

As always, thank you for helping this ministry grow as we celebrate 41 years of service. It is truly an honor and a privilege. Heartfelt thanks to those who submit inspirational articles, photos, and other material; to the businesses that allow us to distribute The Seeker; and to everyone who helps with selling ads, designing layouts, and delivering papers each month. A special thank-you goes to Lewis Settlege, who has faithfully delivered The Seeker for nearly four years. This ministry would not be possible without each of YOU.

With gratitude and faith,

— The Seeker Team



FROM THE EDITOR

We Want To Hear From You. Please Send Any Articles, Recipes, Jokes, Ads, or Announcements To:
kristimiller1005@gmail.com

CONTACT US AT
The Seeker Christian News
P.O. Box 302
Berea, KY 40403
Kristi Miller,
Owner/Publisher
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kristimiller1005@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE!

The deadline to get material in or out of The Seeker is the 20th of each Month.

All advertisements cancelled after our deadline, which is the 20th of each month, will incur a charge. When advertisements are cancelled on short notice, we do not have ample time to resell the spot(s) and cover our expenses. As always, thank you for your support and consideration.

-The Seeker Christian News

JIM SHIELDS' BOOK SIGNING



WAS HELD AT THE Kentucky Artisan Center, Saturday, June 13th. He is pictured with his lovely wife, Rosita and a crowd of fans. Jim is the author of Knot-hole Reflections On Life's Parade, Volumes 1 & 2, Gifts To Share, Volumes 1, 2, and 3, Welcome Baby Bunnies, Sunbird's Special Gift, and more. Below is a sample of Jim's book of sonnets, Gifts To Share, Volume 2.

*Confused I am by what some people do
 They think that everyone should
 Always win;
 Most every sport and every
 Game they skew
 Act as if losing is some kind of sin.
 Sincere they are, I'm sure in
 What they try...*

*Convinced defeat contributes to the strife,
 Believing loss brings damage behind by,
 Destroying chances for a happy life.
 While I applaud their efforts and concerns,
 I wonder if they've really thought this out...*

*Accepting loss is how
 Young folks will learn;
 In life, sometimes we fail,
 Sometimes we shout.
 Participate trophies will conceal;
 Winners and losers are what keep life real.*

By Jim Shields, Author of Gifts To Share

Williams Memorial Baptist Church

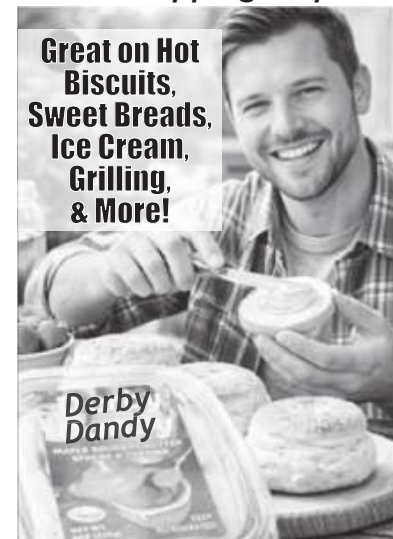
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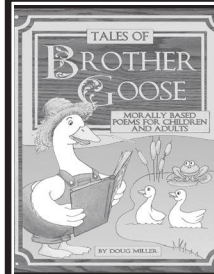
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John Cravens

