



America's Heartland
Roger Alford
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Perhaps you heard about the guy who had gotten one of those toy model car sets for Christmas.

His wife teased him about

Christmas advice: Avoid anything that says 'some assembly required'

it. "The box says it's for children 7 years old and up, and you're 41," she said.

"The joke was on her, though," the fellow said, "because I got it done in two years."

When my kids were small, I couldn't begin to calculate how many hours I spent putting together things that said "some assembly required." There were dollhouses, kitchen sets, swing sets, and lots of things I've mercifully forgotten. Too often, these gifts meant I had to work late into the night to have them ready by Christmas morning.

After a few futile attempts to do it my way, I'd typically

pull out the instructions to try to see where I went wrong. Sometimes, it turned out I had done nothing right and would have to start over.

That's kind of the way it is with our lives. We attempt to do things our way, but end up making a huge mess. That's when we consult the instruction manual – the Bible – and find out where we went wrong. Then, the Lord gives us an opportunity to start over again.

Jesus, of course, is the one who gives us that new start. That's why Christians are so excited about celebrating the birth of Christ. It's an amazing thing that He was willing to leave the glory of Heaven to

live among us and ultimately to die for us.

People have always had a tendency to try to save themselves by "being good" and by "doing good." What's hard for us to understand is that "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). We tend to compare ourselves to bad neighbors down the street or to inmates in the state prison and decide we're good. But if we compare ourselves to a holy God, we find that we come up far short on the righteousness scale.

That's why Jesus came on that first Christmas, wrapped in simple swaddling clothes as a gift to the whole world. That

baby lying in that manger was and is the Savior of the world, and He alone is able to straighten out the messes we make of our lives.

You know how on Christmas Eve we feel like we should call for help to get those gifts marked "some assembly required" put together after we've messed them up. Well, that's just exactly what Jesus wants us to do when we realize we've made messes of our lives.

He's just a prayer away.

Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at 502-514-6857 or <rogeralford1@gmail.com>.

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>

Call Wed., Dec. 23 for Outreach

St. Elizabeth Outreach Program

If anyone who has not signed up with St. Elizabeth Church for their Outreach Program or any other place, St. Elizabeth may still help you with Christmas. You are welcome to call on December 23 between 9:00 and 5:00 and make an appointment.

Please do not just show up. You MUST make an appointment. But we are happy to give needed help! We want everyone to be safe and have a Blessed Christmas.

December 23rd - January 4th

Health Dept. Closes for Holidays

The Estill County Health Department will close for the holidays December 23rd at 10:30 a.m. and will reopen on January 4th at 8:00 a.m. During that time we will continue to do Covid-19 surveillance and contact tracing.

Apply by January 11, 2021

Co-Starters Program for Women

Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Inc. (SOAR) Innovation powered by KY Innovation is now accepting applications for the first-ever women founders CO.STARTERS CORE Program, a 10-week, women-led, live-facilitated virtual program built to provide you with the tools you need to build and grow a thriving business. Starting the week of January 25th, women starters throughout Appalachia will meet virtually, once a week, with other women-entrepreneurs to turn ideas into action and prepare for success. The deadline to apply is January 11, 2021. The application fee is \$50.00.

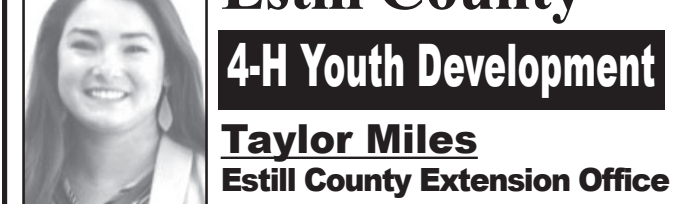
Women entrepreneurs are critical to economic growth. A McKinsey Global Institute study found that advancing women's equality could add \$12 trillion to the global economy by 2025. Yet, women raise smaller amounts of capital, exhibit higher levels of risk aversion, apply for fewer funding opportunities, and receive less investment than their male counterparts. A whopping 97% of venture capital is issued to male CEO businesses.

"SOAR believes that women entrepreneurs have untapped potential," said Ryan Jones, director of SOAR Innovation. "This program will create greater opportunity and equality for the mothers and daughters of Appalachia, open new markets, create jobs, increase household incomes, and lead to greater economic and social transformation by strengthening and diversifying what entrepreneurship looks like in Appalachia."

