

Wake Up! The Rooster Is Crowing

By Van Yandell

Luke 22: 61-62 “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.”

After spending time on several of the Caribbean islands, the conclusion is that the national bird of some of those should be the rooster. There is such an abundance of the brightly colored and ornately decorated feathered and very vocal species of living alarm clocks, the human population must feel in the minority.

We were in Colon, Cuba several weeks and the rooster population in the neighborhood of our night time quarters was measured not in numbers but in decibels.

We stayed in a convent of nuns and even though we did not speak the language, pleasantries were exchanged in the mornings at breakfast and other times on the grounds. We knew “Buenos Dias” and they knew “Hello.”

Our ride to the work site was a horse drawn wagon with improvised wooden seats. Unpadded, the seats offered a somewhat uncomfortable ride to the church area. Streets in Colon are in a state of disrepair that would make our county roads here in America seem like super-highways.

Under the horses tail was a suspended bag designed to catch the fertilizer deposited by the equine while in its daily duties of serving as a power source for the Cuban taxi. It caught the plant food but failed to contain the aroma.

After having been awakened in the pre-dawn hours by the chorus of roosters singing their daily melody, the aromatic and mostly rough ride made for a somewhat different beginning for our day.

Arriving at the church, usually around eight o'clock, the warm greeting by the Cuban Christians changed our outlook on our existence and brightened the day beyond explanation.

The crow of the rooster is actually an exhilarating sound when one is already awake. But to be brought out of a dead-like sleep it is similar to being plastered against a wall by a nuclear bomb and results in an almost state of shock requiring a visit to an emergency room or more likely, a psychiatrist's couch.

A kettle of “rooster noodle soup” was thought of most mornings but thought the local chicken farmer might not approve. Roosters crow at dawn because their internal rhythm is set. They also crow when their power of territory is threatened which could be at any time.

The crow of the rooster is a wake-up call. Acts 1: 8 is a wake-up call to evangelize. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

We live in a world of divergent races, ethnic groups, ideological groups and the many other differences that exist among the human race. By Jesus using Samaria as one of the geographic locations to witness His Gospel, He was perhaps telling us to tell everyone, regardless of our differences, about Him.

Perhaps by naming “The uttermost part of the earth,” He may not have been thinking of the other side of the planet as we often do. Possibly, the uttermost may be considering those that are difficult to reach with the gospel and that may very well be within one's own family, workplace or neighborhood. At any rate, to evangelize is an imperative and must not be taken lightly.

What are our wake up calls? Among others, our marching orders would include the state of chaos our world is in. As a human race we have gone so far out of bounds, God may very well be fed up with us. Actually, I cannot imagine that He isn't.

Many are convinced the state of the world is much to blame on the Christian community in that we have not told the world about our Glorious Savior. Without knowing Him, humans do not know the simple rules of humanity as stated in the Holy Bible. To know right from wrong doesn't come naturally; it has to be taught.

The crow of the rooster also can serve as a warning. The flock may be in danger and the crowing of the “king bird” is a warning of impending danger. We have been warned by history what the penalty is for continuing in sin.

Luke 22: 34 “And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.” As the story goes, Peter denied Christ the night before the crucifixion. Jesus had told him that the denial would happen but Peter was convinced such a thing could never happen.

At the third denial (Luke 22: 61-62), Peter immediately remembered what Jesus had said. This scripture serves as a combination of a warning of our human frailties and of the omniscience of God. These verses of scripture in depth tell us one of the many reasons Christ Jesus went to the cross for the sins of the world. Our weaknesses and sinful nature could not be overcome by anything less than a total sacrifice by our Creator Himself (Colossians 1: 16).

Many on first thought condemn Peter for denying Christ. We, however, should take this as an admonition to ask ourselves, “How many times have I denied Christ for less than thirty pieces of silver as did Judas?”

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9) and resurrected (Matthew 28: 6).

Deaths And Funerals

Ruby Russell

Ruby Sue Russell died on Saturday, March 29 at her home, surrounded by family members. She was under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Billy Joe Russell.

A long-time member of Dixon General Baptist Church, she willingly served in many areas of church ministries. She enjoyed reading scripture and studying the word of God daily.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Herman and Judy Hawkins for the friendship, visits, food, and many acts of kindness. Neighbor and family friend, Tami Baker, visited and supported her in many ways, along with her sons, Alex, Brandon, and Matthew, and her nephew, Cainan.

St. Anthony's Hospice care team's many dedicated workers who showed much compassion and love, we thank you.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Kay Russell; three granddaughters, Tonya (Willie) Davis, Bridget Borum, and Andrea (Steven Williams); her great-grandsons, Brandon, Blaine, Vincent, and Esra; her daughter, Lana Jobe; and grandson Ian Jobe.

The family requests any donations be made to the Dixon General Church or St. Anthony's Hospice in Sue's honor.

A memorial service will be conducted by the Rev. John Brumfiel at a later date. Paid

Webster County Health Notes

By Pam Hunter, Facilitator

Easter is a time to celebrate our Risen Savior.....Enjoy the season of Promise.

Need stress relief? Try the 4 A's.

