

# We complete each other

Every human being is 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 to whom we are born determines the scope of decisions available to us. Then there are the wild cards that are thrown in. Ecclesiastes 9:11 says it like this, "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to 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 all."

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



**Sean NIESTRATH**  
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**Guest Columnist**

decisions, and interpretation of religious books all play into creating the type of world we live in. When I hear people being blamed for their poverty, perhaps 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 other.

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

and female he created 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 other.

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 continent, a part 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 church.
- 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 church.
- 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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BEES  
**9 FRAME HIVES**  
**\$200 Each**  
Tobie Mast  
6710 Fords Ferry Rd., Marion, KY

# 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, Jesus

**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.

"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

**Unity General Baptist Church**  
4691 Mott City Rd., Marion, KY  
Join us for our annual  
**HOME COMING**  
Sunday, Aug. 31  
Service at **11 a.m.**  
Singing following noon meal by **Cutter & Cash and the Kentucky Grass**  
*Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us.*

**WORSHIP**  
*with us this week*

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

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

**St. William Catholic Church**  
  
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.  
Father Joji Joseph  
860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky.  
(270) 965-2477

**Mexico Baptist Church**  
  
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree  
Pastor: Morgan Smith  
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.  
175 Mexico Rd.  
(270) 965-4059  
MexicoBaptist.org

**DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
  
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297  
Phone: (270) 965-2220  
"Whatever It Takes"  
Bro. Jamie Baker

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
  
108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.  
Captured by a vision...

**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: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.  
Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.  
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

**Freedom General Baptist Church**  
  
Pastor: Ross Atwell  
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)  
CHURCH TIMES:  
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

**Marion 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.

**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.  
Pastor, Hank Cayce "Come and Worship with Us"

**Crayne Community Church**  
  
Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.  
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

**FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
  
224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
David LeNeave, Pastor

**growing in grace**  
  
2 Peter 3:18  
**PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church**  
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem  
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

**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."

**PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
  
Speaker: Greg Rushing  
SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.  
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future  
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

**Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian**  
  
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.  
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Marion Methodist Church**  
  
We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously  
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.  
South College St.

**Frances Community Church**  
  
Bro. Butch Gray  
Worship service: 11 a.m.  
Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.  
"The little church with a big heart"

**Hurricane Church**  
  
Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West  
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee  
Sun. School, 10 a.m. • 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**  
  
546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
- The end of your search for a friendly church -