

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor

I grew up believing if someone really wanted to work they could always find a job. In our economy today, I no longer believe this. Many people are wondering how they are going to be able to afford the basic necessities and struggle with how they can possibly afford Christmas this year. How will their children understand there just is no money for Christmas this year? These are harsh realities many families are facing this year; however, there are Native Americans who face these problems every day of the year, not just Christmas.

Last year at this time I was in Uganda overseeing the construction of an orphanage and trying to keep the completion on schedule. At home, my wife and family celebrated Christmas and New Year's without me. However, I was able to see Christmas from a different perspective. From my hotel room window I could see the garden below and was able to watch the unique customs and parties as the locals celebrated. I was also blessed to be invited to the Christmas party at another orphanage where I built a fence to protect the children from predators during the night. It was very touching to watch the eyes of these 20 children light up in anticipation of a taste of the 8-inch cake they had for their party. Just imagine their joy if they were having the turkey or ham and all the trimmings plus the several cakes and pies that most families in the United States were having for their Christmas celebrations. We are so blessed, but many of us never realize it.

About midway through January I received an email telling me about the blizzard that swept through the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Between then and when I left Uganda at the end of January I sent out a few emails asking for help for those living on the reservation. We needed coats, blankets, and anything warm. The call for help was answered by the wonderful people from the church we attend, House of Prayer in Blairsville, in addition to other individuals and churches. With the snow still banked on the sides of the roads we made the trip to Pine Ridge and distributed the much needed items at the Wounded Knee Museum. With the cash donations we purchased enough staple food items for forty families.

Winter passed but the needs on Pine Ridge remain. The average income on this reservation is about \$3,000 per year and most families do not have electricity or running water. During the spring and summer our ministry along with individuals willing to donate their time made repairs to the homes of some of these Lakota people. Each trip we carried clothes, food and building materials. As fall approached we again carried winter clothes, blankets, food and other needed items to different communities on the reservations to help them prepare for yet another winter.

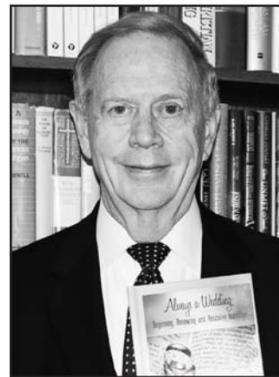
On each trip we worked on at least two homes. We were at our last house during the November trip when the grandmother asked if we were one of the ministries who helped with Christmas for the children. This is not an area we normally focus on but the need was there and we had to help. Thanks again to the wonderful people of this area who made it possible for her grandchildren to have a Christmas this year.

Without the help of caring people who are willing to donate their time, money and needed items we would not have been able to accomplish what we did on the Pine Ridge Reservation this year. If you would like to know more about our ministry and how you can help, please visit our website www.ospreyministries.org or call us at 706-835-6010 or 706-896-7491.

We would like to say thank you to all that so freely gave this year. We also would like to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and may you always be blessed.

John & Debra Davis
Osprey Ministries

Dr. Jim Collins knows a little something about marriage



Dr. Jim Collins

Well, he should, having performed more than 2,200 wedding ceremonies throughout his career in the ministry.

And now, the resident of Young Harris has written a book about just that.

Always a Wedding, Xulon Press, (\$14.99 paperback; \$22.99 hardback) hits the shelves and Dr. Collins has agreed to a book signing at Inspirations Book Store beside Always Christmas.

Dr. Collins will sign his new book from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday in Hiwassee.

"The hope of this book is to help those who seek true marriage discover that it is more than just living with someone," Dr. Collins said. "It is a sacred bond that satisfies the deepest desires of one's heart. It is the means of growing as best friends and lovers as long as life continues."

Marriage, therefore, is the best investment with the greatest dividends that a man and a woman will ever make, Dr. Collins said.

"Having someone to love, honor, cherish, comfort, and protect you through all the circumstances of life is worth all the learning, adjustments and unselfish sacrifices that marriage requires," Dr. Collins said. "It truly is a divine gift from God."

Dr. Kirk Nowery, former team chaplain for the Miami Dolphins, says the book is a must read.

"Dr. Collins performed my daughter's wedding at the Atlanta

Peachtree Christian Church where he was pastor for 21 years and he truly knows what marriage is and can be with God's help," Nowery said.

Dr. Collins understands that today's culture too often depreciates traditional marriage and family values.

"The 21 chapters in this book provide Biblical and practical guidelines for every couple beginning their marriage, renewing their marriage, and rescuing their marriage," Dr. Collins said. "Life's best lessons are learned from experience."

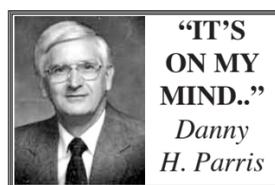
Dr. Collins developed the book from the more than 2,200 wedding ceremonies he has performed and from conducting thousands of counseling sessions with couples before and after marriage.

These experiences have allowed him to learn with couples the marvelous and unique ways of giving birth to marriage and keeping it alive even when its endurance is vigorously tested.