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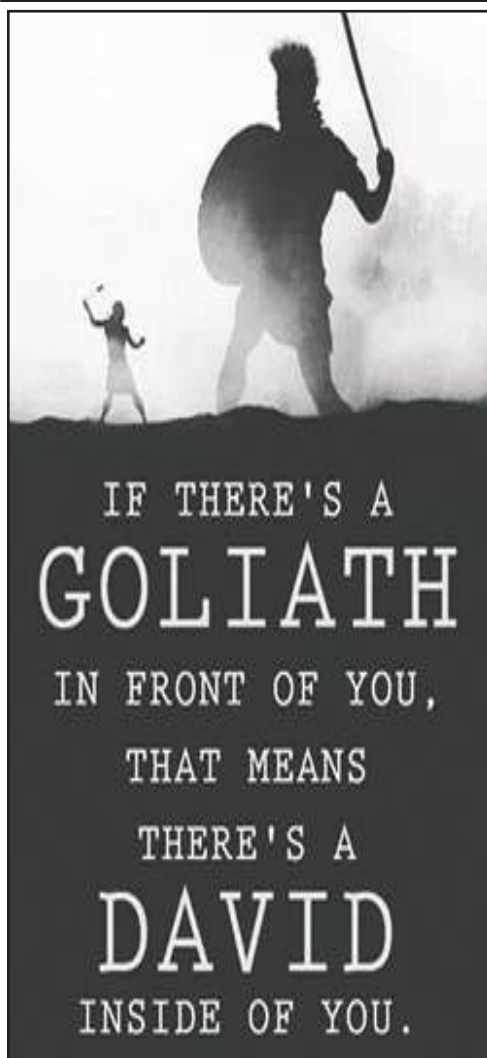
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LEAVE NO ROOM FOR THE DEVIL

By Marti Miller

1 John 4:7 tells us that God is love. Verse 12 of that same chapter says, “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.” By believing the Word and knowing that Satan tries to destroy everything that is of God, we can assume that he (Satan) will assuredly be present where there is a bond of love.

Perhaps his number one target is the marriage. If he can destroy a husband and wife team, he can inflict wounds that may never heal. He can rob a child of its security, cause severe emotional problems, create guilt complexes, destroy all trust, not to mention the severe pain of broken hearts.

Another common target is among family members. So many times Satan distorts circumstances that break the unity of family ties. One family member feels betrayed by another, and often times stubbornness prevails. Without God's love, one can be blinded to the goodness and kindness of a loved one. Then when a crisis occurs, feelings of love and concern are set aside. The result is to condemn rather than to love and encourage.

Satan will always attack, when he's allowed, among neighbors and friends. This is because Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mat. 22:39) Anytime Satan can successfully cause friction among friends, he will. He can twist our understanding, take a good deed and pervert it into something vicious.

Another one of Satan's favorite battle fields is right in the church itself. If he can cause friction in the body of Christ, then he knows he has a good chance of destroying an entire body of believers. We have to teach and not judge; exhort and not condemn; love and not envy; and promote peace and not allow strife.

We have a “born again” spirit when we accept Jesus as our Savior and He cleanses us by giving us a new spirit. Still, we have to give this new spirit in us a chance to grow and develop. It's not an instant procedure. And much too often we expect over night development and perfection. We need to consider the growing and learning process. Sometimes it's difficult to realize that the closer a person is to God and the greater responsibility they have in the Lord's service, the more apt he is to be under continuous attack from the devil. Even a slip of the tongue could easily be mistaken as a deliberate damaging offense, when place is given to the devil.

Old Satan never ceases to hunt out and destroy. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am

come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:10,11)

The important thing is that we get a vision of who this “Lucifer” really is. We have to realize his powers and remember that love conquers all and covers a multitude of sin. We must strongly believe that our greatest weapon against Satan is love.

God is love, and God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... And Jesus gave us the authority to use His name to cast out devils. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; (Mark 16:17) We have to stop giving room to the devil. We must close all channels of entry and build a wall of love that he can never penetrate.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:11,12)

In Loving Memory of Marti Miller 1951-1998 Co-Founder of The Seeker



SHARE HIS LOVE BY LIVING IT!

By Charlenea Kay Wirth

When our friend noticed our car tires were thinning, he shared that he heard from the Lord to pay for all four tires and had already ordered them. Wow!! I cried in gratitude! As the new tires were being put on, the mechanics discovered something else unrelated was dangerously needed for immediate repair. “This act of compassion may have saved our life or someone else's on the road,” I shared with my husband.

Ironically, at the same time our friend was blessing us, he had miraculously just left the bank before a shooting and-horrific robbery would take the lives of two people, altering the lives forever in the Berea Community and beyond!

Days later, I later joined the Celebration of Life Fund Raiser for the families, friends and coworkers who needed support. Volunteers from several states were brought together in unity. Many felt the comfort of community gathering to cry with, help mend, and support one another in nu-

merous ways. The need for community is great!

