

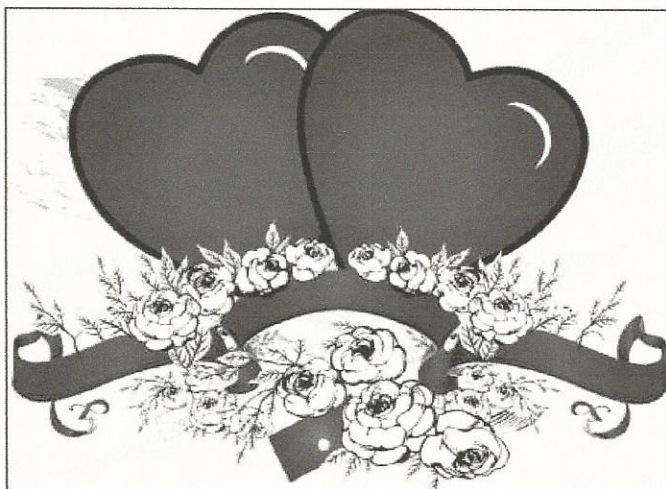
# Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

Winter 2014, Vol. 3, No. 4

FREE

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## GOD'S DESIGN FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE



Artwork: Cool Wallpapers

### From the Sermon Delivered 11/9/14 at Firm Foundation Christian Church

By James Moriello

"Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring." (Malachi 2:14-15)

Our text is taken from the larger context of Malachi 2:13-17. The Lord was witness to the marriages that were being ended by men divorcing their wives for no good reason. Perhaps they cited irreconcilable differences, which is

not a biblically recognized reason for divorce. The truth of the matter was that the people were excusing their own sin in neglecting their wives and families. After God, their wives and families should have come next, but this people honored neither God nor family.

We have three applications which arise from our text. First, your spouse is your companion. Second, your marriage is a covenant. Third,

your family is to incubate godliness. These applications can only apply to the Bible's definition of marriage as the covenant union between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5). Those who are living in any other arrangement (other than singleness) are living in sin, and should seek to make things right in their lives before God.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Thank you, Gerard

### A Public Tribute to a Faithful Brother in Christ

By RICB Staff

We want to thank Gerard Lachance for his faithful service at Firm Foundation over the last five years. Our faithful newspaper readers may know him as the 'spurgeon-esque' writer who typically authors a front page story packed with Scripture. Gerard has shared with us his strength, wisdom, and

courage, encouraging many to move forward in a deeper walk with Jesus Christ. Please join us in praying for Gerard's spiritual health and growth as he continues in his service for the Lord. May glory be brought to the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior through his continued ministry.

Gerard, our prayers are with you, and we pray God's blessings upon your life all of your days.

In Christ, with gratitude and love,

James and Susan, on behalf of all of God's people at Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket.

### Inside this issue!

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### The Christmas Star

By Alexandra Hay

Have you ever wondered why a family member puts a star on top of their Christmas tree? Well, if you do want to know, it happens because of a special night a long, long time ago...

On their way to Bethlehem, Mary realized she was going to have a baby. She told Joseph and they rushed in to a stable, since there were no available houses to stay in. Just then, Mary gave birth to Jesus! "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

Three wise men climbed up a hill and there in the sky was the brightest star ever! They knew it meant that the Savior was born. So they followed the star, and it led them to Mary, Joseph, and Baby

Jesus! And there in the house in which they were staying, they bestowed gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. "When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:9-11).

So, family members put a star on their Christmas tree to represent the star that the wise men followed to get to Jesus on that night a long, long time ago.

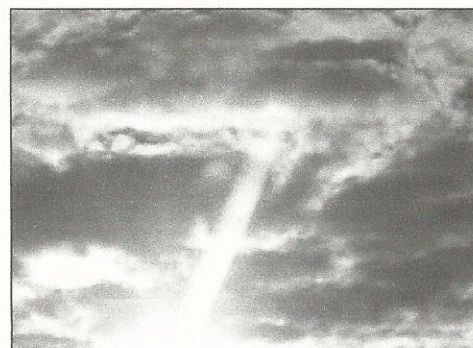


Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2)

