

ACTS OF FAITH QUARTERLY

SECOND QUARTER, 2006



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PLEASE NOTE!

Request for Feedback

We welcome your ideas and suggestions concerning how we can improve the services we make available to you!



Opportunity to be Published!

In our next issue, we hope to publish an article related to "Challenging Students to Realize Their Potential." If you would like to be published in this periodical, please submit an article about how you motivate students of any age to realize their potential.

Articles for Quarterly

General topics of interest related to Technical Tips of martial art techniques, Patriotism, Christianity, Motivation/Inspiration, Health & Safety, Humor, and Notable accomplishments of members are solicited. Also encouraged are Praise Reports, Prayer Requests, and Announcements.

Please include a brief biography and a photo in your submittal. We want our readers to get to know you a little better as they read your work.

Due Dates

Articles are due by the 15th of each Mar., June, Oct., and Dec.

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ADDRESS ALERT: Please note the new mailing address at the top of this page. The Sand Lake, MI PO Box is closed.



Please help us maintain accurate and complete membership records. We ask that you send an email to fred@blackbeltsoffaith.com so we can expedite delivery of special announcements and publications such as this Quarterly.

Notice: Opinions expressed by the quarterly’s authors do not necessarily constitute an official position by BBFI, its staff, or representatives. Every attempt is made to publish only accurate, Scripturally correct material. Opinions differ on various subjects within the body of Christ, especially with regard to the martial arts. Our goal is to publish well-written articles on a wide variety of topics of general interest to Christian martial artists, even when we do not fully agree with every aspect of the contents.



GENERAL INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS



BBFI WEB SITE – COMMUNITY FORUM – MICHAEL MURPHY

The **BBFI Community Forum** is accessible from our website. We encourage you to use this forum to discuss, interview, research, and collaborate with your peers as well as the BBFI staff.

We promote participation of all ranks, ages, and denominations. Please ask questions, respond to comments of others and periodically return to the forum to view responses other readers may post to your comments. The forum is intended to provide opportunities for Christians to encourage, help, teach, and get to know each other! Ultimately our hope is that we can also meet new people who may be seeking God and hoping to discover how to start a personal relationship with Him.

Additionally, please feel free to *share* our web site with anyone you feel may benefit from it. I ask that if you should have any questions, please send me an email and I will be responsive to your comments. A recent topic of discussion centered on **Matthew 5:39 "Turn The Other Cheek."** <http://www.blackbeltoffaith.com/feedback.htm> is the link where we invite you to leave feedback (or use the link from our homepage) as you may see fit. We are always looking for ways to improve our organization. Any suggestion you may have would be greatly appreciated!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – OR WEB SITE – CHAD RIDLER

New London, Minnesota



Excerpt from Ridler's Martial Arts Academy on the BBFI Forum: I use the BBFI every chance I can. All students 13 years and up are enrolled as new members (I have little dragons and jr. karate but membership is not mandatory for these). They are required to have the patch on their uniform, (when we go to tournaments the patch alone makes people ask "what is the BBFI". All of our certificates are through the BBFI. We even offer a "hardcore" class, where they get to wear the "lion" patch

exclusively.

Mike really stood by me and my wife when we went through a tough time with some issues the school was facing.

It adds a sense of legitimacy to an independent school, the students see that I'm not just printing up certificates at home, it means more. I am also a lifetime member of the United States Martial Arts Association but I do this only out of respect for my jujitsu instructor. I have the Charter School certificate hanging right by the door as parents walk in, 90% of my students are church going families so it puts them at ease that the school has a level of accountability.



RECOMMENDED READING – OR WEB SITE – FRED MURPHY

My son Frank is a Bible school teacher who has spent the last three years developing a course entitled PITscan. Based upon the premise that all forms of temptation can be distilled into a handful of categories, this course is designed to help you identify how temptation works and to recognize your own areas of vulnerability. An in-depth study of the eight PITs (or Patterns of Impure Thoughts) is coupled with a unique online tool to better equip readers to wage successful spiritual warfare. Many tools are available to determine strengths, but this is one of few that we know of that addresses weaknesses.

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Martial arts classes teach how to defend against physical onslaught. PITscan will help defend against spiritual onslaught, and in that realm we believe it has a wealth of potential material that may be adapted to martial arts classes. We know some of our schools require memory verses (we did in on own studio) and some have weekly devotionals. This would be an excellent source for such devotionals (take one for each session). He has designed his own web site at <http://www.evagrius.net>. We invite you to check it out and let us – or him - know what you think.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK - MARGI MURPHY

Who says the days of miracles are over? If you know anyone who does, please send them my way. Those in our BBFI Family who have email know about our July crisis concerning our son, Fred II. So if some of this is repetitious, please bear with me. I do believe the story is worth hearing many times, even though I will admit that I may be just a tad biased. Smile.

On Sunday evening, Murph and I had sat down to watch one of favorite shows, *Miami Vice*. We had just come from a Booth Brothers Concert, and their song “Feelin’ Fine” was still playing over and over in my mind. I was indeed feeling mighty fine! Then the phone rang.

Have you ever been in a situation where events are unfolding so fast and so unexpectedly, that you feel almost numb? It’s hard to believe what is actually happening. That is where we found ourselves. Our son, Fred II, lives in Lansing, about 65 miles from us. His son, Fred III, had been out with a friend and at a red light his glasses broke mysteriously. He can not drive without them so he had to go home earlier than he had planned. He found his dad unconscious and called 911, and then called his sister Maria in Louisiana. His mom was at work so he was notifying her and Maria called us. I called the hospital and was told he was “clinically unresponsive” and was on a ventilator. We were on the road to Lansing in just moments. I notified other family members enroute on our cell phone. They believed he had a seizure at home (he had never had one in his life), and he had definitely had one soon after he got to the hospital.