I remember the story I heard years ago of a couple who sacrificed their vacation plane ticket money to give to a family they did not even know who needed to go to their hometown for an emergency but couldn't afford it. How the Lord desires to see more compassion, more kindness and more time spent not just by possessing book knowledge of how to share God's love but also putting the words into action! We could spend more time listening to one another without just talking about ourselves and share His love by living it! We are to ‘notice’ opportunities, sometimes sacrificing like the couple sacrificing their plane ticket money. We follow His examples daily, by purposely seeking and helping administer to the needs of His people.

“Remember, kindness is a reflection of our faith, and when we express compassion, we mirror God's love. It is in these moments that we can truly meet the needs of others, uplift their spirits and showcase the heart of Jesus.”

“Jesus places it at the forefront of our Christian duties. There is no higher call than to show love through our actions, thus



*Love God
Love People
Share Jesus*

building bonds that can uplift, heal, and inspire.” We are so thankful to the Lord that our friend noticed us!

God used just one person to notice and provide for our needs. God used a community for the support of the losses of loved ones in the Berea Community. May we continue to follow Jesus's examples and obey His Commandments with His strength and sacrificial love He pours on us.

May you be the person or continue to

be the person who pours out His love to one another not only in words but in actions!

“Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” — Philippians 2:4

*biblestudyforyou.com Pastor David

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Prayers continue for all those touched by this Berea tragedy. May comfort be found through His compassion.

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"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
2 Corinthians 3:17

ASK Jesus Into Your Heart

The ABC's of Salvation

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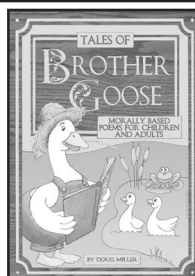
B BELIEVE in Jesus and that the Bible is true. Pray and ask God into your heart.

C ONFESS that Jesus is your Lord and that you believe he died on the cross for your sins



What did the little firecracker say to his dad?

"Hi, Pop!"



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4th of July Word Search

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H U E A L I B E R T Y R T L I
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LITTLE LAUGHS

Why aren't there any Fourth of July knock-knock jokes?
Because freedom rings!

What did one flag say to the other?
Nothing. It just waved.

What do you get when you cross a duck and a rocket?
A firequacker.

Why shouldn't you tell the Liberty Bell jokes?
It'll crack up.

Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington?
It was too heavy to carry.

What's a firecracker's favorite snack? Pop-corn!

What kind of dog is patriotic?
A Yankee Doodle.

What's the best beverage to order on the Fourth of July?
Liber-tea.

What's the best thing to serve with cheese on the Fourth of July?
Firecrackers.



BOASTFUL BUDDY

By Doug Miller,
Co-founder of The Seeker
Boastful Buddy bragged about
The things he'd do tomorrow.
But when tomorrow came to pass
For him it held much sorrow.
We don't know about tomorrow
It is promised to no man.
So don't brag on your intentions
Tomorrow might just spoil your plans.
Live each day unto the Father.
Win a crown that's made of gold.
Don't be like old Boastful Buddy,
Who knows what a day may hold.

TEARS AND FEARS

By Doug Miller,
Co-founder of The Seeker
Mary's tears and Johnny's fears
Will make them old before their years.
But you should know fear
Always flees us
When we use our faith in Jesus.
So anytime that things look grim
Always put your trust in Him.



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You have from the 5th of each month when they are released into the public until the 5th day of the following month when the serial numbers expire to turn it into The Seeker. If the dollar is determined to

be a winner, the cash reward will be given at the end of the month. This feature of The Seeker is sponsored by Smith's Tire Center, US 25 North, in Berea, KY. We appreciate their support of this contest. Call (859) 986-2032 or email: kristimiller1005@gmail.com to make arrangements to meet if you have found the winning number. Three new Lucky Bucks will be released during the first week of each month.

Each month that the Lucky Buck is not retrieved, the cash prize grows by \$100, Thanks to our Sponsor, Smith's Tire Center. (Family and employees of The Seeker Christian News are NOT eligible to win. May take 6 weeks to process. All winners will be photographed and published in the paper)

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AT ANGLIN'S HOG Pen on May 31 had everyone in hog heaven! A large crowd turned out to enjoy the car show, live bands, vendor booths, delicious food, and family-friendly fun throughout the day. Pictured above are highlights from the car show competition in Brodhead.