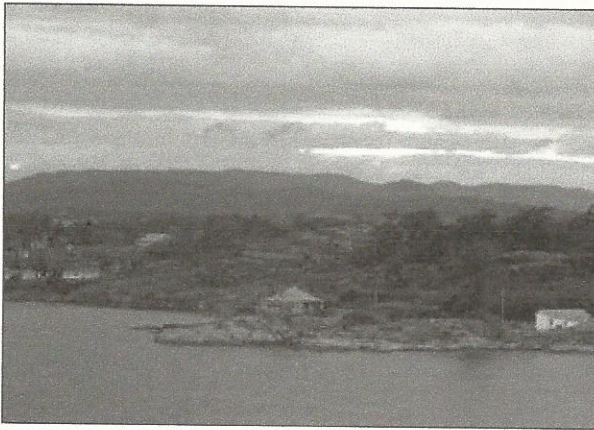


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

## Jesus Understands Your Troubles

By Susan Moriello

Christians celebrate Christmas as the day Jesus was born to bring hope, love, joy, and salvation. Yes, He brought all these things, but as He walked the earth He suffered many adversities. He was not accepted by His people. He was hungry. He had no place to call home. Jesus was tired. He was tempted by Satan. He grieved when He lost His friend Lazarus. Jesus was mocked, beaten, and killed, even though He was an innocent Man! I know that this is a hard time for many. Some of you are dealing with the loss or memory of the loss of a loved one, a serious illness, loss of a job, divorce, alcoholism, drug addiction, raising difficult children, and so much more. However, remember that through these trials you are never alone. The Lord is with you to carry you through. In this world, there is so much adversity, despair, and depression, because Satan roams the earth and fomenting these things is the goal of his existence. Notwithstanding, remember that the Lord Jesus is the true Ruler of our lives and Lover of our souls. He has overcome all, and we can take comfort in that fact. Ask for His strength and wisdom, and most of all, pray and keep praying. God will hear your pleas, and give you peace. Yes, this world is full of all sorts of trials, but remember that it is also full of many blessings. Keep focused on today, and live in today. Do not worry about tomorrow, for God is already there! I hope you have a loving, joyful, and peaceful Christmas, and I wish you the same for 2015! Until next time, blessings and prayers to all!

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

## Rhode Island Christian Bulletin

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket RI 02895, on Sunday mornings at 10 am, and Friday evenings at 7

pm. We invite you to come visit us as we worship Jesus Christ and hear the gospel preached and the Word of God taught.

In the Fall 2014 edition of the newspaper, there were 2 errors. The first was on page one in the article "Apostasy and God's Faithful Mercy" by Gerard Lachance, in which there were 2 spelling errors. The second occurred on page 5, in which the same article was mistakenly ascribed to Gerry Bettencourt. We apologize to these faithful saints for our mistake.

## Trying to Fit a Square Peg into a Round Hole

By Gerry Bettencourt

How can this happen? A rubics cube (a mystery), Tic-Tac-Toe (turned over one by one horizontally, vertically, diagonally, to make up a row). A puzzle has pieces that are needed to fit to complete the whole picture. Trying to fit a square peg into a round hole--the word "irony" describes it well. It is not possible, and there is irony in persisting.

In our life, we can't find the place to fit the piece of the puzzle. We can't understand why the square peg can't fit into the round hole. We can't understand why there is inability to see, or understand. We can't reason with the unreasonable. We are perplexed by blindness. It doesn't fit, because it is not capable of fitting. What is needed is to place the impossible into the hands of the transforming powerful God to open eyes and hearts.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed (Romans 4:18-23). "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (Romans 4:20-21).

(Continued in Page 8)

## The Bright Forever

By Fanny Crosby

Breaking through the clouds that gather,  
O'er the Christian's natal skies,  
Distant beams, like floods of glory,

Fill the soul with glad surprise;  
And we almost hear the echo  
Of the pure and holy throng,  
In the bright, the bright forever,  
In the summer land of song.

Yet a little while we linger,  
Ere we reach our journey's end;  
Yet a little while of labor,  
Ere the evening shades descend;  
Then we'll lay us down to slumber,

But the night will soon be o'er;  
In the bright, the bright forever,  
We shall wake, to weep no more.

O the bliss of life eternal!  
O the long unbroken rest!  
In the golden fields of pleasure,  
In the region of the blessed;  
But, to see our dear Redeemer,  
And before His throne to fall,  
There to bear His gracious welcome,  
Will be sweeter far than all.

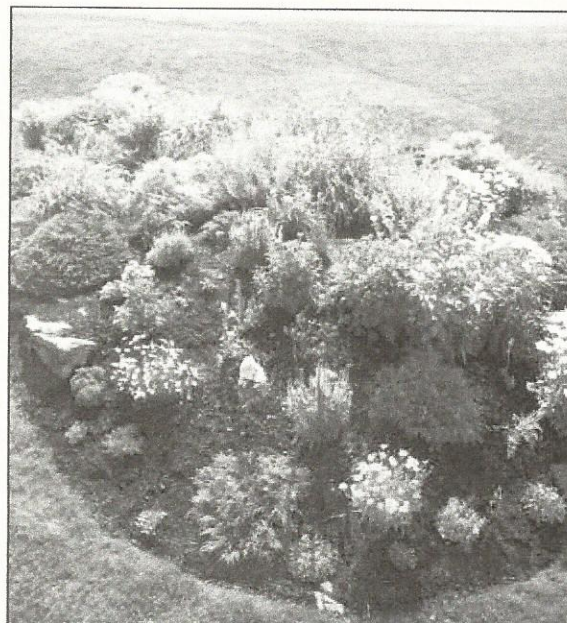


Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us" (Psalm 90:17)

# Funny Creatures

By Anonymous

"Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that He did in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places" (Psalm 135:6, KJV).

