

A parable of two religions

By Clifford Lones

Two twelve-year-old neighbor boys were in the back yard together. One boy was religious; the other was not. The religious boy grabbed the arm of the other boy, twisted his arm behind his back and said, "you believe in my god or I'll break your arm, and if you say anything against my religion, I'll burn your parents' house down!"

Two other twelve-year-old neighbor boys were in the back yard together. One boy was religious; the other was not. Both boys one summer night were lying back on the grass looking up at the clear starry sky. The religious boy said to the other boy, "the starry sky is awesome! There are thousands of suns and planets in the vast universe. Our earth and sun is just a part of it all. Our earth moves around the sun once every year with a tilt that gives us summer, fall, winter, and spring. It all works like clockwork. Surely, there must be a loving and benevolent God who created and designed it all!"

This is but a parable but it illustrates that a forced religion is really no religion. A free-will faith religion is genuine. God has created us with a free will. He could make us say or do whatever He wants, but He doesn't do so because He is pleased when we voluntarily love and obey Him. As a person I am pleased when my wife, children or friends by their own free will say they love me and like to fellowship with me. What pleasure would I have if I forced them to do so?

A forced religion is but people using a religion to control other people without a free exercise of their will and love. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)•

New hours announced at the Fruitport library

By Mary Weimer

New branch hours were recently announced by the Muskegon Area District Library. The Fruitport branch will now be open 40 hours weekly. Library hours are:

Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. •

Why memorize Scripture?

By Al Wezeman

Scripture is also known as the Holy Bible and the Word of God.

We know that Satan hates God's Word and can't stand to be around it. We know that from the Holy Bible itself. Matthew 4:1-11 tells of the time when Satan came to Jesus and tried to get Jesus to do certain things. Every time Jesus was tempted by Satan, He quoted verses from Scripture. Satan immediately left, but then returned to try again to make Jesus do what He shouldn't do. Satan gave up when Jesus kept quoting verses. How can we learn from Jesus' example?

First, we need to realize that Jesus knew the Scriptures. Jesus did not have an electronic device he could use to look up an appropriate verse. In other words, Jesus had the verses stored in His memory. Satan gave Jesus the clue to recall the right verse. You might argue that Jesus was the sinless Son of God and, of course, He knew the Scripture. Remember that Jesus grew up in a Jewish family and was taught the Scriptures from childhood. Jesus' humanity was like us, sin excepted. We are sinful creatures, prone to evil, so it is very important for us to be ready with the ammunition when Satan tempts us. God's Word is filled with ammunition. Each verse can be used to send Satan away.

Satan tries many schemes and devious ways to get us to sin or be discouraged. Sexual sins are ever present every day and verses can be selected and memorized to send Satan away. For example, Psalm 51:10 is a verse King David prayed to God. "Create in me a pure heart O God, renew a steadfast spirit within me." Memorize that verse and when tempted or when an impure thought comes to your mind, think or say the verse. Satan will leave or the impure thought will disappear. You can use 2 Chronicles 7:14 and I John 1:19 to be reassured of God's promise of forgiveness and purification. Satan can discourage you if you do not have the truth well in mind, because we do sin every day.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:10-20 and the Apostle Peter in I Peter 5:6-9 tell us what we must do. Both stress the importance of God's Word firmly in mind. That can only mean memorization and daily meditation on the Word. You can always meditate on something that is always foremost in your mind.

If you want a promise from God, memorize Proverbs 3:5-6. If you want hope, memorize Romans 15:13. If you want to keep in mind who you are, memorize Philippians 3:20 and 21. If you want to sense the Fatherly love of God, memorize Revelation 21:1-5.

You get the idea. Now get busy and memorize God's word, "Sword of the Spirit."•

Central Michigan University awards degrees

(Submitted by Central Michigan University)

Fruitport residents awarded degrees during the May, 2012 graduation ceremony include Whitney Woolley (MA degree); Adam Boucher (BS degree); and Kellene Hilliard (BAA degree).

CMU spring semester honors list

(Submitted by Central Michigan University)

Jeffrey Fisher, Lindsey Nickisch, Nicolas Brezina, Mark Davison, Brittany Houser and Allison Wisneski, all of Fruitport, were named to the spring semester honors list at CMU, along with Nunica resident Tiffany Holmes. •



Fall bazaar 2012

**Nov. 9 (Fri) – 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
& Nov. 10 (Sat) – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Lots of *delicious* food all day long.
Plan to eat supper with us Friday between 5:00 & 7:00 pm. Serving barbecues, soup, chili, hot dogs, beans, mac & cheese, chips, beverage and desserts
Also have Children's Menu.

Crafts
Attic Treasures
Baked Goods
Baby Quilts
Rag Rugs
Christmas Items



QUILT RAFFLE
Drawing 1:00 Saturday
\$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00



First Congregational Church

3212 Pontaluna Road
(Across from Edgewood Elementary)
231-865-3822 • 231-865-6370 (Mariann)



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies
September 26th - November 4th, 2012



40 days for Life is a peaceful, prayerful - and proven effective - prolife ministry that has saved 5,928 babies from abortion & helped their mothers avoid the pain of abortion.

- 1. PRAYER AND FASTING**
- 2. PEACEFUL VIGIL** - bring your prayers & love for Christ to the Sidewalk in front of the abortion clinic Women's Medical Services, near the corner of Getty St. and Apple Ave. **Every day 8am-8pm**
Sept. 26th-Nov. 4th, 2012
- 3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

To become a part of this movement or for more information:
Life40mus@yahoo.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/Muskegon