

Let the summer fun begin

Now that summer is upon us, we can turn our back on those frosty days of winter. I like winter as long as it is in the past tense. Otherwise, all that cold tenses me up something terrific. Now that summer is upon me, I can sit back, relax and enjoy those crazy, lazy days of summer.

My plans for the summer have already been established. I have a little notebook with all the things I plan to do during the summer. If someone were to open that little notebook, they will find, much to their surprise, not a thing written on any page.

That is precisely my plan. I plan to do nothing during the summer.

This is a relatively new strategy on my part. Every time I plan to do something, it never turns out right. In fact, if I plan to go right everything turns around and I end up going left. Therefore, my ingenious plan is to plan the opposite of what I really want to do. After all, it cannot be any worse than what I have been doing up to now.

I have been dreaming about the luxury of doing absolutely nothing for the summer. I have no personal goals to achieve. I have no projects needing completion. I have only one goal for the entire summer and that is to do nothing.

For this nefarious plan of mine to be successful, I will need to avoid the wife for the entire summer. If she was in the living room I would make sure, I was out in the garage. If she were out on the porch, I would be in the bathroom. I had this all worked out in my head long before Spring came to its finale.

For weeks now, I have been busy planning my summer's spree of non-activity. Within a matter of time, some strange thought horned in on my serenity. For some reason I hit a snag in my planning. I thought I had everything worked out. Then I noticed something strange about this new strategy of mine. That is, it is quite hard to plan to do nothing.

For example, if I plan to go fishing I know what equipment I need to lay out and what clothes I need to wear. If I am planning to go on a vacation, I know what to pack and I know the clothes to put in the suitcase and so forth. But, how do you plan to do nothing?

When I first thought of this plan, it seemed like such an easy thing to do. Something natural for a person like me. My problem was, what clothes do I need to put on when I am planning to do nothing? What kind of equipment do I need? And, should I pack a lunch?

I decided to pack a lunch anyway. It is only one week into the summer and I have found

myself to be a little stressed. My plan was to do nothing but I am not sure what that means.

When you do nothing, what exactly are you doing or not doing? Boy, do I need a philosopher today. (Where is Dr. Phil when you need him?) And I suppose the biggest question is, how do you define nothing?

To define nothing, you have to say something, and something certainly is not nothing. So how do I know when I am doing nothing? If I do anything, does it cancel out my goal of nothing?

To show how desperate I was, I decided to ask the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"How do I know when I'm doing nothing?" I asked her. She looked at me with one of those strange looks I have become so familiar with and just stared at me for a few moments. Then with both hands firmly placed on her hips, she answered me.

"It is simply this. You are doing nothing when you are not doing what I asked you to do." Then she produced a thick notebook of things she wanted me to do. A "to-do-list," if you please, for the summer.

It was at that point that it hit me. The only way you can do nothing is if you have something to do. If I don't have anything to do, there is nothing I can do. But if I have something to do and do not do it I am, in fact, doing nothing.

I surprised my wife by taking her to-do-list and clutching it to my bosom. I said to her with a smile, "Thank you for solving my summer problem." With that, I walked off quite cheerfully, knowing that with this list in my hand, I now have a plan to do nothing for the summer. I love it when a plan comes together.

I then did something profitable. I turned to a favorite passage in the Bible. The apostle Paul knew a thing or two about doing things. Paul said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:12-13).

It may be difficult to do nothing but it is absolutely impossible to do anything without Christ.

Dr. James L. Snyder, pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Ocala, FL. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

Complete Honesty

By: Dawn Reed

In the mid 1990's, some college students who were serving as summer missionaries came to our church for a weekend of fun. During Sunday School, half of them came to our high school class. (I was the teacher.)

At the beginning of class, I asked, "Please tell us a little about yourself and how you came to be on this mission team".

The first guy's name was Matt. He had short blonde hair and looked like he had just come from a game of tennis. He told us of shop-lifting, drug use, and premarital sex-a typical date for him and his girlfriend, he said. One night he ended up in jail where his parents left him. That's when he realized he needed Jesus.

The next student's name was Cody. He wore wide-legged bell bottom jeans and sported a large afro along with lambchop sideburns. In a soft voice, he began, "My name is Cody. I was saved when I was a child and have been in church my whole life. I have never smoked or had a drink and I'm still a virgin."

As we went around the table, a beautiful girl who had been homecoming queen, a cheerleader and captain

of some sports team spoke about searching for fulfillment yet finding none. She shared openly about trying to fill the void in her life finally giving her heart to Jesus.