Imagine the fun the Lord had creating all the animals of this world. With the power to do whatever He

pleased, He concocted a menagerie of some wonderful creatures. Consider the giraffe, or the baboon, or the frog. What a host of funny-looking creatures. Think of the splendor of the eagle, the grace of the gazelle, the power of the tiger. God put so much into making His creation a good one. The same is true of His children. God went to great lengths to make sure His children were good. He even im-

parted to each and every one of them His own image. He offered them freedom and all the blessings they could ever hope for. He did these things because they pleased Him. Our God is a God of love, and nothing pleases Him more than to be able to share that love. Indeed, we may be God's funniest creatures, but that only makes Him love us all the more.

Father, You must have a wonderful sense of humor to put up with children like me. Forgive me for being less than You created me to be. Help me to grow and mature and develop into Your image. Amen.

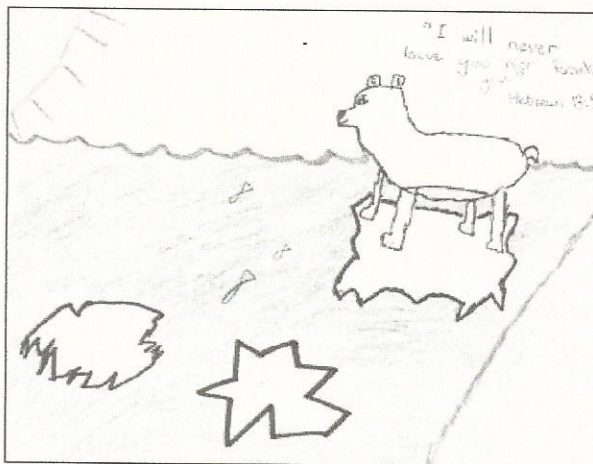
From "A Collection of Thanksgiving Blessings", published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

## Promises (People Break Promises, but God Keeps all His Promises)

By Tanya Hay

As children we pinky promise. As adults we make vows. Throughout our lives we make promises. What is a promise? A promise is made to assure someone that you will definitely do something or that a particular thing will happen. Have you ever broken a promise? Has anyone ever broken a promise they've made to you? Odds are you've answered yes to either or both of those questions. We are of the flesh and imperfect. We sometimes forget, circumstances get beyond our control; a number of

other things may contribute to promises not being kept. The bottom line is, promises get broken.... except for with God. He always keeps His Word. He is faithful and will never let us down. He may not always answer a prayer the way we'd like, but He always answers our prayers in the way that is best for us. What does He promise us? He promises to never leave us or forsake us. He promises that He will supply every need we have. He promises us victory over death, He promises us eternal life. Put your faith in God and His promises. He is the one Person in our lives who will never break a promise!



Artwork: Alexandra Hay

"I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)

### Funny Creatures God Created

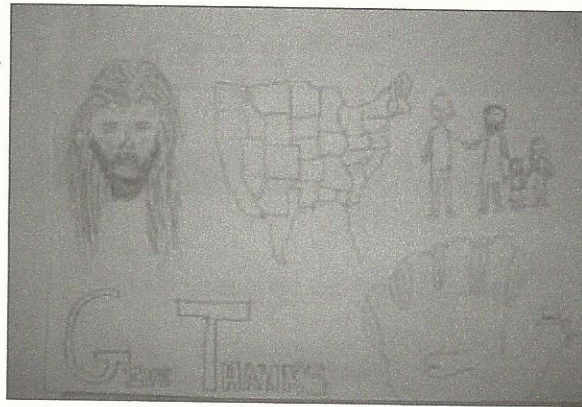
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 Z U H W E K Y Q V W

- BABOON
- CAMEL
- CRICKET
- ELEPHANT
- FROG
- OSTRICH TOUCAN

# Every Day Thankfulness

By Tanya Hay

We often associate Thanksgiving with thankfulness, that one day a year that holds 'thanks' in it. How often do you give thanks on other days of the year? Not on birthdays or days that you receive an actual gift.... just ordinary days. When was the last time you thanked a parent for sacrifices they made for you over the years? When was the last time you said thank you to your spouse for their love? When was the last time you said thank you to a friend just for being there? When was the last time you thanked God for all He has done? We often pray when we are in need, or when we want something, but



Artwork: Al and Alexandra Hay

"in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

do you remember to pray "with thanksgiving" (Philippians 4:6)? Thank God today for all you have. Thank Him for the air you breathe, the water you drink, your neighbor, your

church, your health, the clothes on your back, the roof over your head... for everything! Today, tomorrow, and in all the days to come, remember to thank Him for all He has done.

