GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

The lucky ones, and the concept of duty

This week, Mr. Bond, our Publisher, assigned me to the position of regional news editor for the Robertson County News, The Carlisle Mercury and the Bath News Outlook.

I continue to learn and discover beautiful and wondrous things about the three county area I cover.

It is my duty to bring you the information that will have the greatest impact for you and provide you with 'need to know' information, dear reader.

Some do not comprehend the concept of duty, but it rules my world.

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

By Charles Mattox

When I think of duty, I also think of accountability.

I believe that if you are in a position of accountability, especially if you are paid a salary that comes from taxpayer dollars, then you should expect to be held accountable.

I occasionally ask tough questions to a few folks in positions of accountability that don't like tough questions asked of them.

It is not the first time I have encountered the problem.

I've been around the block a time or two and I've seen the elephant, as the early settlers used to say.

Seeking and sharing the truth for the benefit of an entire community, rather than turning a blind eye to certain activity for the benefit of a select few, or catering to a select few, begets rewards and consequences.

I've seen corruption and deceit and the ugly side of human nature just the same as the good. I don't like corruption, especially blatant corruption or the misappropriation of taxpayers' money.

"You like to stir it up don't you, Charles?" A friend asked me the other day.

A smirk slid across my face and then faded.

I explained the dreaded task of latrine duty practiced in Southeast Asia by American soldiers in the 1960s and early 1970s.

It amounted to taking empty diesel fuel drums, which had been sawed in half and situated for receptacles in the field latrines. When they were full, those assigned to latrine duty had to empty the container. This was done, in a proper military manner, by pouring a little diesel fuel in and then stirring the contents while it burned away.

It's a time-tested method that works, but it was fading back in the early 1980s when I became a soldier.

If you lasted, it wouldn't.

When I think about it, I always think about my heroes.

Some were military men and I write about them from time to time.

None ever feared stirring it up when it was required.

I visit the grave of Confederate Infantry Officer, Lt. Lott Dudley Young in the Carlisle Cemetery, as often as I can.

He survived the American Civil War while serving with Company H, 4th Battalion, 1st Kentucky Infantry Brigade: The Orphan Brigade.

He was one of the lucky ones.

Most of his companions perished in the many battles the soldiers of the Orphan Brigade fought in. Young was buried with full military honors in his uniform. The Confederate Flag was placed in his left hand. The American Flag in his right hand, just as he had instructed his pallbearers in a written statement that he prepared a few years before his death.

Lt. Lott Dudley Young is one of my heroes.

For any of you who may be confused, I feel obligated to note that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is another hero of mine. He stirred up the whole nation, and he was right, and the nation is now a better nation because of it, in my humble opinion, though I believe we've still got a long way to go to heal our racial wounds.

I lost another hero a few days ago.

Edward O'Neil of Bartersville, also in Nicholas County, is no longer with us.

Ed was a faithful Marine who served honorably with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

He survived the Battle of Guam and later survived the Battle of Iwo Jima.

He was one of the lucky ones.

He lost many friends on Guam and several of those who survived were later killed on Iwo Jima.

But Ed survived both battles, and he told me about it during a Jan. 28, 2006, interview at his home.

I had been writing about a young Marine, Franklin Sousley, another hero of mine, who was born and raised in Hilltop, among the rolling hills of Fleming County. Sousley is buried in Elizaville Cemetery. Sometimes I visit his grave on my way home from work, when I need to remind myself why I do what I do.

Ed had read columns that I'd written about Sousley and wanted to talk.

He sent me a letter that I received Jan. 4, 2006.

"I spent 44 days on Iwo Jima and was earlier in the invasion of Guam, and out of 60 men in our platoon, half were killed or wounded, but I was lucky," he wrote. "I am 83 –and-a-half-years old and have been living on the same farm (excluding my military service) since 1937."

He later invited me to that farm, and into his home to talk about his experiences on Iwo Jima, the tiny island where Sousley had helped Rene Gagnon, Harlon Block, Ira Hayes, Doc Bradley and Michael Strank raise an American Flag, and they had their photograph taken in the process as the battle raged around them. The photograph, taken by Ed Rosenthal, remains one of the most iconic and recognizable images in history, but Strank, Block and Sousley, never saw it.

They died on Iwo Jima

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ARSON

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Graves joined KSP Arson Investigator Clint Combs and several other investigators who scoured the ruins of the Mary Willoughby White home in the days following an incident that left White with a grazing bullet wound in her abdomen, according to police, and her home destroyed by fire.

Combs spent several hours at the site and he and Graves later labeled and examined several pieces of physical evidence they will continue to analyze as the investigation intensifies.