Another young man they called "Stick" shared his story. Always very tall and very thin, never seeming to fit in any group, he had been teased mercilessly all his life. Eventually, he tried to commit suicide but was unsuccessful. That's when he turned to the Lord.

I stood in front of the Sunday School class amazed at the candidness of this group of summer missionaries. I had never, ever heard such brutal honesty from any Christians!

How wonderful that they had truly accepted the forgiveness of Christ! They were letting God use them AND their stories or testimonies! On the other hand, I had not.

I had made some bad choices years earlier and had been wearing the guilt like a heavy cloak. I held secret shame for a decade asking God to forgive me again and again. These students showed me that God had indeed forgiven me and could still use me! I had never heard anyone be so completely honest about their past! It changed my life!

RUSSELL COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." -Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

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Bernard Ridge Church of God
241 Stephens Ridge Rd,
Russell Springs

Bethel United Baptist Church
Decatur Road, Dunsville

Bethel United Methodist Church
Bethel Church Road,
Jamestown

Bethesda Community Fellowship
3109 S. Hwy 127,
Russell Springs, KY 42642

Bethlehem Separate Baptist Church
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Jamestown

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Bro. Doug Baldwin,
Pastor

First Baptist Church of Russell Springs
392 E. Hwy 80, Russell Springs
Sunday

Faith Temple Full Gospel Church
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First Apostolic Church
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First United Methodist Church of Jamestown
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Jamestown,
Phone: (270)-343-4187

Freedom Christian Church
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Garrett Crawford, Youth Minister

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French Valley United Methodist Church
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Good Tidings Baptist
W. Hwy 76 - Russell/
Adair line.

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Grider's Chapel United Methodist Church
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Hayes Chapel United Methodist Church
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Jamestown, Ky 42629

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Junc. 55 & 127
Jamestown
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Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
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Phone: (270)-343-2100

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Oak Grove Separate Baptist Church
Blair School House Road

Old Liberty Community Church
W. Hwy 92, Russell Springs

Ono Community Church
Hwy. 1611

Pine Grove Separate Baptist Church
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Pine Grove United Baptist Church
Gosser Ridge Community

Pine Top Church of Christ
Pine Top Rd. Russell Springs

Poplar Grove Baptist Church
North 127

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
250 French Valley Court, Russell Springs
Phone: (270)-866-4656

Rockhouse Christian Church

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West Hwy 80, Russell Springs, KY42642

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Russell Springs

Russell Springs Church of the Nazarene
1442 W Steve Wariner Dr.

Russell Springs Lighthouse Church
86 Owenstown

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Russell Springs, KY 42642

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Russell Springs United Methodist
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Russell Springs
Phone: (270) 866-5180

Sano Baptist Church
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Phone: (270)-585-7053

Sewellton Church of God of Prophecy
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Jamestown, KY 42629

Solid Rock Church
189 West Drive, Russell Springs, KY 42642
Phone: (270)-866-4097

Springs of Free Life Church
635 Main St. Russell Springs, KY 42642

Phone: (270)-866-8748

The Church of God
P.O. Box 2121 - Hwy 1729
Russell Springs, KY 42642

Union Baptist Church
3525 Gosser Ridge Road

Union Chapel United Methodist

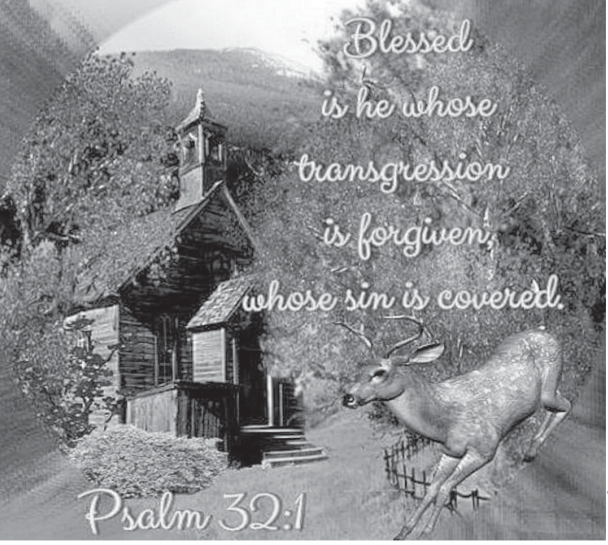
Welfare Baptist Church
Middletown, Hwy 127

West 80 Church of God
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Russell Springs

Whites Chapel Separate Baptist Church

Willow Oak Church of Christ
Half-Acre Road,

Word of God Church
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