# Thank You God

By Tanya Hay

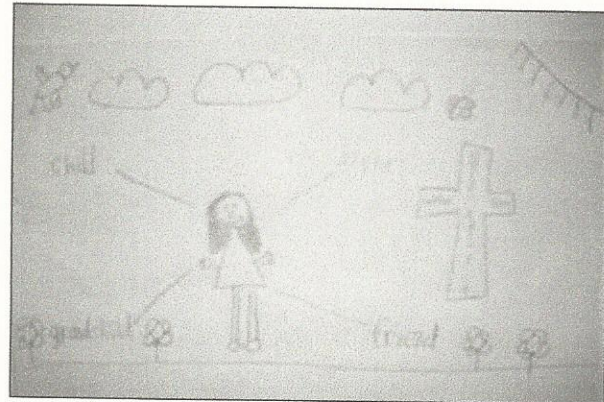
Thank you God for your love.  
 Thank you God for the gift of salvation from above.  
 Thank you God for family and friends.  
 Thank you God for your grace that never ends.  
 Thank you God for night and day.  
 Thank you God for your forgiving way.  
 Thank you God for your Son.  
 Thank you God for everything you've done.  
 Thank you God for life without end.  
 Thank you God for all the countless blessings you send.  
 Thank you God!

# Thankful for the Church

By Arianna Hay

At my church, on Sunday, November 9th, 2014, I learned that you can be one person but you can be ten other different things. Here are some examples. You

can be a sister, friend, child, and a grandchild. All of those things you could be, but remember you are still one person, but also all of those things just like God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That is how I understand the Trinity. I thank God for that because I am lucky!

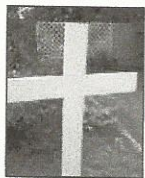


Artwork: Arianna Hay

Editor's Note: Arianna is a brilliant 7-year old young lady.

# Going All the Way

By Craig Greenslade



I once read a testimony that impacted my life in a way that could only be described as 'Divine'. The story might have been long, with many subjects, but God had one lesson for me embedded within.

The Lord challenged this man in his testimony to give Him 100%, and the man went on to say that he has never given his all to Him. When I read this, the Lord challenged me also, and I was ashamed. I thought of myself as a failure when it came to giving it

my all. I wanted to blame my failure on everyone around me. "If you got your walk right, it would be easier to get mine right", awful but honest. It would be so much better if I were surrounded by 100% doers. I want to yell, "Hey! Why can't we all walk in the same direction? What's wrong with you?" I mean me. It makes me so angry when I don't get it right. Anger, great, now I'm down to 90%. "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32). Although one who practices patience and self-control receives far less attention and acclaim than a warrior who takes a city, he accomplishes better things. (Continued on Page 8)

# Want to Give Up? Don't Quit!!!

By RICB Staff

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:6)

"But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded." (2 Chronicles 15:7)

"All things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27)

"I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:5-6)

# Beware of the Interfaith Movement

By James Moriello

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is a time in which the religious pluralists are particularly active. These folks go under such names as "inter-denominational", "inclusive", "ecumenist", and so forth. In a misguided, and sometimes dishonest, attempt to find unity, we get various interfaith services and events. One example of this is an interfaith thanksgiving service which includes representatives from various Christian traditions, Orthodox Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and so forth. One must understand that all of these religions are mutually exclusive. The Christian, however well intentioned, who participates in such things, is publicly compromising his or her belief in the exclusivity of the claims of Jesus Christ. Jesus said that "no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). "For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "Do not be unequally yoked together with un-



Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"Come out from among them and be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17)

believers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you

are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).

## SBC Conference Addresses Same Sex Attraction

By RICB Staff

From October 27th to October 29th, 2014, the Southern Baptist Convention met to discuss the issues surrounding marriage, divorce, cohabitation outside of marriage, and same sex attraction. The leaders of the convention, notably Pastor J.D. Greear of Durham, North Carolina, reaffirmed their support of the biblical view of marriage, which is the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). While holding

fast to Bible truth, the convention also took a compassionate approach toward those who struggle in the area of same sex attraction. This approach is to preach the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and offer support in battling the temptation to sin lustfully outside of what God has defined as marriage, including reparative therapy. We commend the SBC for taking a firm stand against homosexual behavior, which the Bible calls sinful (Romans 1:26-27). We pray the denomination continues to do so, knowing that the end result of not holding fast to a firm biblical stand on the issue is that neither theologically conservative Baptists nor the liberals who are opportunistically trying to infiltrate the SBC will be happy.