"God's first gift to humanity was the Sacred Covenant of Marriage," Dr. Collins said. "Since the first wedding in the Garden of Eden, there has always been a wedding in every culture and there will always be a wedding for a man and woman who share committed love."

Always a Wedding offers couples an instructional, inspirational and humorous guidebook in achieving their hopes and dreams for a loving and lasting marriage. Always a Wedding could be the perfect stocking stuffer for Christmas.

"I want to express gratitude to each couple who reads and benefits from this book," Dr. Collins said. "In this book, certain Biblical principles are identified that can guide couples into a 'forever' covenant of love and faithfulness."



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

Christmas nuts to crack

Well folks, you have heard about the nuts and bolts (the basics) of various subjects, but I want to explore the nuts of Christmas. As far back as I can recall I have been nuts about Christmas. In fact, before you are finished with this column, you likely will say that this writer is as nutty as a fruitcake. If my memory serves me right, I don't remember a Christmas without a variety of nuts. My dad always made sure that we had oranges, apples and different kinds of nuts. In grade school and at church programs, teachers would hand out brown paper bags that always included nuts. Over the years I have attended Christmas parties where someone goes nuts about finding out how dumb I am by requiring tests to be taken. One such test was Christmas nuts to crack. I was glad that Regina was sitting next to me or else I never would have cracked some of those nuts. Here are some of the questions: What nut is in a box? I peeped on Regina's paper and she had Chestnut. All I recall about chestnuts was something about roasting over an open fire. What nut is a hot drink? Coconut. Personally, I prefer it cold. I churned my brain to come up with the answer to "a nut made from cream?" Butternut never dawned on me. As I looked over other nutty questions such as "What nut is a canned vegetable?" I thought I am going to fail this test. Why, I never would have thought of a Pecan being the answer. By now I am thinking I will have to turn in my ordina-

tion papers. My goose was really cooked when I came to the question "what nut is uncooked bread?" Answer-a Donut. I thought that was silly. But the next question really threw me, "What is a seashore nut?" I have never found a nut? I have seashore except maybe a two-legged one. Coconut had already been used. But for some reason these Smart for some reason's wives knew the answer was "Beechnut." I always thought that was chewing tobacco. Next came the biggie, "what nut is the side of a room?" Man, I have seen some big nuts in my time but never one the side of a room. I tried to picture just how big the tree would be and just how many nuts it could produce. What if you were standing under the tree when the nut fell? Just then another preacher's wife shouted out "Walnut." But, by cracker jacks, I knew the next four: "What nut should be given to bad children?" Hickory nut - thanks to my mom. "A nut imported from South America?" Brazil nut - thanks to my geography teacher. "A nut named after a girl?" Hazelnut - thanks to my male instinct. "A nut popular in Ohio?" Buckeye - thanks to my football knowledge. I am a vegetable nut but I missed that one - "A vegetable nut" - of course, a Peanut, that really made me feel small. I finally got enough answers right to at least retain my license to preach. In a nutshell, let me tell you what Christmas is all about - This world of sin was a tough nut to crack but God was nuts about us (means He loved us with an everlasting love) and sent Jesus, His only Son to die on a cruel cross that He might save us from an eternal nuthouse - Hell itself. At this Christmas season don't let the world drive you nuts, but be nuts about Jesus, our Savior!

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

So it's 8 p.m. and time for little Archie to pick up his toys and get ready for bed. Mom makes the announcement only once, then turns around and walks away. Archie doesn't budge. Mom knows that ignoring instructions is a learned behavior. If she tells him more than once she is acknowledging either that she understands Archie does not intend to obey until she turns up the heat, or that he's too dumb to get it the first time. Neither of those options is acceptable.

She also knows that pleading, threatening, shouting and scolding do not build the character she wants to see develop in Archie, nor the respect she wants him to have for his parents. Incidentally, one of the goals of Archie's parents is that he do well in school. Other things being equal, the youngster who comes to school having learned to listen and follow directions from the authority figures in his life is the youngster who will do better in school. Period.

Back to last night: Half an hour later there isn't much going on in the den anymore

so Archie goes upstairs. He taps on Mom's door and asks, "Are you going to come and tuck me in?" "Sure, Honey," and she does. But in the back of his mind Archie suspects he may not have heard the last of this issue. He's right.

As dinner concludes the next evening Dad says, "Archie, it's time to go up to your room now and get ready for bed. I'll be up in a few minutes to help you say your prayers and tuck you in." "But Dad," Archie begins to argue, "it's only 6:30."

"I know," Dad replies. "And the new bedtime will be in effect for a week. We want you to remember that when Mom or I give you instructions - as Mom did at bedtime last night - that we expect you to obey."

"But Dad..." "Archie, no argument please, or it adds an extra evening to the early bed time." See, no lecture, no shouting, no threats. Just a Rare Kids; Well Done attitude. It works.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net.

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes.

This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

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Towns County Herald

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OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET
"THE MALL" HIWASSEE (706) 896-4454
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiwassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
P.O. BOX 365 HIWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
Monday at 12 Noon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15
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