



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
Vol. XXXIV September 2, 2007 No. 35

## From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

The quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL has been much in the news lately. Seems he has been charged with being involved with a dog fighting ring. This will cost him dearly. In fact just a few moments ago, the television news channel to which

the television was tuned in the restaurant where I had lunch announced that Mr. Vick has entered a guilty plea and will be sentenced on December 10th.

Many have expressed opinions about his guilt, the hideousness of dog fighting and what should happen to Mr. Vick. The consensus seems to be that he may serve 12 to 18 months. A friend of mine, Doug Couch, who preaches for the White Bluff church in Tennessee, expressed some thoughts that I have been thinking all along. What do you think?

**Killing Dogs and Aborting Babies.** Much has been in the news lately about NFL star quarterback Michael Vick, who will plead guilty on Monday to being involved in the dog fighting business. His career in Atlanta is probably over.

Public reaction has been very strong. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV A) called these actions "barbaric" and volunteered to attend the execution of the accused. CNN's Nancy Grace argued that it was wrong because the dogs "can't defend themselves."

However, former Oklahoma Congressman J.C. Watts who played pro football in the Canadian Football League and served as a youth minister, said there was something out of proportion about people who are outraged by the killing of a dog but say nothing about the killing of an unborn child. People get "more worked up over the admittedly brutal and inhumane treatment of soulless dogs than the brutal procedure known as partial-birth abortion." Writing in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Watts reminded readers that unborn children are more defenseless. "If only animal rights advocates would acknowledge the more precious worth of human life."

Charles Colson observed that our culture has embraced two very destructive ideals. The first is that men are not under any obligation to obey the moral laws of any God because men can do what they wish in the name of "choice."

The second destructive idea is that there is nothing special about man. He is only a very clever primate. The end result is that man is held in lower esteem than an animal.

A car bumper sticker makes a very sharp point:  
*Save the Whales, But Kill the Babies.*

## Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

The following article comes from Phil Sanders, minister of the Concord Road church in Brentwood, TN. I thought he made some good points in reference to what we as parents are trying to teach our children as they grow physically and mature spiritually. His sentiments further reflect some

recent research that points to moms and dads being role models for their children.

### Ten Things for Which You as a Parent Will Never Be Sorry

A periodical called Encounter, published by the National Research Bureau listed ten things for which parents will never be sorry.

1. For doing your level best even when discouraged.
2. For hearing before judging in family quarrels.
3. For thinking before speaking when emotionally upset.
4. For not harboring unkind thoughts of a talebearer.
5. For being generous to an enemy, perhaps the next door neighbor.
6. For stopping your ears to gossip over the fence.
7. For standing by your principles in dealing with your teenagers.
8. For asking pardon, when in error, even of your child.
9. For being square in business dealings with the newsboy.
10. For accepting the stewardship of "another" child.

I can think of some other things for which a Christian parent is never sorry. A parent will never be sorry he took time to sing hymns and pray with his or her children. A parent will never be sorry he or she read a Bible story to the children. A parent will never be sorry that he or she took time for Bible class and worship at church. A Christian parent can never be sorry for introducing his children to Jesus Christ.

A parent will never be sorry for encouraging his/her children to get involved in youth activities, for going on a mission trip, for helping someone in need, for taking his children to visit another in the hospital, or for talking to the children about the important issues of life.

Our children are the greatest investment we'll ever make. Let's take the time to open a door to them that God will enter.

### Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Renewing the Inward Man,*  
*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

P.M. - *The Head of the Church,*  
*Ephesians 1:15-23*

# Of Cadillacs and Crosses

I remember how travel was many years ago when I was but a small boy and before the interstates were a reality. As you drove along you were tempted by signs that advertised all manner of roadside attractions. Folks driving to Florida saw signs advertising a string of gator farms where one might even see a man wrestle with an alligator. If you were traversing Tennessee, or almost any state in the south, you were urged to “See Rock City.” Seems such roadside attractions have a hard time surviving in the days of increased air travel and people whizzing by at high speed on the interstate.

But that doesn't mean such roadside attractions are dead! To the west of Amarillo, Texas, just off Interstate 40 and in full view of all who pass by is the Cadillac Ranch. You can access it by exiting the interstate, driving down the frontage road and entering the field where the Cadillac Ranch is via an unlocked gate. There actually is no charge to do so.

I had heard of this roadside attraction and on our recent trip through Texas we saw the Cadillac Ranch from I-40. A picture from the internet accompanies this article. No, we did not stop and visit.