Through the years two of our children have lost an infant, and two have had an infant in ICU and been told there is really no hope. Ear infections and a few broken bones along the way was the extent of crises that Murph and I had endured while raising our five children. This was indeed a new threshold for us!

Of course he was in ICU. The next day Maria came from Louisiana, our daughter came from California, and a granddaughter came from Boston. We remained at the hospital the whole week. The reports were grim in every case. As the days passed, he had several more seizures, some to the point of being “violent” so they put him in restraints. At some points we were not allowed to see him; sometimes we could be in the room but not allowed to talk to him or touch him. His first EEG was very nearly a straight line. To name a few of the procedures, there were two dialysis treatments, EKG, CT scan, MRI, and more. All the reports we got the whole time he was in a coma were bleak. At one point I asked the nurse what was the best we could hope for. He pointed to my comatose son, and said simply, “This.” We were told that IF he came out of this, he would not be able to take care of himself, would not recognize us, would not be able to walk unassisted, would need intensive rehab, and so on and on. On Friday the neurologist told us he would NEVER wake up, and they would keep him sedated until Monday and then some decisions would have to be made. I think we were afraid to ask what would decisions were slated for Monday because none of us did. They tried to take him off the ventilator on Friday, but could not.

Saturday morning – the very next day - our daughter was the first to go in to see him and the nurse greeted her by saying, “He just told me ‘Hello.’” Then she said, “Fred, tell your sister hello,” AND HE DID. Earlier that morning, the nurse stepped out and he pulled all his tubes out and was breathing ON HIS OWN for the first time! Later the nurse stepped out again, and found him standing beside his bed. She promptly chewed him out, and put one leg in a restraint again to keep him in the bed. As the day progressed he began saying two words, then three, and by evening he was having real live conversations with us. Of course we were not all allowed in the room at one time, so once when I was absent, after naming each one who was present, he asked, “Where’s Mom?” That was exciting to me for a

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couple reasons, one which told us not only could he process who was there, he could process who was absent. Hallelujah!!

From that point, he got better just about as quickly as he had gotten so ill. Monday he was taken out of ICU and released to go home on Wednesday WITH NO REHAB whatsoever. The following Sunday the whole family was in church together! Twelve days later he was released to go back to work. To God be the glory, great things He has done!!! Truly, truly.

On that dismal Friday night the family was discussing getting a second opinion and wondering how to go about it. After Saturday’s events unfolded as miraculously as they did, Murph said we just went to our Heavenly Father for a second opinion!

Our Pastor determines a new slogan for us every New’ Year’s. This year it is, “Trust God for a miracle in ’06.” That is printed on a big banner near the ceiling in front of the sanctuary. We have seen that banner every time we have walked into the church this year. Yes, we believed in miracles prior to this crisis, but believe me, it took on a whole brand new meaning for the Murphy family in July!! None of us ever dreamed that our family would reap such miraculous benefits in such a grand and glorious manner!!! He was on numerous prayer chains across our country and even foreign missionary fields. We can not even estimate how many people lifted him up in prayer because people we knew were sharing with other people that they knew. That’s what I call a major snowball effect: Don’t ever discount God’s powerful working!

OOPS!

In our last issue, I listed the main resources we use for checking the validity of some of the articles we receive. Imagine my embarrassment when one of members contacted me to let me know I had indeed included an article that failed the validity test. On Page Seven of our last quarterly is an article entitled, “Did God Create Everything?” I thought it was an excellent illustration, and still believe it is – with one exception. The last two words are “Albert Einstein,” and he had no part in that story according to the snopes.com-ckvalidity source. I apologize for letting that one get passed me. I believe there is truth to be gleaned from that article, with the exception of the name at the end.

NOMINATIONS

Nominees for *Instructor of the Quarter* and *School of the Quarter* should be deserving of special recognition for notable acts of generosity, courage, compassion, spiritual guidance, exemplary display of character (Christ-like), and/or humility. Demonstration of any of the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) in difficult circumstances or a lifestyle that consistently demonstrates faithfulness would merit such award. Nominees must be active BBFI members in good standing. There is no BBFI rank or age requirement. BBFI Instructors may be any level (Assistant, Head, or Chief). Recipients of these awards receive a special certificate from our BBFI President to display in recognition of this honor. Nominations may be made on the BBFI web site, by mail, email, or phone.

STUDENT OF THE QUARTER - MOTIVATIONAL TOOL

The BBFI Staff continues to desire to begin naming a *Student of the Quarter* to further recognize students with outstanding traits. We can not do this alone however. However, we are disappointed at the lack of response received. Without BBFI members’ participation we have no student to recognize. Our hope is that BBFI schools will begin to view this as a benefit motivational factor, and adopt it as a regular award in their school each quarter. Ideally, Instructors would design the criteria for selection, which would be similar to the principles described in the preceding paragraph. Nominees must be must be active BBFI members in good standing in order to be recognized in the quarterly. There is no rank or age requirement for this nomination. Recipients of these awards receive a special certificate from our BBFI President to display in recognition of this honor Please help us promote this new feature!



