

God encourages testimonies

By FICKLEN GUIN
Pastor and Columnist
(Acts 26: 24-32)

God encouraged Paul to give his testimony to Festus, Bernice, and King Agrippa, to show the two sides of people under the Gospel witness of Jesus. Paul readily gave his testimony about Jesus, with passion, to the Roman leaders.



In verse 24, we see how a person with a closed mind and heart responds to the witness of the Gospel message. In 24a, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, thou art beside thyself, much learning doth make thee mad."

When a person has a closed mind and heart toward the Gospel witness about Jesus, it will not do him any good. Paul refuted Festus' statement in verse 25 by saying, "I am not mad most Noble Festus, but I speak forth the words of truth and soberness."

Then Paul points out the difference in one who hears and the one who does not hear the Gospel message about Jesus Christ. Paul says, "The King knoweth of these things whom I speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from the King, for this was not done in a corner." (verse 26) Paul is speaking about the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Then Paul asked King Agrippa the most important question, when one gives a Gospel witness about Jesus to someone. Paul asked, "King Agrippa, believeth thou the prophets? I know that thou believeth." (verse 27)

We must always ask a person this question when we give a Gospel witness about Jesus, our Saviour from sin. This gives the person the opportunity to take that all important step that everyone must take by themselves.

It is truly unfortunate that King Agrippa answered the way he did. King Agrippa said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (verse 28) So many people today make the same mistake when they hear the Gospel witness about Jesus, our Saviour from sin.

Then Paul made a most profound statement to King Agrippa, and to all who were in the room with him. "And Paul said, 'I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost and altogether, such as I am, accept these bonds.'" (verse 29)

"And when Paul had thus spoken, the King rose up, and the Governor and Bernice, and they that sat with them." (verse 30)

They, and so many in our world today, do not have any idea what Paul really meant, when he said he wished they all were like him except for the bonds.

Verses 31 and 32 say, "And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, 'This man (meaning Paul) doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds. Then said Agrippa unto Festus, 'This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.'"

The Roman leaders and the people around them had no idea that Paul was already set free from sin, and was at spiritual liberty because of his faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour from sin.

There are so many people in our world today who are still in spiritual ignorance about Jesus, God's only begotten Son, who came into our world called Earth. All of mankind can have a way to be free from his or her sins of disobedience committed during our Earthly life.

By repenting of our sins and then accepting Jesus Christ as our Saviour from our Earthly sins, we can be eternally saved from our sins. God is still giving mankind the opportunity to be forgiven and saved from sin. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Each one of us as human beings must repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour from our sins, meaning being born again spiritually.

NOTICE TO READERS

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The Mayor's Corner

New residents are moving in

By WILLIAM DEGOLIAN
Mayor



There are a lot of people moving to Washington these days! Based on new utility account hookups, there have been 49 new households established in Washington since last July. A recognition of the need and importance of helping these new residents feel at home led to the formation of our Washington Welcome Committee, which Barbara Fulbright chairs. The third newcomers' reception took place on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Barbara, City Councilman, Andy Anderson and his wife, Jan hosted the event. 18 new residents attended as well as locals who serve on Barbara's committee.

In addition to folks who have moved here from other parts of Georgia, we have new residents from California, Colorado, England, Florida, Maine and Wyoming.

Barry and Kimberly Hunter have moved here from Jackson Hole, Wyoming and have purchased the historic Cherry Cottage. Kimberly is an avid pickle ball player. We are looking into modifying one of the tennis courts at Simpson Park into a pickle ball court. It is certainly a popular sport these days. We plan also to restore the other tennis court there.

Jennifer Quintane, originally from England, has moved here from Texas with her grandson, Derrick Dufresne. Elizabeth Winchester, a retired nurse, has recently settled here from the Atlanta area. Shawanda Brinkley is a healthcare worker

and mother of six who has come here from Stockbridge. Robert Vick, formerly of Granberry, Texas, is a retired Main Street Program executive. I hope he will volunteer his community building expertise to help our Main Street Program that Janet Parker so ably leads. As I mentioned last week, Kimberly Cork has moved to Washington from Colorado and has announced ambitious plans to start a wine business and a family friendly restaurant.

Barbara plans to have newcomer receptions every six months or so. She is looking to schedule the next one for the late summer. She mentions too having occasional lunch get togethers.

The benefits of welcoming newcomers to Washington are, of course, to help our new residents get to know others in the community, to connect with each other and to feel at home. We hope too that they will want to get involved in activities in and around Washington. That is how we can continue to build a sense of community and place.

It was interesting to learn how they found Washington. For example, Kimberly Hunter described how she conducted an elaborate internet search, starting with basically every state in the country. She gradually narrowed down her choices and interests to Georgia and then to Washington. She literally spent hours researching where she and Barry would live. How flattering that they settled on our small town!

Robert Vick was attracted by our City's interest in developing new

housing and Washington's solid and effective Main Street Program. He felt that these factors coupled with the efforts of our Downtown Development Authority could lead to Washington's growing not only in new residents but in new commercial and manufacturing activity. He feels that all of the pieces are in place.

Patrick and Lehe Blount recently purchased and are restoring the old warehouse at 123 North Jefferson Street as home base for their Greenhow Handmade Ironworks and crafts school.

New residents Adrian and Nataly Mulko have purchased the historic Campbell Jordan house on East Liberty Street and have undertaken beautiful renovations of the house and grounds.