Graves is also leading the investigation into the Mt. Olivet Integra Bank robbery that occurred March 19, during which a lone bandit, described as six feet tall and weighing 175 pounds, entered the bank, hoped the counter and removed money from two cash registers before fleeing on foot.

"Progress is being made on that investigation as well," Graves said last week.

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21 1:35, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50 PG-13
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'02 Chevy S10 LS Ext. cab, 4x4, pwr. W/L, nice, #5246 $215 month

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LIFESTYLE

Thoughts from... the Pastor's Study

Darrell Sexton
Carlisle Assembly of God

The Gospel writer Mark tells of an incident early in the ministry of Jesus that we all should take notice of. (Mark 3:13-14 "And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him....").

This incident... would change the entire world. From the small beginnings of twelve chosen men, God would start something that would span the course of over 2,000 years.

Today, from the eye-witness accounts of eleven of those men, comes the greatest movement in the history of the world, it is called Christianity. Jesus went out and prayed all night before He chose these men.

He wanted to be very sure that He chose the right ones for the job. One thing stands out in this simple sentence, "that they might be with Him". Many times today we have it all wrong, we think if a man or woman wants to do something for God they must first go to school and be educated.

While that is very commendable, it cannot of itself change anyone's heart, not even the one attending school. Education is great; God certainly puts no premium on ignorance.

Still, education about Christ will never take the place of being with Christ.

Some think that to change the world they must take an active part in government, and I will admit that it is very honorable and beneficial that one get involved in the affairs of government.

Quite frankly though, neither Republican or Democrat nor any politician or political system can make a change that will last for eternity. Only by being with Jesus can we come away with words that will change a life for all time, both present and future.

Even we preachers, I speak out of experience, can run here and there, visiting the sick and helping the needy, and forget that the very first thing Jesus called us to do was to simply be with Him.

I heard Jim Cymbala, Pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle speak about a need they church had. He said they were in the midst of a multi-million dollar building program in NY City and he was home to spend the day recuperating after a grueling schedule.

The phone rang and the person in charge of the contracting said the Union needed $800,000 dollars that day or they were going to walk off the job and never come back. He said Ok and told her he would be right down to the office. Immediately, he heard a still small voice speak to his heart and say, "No Jim, go to your prayer room and I want to speak to you."

As he obeyed the Lord and spent the rest of that afternoon in private prayer with the Lord, he said the Lord had miraculously moved.

As he retrieved his messages from his answering service he found that people he didn't even know had called to say they would be sending checks to more than cover the $800,000. One even sent him a 6 million dollar one!

I use this one example because all of us have no doubt been guilty of not keeping the first thing first in our busy lives and schedules.

Our first calling is to be with Jesus, everything else will work out if we will always strive to do this. It is when we go about trying to make things work in our own strength that failures occur.

Someone may read this and be thinking, "I don't even know how to spend time with someone I can't even see. This is all fine for you preachers, but how can it work for me?" I promise you that if you will find someplace away from everyone else and all the noise of this break-neck world, if you will just simply speak to the Lord Jesus as you would to a friend, and believe in your heart that He is real, He will give you a peace and a comfort that nobody else can give.

You will find that in His presence there is a fullness of joy. In His presence you can find a peace where all the other noise of this world will become stilled.

Anyone who reads this can find that being with Jesus is the greatest place one could ever be, for He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Won't you come to Him and spend time with Him now?

You'll be glad you did.

Charles "Donnie" Shearer
1939-2008

Charles "Donnie" Shearer, 68, of Ft. Wayne, IN, and former of Versailles, KY, died Wed. March 26, 2008 at his residence.

Born October 24, 1939 in Jessamine Co., he was the son of the late William I and Katherine Mack Shearer. Mr. Shearer was a lifelong farmer.

He is survived by two daughters, Debbie Ball of Ft. Wayne and Pam Shearer of Versailles; two sons, Robert Shearer of Carlisle and Charlie Shearer of Richmond, IN; two brothers, Gary Shearer of Versailles and Jackie Shearer of Lexington; his former wife and mother of his children, Janet Shearer; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Bobby Shearer.

Visitation was held Sunday March 30, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home, Rose Hill. Funeral services were held Monday March 31, 2008 at Clark Funeral Home, Rose Hill, with Rev. Doug Simpson officiating. Burial followed in Bluegrass Memorial Gardens. Casketbearers will be Robbie Shearer Sr., Charlie Shearer, Ronnie Ball Sr., Ronnie Ball Jr., Sherman Lowe Jr., Patrick Fryman, Logan Fryman and Robbie Shearer Jr.

Condolences may be made at www. clarkfuneralchapel.com.

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