CHURCH ON THE ROCK WELCOMED

SPECIAL GUESTS DURING its Sunday morning worship service on May 31. Pictured left to right are Bro. Tedd Flynn, guest speaker Bro. Dale Yerton, Bro. Glenn Wilson, and Pastor Mark Sarver of Church on the Rock. Bro. Yerton shared an inspiring message on the importance of fathers. You are cordially invited to worship at Church on the Rock, located on Richmond Road North in Berea.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT BEREA CEMETARY



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 50 hosted a Veterans Memorial Ceremony at Berea Cemetery on Sunday, May 24, honoring the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Pictured left to right are Lanny Simmons, Adam Cervasio, Mayor Bruce Fraley, Danny Helton, Ken Clark, (unidentified), Gary Baker, Emerson McAfee, Tom Todd, Jake Johnson, Wess Reynolds, and Mike Boyd. The National Anthem was performed by Kristi Miller. Scan the QR code to watch a segment of this special patriotic ceremony.

**WE PRAY FOR
THOSE WHO
CAN'T FORGIVE.
MAY GOD
SOFTEN THEIR
HEARTS.**

GOD HAS SPOKEN CLEARLY: "If you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15). Unforgiveness is not merely a wound—it is willful rebellion against the mercy of GOD, who forgave us in Christ when we deserved wrath.

Those who cling to bitterness declare with their lives that Christ's blood is not enough—that His cross may forgive them, but theirs cannot forgive others. That is blasphemy in practice, no matter how wounded they claim to be. It is the sin of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21–35), who was shown grace but refused to extend it, and was handed over to torment.

GOD commands His people to put away all bitterness (Ephesians 4:31) and to forgive as He forgave us (Colossians

3:13). A hardened heart is evidence of spiritual blindness, or worse—of a soul dead in trespasses. It may masquerade as "self-protection," but GOD sees it as pride and unbelief.

So we pray—not out of sentiment, but with urgency—that GOD, who raises the dead, would break their pride, shatter their idols, and replace their hearts of stone with hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). Let them see the scandal of the cross, and be undone by it.

Because if we will not forgive, we testify that we have never truly received the forgiveness GOD gives.

GOD, in mercy:

Grant repentance.

Grant humility.

Grant the miracle of forgiveness.

Let Christ be formed in them.

SOFTEN THEIR HEARTS, O GOD.

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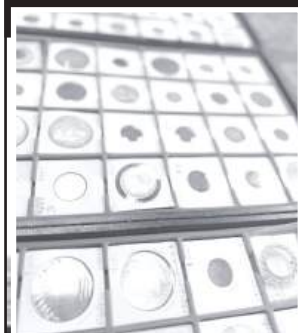


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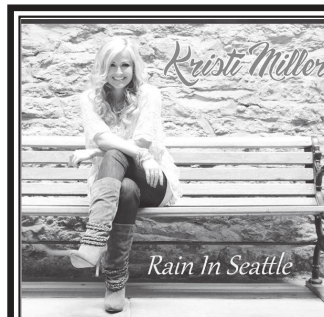
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- Which patriotic hymn includes the line, "God shed His grace on thee"?
- In "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," whose truth is described as "marching on"?
- What song contains the lyric, "God bless America, land that I love"?
- Which patriotic classic by Lee Greenwood begins with the words, "If tomorrow all the things were gone"?

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YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

By Bruce Walker ©2024

EVER WITNESSED A MIRACLE?

Karen and Ed live in the mountains of North Alabama. Ed works at the Toyota engine plant in Huntsville, and Karen, a nurse, had taken leave from the hospital for the birth of their second child. Like many mothers, Karen spent time preparing their three-year-old son, Michael, for the sister who was on the way. Each evening a small ritual unfolded before bedtime. Karen would sit beside Michael's bed and talk to the baby growing inside her. Then she would encourage Michael to talk to his little sister too. They read Goodnight Moon, said their prayers, and Karen would kiss Michael goodnight. Then Michael would lean over, kiss his mother's round stomach, and sing softly to the baby: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine..."

