

#### Times Remembered **Betty A. Young** BYoung505@Outlook.com

Have you ever heard the term, "Stubborn as a Mule?" I'm sure many of term before. I've never owned a mule, but as a kid we had a white mare that we called, "Old Maude." Dad plowed tobacco with many blood vessels. her and she was really been half mule.

describe mules. And callhas never been intended and lazy, but the truth is ing a rocky terrain. more complicated.

A mule is a cross between but pound for pound they a donkey and horse . . . more specifically, a male stronger animal. Mules transport unrealistic. Pack donkey and a female have more stamina and mules can carry loads of between a male horse and have 64 chromosomes

## Stubborn as a Mule

Mules and their donkeys and horse parents share a considered the "father of lot of similarities, but also the American mule," and several key differences, is credited with popular-Mules tend to have small- izing mules in the United steep mountain trails. The any outside their country donkey has a steeper pel- without the king's permisvic angle than the horse, sion. and this is passed down to rig a must.

us have heard or used that arid climates, where their two breeds became very long ears help with heat radiation. Mules have those same long ears, which are the draft animal of the very sensitive and contain South, where their heat

stubborn; she must have ert evolution, donkeys use small feet gave them an minimal forage very ef- edge in planting and har-Stubborn, obstinate, ficiently; the mule retains vesting crops. Mules were head-strong . . . all these this feed efficiently too. also used during the Civil words have been used to Mules have a much small- War to transport supplies er appetite than horses. and equipment to the soling someone mule-headed Mules also are much less diers. prone to colic than horses as a compliment. Mules and are able to adapt to a significant role in other have a reputation for be- whatever forage might be niches today. Even though ing difficult to work with. available. Mule feet are tractors and mechaniza-Stories about mules refus- much harder than those of tion are widely available, ing to work for their own- the horse, which with their some people prefer using ers are many. Mules have surefootedness makes draft animals for lesser been labeled as unwilling them desirable for work- impact on the environ-

Mules have a smoother What exactly is a mule? musculature than a horse, firefighters in remote and are considered to be the ged terrain makes vehicle walking pace for an entire working in otherwise una female donkey.) Horses workday. Trained and fit reachable locations. pack mules can carry 20

George Washington is er feet than comparatively States. Washington wrote sized horses. This gives to King Charles III of Spain, them a distinct advantage hoping to purchase some when walking between donkeys, but they were rows of crops or down prohibited from selling

King Charles instead the mule offspring. Mules sent a jack (donkey) to also have shallower with- Washington as a gift. With ers which make a well-fit- the addition of a Maltese ted riding saddle or pack jack gifted to Washington by the Marquis de Lafay-Donkeys evolved in hot, ette, the offspring of these valuable.

Mules quickly became tolerance, small appetite, As a result of their des- capacity for work, and

> Modern mules still play ment.

Mules are used to assist inaccessible areas. Rughorse. (A hinny is a cross can maintain a steady supplies to firefighters

Mules have also been and donkeys have 62. The and 35 percent of its body described as straightformule and the hinny both weight. ward, patient, and surehave 63, an odd number Mules have been delib- footed. One thing is for that renders them sterile erately bred for centuries. sure ... much of our histoin the majority of cases. Evidence of their use dates ry would have been writ-There are never any abso- back to ancient times and ten very differently withlutes in nature, and there's in many cases considered out the steadfast mule. So some documented cases more valuable than the if anyone ever calls you of mules giving birth to horse and donkey coun- mulish, give them a hearty healthy offspring. terparts. thanks.

## **Church considers cots for people** who sleep in on Sundays



America's Heartland **Roger Alford** RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

I recently read a humorous piece about a church that decided to do everything it could to eliminate every possible excuse that nothing a church could was preventing people from showing up on Sundays.

For those who said Sunday was their only day to sleep in, the church placed cots in the fover.

roof would cave in if they to spend Sundays on the were to show up at church, lake with a fishing rod in hard hats would be avail- hand. Now, I couldn't imagable.

for those who think the days. I find myself being so church is too cold and fans were handed out to those who think the church is too sin that my strongest desire Day no matter what.

hot. Hearing aids were given to those who say the preacher speaks too softy, and cotton balls were provided to those who say he preaches too loudly.

relatives for those who like to visit family on Sundays.

out to those who said they couldn't go to church because they have to cook edness" (Psalm 84:10). dinner.

the church was decorated stand in the doorway and with trees, bushes, weeds, ticks, chiggers and mosquitos for all those who prefer to spend their Sundays in the great outdoors.

The truth is, there's people. ever do to satisfy folks who make excuses to stay home or do other things on Sunday mornings. I was one of those folks through the first half of my life. I had no in-For those who said the terest in church. I preferred ine being anywhere other Blankets were provided than God's house on Sun-

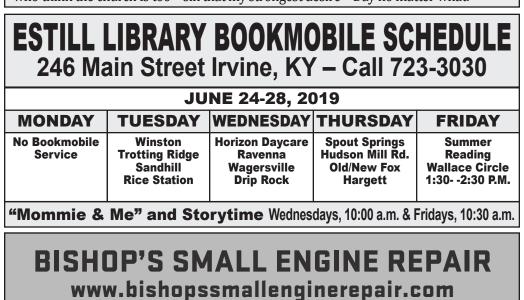
is to be with Him and His people.

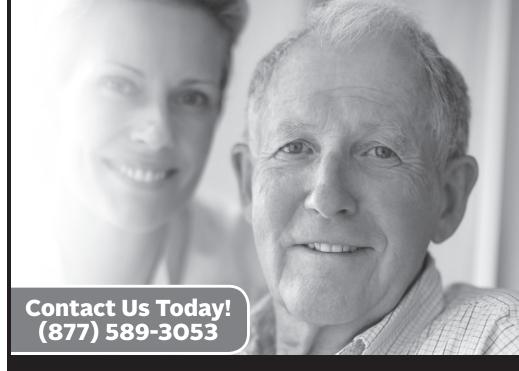
Down through the generations, people have experienced similar changes in attitude about being in God's house. In fact, King David The church brought in of the Old Testament, once said: "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I'd TV dinners were handed rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wick-

In other words, David Oh, and one section of was saying he'd rather look into God's house than to be seated in the front row of any other place. That speaks to David's great love for his God and for God's

> No doubt, we in the church should do all we can to make people feel welcome on Sunday mornings. But the truth is, until a person has a change of heart, they will never understand the joy that Christians experience just by coming into God's house with other believers.

People who love God don't need cots or fans or blankets or cotton balls. appreciative to the Lord for They'll be in His house with forgiving me of a lifetime of His people on the Lord's





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