The first newcomers reception took place on Saturday, July 10 at the home of Allen Connor and L. A. VanKeuren on North Alexander Street. It was followed by a cookout on Sunday, July 18 at the Washington / Wilkes Chamber of Commerce. It gave the kids in attendance the opportunity to play games and run around the Square.

Barbara urges new residents to email her if they have not yet received a Welcome to Washington bag. The email address is welcomewashington@gmail.com. They can also call her at (706) 678-1019. Also, if any of you would like to help Barbara, she is always glad to add new volunteers to her committee.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor!

VINTAGE WILKES

The Battle of Kettle Creek

By SKEET WILLINGHAM
Local Historian

Of course, we all know--or we better remember!--that February 14th is Valentine's Day. But here in Wilkes County we recall and appreciate this date for something entirely different.



It is the day our ancestors gave their hearts to the cause for each and every person who would one day declare themselves to be an American:

It was a day in 1779 made for a rugged, ragged, restless bunch of farmers and drovers, saloon keepers and backwoods preachers, educated and illiterate, immigrant and tidewater Virginia pedigreed, black and white and shades in between, those who could explain what freedom was



and those who never knew such a thing could ever be theirs.

It was a beautiful day for a battle, that February 14, 1779, when an unseasonably warm day dawned and uncharacteristically nonchalant Tory troops were surprised by this band of fellows

not unlike themselves, bloodlines the same, a cousin, an uncle, a Wilkes County Virginian having even less use for a Carolina cracker now than he did before migrating here.

They fought, brutal, brief, chaotic, whoops and hollers, slashes and shots, and splashes of hooves and arms a-flailing, creek water sloshing.

And then it was over. Those Tories who could had run. Those who couldn't had lost. The "Patriots" who then knew not what that word even meant had prevailed. For a while longer their homes, their families, their little plots of land would be safe, would be theirs. For a little while. For not long enough. But they had done their job. They had made their point.

They had raised their flag of independence to show this spot was American soil, that no power from across the sea could rule them even though they had no evidence they could even rule themselves. What under heaven had they wrought?

Freedom, brothers and sisters... FREEDOM.

Super Crossword

Answers

AMOEB	PLEAT	ANGELINA	
REFLEX	RONNY	COILEDUP	
INFINIT	TELOOP	EDNAMODE	
DUI	ORA	IOS SPADER	
COSMIO	CONSCIOUSNESS		
SMELL	HEFT	AMP ESC	
HUGERELIEF	ARIES	LOT	
ARIA	RET	BIGENCHILADA	
DARNERS	DYNE	HAIRDO	
ELL	MELLO	ENLAI	GLESS
MEDITUM	ARTILLERY		
BRIAR	EVEN	PALME	FED
AUNTIE	TIAS	SEALSO	
LITTLECA	ESAR	SAN	NITE
ENE	LARRY	TINYDANCER	
ROM	LOU	SOSO	NUKES
MICROSCOPI	CORGANISM		
EDENIC	TSO	GRO	YMA
SEPARATE	ATOMICNUMBER		
TATTERED	ACTON	ENLIST	
ASSESSIES	CHONG	TALICHI	

ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

Read the fine print

By TOM POLAND
A Southern Writer

Some say we are what we eat and that what we eat these days is killing us. Down in Australia, some Australian Aborigines moved to the city and adopted a civilized diet and soon they had illnesses and conditions they had never had before, things like diabetes. Some nutritionists convinced ten Aborigines who had Type 2 Diabetes to move back to the Outback where they could resume their traditional diet and in just seven weeks the diabetes went away.



That's a lesson for us all. But one thing's for sure: you can hurt yourself jumping feet first into some trendy miracle diet. You better know what you're doing.

My friend, Campbell, (We call him "Camp"), got on a health kick a while back after he had read how Aborigines routinely live 100 years or more and that their long lifespan was due to

a fiber-rich diet. So Camp dug around and found a magazine with a recipe for a salad of sorts called "Aboriginal Roughage," a concoction of leaves, peppers, ferns, greens, husks, berries, gum, tubers, bulbs, and nuts.

So off to the grocery store goes Camp and he comes back and makes a gigantic salad that would challenge the most devout vegetarian. Of course, he had to substitute some things with equivalents available here. It had coconut chunks, walnuts, berries of all kinds, bamboo shoots, fruits, Romaine lettuce, spinach, cabbage, and celery stalks among other items. Macadamia nut oil provided the dressing.

Camp says he'll never forget his encounter with fiber-rich food. We were having dinner the other night (Camp was enjoying a huge steak) and he told me about his near-death experience with excessive roughage.

"I made it in a huge wooden bowl and it looked like a spot where a bush hog had turned

around: leaves, shoots, and stalks fanned out in a circle. I stood back and admired it, thinking how I was going to live to be 100 if I could get used to eating sticks. Tom, I ate the whole thing in one sitting."

Camp continued ... "Early the next morning I had to stop by dad's place and was sharing coffee with him when that feeling, that urge, hit me in a serious way."

Camp paused and a pained look crossed his face like he was reliving seeing his dog get run over.

"I got a hunting magazine and went down the hall to the bath. I was reading about whitetail bucks and the next thing I knew, I'm out like a light. I came to on the floor of the hall. Dad was holding a cold washcloth against my forehead."

"What happened, Dad?"

"Son, you let out a war whoop and I came running and found you here in the hall passed out."

"Apparently, I leapt out of the

*Gradually consume this salad in small amounts over a three-week period to avoid extreme complications.