What is it? It is just some old Cadillac automobiles dating from 1949 to 1963 buried nose down in the field. According to one writer, it was created in 1974 with the following purpose: “The piece is a statement about the paradoxical simultaneous American fascinations with both a “sense of place” — and roadside attractions, such as *The Ranch* itself — and the mobility and freedom of the automobile.” I thought it looked junky and tacky from the road!

A few miles east in Groom, Texas is yet another roadside attraction which gave me greater pause. It was surely better advertised with several billboards creating interest and giving instructions as to where to exit in order to see this amazing attraction. It was what was claimed to be the *world's largest cross*. It was big!

As you drove across the plains heading toward Amarillo, you could see it for miles. Whether or not it really was the world's largest cross, I do not know. The internet seems to indicate that there are several claimants to that title. And, no, Mary and I did not stop and see this roadside attraction either!

But this is the one that really made me think, especially since the billboards proclaimed it “*a spiritual experience you will never forget*.” There were, according to the billboards and the internet, additional depictions of the crucifixion, the tomb of Jesus, and what are known as “the stations of the cross.”

This attraction as well could be clearly seen from Interstate 40. While there was no one at the Cadillac Ranch that we could see, there were several folks at the world's largest cross. I mused to Mary as to whether or not they were having a spiritual experience that they would never forget. I also wondered how much it cost! As we drove along, I also wondered to myself, “Is this what the cross has come to in our society?” No, I do not for a moment question the sincerity,



purpose, or intent of those that erected this claimant to the title of world's largest cross, at what I am sure was great expense. I know such could not, at least in recent years, have been built with public funds. The ACLU would have surely sued someone and had it stopped. And it may just be a life changing spiritual experience for some.

But has the cross of Jesus lost its meaning to the point it is nothing more than a roadside attraction? Is this the where and how by which folks in America seek a “spiritual experience they will never forget?” Or were these just the thoughts of a crotchety old man, tired from having driven several hours with several hours more to go? That cross on the plains of Texas was a marvel, to be sure. Its buffed aluminum exterior gleamed in the sunlight. Its size was truly impressive, even from an automobile whizzing by at 70 miles an hour.

But I suspect an encounter with the real cross of Jesus really would be a spiritual experience you would not forget for a lifetime.

We cannot encounter the cross of Jesus as did those who stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus' life was ebbing away in long ago Jerusalem. If we could we might come away with the same declaration on our lips as that of the centurion: “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39). Nor do I think we must have an existential, “out of body,” surreal experience with the cross for it to be meaningful. But we can encounter the cross through the inspired descriptions in the gospel accounts and then come to understand its real meaning through the writings of the inspired apostles.

Paul tells us that the message of the cross is foolishness to the world (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). The Bible also speaks of the offense and shame of the cross (Galatians 5:11, Hebrews 12:2). The cross is the means of finding reconciliation and peace with God (Ephesians 2:14-18, Colossians 1:19-20). Paul said if he was going to boast, he would boast in the cross by which he was crucified to the world and the world was crucified to him (Galatians 6:14-15). He also noted that folks suffered persecution because of the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:12). But there are those who are enemies of the cross (Philippians 3:18), and it is possible to make the cross of Christ of no effect (1 Corinthians 1:17).

I doubt Paul ever had the urge to erect what might have been at that time the world's largest cross and urge folks to visit it that they might have a spiritual experience they would never forget. His interest was not in the actual cross, but what happened on it and seeing that become meaningful in the lives of people. That is a real spiritual experience that will last a lifetime and longer!

—Michael D. Greene

# News and Notes

**J MARTIN** is still in VA Hospital, Room 626, and continues to undergo tests. **ROSE JOHNSON**, daughter of Roy & Peggy Johnson, has glaucoma and other health problems. **LINDSAY CORMAN**, 11 year old granddaughter of Kendell Seaton of Lexington, has viral meningitis and is now suffering from complications. She will be in Cincinnati Children's Hospital several more weeks. Her address is posted on the bulletin board if you would like to send a card. **MARTHA DILLOW**, Shirley Devore's aunt, will have surgery August 30 in Illinois for cancer.

