

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



### OVERHEARD IN THE SUMMER

Some things are universal about the seasons such as conversations among family and friends. Perhaps, in the summertime, even more so as school is out, people take vacations, and families in general just spend more time together.

Good times at the beach, the fireworks, the fair, the boat and the campground. Maybe not so good times getting sunburned, eating too much cotton candy, getting hit in the head with a water ski or sitting in an overly humid car with four adults, five kids, two dogs and a turtle during a driving rainstorm because your pop up camper collapsed.

Good and not so good memories usually make you smile later. See if some of these words from summers present and past don't bring up a few.

"You can't swim for an hour...you just ate" (This was often shortened because bug-

ging parents actually worked)  
 "I expect to see you home when the street lights come on!"  
 "Don't run behind the (mosquito) FOGGER!" (This may be very specific to where I grew up, which accounts for so much about me at least!)  
 "Let me put on this calamine lotion and sun tan lotion" (This was applied by the gallon)  
 "We can recycle those glass pop bottles for money!"  
 "You rode to where on your bikes? And we need to come get you?"  
 "This is all the money you are getting tonight for the Fair" (This was usually repeated several times a night)  
 "Don't go near the (insert river, lake, ditch)" Followed later by "How DID your clothes get wet?"  
 "Okay, start making a list so we can run into the store" (This was said on almost every trip to the campground after we first unpacked)  
 "Don't throw one more thing in that fire!"

"That didn't go off, let's go check it" (Insert hysterical parent reaction right here to dud firecrackers after kid says this!)  
 "There are no sharks in Lake (Shelbyville, Decatur, Mattoon, Carlyle or in Illinois...period!)"  
 "How did sand get in there? I think we brought half the beach back with us"  
 "How long as this (insert any food item) been sitting out?" (Mom discreetly determines it to be okay, slips back into cooler)  
 "Please tell me the motor just died and we aren't out of gas" Usually heard on boat in middle of shark-free lake.  
 "I WILL pull this car over!"  
 "No, you cannot join the carnival" (After night at Fair might reconsider!)  
 "Is that pineapple or banana? Coconut? EWWW" (How many fridges are left with yellow, **Cont. pg. 7**)

# Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



**Getting Away From It All**  
 It's summer. Ah, the smell of sunscreen, the taste of fresh watermelon, flip-flops, tank tops, and complaints about the scorching heat. And it wouldn't be summer without the quintessential family vacation.

I almost got envious the other day when I heard about someone's big vacation plans, but then I got a check in my spirit, and came to my senses. Who am I kidding; I can't go on vacation. I get homesick after 3 days and always make John bring me home early.

Rudy gets carsick just riding to Champaign; so a long car ride for him would be horrible.

The very, opinionated Miss Rosa doesn't want to go on vacation, she said, "Because wherever we go, the local people are only friendly to us because they want our money. It's not because they actually like us. I hate fake

people."  
 Portia said she would like to go on vacation if she could bring back rocks from each place that we stop. (We already have way too many of Portia's rocks at home, trust me.)  
 John, being a level-headed man, suggested we take a few day trips and go canoeing and hiking, and enjoy nature locally. Plus we wouldn't need to find a pet-sitter to take care of our mini-zoo if we didn't stay gone overnight. I am glad I married a reasonable and wise man.

Besides, I don't even know where I would want to go on vacation? Theme parks? I don't have the stomach to ride any of the rides and most of the shows are so fake and cheesy, not to mention the cost of tickets and food once you get in the park. The beach? Been there, done that. Don't care for the sand, the crabs, creatures and bugs,

sharks, bears, bats, snakes, fear of drowning, and the waves that are too noisy.

Camping? I don't find sleeping in a smelly tent in the woods in 90 degree weather when there are animals outside the fabric door that would like to eat, scratch, poison, or kill me very appealing. Plus it's a lot of work to pack up and live like a homeless person out in the woods for several days when I have a perfectly good house here, with air conditioning, a comfortable bed, indoor plumbing, and cable t.v..

Las Vegas? Too flashy and sinful. Disney World is too commercialized and "people-y." Overseas? Expensive and too far from home. Plus I am not planning on getting aboard an airplane ever again. I rode one once, but to tell you the truth, I never did put all of my weight on it. My leg was killing me by the time we reached El Paso.

Did you know that most family vacations are financed with credit cards, and end up costing 2-3 times more in the long run?. Forbes recently published an article that stated "On average, Americans spend 10% of their annual income on vacations a year.....two-thirds of respondents also said a week-long vacation would cost more than their monthly rent or mortgage. On another web site, it is estimated that a family vacation costs roughly \$141 per person, per day.

