

Lessons from the Heart

Make everyday Valentine's Day

By Pastor Chuck Rockey

Strange as it may seem as we celebrated Christmas time in the sharing of gifts with our relatives and friends, we again have the same opportunity this

Valentine's Day. It seems only yesterday that we were scurrying around busying ourselves in the searching of gifts to give. And now we are met with the same dilemma of finding that perfect gift for the love of our life.

Don't get me wrong, I personally like Valentine's Day, but I think the reason that it comes so close to Christmas is the fact that the makers of candy had so much left over that they



Rockey

needed another holiday to get rid of their candy surplus. So they repackaged it into special heart shaped boxes and we call it Valentine's Day.

We read in the Bible this verse (Luke 19:10 NIV), *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*

Because of the fit of Christ we can celebrate this Valentine's Day celebration with a new vigor of love for each other. We can spend our time searching for the right box of chocolates or maybe this is the day that we have waited all year on to propose to that special girl of our dreams.

With all this background of loving and sharing doesn't it seem odd that we have to wait on a special holiday to tell someone that we love him or her? I have yet to read in the Bible where love wasn't expressed with great enthusiasm. Let's mean what we say and say what we mean.

I want to share a short story with you about Valentine's Day. There was a young lady in her younger school years that had a problem with her eyesight; her eyes were very bad so consequently her glasses were very strong. Her daddy helped her make a special Valentine's box in which each student was to put their Valentines into for her. And her mother spent a lot of time helping her with the Valentines that she would be giving away to her friends and classmates.

She was so happy to take her Valentines and that special mailbox to school that day. She was so excited about the party the teacher was giving them. And as she left for school she just knew that in that box would be one special Valentine.

She came home from school that day all broken-hearted and sobbing. She went to her room a very angry, upset child. In her Valentine box were several Valentines, but they were not the Valentines you or I would expect to see. You see someone had made Valentines that were derogatory and hateful. The Valentines were for the most part handmade with black hearts on them. They said things like "I hate you," "I wish you were dead," "You're ugly," "You're stupid."

The cards weren't signed; they didn't have to be to send a message of hate. That child never forgot that one special Valentines Day. The parents of that child were shocked when viewing those so-called Valentines. I sup-

pose that it would not have mattered what the parents said to try to console that little girl. The scare would remain embedded in her heart for all time.

There are many ways of communicating love for each other and one of them is the ultimate Valentine. God gave you and me the ultimate Valentine in the form of Jesus Christ, the savior of the world.

Will that change the fact that someone was so thoughtless as to injure a fellow student? No.

But the gift of God can change the hearts of men and women if only the spirit of Valentines Day is promoted everyday of the year. Let's remember that if God loved us so much that He was willing to share His Son with us, we should be able to share a little bit of our heart with the community around us. Because God is love and with Him abiding in our hearts we should be loving in spite of our surroundings.

(1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV) *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Chuck Rockey is pastor at the Burlington United Methodist Church (winrok@jumo.com).

Pray for our nation to seek God

Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went his way. John 4:50 Pd. Adv.

Indiana Sheriff's Association to award scholarships

Comet staff report

Carroll County Sheriff Tony Burns announced this week the Indiana Sheriff's Association will award approximately 40 \$500 college scholarships to qualified high school seniors or college students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

In order to qualify, an applicant must be an Indiana resident, a current member of the association (or dependent child or grandchild of a current member), attend an Indiana college or university, major in a law enforcement field and enroll as a full-time student.

Scholarship applications are available at both county high schools' guidance offices or the sheriff's office. Applicants may also request a form from the Indiana Sheriff's Association, P.O. Box 19127, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Applications must be received by the association on or before April 1.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Nagging wife and overworked husband equal troubled marriage

QUESTION: What do you consider to be the greatest threat to the stability of families today?



Dr. Dobson

DR. DOBSON: It would be a phenomenon that every marriage counselor deals with regularly. The scenario involves a vulnerable woman who depends on her husband to meet her emotional needs, and a workaholic man who has little time for family responsibilities. Year after year she reaches for him and finds he's not there. She nags, complains, cries and attacks him for his failures — to no avail.

He is carrying the load of three men in his business or profession and can't figure out how to keep that enterprise going while providing what his wife needs. As time goes by, she becomes increasingly angry, which drives him even further into his workaday world. He is respected and successful there. And thereafter he is even less accessible to her.

Then one day, to her husband's shock, this woman reaches a breaking point and either leaves him for someone else or files for divorce. It is a decision she may live to regret and one that often devastates her children — although by then, the marriage is long-gone. It's such a preventable disaster, but one that millions of other families will be victimized by in coming years.

QUESTION: Are there productive ways older people can remain mentally alert as their bodies age? Is mental decline inevitable in the golden years?

DR. DOBSON: If you live long enough, there will be some loss of intellectual acuity. There is, however, much that a person can do to postpone that deterioration. An article in Family Circle magazine suggested five ways to maintain healthy minds through the aging process.

The first rule is to "use it or lose it." The human brain isn't like a calculator that you can plug in and leave idle for a year and find it working just as well when we return. It must have constant use and regular input of sensory information.

Second, proper brain function is dependent on a balanced diet with ample supplies of all the essential nutrients.

Third is exercise. Every

organ of the body benefits from physical activity, including the package of neural matter with which we think.

Fourth is regular physical examinations and good health care. Untreated diseases can affect us physically and mentally.

Finally, the fifth way to keep our brains healthy is by having an active social life. Being sick, isolated and alone is a prescription for rapid mental decline. Unfortunately, many older citizens are unable to implement these five suggestions for one reason or another. Some are alone and have no one to talk to. Others lack the resources for good medical care and healthy nutrition.

That's why those in the younger generation owe today's seniors their time and attention. They were cared for when they were frail and helpless. Now it's their turn to return the favor.

QUESTION: Our 14-year-old recently came to my husband and me to say, "I'm pregnant." Nothing has ever upset us more than hearing those words. What should our attitude toward her be now?

DR. DOBSON: Responding to a teenage pregnancy is one of the most difficult trials parents are ever asked to face. When the news breaks, it's reasonable to feel anger at the girl who has brought this humiliation and pain into her life. How dare this kid do something so stupid and hurtful to herself and the entire family!

Once you have caught your breath, however, a more rational and loving response is appropriate. This is no time for recrimination. Your daughter needs your understanding and wisdom now more than ever. She'll face many important decisions in the next few months, and you can't afford to alienate yourself from her.

If you can summon a measure of strength and love at this stressful time, you should be able to create the bond that often develops between those who have survived a crisis together.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School SW=Sunday Worship

AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Vernon Stingley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Joe Hornick, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Rousakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.

BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.

BURNETTSTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.

BURNETTSTVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURNETTSTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 10:30 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.

CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.

CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.

CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.

COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.

CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. SW: 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:15 a.m.

DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St., Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.

DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.

DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.

DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.

DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schneck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.

FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Chad Hoesman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m. SW: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ): S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor.

SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.

FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.

FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. Mearl Hodges, asst. pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.

JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.

LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771

LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.

MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.

OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.

PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m

PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.

PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.

RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.

ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.

ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St. Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.

ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfiefer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.

ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAulay, interim pastor SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.

ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.

WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: meet at Burrows Fire Department, Greg & Michelle Britt, pastors. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280

YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskip, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

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