This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth: but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. - Joshua 1:8

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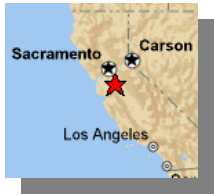


TECHNICAL TIPS



SHOULD A CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATE IN MARTIAL ARTS? - DR. DENNIS MCCAIN

Modesto, California



Questions whether Christians should participate in martial arts need addressing. Should Bible believers learn to fight or to defend themselves? Will this possibly instill a wrong attitude in life? The answers are not simple ones; but I believe that answers can be found in the Bible to reconcile this seeming dilemma. I trust that this article will set some things straight in the Christian community regarding martial arts, and provide a sense of direction as you make important decisions for your family. Each believer must define his/her life's decisions based upon truth from Scripture. Each person must chose what is the will of God for their own life and the lives of those in their family. The martial arts are not for everyone. Time constraints, personality issues, physical status, focus on ministry and many other concerns, may outweigh the decision to choose martial arts as a form of exercise or method of training. Each of us must make choices for life, based on the Lord's leadership. The Lord never acts out of harmony with His character or attributes. God is God. His character and qualities never change, because He is the unchanging God.

The following reasons lead me to believe that studying martial arts is not unbiblical:

****The Lord is the LORD of HOSTS. He is the Warrior God who leads and directs His people into battle. "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands." I Samuel 17:45-47**

****Mighty men of the Old Testament were warriors and honored God with their expertise in fighting.**

Furthermore, they did the will of the Lord in destroying the enemies of God, defending their homeland and their families (Genesis 14:9-24).

****The mighty men of David assassinated the enemies of the king and were held in high esteem. –**

I Kings 2:22-25

****The Lord had men from each of the tribes of Israel selected as men who would go to war or individually fight. Numbers 1:19-44**

****The time of the Judges produced God-called men to fight and rescue Israel from the oppressors in the land. - Samson, Gideon, Ehud, etc.**

****Some prophets of God slew those who opposed the God of Israel. - Elijah after Mount Carmel in I Kings 18:1-40.**



The following reasons seem to teach that fighting is wrong:

****Jesus told Peter to put away his sword and then healed the servant of the high priest, in the garden. Matthew 18**

****Jesus taught a higher law, telling his followers to turn the other cheek. "And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. Luke 6:29-31**

****Jesus taught love and compassion, rather than fighting. "For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." Luke 6:32-35**

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**It seems that the general tenor of the New Testament is different than the way things were done in the Old Testament.

**We may not demonstrate faith in God's protection if we fight. The Lord is our Defender and Shield.

Answers and Thoughts on the Questions

**As a pastor I have thought seriously about these questions. I want to be in the will of God, follow the teachings of Christ, and never do anything that would hinder someone from coming to Jesus as Savior. I have met martial artists whose attitudes did not exemplify these qualities. Their demeanor was mean, aggressive, obtuse, and fleshly. It is impossible not to convey this attitude to any students they teach.

Theologically, the primary concern should not be the activity of the martial art itself, but the spiritual condition of the teacher and the student. Without Christ being the center of our activity, the activity becomes a waste of time. The bottom line is that the believer must honor Christ in every area of life. Golf, tennis, NFL and NBA games on television can also be a big problem in our lives, unless we choose to honor Christ in honestly evaluating our priorities in each activity in which we are involved.

**Truly, the heroes of the Old Testament lived in a different dispensation (time period) and, therefore, acted culturally. However, they were still at the command of God. David was a man after God's own heart, yet he fought bravely and protected his life and, also, the lives of the people of Israel and his own family. Many of these warriors of old acted, not on impulse, but by direct order of God. This may be difficult for us to understand, but it is none-the-less true.

**It appears that this warrior attitude is not to be carried over into the New Testament age of grace. How may I justify learning to fight with living in the age of grace? That is a good question. We are to be servants, turn the other cheek, and live at a higher standard in this age. Does the Lord want us to protect ourselves? Does He want us to protect our family or fight for our nation? I believe the answer to these questions is quite obvious! What would you do if you and your family were attacked? Would you defend yourself or family? Again, the answer is obviously, yes.

I do not want to fight! I do not want to fight! I repeat this because I hope this statement sinks deep into your mind and heart. I do not want to fight! Even though my attitude is not to be a "striker" or quarrelsome person, there may be a time to fight. I hope that I never have a spirit of anger that controls my life, or that I would demonstrate a tendency to fight, but I know how to fight.

**In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed to do the Father's will, as He approached the Cross of Calvary. Peter wanted to protect Christ, his Messiah and friend. Jesus rebuked Peter and healed the servant of the high priest. Why? Was Peter to stand idle and let it all happen? The answer here is, yes! It was decreed for Jesus to die. No government, army or person could change the destiny of the Son of God. It would be wrong to fight, if the reason for fighting was out of the will of the Father. That Peter took up arms was a demonstration that he did not fully comprehend God's will in that specific situation.

**Jesus taught His followers to "turn the other cheek." When you study this passage, you will find that the context explains what Jesus meant. When we are persecuted for His sake and reviled for righteousness, we are to love and not fight. This principle is clearly taught and should never be questioned. An example of this happened to me in New England in 1982 and I chose not to fight. I was preaching on the street and was punched in the face and knocked down. I stood up and preached again. The man said, "I will knock you down again." I said that I would get up and preach again. Another man, watching the events unfold, told the man to back off, and "leave the priest alone." The situation did not warrant a fight, as it would not have been biblical.

However, the context of this passage does not teach us to turn the other cheek at all times such as being attacked on the street or in our home. The context clearly indicates that while preaching or being tested in our faith, or being treated maliciously by the world, we are to suffer persecution without fighting. Again, the spiritual attitude of the believer is to win the lost to Christ and honor the Father. If I were walking down the street with my wife and grandchildren, and someone chose to attempt a robbery and injure my family, this would be a random act of violence, not an attack on me as a Christian.