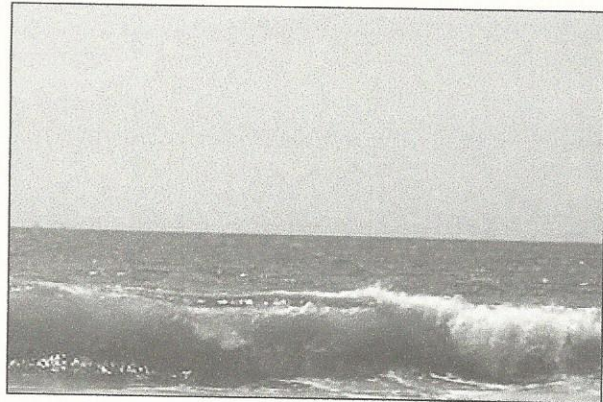


Photo Credit: RICB Staff

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20)

## The Heresy of Modalism

By RICB Staff



There is no end to the imaginations of men who seek to make their own doctrines to explain what the Bible teaches, but what they themselves cannot understand. Modalism

is one of these. The Bible clearly teaches one God existing in three distinct Persons, which is the doctrine of the Trinity, yet some, most notably the United Pentecostal Church, have rejuvenated the ancient heresy today.

"Modalism, also called Sabellianism, is the unorthodox belief that God is one person who has revealed himself in three forms or modes in contrast to the Trinitarian doctrine where

God is one being eternally existing in three persons. According to Modalism, during the incarnation, Jesus was simply God acting in one mode or role, and the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was God acting in a different mode. Thus, God does not exist as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the same time. Rather, He is one person and has merely manifested himself in these three modes at various times. Modalism thus denies the basic distinctiveness and coexistence of the three persons of the Trinity" ([www.thopedia.com](http://www.thopedia.com)).

A number of verses in the Bible disprove modalism. At the baptism of Jesus, all three Persons of the Trinity were present at the same time (Matthew 3:16-17). Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus "always lives to make intercession" for believers in Him.

## The Danger of ISIS

By RICB Staff

ISIS, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is the greatest embodiment of evil in our time. Their stated goal is the conversion of and/or subjugation of all people who are not of the Islamic faith. In practice, reports of beheadings, other murders, rapes, and other atrocities, are commonplace.

This group is not to be dismissed or ignored. Neither should their religious theology which motivates them be dismissed or ignored. It may be different than what is common in western intellectual circles, but that does not change the reality

## UMC Reinstates Pastor who Officiated Same-Sex "Wedding"

By RICB Staff

Frank Schaefer, a United Methodist Pastor serving in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, was recently defrocked by the church for officiating at his son's same-sex "wedding". The defrocking was the initial disciplinary response of the church, which does not officially allow for the performance of such ceremonies. On appeal, however, the pastor was reinstated. Apparently, political correctness and the trends of the day were found to be weightier than both the Bible and the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. It appears that this once great denomination will soon follow the lead of the Presbyterian Church USA, which recently voted to allow its pastors to officiate such "unions" in states where it is legal to do so.

# God's Design for Christian Marriage (Continued from Page One)

First, your spouse is your companion. Your spouse is your companion in the physical sense, the spiritual sense, and the practical sense. The Apostle Paul addresses the physical aspect in his First Letter to the Corinthians in response to their questions about it. "Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:1-5). Spiritual companionship is also vitally important for successful Christian marriage. We have it in our text: "But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit?" (Malachi 2:15). It is implied here

that the union is between two believers, something that the Bible also stresses elsewhere. An unequal spiritual yoke will surely place stress on the marriage, and it is forbidden for a Christian considering marriage to marry outside the faith (2 Corinthians 6:14). The principle is for the Christian to marry "only in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:39). Many of you may be wondering what happens when one becomes a Christian after having been married as and to an unbeliever. Well, the Bible has something to say about this as well. "Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let

him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?" (1 Corinthians 7:10-16). The unbelieving spouse and children are sanctified in the sense that they benefit from the prayers and example of the believer in the household. However, this is no guarantee of salvation, for each is accountable to the Lord for his or her own decision about Jesus. The new Christian

should seek to model Christ in the home, share God's truth when opportunities arise, and not cease praying for unsaved family members, knowing the final destination of those who reject the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unmarried friend, you can spare yourself much heartache in this area by heeding God's counsel on how to choose a mate. The third area of companionship in marriage that we will consider is practical. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone?" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11). Christians should be available emotionally and practically in order to help our spouses in time of need, and not leave them feeling rejected and alone.