Expand your stress management by mastering these four strategies for coping with stress: alter, accept, avoid, adapt.

Believe it or not, you can simply avoid a lot of stress. Plan ahead, rearrange your surroundings and reap the benefits of a lighter load.

When we feel the effects of stress weighing us down, it's like lugging a backpack that's becoming heavier by the minute. Too much stress can make our journey through life difficult. Avoid-Believe it or not, you can simply avoid a lot of stress.

Take control of your surroundings. Avoid people who bother you. Learn to say no.

Ditch part of your list. Label your to-do list with As, Bs and Cs, according to importance. On hectic days, scratch the Cs from your list. One of the most helpful things you can do during times of stress is to take inventory, then accept and change your situation for the better.

Sometimes we may have no choice but to accept things the way they are. Talk with someone. You may not be able to change a frustrating situation, but that doesn't mean your feelings aren't legitimate. Forgive. It takes energy to be angry. Forgiving may take practice, but by doing so you will free yourself from burning more negative energy. Thinking you can't cope is one of the greatest stressors. That's why adapting—which often involves changing your standards or expectations—can be most helpful in dealing with stress. Create an assets column. Imagine all of the things that bring you joy in life such as vacations, children and pets. Then call on that list when you're stressed.

Look at the big picture. Ask yourself, “Will this matter in a year or in five years?” The answer is often no. Realizing this makes a stressful situation seem less overwhelming.

During Easter, share what the Lord had done for you.

God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

Q: We tell children to believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. Isn't Jesus' resurrection story just another one of the myths we perpetuate?

A: The resurrection of Jesus isn't a myth, but a reality that is at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus foretold it. He told His followers, “The Son of Man (meaning Himself) must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third be raised again” (Lk. 24:7). Then, He did just what He'd said He'd do.

In talking to His disciples after His death and resurrection, He said, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (LK. 24:37-38). Then He ate fish with them. He wasn't a mirage. Only real live people can eat fish.

Following Jesus' resurrection, He talked to Peter, the Twelve, over five hundred brothers and sisters, James and Paul (I Cor. 15:3-8). Christianity is built on faith, but it isn't a blind faith. It is verified by the many people who saw and talked to Jesus after he arose from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most verified events in history.

During Christ's crucifixion the Twelve were afraid for their lives and hid. After His resurrection, they willingly died because they believed Jesus was alive. Men don't die for a falsehood, but they will for the truth.

C. E. Johnson, Sr.

C. E. “Jake” Johnson, Sr. of Sebree passed away on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at Redbanks Colonial Terrace Nursing Home.

Jake was born in Slaughters on October 28, 1934 to the late Thurman and Omer Bridwell Johnson.

A dedicated farmer throughout his life, he was also a faithful member and Deacon of Sebree General Baptist Church. Jake proudly served as a member of Onton Bailey Masonic Loge #538 for 65 years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou Johnson and a brother, Kenneth Johnson.

Survivors include three children, Eddie Johnson (Teresa) of Dixon, Melody Fisher (Bruce) of Smith Mills, Kentucky, and Tonja Townsend (Darrell) of Slaughters; a brother, Franklin Johnson of Slaughters; six grandchildren, Matt Melton, Sue Ellen Penley (John), Cary Hicks (David), Adam Townsend, Lindsey Rogers (Ryan), and Todd Townsend (Kassie) and 11 great-grandchildren, Margaret and Hammond Penley, Fisher and Wallace Hicks, Emma, Carson, and Bentley Rogers, Libby and Jax Townsend, and Gracie and Rayleigh Alexander.

Services will be at 11:00 A.M. today (Wednesday, April 16) at Townsend Funeral Home, Sebree Chapel, with Bro. Keith Wilcox officiating.

Burial will follow in Springdale Cemetery.

Visitation was held on Tuesday and from 9:00 A.M. until service time on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Adam Townsend, Todd Townsend, Kassie Townsend, Lindsey Rogers, Ryan Rogers, Cary Hicks, and David Hicks.

Honorary pallbearers are Bobby Littrell, Inky Overby, Jackie Pryor, Frankie Johnson, and Terry Woods.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to Sebree General Baptist Church or Onton Bailey Lodge #538. Paid

Sonrise Service Will Be Held In Slaughters

The Slaughters Christian Church, Slaughters Baptist Church and Slaughters Community Church have had a combined Easter Sonrise Service for about 90 years and church members are thankful they can carry on the tradition again this year.

Slaughters Community Churches are having this Community Easter Sonrise Service at 7:00 am, April 20th, at Slaughters Christian Church, 135 W. Second Street, Slaughters, KY.

An Easter breakfast will be served after the service at Slaughters Community Church. Everyone is welcome.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS.

A public hearing will be held by the Webster County Fiscal Court at the Webster County Senior Building, 80 College Dr., Dixon, KY 42409 on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 9 a.m., at regular scheduled meeting, to receive public comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds will be presented.

All interested persons in Webster County are invited to comment on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Written comments will be accepted at the above address or emailed to steve.henry@webster-co.org. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments via mail or email to the above addresses, but wishes to submit comments, should call the office of the County Judge/Executive at 270-639-5042 before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2025, so arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

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