Again, I do not want to fight! I am to have compassion on everyone. I am to go preach the Gospel to everyone. I am to love the lost, and I do not want to fight! I just want to live a godly life, honoring Christ. The Lord does protect His children, but He also wants us to be wise and responsible. I also believe that meekness is one the greatest qualities of a

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man. Meekness is power under spiritual control. To experience of the meekness of Christ, yet enjoy His power in our lives, is a powerful combination.

**Over the past 13 years, we have been privileged to see some 85 people come to know the Lord while attending Tae Kwon Do classes. Tae Kwon Do is just a tool to be used to honor Christ. Why not use all the tools available and then proclaim the only truth that will provide eternal life.

Postscript: I chose Tae Kwon Do as a martial art to study because it is a military art. Its origin is not in temple worship; is not based upon ancestor worship.

KIYUP: The question has also been asked regarding the sound of the "Kiyup" during or at the end of the patterns. What does it mean? Is there some mystical meaning to this type of breathing? One Christian master martial artist said, *"Deep breathing and shouting (forcing air out of the lungs using the diaphragm) is common in many sports to derive extra power. When weight lifters raise heavy weights, they often take a deep breath then shout or yell when lifting. Martial artists do the same, first to derive extra power but also to startle an opponent. Shouting is not mystical, but natural."*

Dr. Charles Owens makes the following statement regarding the Kiyup: "'Ki-hap' is the expressive side of 'Hap-Ki' (as in 'hapkido'). Dr. Owens is the founder Ki Do Kyo Mu Kwan, and a 10th Degree Black Belt. See resume <http://www.kidokyo.org/owens.html>

Hap = "together" Ki = "spirit/energy" Hap-Ki = "meeting of the spirit" Ki-Hap - "the spirit of the meeting" The Japanese terminology is "ai-ki" (as in "aikido") and ki-ai." Hap-Ki (Ai-Ki) is the passive side. Ki-Hap (Ki-Ai) is the expressive side. The shout of the martial artist is seen in history as far back as the arts go. On the theological side, I read an interesting article once regarding the "shout of God" in Psalm 46:6. This article was written by a creationist apologist (with whose theology I totally agree). He was writing about the occurrence of the flood and was theorizing regarding the breakup of the firmament. He referred to Ps. 46:6 and believes that sound waves were used by God to split the earth's surface (a scar on the earth's surface seen as the gigantic sub-oceanic mountain range in the Atlantic) thus shooting hot gases upward to blow holes in the firmament above, causing it to break up and collapse. Even God could use sound to express His Spirit! Hope this information is helpful to you in your research. Blessings, Charles Owens"

The loud sound also pushes extra oxygen into the body and provides additional energy. This principle of physiology has nothing to do with any mystical expressions, strange philosophy or demons. The sound expressed in this thoracic grunt (Kiyup) causes the student to tighten their stomach muscles, focus at a fixed point, and allows the body to work at its maximum level. For the Christian, please understand the sound as only an anatomical and physiological means of achieving a higher level of oxygen in the blood.

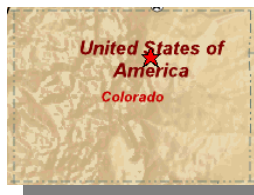


PATRIOTISM



A TALE OF SIX BOYS – ROSS ECHTERMAYER

Northglen, Colorado



Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world & depicts one of the most famous photographs in history- that of the

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six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II.

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, "Where are you guys from?" I told him that we were from Wisconsin. "Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story."

James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, DC, to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his dad, who has since passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, D.C., but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night. When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. Here are his words that night:

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called "Flags of Our Fathers". It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game. A game called "War." But it didn't turn out to be a game. "Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old.



(He pointed to the statue) "You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph - a photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

"The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the "old man" because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, 'Let's go kill some Japanese' or 'Let's die for our country.' He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, 'You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers.'

"The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero.' He told reporters, 'How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?' So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of our classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of 32, ten years after this picture was taken.

"The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky. A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

"The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, 'No, I'm sorry, sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press.

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"You see, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain. "When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

"So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero nonetheless. Let us never forget from the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terrorism and all the wars in between that sacrifice was made for our freedom. Remember to pray praises for this great country of ours and also pray for those still in murderous unrest around the world. STOP and thank God for being alive and being free at someone else's sacrifice.

REMINDER: Everyday that you can wake up free, it's going to be a great day. The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him. Proverbs 20:7



IT IS THE VETERAN - JOANIE BEARCE

Winterport, Maine



- It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.
- It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
- It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
- It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.
- It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.
- It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.
- It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag.
- It is the VETERAN, who serves under the Flag (casket).

Eternal Rest Grant Them O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them!

I don't know if you saw this in the news but it really impressed me. Funny, our US Senate/ House took two days off as they couldn't work because of the expected storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported recently that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabelle approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930. We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve. God Bless the them all !!!

**Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you. Jesus Christ and the American G.I.
One died for your soul, the other for your freedom. Thank them both today. (Copied from an email).**

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CHRISTIANITY



A NATION HEADED FOR JUDGMENT – PHIL LEWIS

Grand Rapids, Michigan



We are headed for judgment. Listen to the Word of the Lord: “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint” (Proverbs 29:18 NIV). Revelation refers to God’s Law, His divine decrees, His Word. We as a nation are quickly becoming a place where the Word of God is no longer tolerated. It is no longer tolerated in the public arena. It is often even belittled in some churches and denominations, as they seek to pick and choose what is acceptable from God’s Holy Word. The Ten Commandments have been removed from more and more public places. Kids have been expelled for reading a Bible on a school bus. Prayer is being banned at many public events. “In God We Trust” is in danger of being taken off our currency. And “casting off restraint” has certainly followed.