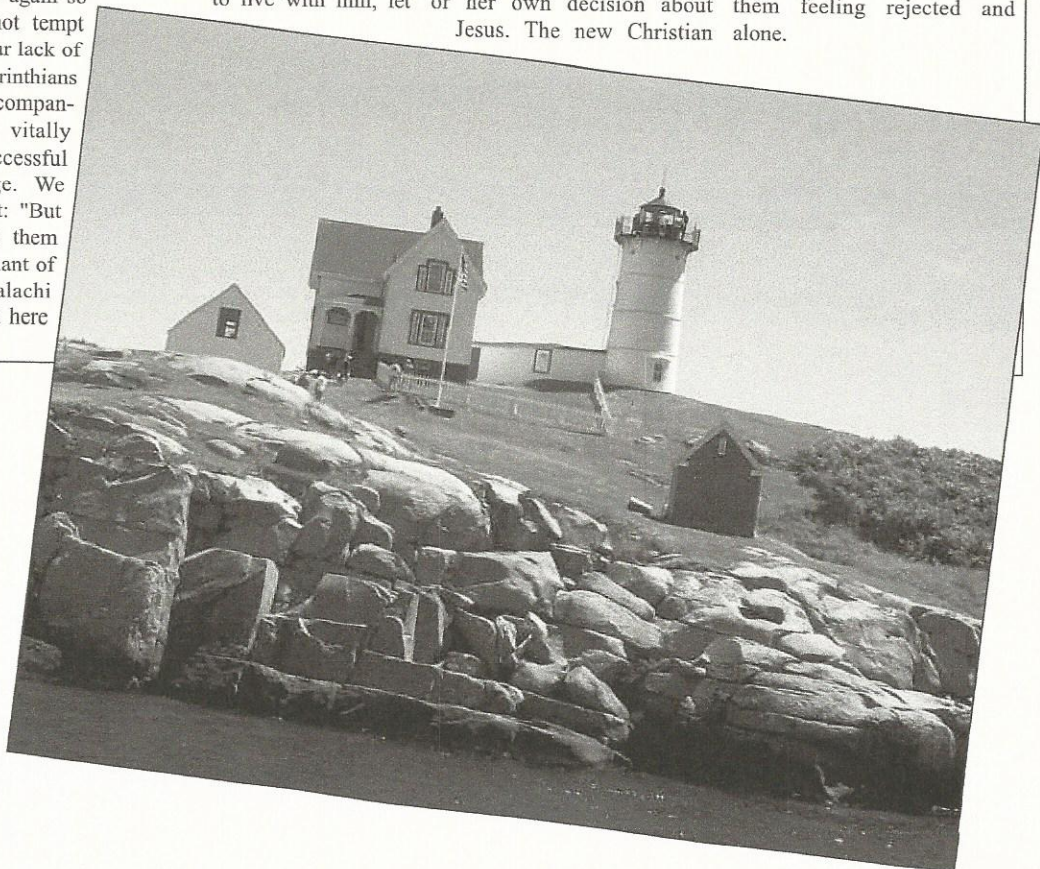


Photo Credit: RICB  
Staff, Nubble  
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# God's Design for Christian Marriage (Continued from Page Six)

Second, Christian marriage is a covenant. Let us pick up in the book of Ecclesiastes where we left off on our last point by quoting the next verse. "Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). There are times when even the strongest of marital unions are tested. In these times, Christ is to be the 'third fold in the cord'. When Christians seek solutions apart from Christ for marital issues, we are depriving ourselves of the One who can truly help us the most. The two have been made one through holy matrimony, and this new compound 'one' ought to abide in Christ just as individual believers should, if they expect to bear fruit (John 15:1-5). Marriage is a covenant. We have it in our text: "Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant" (Malachi 2:14). This covenant is the vow before each other and God in heaven to love and cherish each other for the duration of days on earth (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6). Scripture even goes so far as to compare the marriage covenant on earth to the New Covenant which Christ instituted between Himself and His church. Consider the following passage, as it is instructive with regard to