Women entrepreneurs who participate in the CO.STARTERS CORE program will be able to confidently move forward with actionable next steps for their business, identify creative solutions, find both short-term and long-term financial stability, and adapt in an uncertain environment. Participants will work with a certified facilitator and dedicated group of peers in a series of 2.5 hour virtual sessions, covering topics that help them adapt and remodel their business to meet changing customer needs. The program uses a simple e-learning platform and live-facilitated video sessions that stream to any computer or mobile device, as well as a physical binder to help participants work through the content offline between sessions.

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture



Estill County

4-H Youth Development

Taylor Miles

Estill County Extension Office

Call the Extension Office for details

Estill County Shooting Sports

Estill County 4-H Shooting Sports program is beginning their sign-ups for the new program year. It is open to all youth 9-18 years of age (must have reached 9th birthday as of Jan. 1, 2021 and not reached their 19th birthday as of Jan. 1, 2021.) This program is a wonderful opportunity for young people to safely learn and enjoy the sports of shooting under the guidance of certified coaches and volunteers. Learn about four disciplines offered through the program including archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun! Shooting Sports Requirements: youth must complete the Hunter's Education Course (<https://fw.ky.gov>). If participating in .22 pistol, youth must be at least 12 years of age (as of Jan. 1, 2021.) The first meeting is still being determined at this time. Call our office at 606-723-4557 (8:00a.m.- 4:30p.m.). You must call the office to sign up, no Facebook messages or voicemails will be accepted.

Equal Opportunity Service Provider

Free Virtual Workshop

Estill County Public Library is partnering with **Grow with Google** to help community members develop or improve their digital skills. The library will host a free virtual workshop on January 14, 2021, called **Reach Customers Online with Google**, and individuals will have the opportunity to learn the following:

- How to improve your website's visibility in Google's organic search results, on all devices
- How to create a free Google My Business listing
- How to advertise your business on Google

Estill County Public Library is committed to offering programs that help our community learn and grow.

Virtual event details:

Reach Customers Online with Google

Learn how customers find your business online, and then find out how to promote your business using *Search Engine Optimization and Smart Campaigns in Google Ads*.

Date: January 14, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6564427876315167758>

About **Grow with Google**:

Grow with Google helps ensure that the opportunities created by technology are available to everyone. Since launching in 2017, we've training more than three million Americans on digital skills. And through a network of more than 5,000 partner organizations-including local libraries, schools, and nonprofits-more people across the country can reach their full potential. To learn more about **Grow with Google** partners and the available tools and resources, visit google.com/grow.

Americanisms



"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

— Norman Vincent Peale

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The Success of a Nation

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
 70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

In **Proverbs 14:34**, it is written, "*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*"

The future of any nation does not depend upon one single human being, nor even a group of men; so, how will its success continue? Its continuing existence will be determined by and upon what kind of spirit it possesses. For over 250 years, our nation has remained a success because, for the most part, its people continued to maintain a good spiritual relationship with Almighty God and his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. But, I now have a great fear for our country because we have slipped so far from what we once were. God and Christ were in times past, mostly the main themes in general conversations among neighbors, among our political leaders and to include our home, schools; and proclaimed without fear of retribution in our church buildings when we gathered to worship on the spirit of righteousness.

And even if one did not choose to gather with the Christians in a church building, they would not have to be seen engaging in some secular work for fear of being called an ole reprobate. But today, we have drifted so far from God's right ways, that the Lord's Day is not distinguished from any day. Just recently in an article, I mentioned what David said, "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*" Psalms 9:17 This is worth repeating at this time!

I ask, can America be healed from the present trend of this digression toward complete apostasy? Yes, it can, if it will recognize the danger and turn back to the Lord. The prodigal son woke up finally after having spent all and was without a friend to help him. Then, as his present condition awakened him to reality, he made plans to undo what he never should have done in the first place. And that was, to leave the security and the oversight and protection of his father. And so, finally beginning to realize that he needed to do some right things for a change, he arose and went back to his father with an attitude of sorrowful repentance. And so he did, and was received gladly by his father.

Folks, this is what America needs to do this day; repent and renew a right spirit in our hearts, guided and motivated by the Word of God. This must happen, and can happen, if men and women wake up to the fact that our Lord is coming again to judge us according to the kind of life we have lived. So, what better time than today to renew the right spirit of obedience in our hearts to the Lord. He will welcome us back, restore our place, rekindle our desire, and give us a place in his Heaven someday.

Visit with us this next Lord's Day. We are meeting at 10:45 a.m. for a weekly worship.

Call us at 1-859-369-4165

Sincerely, Bob Casey

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