Religion The Crittenden Press

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We complete each other

the sum of decisions they have made...and decisions made by everyone else.

We are all born in a time and a place. When and where and whom we are born determines the scope decisions available to us. Then there are the wild cards that are thrown Ecclesiasin. tes 9:11 says it like this, "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor battle the the strong, nor bread to the

wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them

NIESTRATH

Guest

Columnist

Faith-based columnist

Every decision that we make as a society will have benefits for some and will harm others. Sometimes the harm comes to our neighbors, sometimes it falls on people in other nations toward whom we seldom give thought. It is not that we should feel guilty about this inadvertent harm but perhaps we should at least consider it a possibility.

Laws, public and foreign policy, diplomatic

tion of religious books all play into creating the type of world we live in. When

> I hear people blamed being for their povperhaps I need to consider my role in their situation. When I see the decisions that other nations make, perhaps it would be wise to better understand their position. This doesn't mean that action should not be taken. It does not mean that there are times

when aggression turns into vengeance that needs to be checked.

It is easy to forget that the first account of Creation in the Bible finished with the exclamation, "It was exceedingly good!" In this account human beings were created after everything was in place. It is as though the Creator prepared a place for us and then put us in it to care for it...and for each

That first enigmatic poem in Genesis 1:27 can be rendered, "So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created it, male them." It is as though humanity is made in the image of God and it takes all of us, together, to reflect that image. That makes us part of each other from the beginning.

The teachings of Jesus in the Gospels tell us what the kingdom of God is like. He does this in parable and preaching. The parables tell us about God and about Jesus' work while he was here. Some tell how we are to treat each other. The apostles then began to explain the implications of these teachings to the gatherings that were to become the church. They used the metaphor of the body to explain that we are all one and connected to each

John Donne's famous

Meditation 27 beautifully states that we are all connected. "Perchance he for whom this bell tolls may be so ill, as that he knows not it tolls for him; and perchance I may think myself so much better than I am, as that they who are about me, and see my state, may have caused it to toll for me, and I know not that. The church is Catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all. . . No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece

of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee."

If I say I am a Christian, and you make the same claim, what each of us does affects the other. Remembering this may prevent me from treating another person in a way that I would never treat part of my physical body.

Perhaps if more of us understood that while we may be created in the image of God, we are only a tiny sliver of it. It is when all of us, together, work for the good of all that we begin to move back toward the day when humanity was introduced to the world. Paul's reminder to the Jews and Gentiles who made up the churches in Rome, "Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7, RSV).

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Religious Outreach

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds. net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.
- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the
- Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day,

7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the

■ Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday

at 209 Highland St., Salem.

- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church's clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.



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Givers experience more joy than stingy people

Question: Recently, a friend offered me a considerable amount of money to help cover a large debt. I told him, "Thanks, but I'll get by." He replied, "If you don't take my money, you'll take away my blessing of helping you." Is there really a blessing in giving or was he just trying to get me to take his money?

Answer: Yes, there's a blessing for people who give! "It is more blessed to give," said Jesus, "than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving to help others, makes us more thankful for how God has blessed us. Also, it helps us to depend upon God's generous supply for our own needs (Phil. 4:18). Continuously,

ASK the **PASTOR** By Bob Hardison



taught His followers to generously give to meet other's needs. "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you" (Mt. 5:42). Also, He exclaimed, "Give, and it will be given to you" (Lk. 6:33). When He sent the twelve disciples on their first mission trip, He instructed them, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Mt. 10:8).

If one goes through life thinking, "I'm short on money," or "No one wants my help," or "If I offer to help,

they'll think I'm just trying to be a 'big shot." These and other excuses stop the process of helping others before it starts.

A good place to start a giving lifestyle is to realize God has given to you first.

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (Jn. 3:16). Let's ask God to help us see the needs of others, then, to respond generously.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion

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CHURCH TIMES

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Sunday, Aug. 31 Service at 11 a.m. Singing following noon meal by Cutter & Cash

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Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

St. William

Sunday Mass 11 a.m. 860 S. Main St.

Mexico Baptist Church

Father Jojy Joseph

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree

Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m. Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m. Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

Pastor: Morgan Smith

315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Kv. Rodney Phelps, Pastor (270) 704-2400 emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com Follow us on Facebook

175 Mexico Rd (270) 965-4059

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Alarion Baptist Church College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232 Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown . Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

Freedom General Baptist Church Pastor. Ross Atwell

Sunday School 10 a.m.

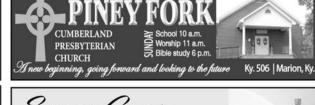
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

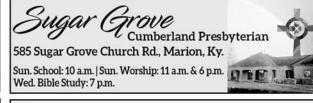
Crooked Creek Baptist Church 261 Crooked Creek Church Rd.

P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Hank Cayce "Come and Worship with Us"



Sunday Evening 6 p.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.





Alarion Alethodist Church We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously

Frances Community Church

Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.

"The little church with a big heart"

Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.

Bro. Butch Gray

Worship service:.....





Marion, Ky. (270) 965-2477

Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297 Phone: (270) 965-2220



Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown

We invite you to be our guest Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Worship: II a.m. Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.

Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky. Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.





Crayne Community Church



David LeNeave, Pastor



Marion Church of God 334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky. Morning Service 11 a.m.

Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m. "Where salvation makes you a member."





Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee Sun. School, 10 am. · Worship, 11 a.m. Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m. Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church 4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.

Bro. David Perryman, Pastor Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ

- The end of your search for a friendly church -

546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

