

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 777

January 17, 2009

The Stranger

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play “big brother” and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me to love the word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He would hold our whole family spellbound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so

life-like that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind but sometimes Mom would quietly get up— while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places— go to her room, read her Bible, and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but this stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house— not from us, from our friends, or from adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted. My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home— not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often.

He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

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Sunday 9 AM & 4 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Hallie Davidson is in the Hart County Health Care Center in Horse Cave. Continue to remember **Jean Coffee, Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jimmy Terry. Sherry Crabtree** is still having some troubles with her eye.

☆☆☆

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parent's den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him "TV."

—adapted from Keith Currie
via South Green St., Glasgow, KY

“For as he thinketh in his heart , so is he. . .”

—Proverbs 23:7



**Don't forget our weekly ad in
The Hart County News-Herald**

Sunday, January 10, 2010

| | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|
| Classes | 14 | Matthew 11:27-12:8 |
| Preaching | 22 | Matthew 11:27-30 |
| Contribution | \$328.00 | |
| Evening | | No Services |

Wednesday, January 3, 2010

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| Classes | 21 | Leviticus 7:1-38 |
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Bible Quiz

What was done with a peace offering on the third day?

Last Week's Answer— Scoured and rinsed in water (Luke 6:28)



**Seven days without attending services
makes one weak.**

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)