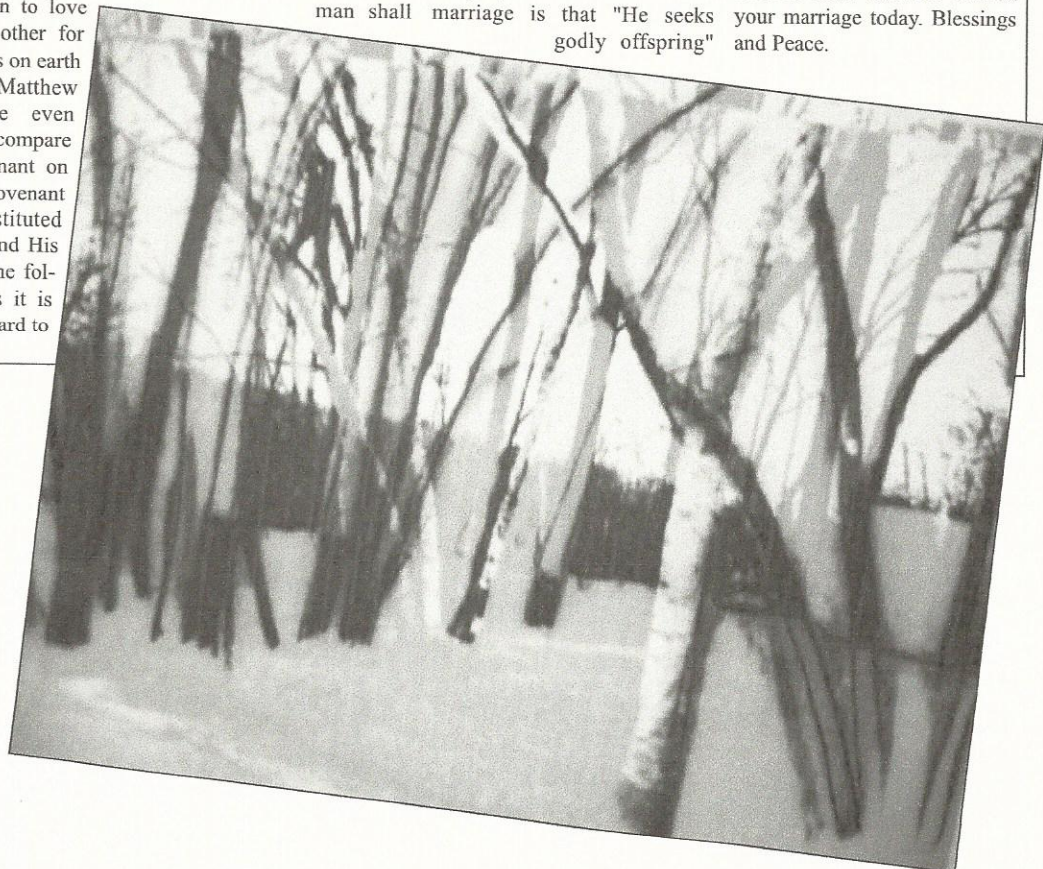
living out the covenant of marriage. "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall

leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:22-33). Just as Christ loves His church sacrificially and unconditionally, so too ought we to love one another.

Third, the Christian family is to incubate godliness. I like that word "incubate" because it reminds me of the place where they put babies in the hospital to protect them from environmental factors that are not good for their proper growth and development. When it is the appropriate time, the baby will be taken out of the incubator and begin to be exposed to the elements of the world a little at a time. We see in our text that one purpose of God in Christian marriage is that "He seeks godly offspring"

(Malachi 2:15). To be sure, Christian parents must explain the gospel clearly and in terms that can be understood to their children. But the old adage that 'more is caught than is taught' is true. The Bible has something to say about the lifestyle of the godly parent. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Mom, Dad, if you don't get with the program, you can't expect your children too either.

Friend, take a look in the mirror, and see what changes you need to make to honor God in your marriage today. Blessings and Peace.



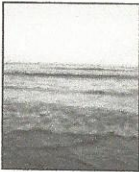
Artwork: "Native", by  
Susan Kirwan

## One Day at a Time (A Poem to Encourage Weary Souls)

By Annie Johnson Flint

One day at a time, with its fail-  
ures and fears,

With its hurts and mistakes, with  
its weakness and  
tears,



With its por-  
tion of pain and  
its burden of  
care;

One day at a  
time we must  
meet and must

bear.

One day at a time to be patient  
and strong,  
To be calm under trial and sweet  
under wrong;

Then its toiling shall pass and its  
sorrow shall cease;  
It shall darken and die, and the  
night shall bring peace.

One day at a time - but the day is  
so long,

And the heart is not brave, and  
the soul is not strong,

O Thou pitiful Christ, be Thou  
near all the way;

Give courage and patience and  
strength for the day.

Swift cometh His answer, so  
clear and so sweet;

"Yea, I will be with thee, thy  
troubles to meet;

I will not forget thee, nor fail  
thee, nor grieve;

I will not forsake thee; I never  
will leave."

Not yesterday's load we are  
called on to bear,

Nor the morrow's uncertain and  
shadowy care;

Why should we look forward or  
back with dismay?

Our needs, as our mercies, are  
but for the day.

One day at a time, and the day is  
His day;

He hath numbered its hours,  
though they haste or delay.

His grace is sufficient; we walk  
not alone;

As the day, so the strength that  
He giveth His own.