Before drifting off to sleep he would whisper, "Goodnight, little sister. I love you." Even before she was born, a bond was forming. The pregnancy was nearly full term when tragedy struck.

One evening after prayers, Karen stepped into the hallway outside Michael's room when a sudden, searing pain tore through her stomach. She collapsed to the floor.

Calling for her husband, Ed rushed to her side. Realizing something was terribly wrong, he scooped Karen into his arms, grabbed Michael from bed, and raced for the car. The hospital in Huntsville was forty-five minutes away.

With the flashers blinking and his heart pounding, Ed sped down the dark highway. He called ahead to the emergency room, telling them he was coming. Ed had never been much of a praying man. But that night he prayed. As he drove, he glanced in the mirror. Michael sat beside his mother in the back seat, holding her hand.

Halfway to Huntsville an ambulance met them on the highway and took Karen the rest of the way. Ed and Michael followed behind.

At the hospital, a medical team rushed Karen into the delivery room. Ed and Michael waited.

Finally a doctor came out. "The mother will be fine," he said. "But there are serious complications with the baby."

The doctor suggested Ed take Michael home and return in the morning.

It was the longest night of Ed's life.

The next morning brought no good news. The umbilical cord had wrapped tightly around the baby's neck, depriving her brain of oxygen.

"If she survives," the doctor explained gently, "there will likely be severe brain damage."

Instead of preparing a nursery for celebration, Karen and Ed began a silent vigil outside the NICU. Day after day they waited.

One of them would leave only long enough to get fresh clothes or check on Michael. Whenever they walked past the nursery they had decorated for their daughter, the pain was almost unbearable. Hope was hard to find.

Instead of planning a welcome-home party, they quietly wondered if they would soon be planning a funeral. Meanwhile, Michael had only one question.

"When can I see my little sister?"

He wanted to sing to her.

He had drawn her a picture too — a bright yellow sun with a smiling face.

Each time, Karen or Ed would gently say, "Soon, sweetheart."

But they didn't know how to tell him the truth.

Two weeks passed. The doctor finally told them the baby likely had only days to live. Karen and Ed made a decision.

It was time for Michael to meet his sister. Hospital rules didn't allow small children in the NICU, but a compassionate technician quietly helped them sneak him in. Michael wore oversized scrubs and a bright yellow mask.

He looked tiny walking into that room full of machines and monitors. Without hesitation he walked straight to the bed.

Before anyone could stop him, Michael slipped his little hand through the rail and began to sing.

"You are my sunshine, my only sunshine..."

You make me happy when skies are gray..."

Karen and Ed stood there with tears streaming down their faces.

Then they began singing too.

A quiet family serenade. As they sang, Karen glanced at the monitor.

The erratic heartbeat began to steady.

The EEG screen, which had shown almost no brain activity, began to flicker to life.

Karen whispered through her tears.

"Keep singing, sweetheart... keep singing."

A NICU nurse rushed into the room, ready to remove the child. But when she looked at the monitors, she stopped.



Then she said softly, "Honey... keep singing."

The baby's breathing smoothed out. The doctor rushed in and examined her carefully. One by one, every vital sign returned to normal. Days later, the little girl went home.

Michael insisted his drawing of the bright yellow sun be taped above her bed. And he insisted on naming her. Sunshine.

For six months Sunshine returned weekly for checkups.

Each visit brought astonishing progress. Doctors called her a modern medical miracle. But her family called her something else. A miracle of God's love. And every time they spoke her name — Sunshine — it reminded them of a three-year-old boy who believed his sister could hear him, and sang anyway.

Never give up on the people you love. Love is powerful. Just ask Jesus.

Some people say, "What if I pray and nothing happens?" Yes... but what if it does? Pray on.

"The evidence of God's presence far outweighs the proof of His absence."

— François Mauriac

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By Seeker Columnist,
Dr. Charles Burton, D.D. PHD




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The Seeker Christian News
P.O. Box 302 Berea, KY 40403

Farmer: "I ain't too crazy about her looks either, but she's good at milking, wood cuttin', and right good to me and the kids!"

