

Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

BYoung505@Outlook.com

There was a time, during the latter part of the 18th century in England, when all religious symbols were banned from public display. No longer could Christian brothers and sisters recognize one another in public by crosses they wore on their clothing or as jewelry.

During this time, it is told, there was a dedicated Christian candy maker who set out to find some way for members of a Christian family to identify each other, in spite of

Origin & Meaning of the Candy Cane

the ban. He began with a piece of pure white candy to signify the purity and holiness of Jesus Christ.

Next, he fashioned the candy into the shape of a shepherd's staff as a reminder that our Heavenly Father is the Good Shepherd. Then, he placed three small red stripes 'round the candy to represent the encompassing power and presence of the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Finally, he placed a single bold stripe through the candy to demonstrate the redeeming power of the blood that Christ shed upon the Cross for each of us, and the forgiveness of our sins.

We hope and pray that each time you see a candy cane during the holiday season, you will be reminded of the love God has for you and the price Christ paid for your salvation. And we hope that you will use this story of the candy cane to tell others what Christ has done in your life. Doesn't it

seem strange that something we often see as unimportant and insignificant can be turned into something so vibrant, so important, simply by knowing the story of its origin? And yet, the real MIRACLE is that God can take each of us, no matter how unimportant or insignificant we may feel, and through His work, turn us into something of incredible worth, value, and significance!!

Believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness from sin. God loves each of us. God offers us salvation. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love and salvation, God wants to save us. In the death of Jesus on the cross, God provided salvation for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Down and out: Homeless man in tattered clothes explains his downfall



America's Heartland
Roger Alford
RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

I sure didn't see the punchline coming in a joke Bill Gori shared here while back about a homeless man's answer when someone asked him how he ended up like that.

"Until last week, I had it all," the homeless man said. "I had plenty to eat. My clothes were washed and pressed. I had a roof over my head. I had HDTV and Internet. And I went to the gym, the pool and the library. I was working on my MBA online. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage."

"What happened," the fellow asked. "Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?"

"Oh, no. Nothing like that," the homeless man

replied. "I was paroled." Bill, a retired judge from the upper Adirondack Mountains, is gracious to share humorous and inspirational emails with his friends. When his emails arrive, we all eagerly open them, because we know they'll contain something we all need: an uplifting story, an amusing take on the news of the day, a laugh and a smile.

The Bible tells us that Bill is actually delivering medicine of sorts to each of us.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

You realize the Bible is filled with scriptures that should make our hearts merry. We can get caught up in negative thoughts that can make us miserable. But if we open God's word, we will find encouragement.

We say: "It's impossible." God says: "All things are possible" (Luke 18:27).

We say: "I can't go on." God says: "My grace is sufficient" (II Corinthians 12:9).

We say: "I can't figure things out." God says: "I will direct your steps" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We say: "I can't do it." God says: "You can do all things" (Philippians 4:13).

We say: "I can't forgive myself." God says: "I forgive you" (I John 1:9 and Romans 8:1).

We say: "I can't manage." God says: "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

We say: "I'm always worried." God says: "Cast all your cares on me" (I Peter 5:7).

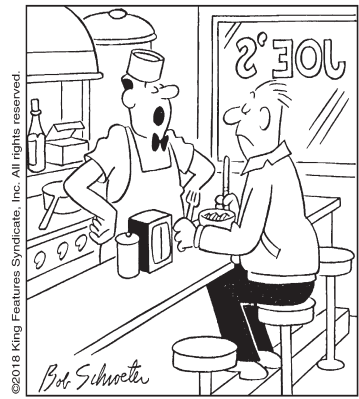
We say: "I'm not smart enough." God says: "I give you wisdom" (I Corinthians 1:30).

We say: "I feel all alone" God says: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

We may be moved with compassion when we see someone in tattered clothing sleeping on a park bench. But do you know, we encounter people every day who are sad and hurting and in desperate need of an encouraging word.

My friend Bill offers that kind of encouragement. And, so should we.

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



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the CAPITAL letters below to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word to complete the gag!

- Burdened
- ELAND
- Switch
- TRIVED
- Succeed
- LOFLOW
- Aim
- RIVETS

"It's called the 'Chef's Delight' because he uses only _____."

TODAY'S WORD

Births -- Baptist Health of Richmond

County	DOB	Parents	Town	Gender
Madison	Nov. 26, 2018	Mary and James Royal	Berea	Boy
Madison	Nov. 26, 2018	Mysterie and Shawn Conner	Richmond	Girl
Estill	Nov. 27, 2018	Zoe Adams and James Mullins	Irvine	Boy
Madison	Nov. 27, 2018	Destinee Adams	Berea	Girl
Owsley	Nov. 28, 2018	Alivia Kidd and Andrew Gibson	Booneville	Girl
Madison	Nov. 28, 2018	Carly Walker and Darrell Allen	Richmond	Girl
Estill	Nov. 28, 2018	Brooklyn Sparks	Irvine	Girl
Grant	Nov. 28, 2018	Dalia Aquazul and Alexis	Dry Ridge	Girl
Madison	Nov. 30, 2018	Brooke and Jordan Black	Berea	Boy
Estill	Dec. 3, 2018	Megan King and Austin Philapy	Irvine	Boy
Madison	Dec. 4, 2018	Kimberly and Richard Witt	Waco	Girl
Madison	Dec. 6, 2018	Alena and Scott Prather	Richmond	Girl
Madison	Dec. 6, 2018	Kayla and Billy Shackelford Jr.	Berea	Girl
Rockcastle	Dec. 6, 2018	Skylar and James Miller	Brodhead	Boy
Madison	Dec. 7, 2018	Margaret and Stevie Wood	Berea	Boy
Madison	Dec. 8, 2018	Ronalyn and David Adams	Richmond	Boy

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Janette McGreal, REALTOR
Keller Williams Legacy Group
230 Geri Lane, Richmond, KY
Phone 859-358-1711
janettemcgregal@gmail.com

Check out my website at
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