

Lessons from the Heart

Fool's Day?

By Rev. Bill McLean

The first of April is a day that some people dread because of memories of practical jokes played on them in past years or that they are afraid will be played on them this year. Still other people look forward each year to the first of April as an opportunity to play jokes on others. No matter which view you hold, most people know that April Fool's Day will be full of practical jokes and attempts to trick people.

April Fool's Day this year comes toward the end of the season of Lent, the period in the Christian church year of preparation and anticipation of Easter. This is a time when Christians are called to reflect on their actions and behaviors throughout their lives as we seek to repent from our wrong doings and restore our rela-



McLean

tionship with God.

While the thought of reflecting on our lives can be intimidating at anytime, during times of economic uncertainty and conflict throughout the world this reflection can be even more daunting.

Yet, through scripture we learn of God's love and grace

which is beyond anything that we can possibly understand. As Jesus tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16, NRSV.

This gift of God's incredible love and grace is, was and forever will be free and that is no April Fool's Day joke!

Bill McLean is pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Delphi.

Donate Life Month marks importance of donors

Comet staff report

In April, communities and organizations across the United States will celebrate individuals who have helped save lives by becoming organ, tissue, marrow and blood donors with National Donate Life Month.

"National Donate Life Month is a way to honor those who have given so generously of themselves, and to encourage more Americans to follow their example," CEO for the Indiana-Ohio Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross, Sharyn Whitman said. "We want to help support the donors and families, as well as the patients who receive their gift of life."

Nationwide more than 98,000 people are in need of an organ transplant. Each day about 77 people get the organ

transplant that gives them a second chance at life. Transplant recipients also need blood products during surgery.

Donations of blood, marrow and tissue are vital to saving countless lives and for improving the quality of life for others who are seriously sick or injured. Every day patients across the U.S. need an average of 38,000 units of blood.

Individuals who are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health may be eligible to donate blood. All donors need to present positive identification. In Indiana, teens may give blood at 16 years of age with written, parental consent.

Call (800) 448-3543 to schedule a blood donation appointment or visit IndianaOhioRedCross.org.



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Too much pressure on kids is counterproductive to success

QUESTION: *If beauty is the most important attribute in determining personal worth in this culture, what is in second place?*

It is intelligence as expressed in scholastic aptitude. When the birth of a firstborn child is imminent, his parents pray that he will be normal ... that is, "average." But from that moment on, average will not be good enough. Their child must excel. He must succeed. He must triumph. He must be the first of his age to walk or talk or ride a tricycle. He must earn a stunning report card and amaze his teachers with his wit and wisdom. He must do well in Little League, and later he must be a track star or first-chair trombone or the valedictorian. His sister must be a cheerleader or the senior-class president or the soloist or the best pupil in her advanced-placement class.

Throughout the formative years of childhood, parents give their kids the same message day after day: "We're counting on you to do something fantastic. Now don't disappoint us!" The hopes, dreams and ambitions of an entire family sometimes rest on the shoulders of an immature child. And in this atmosphere of fierce competition, the parent who produces an intellectually gifted child is clearly holding the winning sweepstakes ticket.

Unfortunately, exceptional children are just that — exceptions. Seldom does a five-year-old memorize the King James Version of the Bible or play chess blindfolded or compose



Dr. Dobson

symphonies in the Mozart manner. To the contrary, the vast majority of our children are not dazzlingly brilliant, extremely witty, highly coordinated, tremendously talented or universally popular! They are just plain kids with oversized needs to be loved and accepted as they are. Thus, the stage is set for unrealistic pressure on the younger generation and considerable disappointment for their parents.

QUESTION: *Isn't it our goal to produce children with self-discipline and self-reliance? If so, how does your approach to external discipline imposed by parents get translated into internal control?*

DR. DOBSON: There are many authorities who suggest that parents take a passive approach to their children for the reason implied by your question: They want their kids to discipline themselves. But since young people lack the maturity to generate that self-control, they stumble through childhood without experiencing either internal or external discipline. Thus, they enter adult life having never completed an unpleasant assignment or accepted an order that they disliked or yielded to the

leadership of their elders. Can we expect such a person to exercise self-discipline in young adulthood? I think not. That individual doesn't even know the meaning of the word.

My belief is that parents should introduce their children to discipline and self-control by any reasonable means available, including the use of external influences, when they are young. By being required to behave responsibly, he gains valuable experience in controlling his own impulses and resources. Then as he grows into the teen years, responsibility is transferred year by year from the shoulders of the parent directly to the child. He is no longer required to do what he has learned during earlier years in hopes that he will want to function on his own initiative.

To illustrate, a child should be required to keep his room relatively neat when he is young. Then somewhere during the mid-teens, his own self-discipline should take over and provide the motivation to continue the task. If it does not, the parent should close the door and let him live in a dump, if that is his choice.

In short, self-discipline does not come automatically to those who have never experienced it. Self-control must be learned, and it must be taught.

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.

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SS = Sunday School	SW = Sunday Worship
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BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 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.	FLORA GRACE BRETHERN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHERN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.	FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 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.
BURNETTVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.	GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m.
BURNETTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
BURNETTVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Chycle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN: 310N 250W, Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.	LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m. Children's church available
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	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.
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 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.	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.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.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 Emerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
	PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN: 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 BRETHERN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
	ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evert, pastor. SW 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 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. Alan Wyant, 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. 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. SW: 8:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
	WHIRLWIND WORSHIPS: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280
	YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Carl Davis, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

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