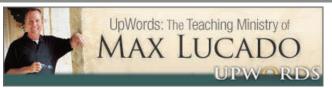
COUNTY THURSDAY, PAGE 4 The four-year-old running



He Loves to Be with the Ones He Loves

Holiday travel. It isn't easy. the airports? You know the Then why do we do it? Why answer. We love to be with cram the trunks and endure the ones we love.

ATTENTION!!!!

DEER HUNTERS with DOGS We have a huge selection of dog collars (14 - 26) and leashes in a wide variety of lengths with a great assortment of colors. We also carry tags for all our collars. We engrave name and phone number on tags.

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up the sidewalk into the arms of Grandpa.

The cup of coffee with Mom before the rest of the house awakes.

That moment when, for a moment, everyone is quiet as we hold hands around the table and thank God for family and friends and pumpkin pie.

We love to be with the ones we love.

May I remind you? So does God. He loves to be with the ones he loves. How else do you explain what he did? Between him and us there was a distance—a great span. And he couldn't bear it. He couldn't stand it. So he did something about it. Before coming to the earth,

"Christ himself was like God in every-thing.... But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant" (Phil. 2:6–7 NCV).

Why? Why did Jesus travel so far?

I was asking myself that question when I spotted the squirrels outside my window. A family of black-tailed

squirrels has made its home amid the roots of the tree north of my office. We've been neighbors for three years now. They watch me peck the keyboard. I watch them store their nuts and climb the trunk. We're mutually amused. I could watch them all day. Sometimes I But I've never considered

becoming one of them. The squirrel world holds no appeal to me. Who wants to sleep next to a hairy rodent with beady eyes? (No comments from you wives who feel you already do.) Give up the Rocky Mountains, bass fishing, weddings, and laughter for a hole in the ground and a diet of dirty nuts? Count me out. But count Jesus in. What

a world he left. Our classiest mansion would be a tree trunk to him. Earth's finest cuisine would be walnuts on heaven's table. And the idea of becoming a squirrel with claws and tiny teeth and a furry tail? It's nothing compared to God becoming a one-celled embryo and entering the womb of Mary.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Michael Brooks, one of carried to the Baptist hospi-Holmes County's oldest bus tal in Jackson. Now she is in drivers, is real sick. He is in the rehab in Kosciusko. one of the hospitals in Jack-

in the rehab in Koscisuko.

universe kicked against the tal. I don't know which hoswall of a womb, was born pital she's in. into the poverty of a peasant, and spent his first night ington's alderwomen, had in the feed trough of a cow. knee surgery about six "The Word became flesh and weeks ago. Now she is trylived among us" (John 1:14 ing to get around without a NRSV). The God of the uni- walker, crutches or a cane. It verse left the glory of heaven seems like she is doing good and moved into the neigh- on walking. borhood. Our neighborhood! Who could have imagined he children came home for would do such a thing.

the ones he loves.

From Next Door Savior. Group, 2003) Max Lucado.

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Mary Hester, owner of the Village Club, was in an auto Mr. William Wright is still accident. At the time of the accident her son Fitzgerald Viola Dixon fell and broke Hester was in the hospital. her hip in October. She was Now he is out of the hospital. Mary went home; but she But he did. The God of the had to go back to the hospi-

Ella Benson, one of Lex-

Some of Joe Morgan's Thanksgiving. One of Lee Why? He loves to be with Henry Wright's grandsons came home too. Also one of his brothers came home. Copyright (W Publishing Mr. William Wright is their brother.

> UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life.

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