



# Pastor's Pen

by Rev. Richard Gardner, Assemblies of God

## WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

There was a new pastor in a particular parish. Things went along very smoothly for a number of months. The parishioners liked the pastor's personality. They especially liked his sermons, until one Sunday when the subject of the sermon was MONEY. "Up to now you've done well," one of his deacons told him after the service. "But today you began to muddle. I'm going to talk about money. How can I do otherwise when my duty is to preach the Word of God, and God's Word given to us in today's scriptures clearly fronts us with this issue. Alas warns the rich that they will be the first to go into exile for their sins. Paul tells Timothy to command the rich not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches. Jesus describes in a parable the contrast between a self-centered rich man and the poor man Lazarus.

The scriptures often speak of money and material wealth. In fact two-thirds of Jesus' parables deal with monetary issues. Why? Because money always has been, and always will be, one of the great driving forces in society. We are material, bodily beings who live in a material environment. Through money we provide shelter, food, clothing, transportation. Money brings us comfort and pleasure. A sufficient amount of money removes anxiety. Money is important. It needs to be spoken of in the Church because a correct attitude towards money is essential to an authentic Christian life. Money as such is neither good nor bad. It can be a great blessing or a great curse. Everything depends on the proper attitude towards money and the proper use of money.

Money becomes a curse when we lose our perspective about it. The laws of perspective are such that a minute thing near at hand can shut out a massive thing in the distance. A small hill or even a tree directly in front of us can obscure Pike's Peak. Incredibly, a little bit of money can block out God Himself. "You cannot be a slave of two masters," Jesus said. "You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Someone, holding a dollar bill in his hand, read off the statement, "In God we trust." The man commented, "Perhaps it should say, 'In this god we trust.' It's not money as

such, but the misuse of money that can throw us all out of whack. A man was visiting an American land farmer. At dinner the host took his guest out to the front porch. Waving his arms towards the horizon the land baron said, "Every-you've done well," one of his deacons told him after the service. "But today you began to muddle. I'm going to talk about money. How can I do otherwise when my duty is to preach the Word of God, and God's Word given to us in today's scriptures clearly fronts us with this issue. Alas warns the rich that they will be the first to go into exile for their sins. Paul tells Timothy to command the rich not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches. Jesus describes in a parable the contrast between a self-centered rich man and the poor man Lazarus.

The rich man in Jesus' parable allowed his riches to blind him to four basic truths. First, everything belongs to God our Creator; we are privileged to be the managers of God's property. Second, the human race is created by God to be a loving, caring family. Third, God blesses some of us with more than others to provide us with an opportunity to share generously with those less fortunate. Fourth, our real country is heaven; we are merely sojourners here on earth, passing through, and should keep our eyes on heavenly things. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also. So do not store up treasure on earth where rust and moth consume, but store up treasure in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Eleven millionaires went to a watery grave on the ill-fated Titanic in April 1912 with a combined wealth of over \$200,000,000. Suppose, like the rich man in the parable, they wanted to send a message back to us, the American brothers and sisters. Would they not try to warn us of the dangers of amassing wealth and exhort us to listen to Moses and the prophets, prophets like Amos? In particular, would they not tell us to heed the words of the One risen from the dead?

# Obituaries

Geneva Cray Jolly Foster

Geneva Cray Jolly Foster, 72, of Carlisle, wife of Willie H. Foster, died on Wednesday, March 15, 2000 at the Hospice Care Center of St. Joseph Hospital.

She was born in Nicholas County to the late William T. and Yerna Watkins Jolly and was a member of the Carlisle Assembly of God.

Other survivors include four sons, Johnny Foster, Moorefield, Billy Foster, Nicholasville, David Foster, Carlisle, Perry Foster, Cynthiahanna, five daughters, Martha Spangler, Indiana, Jo Rankin, Cynthiahanna.

Contributions are suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carlisle United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Carlisle Cemetery.

Blanche Shaw, 96, of Carlisle, widow of Young Shaw, died on Monday, March 20, 2000 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

She was born in Nicholas County to the late Boss and Mary Elizabeth Kennedy Shaw and was a member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church where she was a Sunday School teacher for 40 years.