6 tablespoons unsalted butter (3 ounces; 85 g), melted, divided
1 pound (454 g) fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced (about 3 1/4 cups)
2 teaspoons grated lime zest, plus 2 tablespoons (30 ml) fresh juice from 2 large limes, divided
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar (about 9 ounces; 250 g), divided
1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt, divided; for table salt, use half as much by volume
1 cup all-purpose flour (4 1/2 ounces; 128 g)
2 teaspoons (8 g) baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cardamom
1/2 cup (120 ml) whole milk
3/4 cup (180 ml) tap water, heated
Vanilla ice cream for serving.

with lime juice, 1/2 cup sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon salt.
In a large bowl, whisk to combine flour, baking powder, cardamom, lime zest, remaining 3/4 cup sugar, and remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt. Slowly pour milk and remaining 3 tablespoons melted butter into flour mixture and whisk to combine (batter will be thick).
Spoon batter over melted butter in cake pan. Spoon strawberries and any accumulated juices evenly over top of cake. Pour hot water evenly over strawberries; do not stir.
Bake until golden brown and a warm pudding-like sauce forms below the strawberries, about 30 minutes.
Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, if desired.



Drain the potatoes well, let cool to room temperature, about 15 minutes.

Add the potatoes to the bowl of dressing and fold to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Spoon batter over melted butter in cake pan. Spoon strawberries and any accumulated juices evenly over top of cake. Pour hot water evenly over strawberries; do not stir. Bake until golden brown and a warm pudding-like sauce forms below the strawberries, about 30 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, if desired.

250 YEARS OF THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

By Charles L. Burton

THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED ON BIBLE PRINCIPLES. Yes, we have had a sorted past. Here is proof. The Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (July 1–July 3, 1863), was the largest battle of the American Civil War as well as the largest battle ever fought in North America, involving around 85,000 men in the Union’s Army of the Potomac under Major General George Gordon Meade and approximately 75,000 in the Confederacy’s Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Robert Edward Lee. Casualties at Gettysburg totaled 23,049 for the Union (3,155 dead, 14,529 wounded, 5,365 missing). Confederate casualties were 28,063 (3,903 dead, 18,735 injured, and 5,425 missing), more than a third of Lee’s army.

On the 4th President Lincoln said: All I can do is Pray... Thus he fell to his knees for the dead and wounded.

Today we hear much about what is called the “Separation of Church and State”. By that phrase is meant that the Bible, nor Christian ideas, have any right to influence government. Groups such as the ACLU, who promote this idea, say that the First Amendment to the Constitution forbids Biblical ideas from influencing government. But an honest study of the men who wrote the First Amendment will reveal just the opposite.

America’s Founders came from a long line of people who looked to God as the Source and Strength of their lives. Prayer to them was as natural as breathing, and an absolute necessity in times of national crisis. When the first major step toward war occurred, which was the blockading of Boston harbor, the first Continental Congress was then in session. This gathering marked the first time the thirteen colonies had come together to discuss how to deal with the King of England’s tyranny over the American colonies. Their very first act was to invite a minister to start their sessions with prayer and the reading of the Bible.

Here is how the founding Fathers acted at the birth of this great Nation. John Adams wrote: “Washington was kneeling there, and [Patrick] Henry,



Dr. Charles Burton

Randolph, Rutledge, Lee, and Jay, and by their side there stood, bowed in reverence, the Puritan Patriots of New England, who at that moment, had reason to believe that...armed soldiers [were] wasting their humble households;...They prayed fervently for America, for Congress, for the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and especially for the town of Boston; and who can realize the emotion with which they turned...to Heaven for Divine [intervention]. It was enough to melt a heart of stone. I saw the tears gush into the eyes of [even] the old [staunch] Quakers of Philadelphia.”

Ladies and gentlemen, our forefathers believed God answers the prayers of those who will humble themselves before Him. And they wanted Jesus Christ to show up in their government.

Here are what the Fathers of the USA believed. “Do not let anyone claim to be a true American who attempts to remove religion from politics.” — George Washington.

May every citizen in the army and in the country have a proper sense of Deity upon his mind and an impression of the declaration recorded in the Bible, ‘Him that honoreth Me, I will honor, but he that despiseth Me shall be lightly esteemed’” (1 Samuel 2:20). — Samuel Adams.

