



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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Rankin and Hooch are mad at us! I've been notified that we won't be receiving the "Dog Parents of the Year" award and I'm not sure if the dogs will ever speak to us again. Their punishment so far has been...bark, bark, bark to let them in the house, we let them in then get settled back in our chairs and they jump up and...bark, bark, bark to let them out of the house! This has gone on now for three days. My nerves are shot!

This all began because we slipped off to the lake and, --- I know, wait for it--we didn't take them with us! Sometimes we just need a break from everything, including the dogs! I'm feeling guilty though just writ-

# They're Mad At Us

ing about it. We were only gone overnight and we left them plenty of food and water but when they saw us get into the truck with the red suitcase, they started prancing in the yard and barking. They knew just exactly where we were going as soon as they saw that red suitcase, it's amazing how smart they are. We didn't even take the same truck but they still knew. We had to practically fight them off when we opened the truck doors, they were pushing their way past us in order to jump in. Corky and I laughed and laughed at their persistence but we finally managed to leave without them.

The sunset blazed with beautiful pinks and blues but I couldn't enjoy it, I was thinking about Rankin and Hooch. We always imagine their conversations and I'm sure Rankin was blaming Hooch for them not getting to go. Poor old Hooch, he just follows Rankin's lead and I bet his heart was broken as he laid in his dog house, in our garage, wondering where we were and what he had done wrong. As soon as we got to the campground everyone began asking about the boys, I almost cried. "We didn't

bring them this trip", I explained apologetically. One of our neighbors piped up and said, "We saved them the bones from supper, now what will we do with them?" Guilt washed over me like a waterfall! I almost cried.

Later that evening as we prepared for bed, I heard Corky ask softly, "Well wonder what the boys are doing?" I tried to put on a brave face, "Oh they're fine! Probably having a big time without us, barking at the moon and chasing squirrels". Inside I was dying, I wanted to go home. I wanted to go home and let Rankin and Hooch in the house, where Rankin sleeps by Corky's chair and Hooch lays at my feet.

When we arrived back home the next evening, they met us at the end of the driveway. You never heard such barking and tattle-telling in all your life! They both were trying their best to explain to us what had happened in the hours since we had left them when suddenly, they got close enough to sniff our clothes. Next they sniffed the truck and boy howdy, that was the end of that! I'll swear I believe they could smell the lake on us and they turned tail and walked away! Now how about that for a cold shoulder? I guess we've learned a valuable lesson this weekend.

Change clothes and wash the truck after leaving the lake next time!  
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha



Tam



**Times Remembered**

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## Kayaking

The fog slowly lifts off the water as the kayak glides smoothly along. Squirrels are playing along the creek bank, scampering back and forth carrying nuts to the trees. A crane lands close to me with ease in the rippling water looking for a fish. Serenity and peacefulness; a beautiful and quiet experience..... then, "Bob how do I stop this kayak?" I can see all this happening as I sit here at my computer writing this story. "Me," in a kayak trying to be quiet, (yeah-

right), LOL, buttttt, Bob finally talked me into at least trying kayaking.

Last week we went for a practice run.....a lesson in kayaking on my niece's lake at Waco. I was nervous, since I do not swim that great.....I took lessons and passed the course a few years ago, but I'm not a strong swimmer. But, upon Bob's insistence I was going to kayak or "bust." I'm so competitive!

I donned my life jacket and paddle and climbed in.....a little wobbly but not as bad as a canoe. I got situated and Bob showed me how to hold the paddle; unlike canoeing you have two paddles on one pole, one on each end. I thought you used the paddle just like you canoe; NOT.....I first went around in circles until Bob instructed me to hold the paddle high and at an angle, then dip the low side in the water, then bring the higher side down and dip alternating. Well, I did that and sure enough it wasn't all that difficult. I paddled around the small lake several times like a pro, until my arm and shoulder started hurting.

Bob was on the bank cheering me on and was

very proud of me. Then I decided to stop and rest, so I headed for the bank to disembark. Well, I hadn't thought of stopping the kayak when the water ran out, but I yelled to Bob, "How do I stop this thing?" He yelled back and said, "You got to back paddle," I didn't accomplish that part well..... I went up on the bank, but at least I got it stopped, and got out of the kayak by myself.

Once out on the bank, Bob praised my efforts and informed me that we were going to try the Elkhorn Creek when we go camping next month. I can guarantee him that no squirrels or cranes, nor serenity will be present when I captain my kayak down that creek. I will be yelling, "How do I stop this thing?"???

Kayaks offer an alternative fun from canoes. They have a lower profile and there is a higher maneuverability. They have become very popular with anglers.

