



America's Heartland
Roger Alford

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On his first day in jail, Bubba was sitting on his bunk when he heard another inmate down the cell block yell out, "twenty-two." Every prisoner within earshot burst out in laughter.

A few minutes later, some-

Want a smile? Put down the joke book and read the Bible

one else yelled out, "thirty-seven."

This time, the prisoners laughed even harder.

"What's so funny about those numbers?" Bubba asked his cellmate.

"We've all been in jail a long time, and we've been reading the same joke book so long that we've memorized the jokes and the page numbers," his cellmate explained. "So, instead of telling the whole joke, we just yell out the page numbers."

Bubba decided he would read the joke book and get in on the fun. The next day, Bubba yelled out, "sixteen."

No response.

He then yelled out, "forty-two."

Still nothing.

"What's wrong?" Bubba asked his cellmate. "Why isn't anyone laughing?"

His cellmate replied, "Some people just can't tell a joke."

Lately, I've been noticing some of the passages in the Bible that reflect our Heavenly Father's sense of humor. I laughed the other day when I read about how He delivered Israel and Judah on one occasion when the great armies of the Moabites and Ammonites invaded.

Jehoshaphat was king at the time, and when he heard that these powerful armies were on their way, he called all of God's people to prayer. God heard those prayers and intervened.

The Lord said, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason

of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's" (2 Chronicles 20:15).

That's when King Jehoshaphat did the funniest thing. He didn't put his biggest, strongest, fiercest soldiers on the front line. He didn't call up the Special Forces with the best training and most advanced weaponry. No, the king appointed singers to lead the army, and they went marching toward that great multitude of enemy troops singing praises to God.

The invaders were utterly destroyed, having turned on one another. All God's people did was sing. The Lord did the rest.

In my mind, that passage reflects a Heavenly Father with a fantastic sense of humor. Over

and over again in the Bible, He did things that tickle our funny bones, like the time he allowed the prophet Elisha to single-handedly conquer an entire army that had been dispatched to kill him, or the time he allowed a little shepherd boy named David to defeat a fearsome 10-foot-tall enemy soldier named Goliath.

How can we not at least smile when our Heavenly Father does such unlikely things?

Bubba may not have been able get a response with his best effort to generate smiles, but our Heavenly Father always can.

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Having friends is vital, especially in our golden years



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Maybe you've heard about the very elderly gentleman who walked into the senior citizen's hall, reeking of cologne. With a flower in his lapel and tonic in his hair, he had made an obvious attempt to look dashing. He sa-shayed across the room, his cane clicking as he went, and took a seat beside a lady sitting alone. He leaned in close to her and said:

"Tell me, good-looking, do I come here often?"

Well, I'm not so sure about that old fellow's approach to making friends, but I can tell you that having friends is vitally important, especially when we grow older. The Bible addresses friendship, telling us that two people are better together than one alone. "For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: But woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he has not another to help him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:10).

I have always had great appreciation for senior halls and other gathering places for older people. They're great places to create friendships. God made us in such a way that we need companionship. But far too many older Americans spend far too much time alone. Somehow, the culture in our country has shifted in a way that isn't always healthy for senior citizens.

The Pew Research Center tells us that, in most of the world, it's common for older people to live in homes with lots of family around. Not so in the United States. In fact,

Pew found that very few older Americans live with family.

With more and more senior citizens living alone, medical alert systems have become big business in the U.S. in recent decades. It's scary for any senior to think he or she might fall at home and be on the floor for hours or days, unable to get up.

In this current culture, senior citizens would be wise to band together, calling one another every day just to make sure everything's OK, or getting together as often as possible at senior halls, churches and other gathering spots where they can be among friends and perhaps make a few new ones. We can never have too many friends.

But you may not want to go about it the same ways as the forgetful old gentleman with the flower in his lapel and tonic in his hair.

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Church & Community

Mail announcements to The Estill Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336 Call (606) 723-5012; Fax to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <News@EstillTribune.Com>

Christmas Parade Cancelled

The Kiwanis Club members just met by Zoom and voted to cancel the Christmas Parade due to the lack of interest. Only two had committed to participate.

Saturday, December 5th - 10am-1pm

Elizabeth Witt Christmas Party

The tradition will continue again this year for the 40th annual Elizabeth Witt Christmas Party. It will be held as usual on the first Saturday of December which is December 5 but there are changes this year due to the corona virus. It will be held as a "Drive Through" at the Estill County Fairgrounds with gifts being given from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. as vehicles drive through the line. Gifts will be given to the children in each vehicle. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be present to greet the children in a social distanced safe manner

Through Friday, December 11th

Kiwanis Christmas Light Contest

The Irvine-Ravenna Kiwanis Club will be hosting a Christmas Light Contest in the cities of Irvine and Ravenna from now until Friday December 11th. This has been a difficult year for everyone and it is our hope that this contest will bring some Christmas cheer to our community. There will be no cost to enter this contest and no registration to bother with. All you have to do is get out the lights and decorations, decorate to the best of your ability and enjoy the beauty of the Christmas Season. The categories for awards are "Most Creative" "Overall Appearance" and "Best Use of Lights"

Judging will take place on December 11th and awards will be distributed on December 12th.

LAFF - A - DAY



"You'll be happy to know that I've been voted the most-dressed girl on our block!"

GRIN and BEAR IT



"Care to join me for happy hour?"

South Irvine man is arrested following Oct. police pursuit

An arrest warrant was recently served on Charles Logan Creech, 25, of Noland Hill Road, Irvine.

The warrant was obtained by Deputy Brad Smith following an October 28 pursuit and was signed by a judge on November 22.

The deputy says that Creech was the operator of a motor vehicle on October 28 who knowingly and wantonly disobeyed a direction to stop by a police officer. He added that Creech was believed to be fleeing from a domestic violence situation.

The citation states that Creech's alleged fleeing created a substantial risk of death, serious physical injury, and damage to property.

Deputy Smith had been dispatched to Noland Hill Road to respond to domestic disturbance, allegedly involving Creech.

When Smith turned onto Noland Hill Road, he immediately noticed a vehicle that Creech was known to use. He activated his lights and positioned his cruiser in an at-

tempt to block the one lane road.

The complaint states that Creech drove past the deputy, almost striking his cruiser. Creech proceeded and turned left onto McKee Road.

Deputy Smith pursued Creech with lights and sirens while traveling at speeds exceeding 90 miles per hour. He said that Creech passed several cars on the roadway at excessive speeds.

Smith added that he terminated the pursuit due to safety concerns.

Creech was charged with reckless driving, operating on a suspended or revoked license, speeding 25 mph or greater than speed limit, wanton endangerment, first degree of a police officer, wanton endangerment, first degree, and fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle).

Fleeing or evading police and wanton endangerment are Class D felonies. If found guilty of a Class D felony, Creech could be sentenced to one to five years on each of the three charges.



Bruce Tipton of South Irvine shared this photo that is widely circulating on the internet that portrays Jesus Christ wrestling with Satan. Bruce had a friend of his to make a copy of it because he liked it so well.