“Those who pay no regard to religion and seriousness in the persons whom they send to the legislature of any state are guilty of the greatest absurdity and will soon pay dear for their folly.”— John Witherspoon.

Just a few folk who believed in our mighty God to form this great nation.

All of these men were original signers of the Declaration of Independence. Men who trusted in God to lead this Nation. This is why that today it is imperative to PRAY for our nation’s leaders. Remember Patrick Henry?

“An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death.” — Patrick Henry. Remember this President?

The Founding Fathers believed faith in God was the key to our being a good people and America’s becoming a great nation.” — Ronald Reagan. On the 4th and every day we must remember where we came from. Let us all remember that there was a HIGH price paid that we can celebrate this great Nation. I love America.

The American heroes who went before us had great faith in almighty God. Let us be reminded that many of them paid inordinate, personal prices as they preserved their Christian heritage and traditions. Trust in Christ today.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. It matters not what you have done but what Christ did on Calvary. Repent and Believe Christ today and keeps you from quitting. It’s hard to be happy and hard to get up and continue when you don’t have any of it. What is it? Hope, of course.

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IF THIS FLAG COULD TALK

New Song in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary
Written By Kristi Miller/Doug Miller

If this flag could talk she'd say,

"They call me O'l Glory,
Won't you come a little closer

While I tell you a story
Of how our America began
With faith in God, grit in hand
From the Mayflower to Capital Hill
From dirt-road dreams

to an automobile
The Wright brothers got us
off the ground

Now that torch
has been passed down

It's a legacy of liberty
Our future and our history
We've got the USA in our DNA
In God we trust, in God we pray
If this flag could talk,

Oh, the stories you'd hear
About the last 250 years
About the last 250 years
If this flag could talk

About her women and her men
How they built America and
America built them

She'd say, "I've traveled
Through all the nations,
Stood by your side

In celebrations
She'd say, "I've marched
With soldiers

Through every turn
Though I was trampled,
Torn and burned

To tell of the day freedom
Spread her wings,
And to rise with the eagle

As victory sings
Disaster, war and pandemics
May have put a dent in it
But like Ford said in early times
"Let's keep it moving down the line."

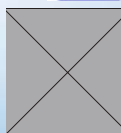
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TURTLE SOUP

By Dr. Robin Richmond Mason

I MUST BEGIN THIS ARTICLE with a reader's discretion advisory. I normally try to keep my articles for "Beaverdale", rated "G". After all, my column is family oriented. Even the logo represents my homeland and the finest people that you could ever meet. Nevertheless, this week I am making an exception. The extraordinary events of the last few weeks have pushed me over the line. If you continue to read, it is only because you have judged your own present constitution as staunch and stable. I am warning you my faithful reader, "the material that you are about to read is presented for mature viewing only. The implications of violence, interspecies discord, and graphic descriptions of destruction may trouble some people."

It all began in May. The setting was my near Eden, in my Paint Lick backyard to be exact. In this utopia there exist some of my favorite things. The entrance to the setting includes the picket fence, trampoline, swing sets, the dog igloos, and cat cottages. A further delightful stroll takes the viewer beyond my Amish designed chicken coop, around pumpkin mountain, past the little orchard, the perennial garden, the raspberry row, the blackberry patch, the spring garden, the buzzing apiary and finally to the main vegetable garden. The back yard of our homestead is such a pleasurable and productive environment that I feel a sense of joy and peace while describing it.

Hijacked, I'll tell you! That is what has happened to my sense of joy and peace. Here I am painting a panorama of this lush horticultural haven and my blood begins to boil at the thought of the evil that has taken root.

The first evidence of destruction presented itself as 10 juicy, heirloom tomatoes destroyed in one night. I skipped out to the garden with my handmade, wooden basket only to discover that a large single bite had been taken from the bottom of 10 of my prize tomatoes. The loss was stunning. I removed the damaged fruit and sat down in the grass to recover from the scene. Oh well, I reasoned, one must pay a price for living on the edge of the wilderness. I tell myself this as I remind the children to watch out

for coyotes, when they play outside after dark. We've discussed and practiced how to respond to a bear encounter, and we've even named one of the resident snakes "Boomerang" because of his frequent appearances. I am not a novice, I recognize that environments must be shared.

