

# Lessons from the Heart

## Degrees of family

By Pastor Sam Davenport

"Let each of you look not only to his own interest, but also to the interest of others." (Philippians 2:4)

Nick Stinnett, chairman of the Human Development and Family Department at the University of Nebraska, headed a study to determine what common strengths are in strong families. In other words, what are the things that stable, loving families have in common?

According to the study, three things strong families have in common are: 1) **A high degree of religious belief.** In the families studied, religious convictions were

more than just a philosophy; they were central to a family's life. 2) **Appreciation.** Family members gave one another compliments and built one another up. 3) **Time together.** In all areas of their life - meals, work, recreation - these families scheduled intentional time together.

The study concluded that many families grow apart, not because they are poorly matched or because their purposes in life are in conflict; they grow apart simply because they do not spend that needed time together to build trust and deeper friendships.

After reading a brief summary of the study, it was ob-

vious to me that people in churches are no different. To be strong and united, churches must have a high degree of commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our faith cannot be something we merely believe in, but a way of life. This life must be shared with others because we are convicted that Christ is among us, whether we are in worship or out serving in the larger community. (Matthew 18:18-20)

Back in the late '70s and early '80s, there was a lot of parenting talk regarding quality time with family. The thought was we may not have but a few moments with our families so we must make it

quality time. I like the way Ann Landers put it, "Kids don't understand 'quality time.' They just want to be with their parents."

The more time families spend working toward the same direction and not going their individual ways, the more understanding they have of one another. The same comparison can be made of the church. The more time we spend together in worship, prayer, study and service, the more we come to one another through Christ who lives in us. (Colossians 4:16-17) Yes, we are family! *Sam Davenport is interim pastor at First Christian Church, Florida.*

**Holy Humor Sunday!**  
 April 6th, 9:30 a.m.  
 At Flora First Christian Church  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
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# DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

| SS=Sunday School   | SW=Sunday Worship   |
|--|---|
| <b>AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL:</b> Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.  | <b>FLORA FIRST BAPTIST:</b> 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.   |
| <b>BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST:</b> Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.   | <b>FLORA FIRST BRETHREN:</b> 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.                                  |
| <b>BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  | <b>FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN</b> (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.            |
| <b>BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST:</b> 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.  | <b>FLORA GRACE BRETHREN:</b> 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.           |
| <b>BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN:</b> 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.  | <b>FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.   |
| <b>BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 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.  | <b>FLORA UNITED METHODIST:</b> 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.   |
| <b>BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST:</b> SS: 10:50 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.   | <b>FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST:</b> Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.                              |
| <b>BURNETTSTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST:</b> Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.  | <b>GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.                                |
| <b>BURNETTSTVILLE CHRISTIAN:</b> Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.   | <b>HICKORY GROVE CHURCH:</b> CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.  |
| <b>BURNETTSTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.   | <b>HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.                     |
| <b>BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN:</b> SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.  | <b>IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD:</b> 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.                                    |
| <b>CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY:</b> Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.   | <b>JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP:</b> CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.   |
| <b>CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.   | <b>LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.   |
| <b>CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:</b> 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.  | <b>LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH:</b> East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.          |
| <b>COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST:</b> Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.   | <b>LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.                        |
| <b>COLBURN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.   | <b>MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST:</b> 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.                     |
| <b>COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES:</b> 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.  | <b>OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN:</b> 11810 N 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.                                      |
| <b>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN:</b> 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.   | <b>PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH:</b> Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.             |
| <b>DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN:</b> Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. Adult SS 9 a.m. SW: 10 a.m. with Children SS   | <b>PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.                           |
| <b>DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH:</b> 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.  | <b>PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.       |
| <b>DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.   | <b>PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.  |
| <b>DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD:</b> 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  | <b>RADNOR CHURCH:</b> Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.  |
| <b>DELPHI PENITENTIAL:</b> Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.   | <b>ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN:</b> Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.   |
| <b>DELPHI UNITED METHODIST:</b> Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.  | <b>ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN:</b> SW: 9:30 a.m.  |
| <b>DELPHI WESLEYAN:</b> North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.   | <b>ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:</b> 16 Cason St. Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.        |
| <b>EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST:</b> SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.   | <b>ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.                               |
| <b>FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 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.  | <b>ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAlay, interim pastor SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.                      |
| <b>FAITH LUTHERAN:</b> CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.  | <b>ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST:</b> Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.                              |
| <b>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:</b> Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  | <b>SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST:</b> St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.                                  |
| <b>FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH:</b> U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC:</b> 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.                                   |
| <b>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD:</b> US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.   | <b>ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:</b> 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.   |
| <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN:</b> Paul Marcellino, interim pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study. Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m. | <b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN:</b> Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship. |
| <b>FIRST BAPTIST:</b> Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  | <b>WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES:</b> 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280  |
| <b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:</b> Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.   | <b>YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Carl Davis, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.   |

# FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

## Spouses are often in denial about unhappy marriages

**QUESTION:** Do you feel that there is a kind of "blindness" that can occur when a victim of an affair denies the truth? I seemed to experience this when my husband was fooling around with my best friend. The affair went on for two years before I could acknowledge it to myself. But why would I deny the truth? Why do victims "choose" to be blind?

**DR. DOBSON:** That psychological process is called denial, and it is designed to protect the mind from an unacceptable thought or reality. Once a person admits to himself or herself that a beloved spouse has been unfaithful, then he or she is obligated to deal with that circumstance. The extremely painful experiences of grief, anxiety, and insomnia become inevitable once the truth has been faced. Furthermore, the injured person fears that a con-

frontation with the unfaithful partner might drive the spouse into the arms of the new lover. Given these concerns, the person consciously or unconsciously chooses not to notice the affair in the hope that it will blow over and be forgotten. Obviously, there is ample motivation for a vulnerable person to deny what the eyes are seeing.

When the evidence of unfaithfulness becomes overwhelming, a man or woman will sometimes "ask" the guilty spouse to assist with the denial. This is done by making accusations in the hope of being proven wrong. For example, a wife will say, "Are you and Donna seeing one another?"

"No, I've told you a thousand times that nothing is going on," he lies.

"But where were you until



Dr. Dobson

2:00 A.M. last night?" "I had car trouble. Now will you get off my back?"

This wife knows her husband's story is phony, but she continually asks him to lie to her. And interestingly, she does not feel obligated to "blow the whistle" on him until he admits his involvement ... which may never happen. These tacit agreements help her maintain the illusion that "all is well," and provide a permissive environment in which the husband can play around.

Denial has many applications and uses in human experience. It will permit a woman to ignore a suspicious lump in her breast, or the drugs in her son's bedroom, or the debt that the family is accumulating. Through this process the mind is protected for a time, it often permits even greater disasters to gain a foothold in our lives.

**QUESTION:** Why do you think parents are so quick to criticize themselves? What is the source of the self-doubt which seems so prevalent?

**DR. DOBSON:** It is a cultural phenomenon. Mothers, especially, have been blamed for everything that can conceivably go wrong with children. Even when their love and commitment are incalculable, the experts accuse

them of making grievous errors in toilet training, disciplining, feeding, medicating and educating their youngsters. They are either over-possessive or undernurturing. Their approach is either harsh or permissive. One psychiatrist even wrote an entire book on the dangers of religious training, blaming parents for scaring kids with talk of the next world. Thus, no matter how diligently Mom approaches her parenting responsibilities, she is likely to be accused of twisting and warping her children.

Perhaps this explains why women are more critical of themselves than men. Eighty percent of the respondents to our poll were women, and their most frequent comment was, "I'm a failure as a mother!" What nonsense! Women have been taught to think of themselves in this way and it is time to set the record straight.

The task of procreation was never intended to be so burdensome. Of course it is demanding. And children are challenging, to be sure. But the guilt and self-doubt that often encumber the parenting responsibility are largely self-imposed. It's time we restored the confidence to those who are working so hard to raise their children with love and wisdom.

*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.*

## Pray for our nation to seek God

I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 Pd. Adv.

# Announcements

Flora First Christian Church invites everyone to **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY** on April 6. The joyful service begins at 9:30 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday, usually held the Sunday after Easter but delayed a week because of Spring Break, is a way to rejoice and celebrate the Risen Christ beyond Easter. This will be the third year for Flora First Christian's special post-Easter service. Holy Humor Sunday is an old custom from the time of the early Christians. It is being revived today, with

smiles, laughter, and joy filling the sanctuary. The church is located on South Center Street.

Delphi First Assembly of God will offer a **NEW BELIEVERS CLASS** beginning today, Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. The class will concentrate on several vital foundations of the Christian faith. Other adult and childrens classes, along with a nursery, will be available at the same time. Call the church office at (765) 564-2200 for information.

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