Since corporal punishment is no longer allowed, kids grow up doing what they want when they want. There are no boundaries, and little fear of consequences. Children and adults alike assault each other, kill each other, and abuse themselves sexually in every kind of perversion. What is right and wrong is constantly being challenged and redefined. What God has called an abomination, our nation is calling an “alternate lifestyle”. What God calls sin, we are calling “freedom of choice”. And as we cast off the restraints of God’s governing law, we find ourselves inside the framework of Psalms chapter two:

- Ps 2:1** Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
Ps 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
Ps 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
Ps 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Ps 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

In the vanity of our imagination, this nation feels we can disregard our Creator, and even conspire against Him and His Word. That is why we have films and books like *The Da Vinci Code*. That is why we have the ACLU constantly looking for ways to attack Christianity and to not only limit its freedom, but to actually remove its influence, and to damage its reputation. Jesus is reduced to merely a man. But He is also considered a thing of offense. Get Him out of the public’s eye, unless you can minimize His importance, and actually blaspheme Him. God limits our “freedom”, so let’s break free and throw these “antiquated” beliefs away. No wonder chaos and destruction are ensuing.

Yet the Lord in Heaven has the last laugh. God mocks the mockers. And verse five indicates that He will judge them for their rebellion. For that is what it is – rebellion. As a nation we have rebelled against the Lord. We have not kept His ways, nor listened to His Word. But, having itching ears, we have gone after those false teachers who tell us what we want to hear: (i.e.,) homosexuality is simply an alternative lifestyle; living together is not adultery; abortion isn’t murder; immorality is just expressing your sexuality; you aren’t responsible for your misbehavior; you don’t need a savior, you just need understanding and a little help.

But, my brothers and sisters, do not be deceived. Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. And in all the hot air raging of the heathen, we have sown the wind, and we shall reap the whirlwind. The destruction and catastrophes this nation has seen are only the beginnings of God’s judgment. Yes, the Christian church is interceding; and as Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah for a time, yet in the end it was destroyed for lack of righteous men, so might also our nation be destroyed if we do not repent.

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Judgment must first begin in the House of God (1 Peter 4:17). Judgment is a good thing. Our God is a consuming fire. But He is also a purifying fire. God will sort out and set aside all those who call on Him out of a pure heart. He will sit as a refiner, and He will deal with the church and with our nation. To the church He has said the lukewarm He will spew out of His mouth. The Lord wants to pour out His Spirit in these last days. But He must have ready and pure vessels. To Isaiah the Lord spoke the following:

- Isa 58:6** Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?
- Isa 58:7** Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?
- Isa 58:8** Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.
- Isa 58:9** Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;
- Isa 58:10** And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:
- Isa 58:11** And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.
- Isa 58:12** And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.
- Isa 58:13** If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:
- Isa 58:14** Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Here the Lord gives His people the elements needed for restoration. Here He shows what it means to fast before the Lord. Here He shows the resulting blessings of walking in His ways and honoring Him.

Yes, judgment begins with the House of God. And if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. Our nation, even the whole world, is in need of a church that shows forth God's holiness, His love, His mercy, and His power, the power to transform and to heal. In the King James Version, Proverbs 29:18 says "Where there is no vision, the people perish." And "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). We are dying and being destroyed. But it is not God's will that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Let us align ourselves with God's will.

Finally, remember God's words in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

May God have mercy on us and our nation. "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Rom. 8:37 - In Him, Phil Lewis
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1. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:1-6

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A CHILI DAY – JOANIE BEARCE

Winterport, Maine



My wife was out of town taking care of our daughter who had surgery and I decided to stop at the local Frisch's for lunch. I ordered a patty melt (bad choice) and the salad bar (good choice). I was enjoying my lunch when suddenly I heard a loud crash and felt something warm on the back of my neck. As I turned to see what caused the noise I saw chili all over the floor. The server began to apologize to me and it was then I realized that much of the chili was actually covering the back of my shirt. Some even hit my pants, shoes and socks!

What does one do or say in a situation like that? I remember saying to the server, "It's OK, those things happen," or something to that effect. Then the manager came to also apologize and said she would pay for my lunch. I mumbled something which I hope was gracious and left.

Reflecting back on that incident I was reminded of Paul's word in Philippians 2:5: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." I wondered, did I measure up to that standard? How often does my attitude tell others that Christ rules in my heart? I recognize that none of us will ever perfectly demonstrate the attitude of Jesus but that should be our goal. In a world where there is so much rudeness and unkindness what a powerful testimony a life of grace can make! I challenge you to ponder that verse and then make every attempt by God's grace to live it out in your relationship with others. Grace and Peace, Rev. Dave

If anyone spends badly of you, live so that no one will believe it.



TRINITY SUNDAY – BROOKS PALMER

Allen, Oklahoma



June 11 is Trinity Sunday. I knew my husband's sermon would be on the Trinity because he always follows the liturgical calendar. But my task seemed nigh impossible for I do the children's sermon every Sunday, so I clicked on my trusted friend Google and found a marvelous children's sermon explaining the Trinity. The adults at our church even got a lot out of it. Here goes.....

God comes to us in different ways. He comes to us as God, as the Father, our creator, as Jesus Christ, in human form, our redeemer, and as the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to be our guide. That is called the Trinity. But that's hard to understand isn't it? One God, three forms. So, maybe this will help you.

Water is necessary for life...therefore, water represents God the Father who created us and breathes life into us. But just like God, water comes to us in different forms. What about ice? Is ice water? The answer is yes. Water in solid form....therefore, the ice could represent Jesus, who came to earth in human or solid form. But when it melts it becomes water again. Right! When you see water boiling steam rises from it. If you place your hand a SAFE distance from that steam it will collect on your skin as what? Right! WATER! So the vapor or steam from the water is representative of the Holy Spirit. And when the water cools the steam returns as WATER!! So you can see from this explanation of the different forms of water that the Trinity is one God in three forms. Very clever, huh? Blessings on Trinity Sunday!