Of course, the cost of a vacation could vary widely based on how frugal you want to be and how far away FROM IT ALL you want to get. You could go visit a less popular attraction, say, the world's largest hairball or something. Maybe you could get your family to eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches everyday instead of eating out; or not. Camping is cheaper than booking a hotel room; but your neighbor might be a real bear. You have to weigh the negatives and positives and find a compromise that works for you.

I can get away from it all just by going into my bedroom and shutting the door. I have cable t.v. in there, and the internet, a lava lamp, tons of books to read, a hidden stash of candy, and my favorite cozy blanket, and even earplugs. Best of all, it's free.

So, even though I think I want to go on vacation at times, I know in reality I would regret it. The long car ride, the traffic, the car sickness, the home-sickness, the cost of everything, eating out every meal **Cont. pg. 7**

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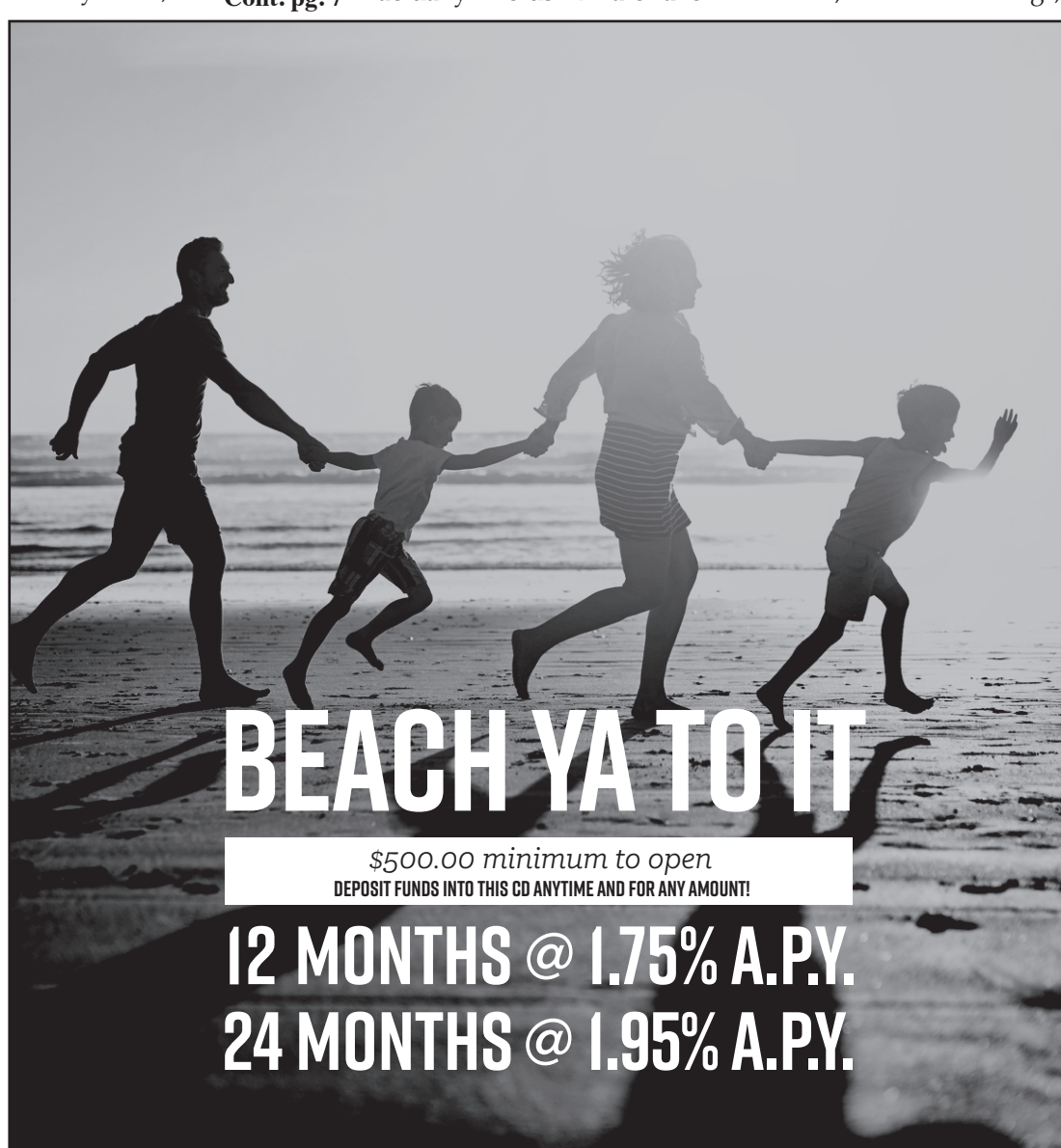
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**Adult Bible Study**  
 Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (Aug. - June)  
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 Call the church office for more information.

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