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Roy Johnson
Alyenne Bates	Doris Martin
Neil Burden	J Martin
Elonda Crafton	Tom Morgan
W. C. Davis	Marie Rose
Joyce Fulkerson	Terry Showers
Howard & Millie Gardner	Grace Speer
Bernard Gillim	Wilma Stull
Jacob Gringle	Barbara Underwood
Faye Guess	Lonnie Underwood

**Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:** Justin Burg, Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler

**Additional Prayer List:** Jan Allen, Delsie Axton, Gil Berry, Christa Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Carolyn Gaston, Sydney Dover, Ellen Duvall, Kevin Fox, Sadie Gentry, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Jane Hack, Tonya Harper, Louie Hodge, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Donald Montgomery, Phil Noltemeyer, Joe Pawley, Stephen Pitcock, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Florence Stull, Darrell Tade, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Andrew Verble, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver

## Thank You

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, flowers, nice gifts and visits to the hospital and home while I was recovering from my blood clots. Every act of kindness was very much appreciated. Also, I enjoyed the many cards I received.

*Joyce Fulkerson*

## Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 9/02/07 Canned green beans

## NOTE

The church office will be closed *Monday, September 3*, for Labor Day.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Betty Addington  | 17. Donald Sells      |
| 2. Nadine Fulkerson | 18. Tracy Simone Bray |
| 3. Ronnie Carter    | 19. Peggy Johnson     |
| 7. Judy Large       | Michelle Treadway     |
| 8. Chelsey Davis    | Haley Davis           |
| 10. Stephanie Muncy | 20. Dennis Hogan      |
| Amber Chandler      | Brooke Bartelt        |
| 11. Faye Guess      | 21. Millie Gardner    |
| Bethann Dyer        | 22. Carolyn Showers   |
| 12. Keziah Dunn     | 23. Bernard Gillim    |
| 16. Patsy Martin    | 28. Renee Lackey      |
| Dorothy Hawkins     |                       |

### ANNIVERSARIES

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Craig & Monica Bartelt | September 14 |
| Joe & Dorothy Brothers | September 16 |
| Kevin & Judy Large     | September 17 |
| Jason & Carrie White   | September 19 |
| Shane & Laura Muncy    | September 26 |
| Jerry & Barbara Witty  | September 27 |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **DIRECTORY PICTURES**, Sunday morning, **September 2**
- **MONTHLY PHONE CALL** to Central brethren in Donetsk, Sunday morning, **September 9**, at 8:30 a.m.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **September 10**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **FALL GOSPEL MEETING, September 21-23**, with Mel Futrell, minister of the Shades Mountain Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama
- **TEACHER TRAINING SERIES, September 24-25**, at South Green Church of Christ, in Glasgow. Information is posted on the bulletin board. Mike Greene will be one of the speakers.

## OUR RECORD FOR

August 26, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	142
Sunday Morning Assembly	223
Sunday Evening Assembly	124
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	18
Wednesday Bible Study	92
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$15,606

**Elder/Coordinator for September**  
**Rick Whobrey**

Elizabethtown Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 652  
1211 N. Dixie Ave.  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Church Office: 765-6446  
Fax # 737-0491

**Elders:**

Ron Carter	358-5792
Dennis Hogan	234-0705
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

**Ministers:**

Michael D. Greene	862-9971
	cell # 735-6908
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

**Secretary:**

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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**Email:** churchofchrist@kvnet.org

Visit us on the World Wide Web:  
www.etowncofc.org

## Bible Question

**This Week's Bible Question:** Who were these people:  
*Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabsaris,  
Nergalsarezer, Rabmag?*

**Last Week's Bible Question:** Who was awakened with orders to pray, the purpose being to save his life and the life of others? The correct answer is Jonah, Jonah 1:4-10. Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Kay Pack, Mary Greene, Mary Walker, and Betty Bray correctly answered the question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to [rpack119@bbtel.com](mailto:rpack119@bbtel.com) by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

## Schedule of Services

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday**

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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**Wednesday**

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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1. Esther 1, 2; Luke 24:36-53
2. Esther 3-6; 1 Thessalonians 1-2:12
3. Esther 7-10; 1 Thess. 2:13-3
4. Job 1, 2; 1 Thess. 4
5. Job 3-5; 1 Thess. 5

### Week 32 Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- Sept. 9 — Donetsk Phone Call
- Sept. 10 — Church Workers Workshop
- Sept. 14-15 — FHU R.U.S.H.
- Sept. 21-23 — Fall Gospel Meeting
- Sept. 23 — Singing at Atria
- Sept. 24-25 — Teacher Training Series
- Nov. 9-10 — Ladies Retreat

## PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

Elizabethtown Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 652  
Elizabethtown, KY 42702

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