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

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FORGIVENESS – RON BEASLEY

Orange Park, Florida



Lord, help me have forgiveness For those who've done me wrong.
 Help me overcome, Lord And keep on growing strong.
 If there was no forgiveness There would be no hope for me.
 I'd be forever lost On life's storm tossed sea.
 If there was no forgiveness You wouldn't have sent your Son.
 We'd all be cast in darkness Alone and undone.

You love us and forgive us No matter what we do.
 Teach me to forgive, Lord That I might be more like you. Author Unknown –



INSPIRATIONAL



TWO HORSES – LAVADA “SAM” BUSH

Fairbanks, Alaska



Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if one stops the car, or is walking by, one will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

Listening, one will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, one will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her bridle is a small bell.

It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As one stands and watches these two friends, one sees how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by God and those whom he places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see God.



WHICH ONE DO YOU FEED? – ROBERT KOCH

Louisville, Kentucky



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between the two "wolves" inside all of us. One is EVIL. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is GOOD. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one that you feed."

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OUR RESIDENT POET – MIKE “MAJOR DAD” REISMAN

Visalia, California



THE KID INSIDE OF ME

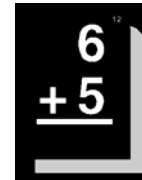
Yes, I am fortunate to have a great education and a wonderful wife.
 Most of the time I act mature and do the grownup things in my daily life.
 However some Saturday mornings I watch the Three Stooges on the T.V.
 As my wife sleeps I eat Pop-Tarts, while my dog keeps me company.
 Sometimes walking the isle's of Wal-Mart I will look for a G.I. Joe.
 And when I skip a rock across a pond, my boyhood pride does show.

While on the job I plead guilty to a harmless practical joke, one or two.
 So may the kid inside of me ne'er die or to grow up my whole life through.
 As Jimmy Buffet aptly sang, "I'm growing older, but not up...."

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.

THE MATH IS SIMPLE

I was not the top in my class and in algebra I barely did get by.
 Now with "Fuzzy Math", one is left shaking their head asking why.
 But it does not take a degree in physics to marvel at this universe.
 And do not be taken in by evolution for it is truly the Devil's curse.
 And in your quest to answer the ultimate question's from above.
 Remember the answer is found in our Savior's sacrifice and His love.
 I cannot fathom His agony and pain when the spikes were driven.
 But God's math is simple, one cross, plus three nails, equals four-given.



"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. ² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." Psalms 19:1-2 (KJV)

JUST MAYBE (Or are you a warm flower or a cold weed)

Today just maybe, I will touch someone with a friendly caring smile.
 A handshake or hello to a traveler as they travel on mile after mile.
 I do not expect to change every heart by what I say or what I do.
 But just maybe today my kindness will be felt and shine on through.
 Tomorrow could be too late to make a change in this our mortal life.
 So live each day as it might be our last to ease pain, misery or strife.
 Reach out and touch someone's heart with that kind word or deed.
 For on this meadow of life are you a warm rose or a cold weed.
 So we all have a choice when we wake up in the morning to make a difference.
 I can only hope and pray that I can make that difference.

ALIVE AND WELL

Most all of us realize that one day death will come a knocking.
 Like many we joke and make fun of such while alive and walking.
 But God with His mercy can set us free from this fear called death.
 For as believers we'll be welcome into Heaven after our last breath.
 Remember tomorrow is not promised to anyone the Bible does say.
 To the lost the Cross is foolishness, only a few find that narrow way.
 So take heed of this warning and message, I do proclaim and tell.
 For the day when you die you will be alive and well or alive in Hell.
 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness:

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But unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)
Written by a simple saved by Grace Christian - Ret RN CS FNP POCM-Plain Old Christian Medic.
For more information about this writer, visit his web site at www.NeedGod.com.



TIME MARCHES ON - FRED MURPHY, BBFI President

Well, we are half way through 2006. We have started the second half slide. There are less than 150 days until Christmas - just in case you were wondering. It is hard to believe that I became BBFI President ten years ago. I could not handle this position without my wife who has been a great support for me. If I were editor of the *Acts of Faith* quarterly, it would rival the Sunday comics. Then there is Michael, my son who has pumped a lot of time into the organization. More specifically and recently, he has spent untold hours with the new website. I can remember being his computer teacher in high school. Now he is an engineer for Turner Construction Company, and is married with three wonderful children. Just look back over your last ten years and ponder the changes that have taken place in your life.

I wanted to take a bike trip with our church youth group that involves 420 miles in six days (average of 70 miles per day). I began practicing a couple of months ago and managed to go on test runs with the group of 17, 40, 25, 31 miles. The objective was to get up to 70 miles. The final test run of 70 miles is scheduled in mere days. Well, I had to realize that this 68 ½-year-old body just can't get the job done. One of the biggest problems I had was both of my hands get so numb that I can't use the brakes or even change gears. I am really disappointed that I can't do it. I even bought a new open road bike so I could practice with my own.



My family has been very supportive of me and this desire, and there is a good thing that has come out of this endeavor. I learned a new sport and I really do enjoy getting out and riding. My legs feel like two steel poles; my endurance has increased; and I just feel good. If there is someone else out there who has a story like this, please send it in to the quarterly so I won't feel so bad.

AFTERGLOW

After I wrote this story, events happened that definitely showed the Lord's hand in keeping me from going on that trip! Please read "From the Editor's Desk:" beginning on page three for an in-depth account of those events. That article is a most fitting sequel to this one. Join us in rejoicing over the miracle God so wondrously performed in our lives!