## Trying to Fit a Square Peg into a Round Hole (Continued from Page 2)

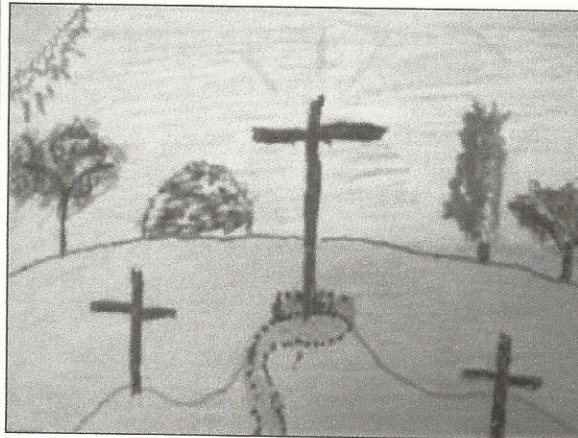
By Gerry Bettencourt

The games of Tic-Tac-Toe, the puzzles, the Rubics Cube, have parts which are needed to fit for the games. But in life, when we are incapable of seeing, reasoning to understand, we are perplexed, and our blindness hinders our right thinking. We can only be

capable of functioning through the transforming power from God. Let us abide, waiting, and enduring. His abiding empowers us and makes it possible for us to see, understand, reason, and we are made capable. Remember that victory is promised. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us"

(Ephesians 3:20). A square peg should not go into a round hole; it is not supposed to. But to place a round peg into a round hole works! And to place a square peg into a square hole works! That's how it works! Here is the conclusion of the matter. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

## Going All the Way (Continued from Page 4)



Artwork: Bob Lockhart

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?" (1 Corinthians 9:24)

By Craig Greenslade

Every day I worry about something, it never fails. Whether it's as serious as what my daughter might be doing, or as insignificant as what's for dinner, I worry. Now I'm down to 80%. "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" (Matthew 6:27). I don't feel any taller!

Man says, "What's wrong with that guy over there? Why does he do that? What a wierdo." God says, "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge" (James 4:11). I judge all the time, 70%, hate, 60%, shame, 50%, lust, 40%. I read the Word every single day, but there are times when my mind is not into it, 30%. Some days I pray because it's what I'm supposed to do, but not because I want to, 20%. I've stolen an apple from the cafeteria, 19%. I've worn a cross, 18%. I've wished to harm someone, 17%. I don't observe the Sabbath, 16%. I blame it on my surroundings all the time. "If I wasn't here, or if I had this or that", 15, 14, 13, 12, where will it all end?"

What did Jesus' surroundings look like and how did He handle it? I yell all the time, "Everyone left me! I can't do this alone! I give up!" But, did Jesus give up? And who helped Him? We must remember that Jesus abides in us and we possess His power.

Ever think about the things that ath-

letes go through to become physically fit? Athletes train for hours with weights, and watch every caloric they eat so that they can be champions. Even for the few that win, the victory is short-lived, and then it fades. We have something much greater than that. We have a prize that is everlasting, and are called to be "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37). You're called to be a true champion. How much discipline do you put into your 'championship'? How many of you are just barely reading the Bible, applying the Word, or praying at all? You wonder why you're not winning, living victoriously, or not doing great and mighty things. Want to be a champion? Train daily in the Word, applying it, communing with God, and living it. Don't train just to stay in shape. Train to be a champion.

If athletes, through regular training, become strong in the flesh, how much more will you, by training, become strong in the Spirit? Champions in the flesh are but for a moment, but champions of the Spirit are forever. "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

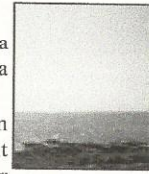
Life in Christ is a hard and narrow road, but if you are like me, you have already conquered hard stuff in your life, and yet we're still here. Are you ready to go all the way? Remember, you may be the only bible that someone reads.

## Destined for a Fall

By Perry Boardman

There was a people long ago  
Who had great riches, wealth  
untold;

They built a  
city with a  
wall,  
A kingdom  
they thought  
would never  
fall.



How they labored unceas-  
ingly  
To lay up treasure increas-  
ingly;

They gave no thought to  
what lay beyond,  
That their kingdom would  
someday be gone.

But one by one the stones  
came down;  
The city was leveled to the  
ground,

No more fortune to be found,  
No one left to wear a crown.

The mighty kingdom fell at  
last;  
Its beauty's gone, its plea-  
sure's past;

All was lost they sought to  
gain,  
Their lives were wasted,  
their labor vain.

You can build a kingdom  
with a mighty wall,  
But like the kingdom long  
ago, it is destined for a fall,

Unless Christ the Lord  
becomes your King  
And ruler of everything.