The bitten treasures were gathered and transported to the chicken coop and I took my first investigative crawl through the tomato rows. There was not a reptile in sight. Prevention is always great theme and so I secured the tomato cages and tied the lowest branches of each plant a little higher. I picked all of the ripe tomatoes and returned to my kitchen with a nieve hope that the turtle had only been a famished troubadour.

A couple of days later, the pillage was reenacted. Huge chunks of Brandywine, Mortgage Lifter, Green Zebras, and even the Cherokee Purple were missing. The contents of some of the fruit lay in nauseating puddles near the base of their mother plants. It was a gory, pathetic sight. The chicken shared my remorse and I doubled my crawling efforts. I also snatched every weed that represented undergrowth cover around the tomato plants. The surviving fruit was gathered and suddenly I became aware that I was not alone in the garden. Two beady eyes met my glare. The culprit was there, hiding beneath a German Green. I snatched that villain with rabid speed. He was placed in a shoebox and transported to Silver Creek. At this point in the story, I still had a modicum of compassion.

Rodger spoke the first words that dampened my temporary victory. He said, "there may have been more than one turtle". I felt a tinge of paranoia creeping in. I needed help and wisdom from a sage, so I called my Dad. He listened with kindness and respect but I think that he may have taken my pain too lightly. My mother shared the fact that my grandmother had once squared off with a reptile foe in her own tomato patch and then my sister poured salt on my wounds. Lori's exact words were, "make friends with the turtle". Are you joking? I should have known better



Dr. Robin Richmond Mason

than to call that tree hugger. How could I have made myself so vulnerable? It is easy to give shallow platitudes from a distance. Forget the counsel, I needed action. Alison and Andrew stepped up to the plate. They designed, built, and baited a turtle trap. They even embellished the exterior with a turtle version of Marilyn Monroe, and some butterflies just asking to be eaten. Oh these children are bone of my bone, such creative problem solvers.

Two days later, not in the trap, Andrew found a second turtle right by the Oxheart variety. We drove that fellow to another water source and returned to find his brother lounging in the blackberry patch. A week later another visitor was evident near the Tommy Toes. This character too, was treated with dignity and relocated. But now, now, I am beyond civilized responses.

A new culprit has taken up residence and destroyed 30 tomatoes this week. He has eaten his way up the rows and demonstrated a slight boredom with the ripening 16 heirloom varieties. Last night, he even ate the bottom out of a huge unripened Great White. This is it!



"Best Tomatoes Ever!"

I can't take anymore! I am not sharing! This is not a charity effort! I don't slave away in my chemical free, totally organic, earth friendly vegetable patch in order to feed turtles. I've shown species respect beyond measure and I am not normally a violent person but everyone has a breaking point and I want you to hear the crumble.

Someone had best call the National Wildlife Federation and place the common Box Turtle on the Endangered Species list. This is war. Samson's riddle has found a new application and I am busily searching for the best Turtle Soup recipe.

KNIT TOGETHER

BEFORE YOUR NAME WAS ever spoken on earth, it was already known in heaven.

Before your first heartbeat echoed in your mother's womb, the hands of God were already at work. He wasn't rushing. He wasn't guessing. Every detail of your life was woven together with divine precision.

Like a master craftsman knitting every thread with purpose, God carefully formed your body, your personality, your gifts, and even the days of your life. Nothing about you is random. Nothing about you is an accident.

The world may measure your worth by your achievements, appearance, or approval from others. But God established your value long before you could prove anything. Your identity began in His hands—not in people's opinions.

The same God who knit you together is still working on you today. The places where you feel broken are not beyond His ability to restore. The dreams that seem delayed are still in the hands of the One who wrote your story before it began.

Never believe the lie that your life has no purpose. If God took the time to knit you together, then He also prepared a purpose that only you can fulfill.

You were designed with intention.

You were created with love.

You were formed for His glory.

Rest in this truth today: the hands that created you have never let go of you. © Prayer Room 2026

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