TIME – DEBI SOUZA

Clayton, California



A young man can learn what's most important in life from the guy next door. It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him. Over the phone his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wed." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said. "Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him. "I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence

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in your life," she said. "He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," he said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away. The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture.

Jack stopped suddenly. "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said. "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack claimed the package. The small box was old and looked like it was mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was hard to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most was my time" Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away,"

Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

1. At least 2 people in this world love you so much they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
3. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
4. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
5. You mean the world to someone.
6. If not for you, someone may not be living.
7. You are special and unique.
8. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
9. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
10. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
11. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
12. Always tell someone how you feel about him/her. You will feel much better and you'll both be happy.
13. If you have great friends, take the time to let them know that they are great.

"Worship the Lord your God, and His blessing will be on your food and water. He will take away sickness from among you...and give you a full life span." Exodus 23:25-26.

Aspire to inspire before you retire.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY



CRITICAL SAFETY TIPS – WENDY HENRIQUES

Omaha, Nebraska



Because of recent abductions in daylight hours, perhaps we need to refresh ourselves of some things to do to do in an emergency situation. This is for you, and for you to know and to share with your wife, your children, everyone you know. After reading these nine crucial tips, forward them to someone you care about. It never hurts to be careful in this crazy world we

live in.

1. Tae Kwon Do Tip: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you're close enough to use it, do so!
2. Learned this from a tourist guide in New Orleans: If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, **DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM**. Toss it away from you. Chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. **RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!**
3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has actually saved lives.
4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and sit there doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc. **DON'T DO THIS!** The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. **AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE.** If someone is in the car with a gun to your head, **DO NOT DRIVE OFF**, repeat: **DO NOT DRIVE OFF!** Instead gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of it. As soon as the car crashes bail out and run. It is better than having them find your body in a remote location.
5. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:
 - A. Be aware. Look around you; look into your car at the passenger side floor and in the back seat.
 - B. If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.
 - C. Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, walk back into the mall or work, and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out. **IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.** (And better paranoid than dead.)
6. **ALWAYS** take the elevator instead of the stairs. Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot. This is especially true at **NIGHT!**
7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his control, **ALWAYS RUN!** The predator will only hit you (a running target) four in 100 times. And even then, it most likely **WILL NOT** be a vital organ. **RUN.** Preferably in a zig-zag pattern!
8. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic. **STOP.** It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well educated man, who **ALWAYS** played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.
9. Another Safety Point: Someone told me that her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before last, and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird. The police told her "What-ever you do, **DO NOT** open the door." The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, "We already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, **DO NOT open the door.**" He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby He said they have not verified it, but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.



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GAS STATION ALERT – SIFU PAUL HOLLEY

Jamestown, New York



A friend stopped at a pay-at-the-pump gas station to get gas. Once she filled her gas tank and after paying at the pump and starting to leave, the voice of the attendant inside came over the speaker. He told her that something happened with her card and that she needed to come inside to pay. The lady was confused because the transaction showed complete and approved.

She relayed that to him and was getting ready to leave but the attendant, once again, urged her to come in to pay or there'd be trouble. She proceeded to go inside and started arguing with the attendant about his threat. He told her to calm down and listen carefully. He said that while she was pumping gas, a guy slipped into the back seat of her car on the other side and the attendant had already called the police. She became frightened and looked out in time to see her car door open and the guy slip out. The report is that the new gang initiation thing is to bring back a woman and/or her car. One way they are doing this is crawling under women's cars while they're pumping gas or at grocery stores. This nightmare generally happens in the nighttime. The other way is slipping into unattended cars and kidnapping the women. Be extra careful going to and from your car at night. If at all possible, don't go alone!

1. ALWAYS lock your car doors, even if you're gone for just a second!
2. Check underneath your car when approaching it for reentry, and check in the back before getting in.
3. Always be aware of your surroundings and of other individuals in your general vicinity, particularly at night!

God always gives His best to those who leave the choices with Him.



HUMOR



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE - DEAN WALKER

Arlington, Texas



~"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, of course sir," the new employee replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on.

"After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you.

~The prospective father-in-law asked, "Young man, can you support a family?" The surprised groom-to-be replied, "Well, mmm, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

~A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me daddy. I'm under five."

~The Sunday School teacher asked, "Now, Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," he replied, "we don't have to, my mom is a good cook!"

~"Oh, Grandma, I sure am happy to see you," the little boy said to his grandmother on his mother's side. "Now maybe daddy will do that trick he has been promising us." The grandmother was curious. "What trick is that?" she asked. "I heard him tell mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit," the little boy answered.

~When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom smiled and then replied... "Oh yes, I remember."

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~The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

~A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

~Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

~A teacher decided to have her class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. The youngsters had a month to learn it. Little Rick was excited - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he was having trouble. The day arrived and when it was Ricky's turn to recite in front of the congregation, he was so nervous. He stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



NOTABLE MEMBERS

Please continue to submit your nomination for Instructor of the Quarter and School of the Quarter! Please include in your nomination a short paragraph telling us why you were compelled to make your nominations. We will verify the membership status of your nomination upon receipt. Our staff reviews each nomination and will render a decision to be published in the following issue of this newsletter.