Bob loves fishing in his because there are so many coves and islands that you can access with a kayak. Whereas boats are limited to larger places.

HAPPY KAYAKING!!



Betty takes a ride in a kayak

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**Why Is Our Nation So Troubled?**  
by **BOB CASEY**, preacher  
**Cornerstone Church of Christ**  
70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

Before I begin writing this article today, I will report upon the success of our last Lord's day meeting with Bro. Charles Ward, preaching upon the subject, "Where Are The Dead?" There was a good turnout and the reception was great, so in October, Bro. Jim Sizemore will be the guest speaker. Stay tuned for the announcement time and date.

But notice if you will our question: "**Why so much trouble in America?**" Very basically, many have and are continuing to turn away from God. **Psalm 9:17**, "All the nations that forget God shall be turned into hell." Some might ask, "Why are we so full of trouble when America is filled up with church buildings?" **Simply because** we are not receiving, or believing in the plan of Christ to change them from sin. Friend, in any building that I have ever attempted to build, it could not end up right if it was started all wrong. Many today live in a world of spiritual fantasy, thinking they have obeyed our Lord and are in a state of salvation when in fact they are not! How can this be? Jesus says in **John 6:63**, "The words that I speak unto thee, they are spirit and they are life." Also in **II Timothy 3:16**, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." So again, when any will not receive the gospels' entirety, they will never be a receiver of His spirit and will be rejected for eternal life. **Acts 2:38** is clearly, easily, given to me as the command to be baptized. It is for the remission of our sins, and necessary to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Again Paul clearly says in **Romans 8:9**, "If any man has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Adding to this, we read in **I Corinthians 2:9/14**, paraphrasing the text, but read it for yourself to see the truth. Here Paul says that God reveals unto His people all things by His spirit. Then He says, we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things given unto us. He says that He disregards man's wisdom, but only accepts what the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things. **Then he declares**, "But the natural or unsaved man received not the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned, or judged". Then in **II Corinthians 5:17**, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." How and when does this change come? **Romans 6:3-5** "When we are baptized into his death," and are raised to walk into newness of life. So in summation, men are not hearing, believing, nor obeying the truth given to save them. **Hebrews 4:12**, "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

So dear reader, why not start obeying only what the Bible teaches, so that a satisfying peace can rule in your life. This world is going to get worse as time goes on, but no matter what may happen, if you have obeyed the Lord everything will be alright. Visit with us at **70 Bond Street** in West Irvine. Study the truth, obey only the truth, and the Lord will receive you. Do not live any longer in doubt and fear.

We offer free Bible correspondent courses to all who will write for them at the address given free to you. Also Bible tracts on several subjects. Send for yours today.

Sincerely, Bob Casey 1(859) 369-4165

**Woman changes quickly from skinny to fat**



**America's Heartland**  
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A woman preparing for her yearly physical exam was asked by the nurse how much she weighed. The woman said 115 pounds. The nurse put her on the scales and informed her she actually weighed 250 pounds.

The nurse then asked her height. She told the nurse she was 5-8. The nurse measured her and informed her she's actually 5-2.

Then the nurse took her blood pressure and told the woman it was very high.

"Little wonder it's high," the woman screamed. "When I came in here I was tall and slender. Now I'm short and fat."

Like the woman in that old joke, we really can have distorted views of ourselves. We can think we're self-reliant and strong when in reality we're rather helpless and weak.

The Old Testament records a story about a man who had such a distorted view of himself. Naaman was his name and he was the leader of the Syrian army. He was a man's man. He was strong and brave and sure. But he came to realize his sheer helplessness when he

contracted leprosy.

Naaman had been able to win great victories on the battlefield. But there was nothing he could do about this disease that was destroying his body. Then a servant girl told him about the prophet Isaiah, who, with God's help, could heal leprosy.

Naaman went to Isaiah, and, after overcoming some serious misgivings, followed Isaiah's directions to dip himself into the Jordan River seven times, after which he was healed.

That's the short version of the circumstances around Naaman's healing. The full story has some interesting twists and turns you can read in 2 Kings 5. And it's worth the read.

What I want to point out is that here was a man who had a distorted view of himself as strong and self-reliant. It was only when he faced circumstances that were far beyond his control that he realized just how helpless he was.

And when he arrived at those circumstances, he turned to the true and living God. He found that what was an insurmountable problem for him was an easy fix for our Lord.

Many of us have been in that spot where we have reached the end of our strength and had no other option but to turn Jesus. And there we found true strength. It's at such times that we realize there isn't anything our God can't do.

The scriptures tell us that Jesus "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask for think" (Ephesians 3:20).

Naaman experienced that great truth, and you can too.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.