Survivors include a son, Teddy (Helen) Shaw, Carlisle; a daughter, Mary (Paul) Smith, Lexington; two brothers, William Shaw, Millsburg; and Russell Shaw, Lexington; three grandchildren, Jimmy (Judy) Shaw, Paris, Masses and the nephews, Gregory (Ann) Smith, Lexington, Kimberly (Lloyd) Wemyss, Lexington; seven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Contributions are suggested to Carlisle United Methodist Church.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carlisle United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Carlisle Cemetery.

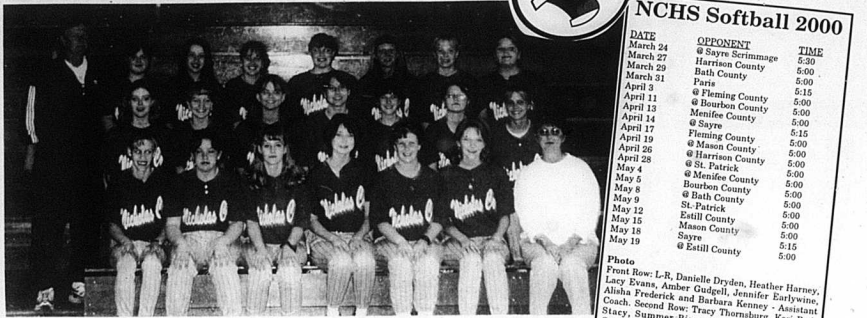
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## NCHS Softball 2000

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
March 24	@ Sayre Scrabble	5:00
March 27	Harrison County	5:00
March 29	Bath County	5:00
March 31	Paris	5:15
April 3	@ Fleming County	5:00
April 11	@ Bourbon County	5:00
April 13	Menifee County	5:00
April 14	@ Sayre	5:00
April 17	Fleming County	5:15
April 21	@ Mason County	5:00
April 26	@ Harrison County	5:00
April 28	@ St. Patrick	5:00
May 4	@ Menifee County	5:00
May 5	Bourbon County	5:00
May 8	@ Bath County	5:00
May 9	St. Patrick	5:00
May 12	Estill County	5:00
May 15	Mason County	5:00
May 18	Sayre	5:15
May 19	@ Estill County	5:00

Photo  
Front Row: L-R, Danielle Dryden, Heather Harney, Lucy Evans, Amber Gidgell, Jennifer Earlywine, Alisha Frederick and Barbara Kenney - Assistant Coach. Second Row: Tracy Thornburg, Ken Beth Stacy, Summer Ring, Ashley Hamilton, Beth Row, Mike Kenney - Head Coach, Jennifer Butler, Jennifer Dryden, Megan Darrell, Tara Cameron, will be, one of the great driving forces in society.

## NCHS Track 2000

DATE	OPPONENT
March 28	Powell County
April 1	@ Frankfort Inv.
April 11	Harrison County
April 14	@ Rowan County Inv.
April 18	Fleming County
April 20	@ Harrison County Inv.
April 25	Fleming County
April 27	Harrison County
May 2	@ ERC - Fleming County
May 9	Harrison County
May 16	Regions at ERU
May 20-25	State
May 27	State



Photo  
Floor: L-R, Josh Hunt and Darrin Herrington. Front Row: Kyle Harmon, Anthony, and Mark Seth Saunders, Travis Vaughn, Danielle Tubbs. Second Row: Nikkie Vaughn, Whitney Sapp, Amber McCord, Ashley Judd, Whitney Massey, Alexandra Raab, Kristin Hunt and Katrina Smith. Top Row: Brian Anderson, Adam Hunter, Justin Howling, Ryan Hunter, Adam Hunter, Sky Ickmesel, Wesley Earlywine, Forest Hunt, Sky Ickmesel, Wesley Earlywine, Zach Degram, Derek Fights, and Jessica Tridway, Hollie Bussell.



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(Please limit 2 items per person)

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Carlisle Center  
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