The Instructor of the Quarter and School of the Quarter are each awarded a certificate in honor of their accomplishments. We are proud to announce the following recognitions:

INSTRUCTOR	SCHOOL
<p>INSTRUCTOR OF THE QUARTER</p> <p>Instructor Profile:</p> <p>WENDELL GREEN, 3rd Dan</p> <p>Columbia, South Carolina</p> <p>Style: American Style Self-Defense</p> <p>School: Hyatt Park Self-Defense</p>	<p>SCHOOL OF THE QUARTER</p> <p>School Profile:</p> <p>ANCIENT MARTIAL SOCIETY CLAN</p> <p>Caro, Michigan</p> <p>Style: Various Styles* (see list below)</p> <p>Instructor: John Turner, 10th Dan</p>
<p>Instructor Green is a dedicated martial artist. He has displayed expertise in working with community. He is in the BBFI minority in that he is working outside a church ministry. He teaches martial arts at Recreational and Community Centers. In addition to teaching the art, he is a great witness among young people for the cause of Christ.</p>	<p>Mr. Turner holds tenth degree Black Belt in various styles. His classes are predominately students who hold a black belt. Mr. Turner is also the chief examiner on the BBFI Promotion Board. His BBFI membership dates back to our Founder Rod Crowder. These men shared a dream for BBFI and were good friends.</p>

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* Mr. Turner's styles include: American Kenpo – 10th Degree
 Kenpo American - 10th Degree
 Yusei-Ryu - 10th Degree
 Kempo Goshin - 1st Dan

American Kenpo – 10th Degree
 Samuri Jujitsu – 10th Degree
 Tang Soo Do - 8th Degree

Daito-Ryu Aiki Bujutsu - 10th Degree
 Tae Kwon Do – 10th Degree
 Hapkido - 6th Degree

As President, I am responsible to promote members through the rank of 5th degree. Mr. Turner will be responsible to promote those who test above the rank of 5th degree. Those who are going to test for their black belts need to contact BBFI at least two months before their test, so requirements can be established.



MEMBERSHIP STATUS

NEW MEMBERS



Krohn, Grant	Brouwer, Andrew	Carney, Isaac	Davison, James P.
Peterson, Micah	Giordani, Corrine	Graves, Anna E.	Graves, Katalyn E.
Rugh, Celestine	Hamblin, Shawn	Huseth, Zachary	Johnson, Joey
Sharp, Michael R.	Kapua, Virginia	Key, Jessica	Kintigh, Mark
Sharp, Travis D.	Krohn, Grant	Mendoza, Hector	Meriman, Aaron
Tibbit, Ethan	Rich, Robert	Romans, Beth	Rugh, Bryan
Woytek, Max	Saba, Steve	Saugh, Gloria	Sharp, Austin M.
	Sharp, Travis D.	Soto, Manuel	Sharp, Michael R.
	Soto, Manuel	Thomas, Maddy	Thrush. Brandon
	Tibbit, Judah	Tibbit, Levi	Walker, Bryan

RENEWING MEMBERS



Brandolyn, Mack	Bridges, Alexa	Bridges, Chaney
Echtermeyer, Ross	Eckhoff, Arianna	Gosyne, Rachel
Gosyne, Victoria	Helfinstine, Ryan	Hohm, Jon
Jahnke, Michael	Pinegar, Ryan	



RANK PROMOTIONS

YELLOW

Anfinson, Daniel	Damhof, Mari	Eckhoff, Trevor
Habben, Nathan	Helfinstine, Ryan	Hodapp, Emma
Hodapp, Simon	Holmgren, Alycia	Johnson, Drake
Lopez, Astrid	Merlin, Mack	Pinegar, Emily
Puckett, Philip	Sankey, Bob	Sankey, Jake
Sankey, Luke	Swenson, Bradley	Swenson, Dan
Wearda, Kaitlin		

ORANGE

Avery, Teresa	Murphy, Sam	Somody, Nicole
Van Dellen, Anthony		

BLUE

Johnson, Brad	Kneprath, Ella	Kneprath, Ethan
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Thank you for supporting Black Belts of the Faith International!

Musfeldt Evan

Pinegar, Ryan

GREEN

Barnes, Jacob
Nelson, Joel

Eckhoff, Arianna
Pinegar, Jennifer

Gordon, Mark
Rickert, Chris

PURPLE

Kneprath, Steve

RED

BROWN

3rd DAN



Gillhoolley, Bernard



BIO SKETCH: Mr. Gillhoolley began martial arts in 1971 while stationed in Korea in the Army. His wife Audrey is a first degree black belt. They were married in 1973, and have two children, Jason and Karen. Jason is also first degree black belt. He frequently submits articles for this publication. He has an intriguing theory on why martial arts began in the Garden of Eden. (Here's hoping that comment prompts him to submit an in-depth article on that subject. Smile). He was saved in 1993 and began looking for a model martial arts organization, and joined BBFI shortly thereafter. He is, indeed, a definite benefit to our organization!

EDITOR'S NOTE: In previous issues of this quarterly we have asked for **Bio Sketches** of BBFI Instructors so that BBFI members can know others better. The response has been less than we hoped. The above paragraph is an example of what we would like to see on all of our instructors. Bio Sketches may be submitted by a student, fellow instructor, or by the instructor him/herself.

BLACK

Avery, Paul

TEMP. BLACK BELT



NEW INSTRUCTOR PROMOTIONS

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR

Cloe, Shannon

INSTRUCTOR

Rugh, Bryan

ADDENDUM: At this point it is obvious that the second *Acts of Faith* 2006 issue is later than it has ever been. Certainly we apologize for that. Also at this point you have likely read the account of our family crisis with our son in July. That is the major reason for our schedule getting behind. We have decided to change our distribution cycle to January, April, July, and October. Two main reasons for this change are: 1) it will help us get back on track with on-time distribution, and 2) the new time frame will be better to include articles relevant to major holidays. Due dates for articles are printed in the lower left corner of the front page. Thank you for your understanding and continued support! May God richly bless each one in our BBFI Family!

Thank you for supporting Black Belts of the Faith International!