

Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, Atlanta GA)

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Pastor Rex F. Cain / 440.232.3970 / February 24, 2008

“BUT OFFICER ...”

It was late at night, I was driving home from covering a game for the newspaper.

I was at a red light.

I looked to my left -- no one.

I looked to my right.



I was sitting at the light, wanting to make a right turn. Only there was a big sign saying NO TURN ON RED. I have been at this intersection many times. And most of the time -- maybe 95 percent -- I don't turn on red, even if it seems clear. But I was tired. It was late. The street was empty. So I turned right, drove a little ways, then pulled into a gas station. A police cruiser came out of nowhere, lights flashing. The officer approach my car and asked how I was doing.

I like to think of myself as honest. I even have told people, "I'm an honest person."

At this point, I knew why the officer was at my window. As a self-proclaimed "honest person," here was a chance to own up, put my faith in action.

Or at least say nothing.

Instead, I blurted, "I'm confused, why are you here?"

"Confused?" he said. "Have you been drinking?"

He leaned a little closer, probably trying to smell my breath.

I was tempted to say, "Hey, buddy, I don't drink, but if you had to cover some of the teams that I have over the last 30 years in this town, you'd feel like knocking down a few shots of Old Panther Juice."

Instead, I said I was sober. I said I was a sportswriter. I said I was on my way home. He said, "You shouldn't have made a right turn at that light."

"Really?" I said

"There's a big white sign, NO TURN ON RED," he said. "No way you could miss it."

I claim to be Christian. I'm the "honest" guy, right? One of my favorite verses is from Matthew 5:37, where Jesus says, "*Let your yes' be yes' and your no,' no.'* "

I was like too many other people, trying to wiggle out of the claws of the law, and saying almost anything to do it. And to think that I've been teaching weekly Bible classes to jail inmates for nine years, telling my guys how it's "easier to tell the truth because you don't have to remember all the lies."

Ouch!

Instead, I acted like I had never spotted the sign before, and hunkered down even deeper in the bunker of denial as the officer checked my license and registration and probably ran my name through the computer to check for warrants.

He let me go. It was a Saturday night, and he explained that they really were checking for drunk drivers. He warned me to pay attention to the sign. I thanked him. In retrospect, I think he probably would not have ticketed me if I had told the truth, and I had a feeling that he suspected I had lied to him.

I thought about why Old Testament biblical stars such as Abraham and Jacob lied when in a tight spot. Or why Peter lied three times about knowing Jesus. Or why I'm not always the stand-up guy that I claim to be.

The next morning, I told the story to a couple of close friends after church. I really do believe that there is power in "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." That's from Chapter 5 of the New Testament book of James. I prayed and asked for forgiveness. My friends prayed for me. I told some others the story, and a few nodded.

Then someone mentioned this from Proverbs 10:19: "*When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*"

I knew that, too. I just didn't listen.

9-29-07 terrypluto2003@yahoo.com, / Pluto's column on line
The Plain Dealer / Terry Pluto: 216-999-4370

MARK CAIN is speaking today in the absence of his father. Rex and Steve are attending the N.E. Conference plus the Prophecy Conference at the same time at our Brushcreek church.

PHIL & SUSAN MAY wrote that they've been fighting sickness and too, that Phil lost his job (downsizing) and is looking for work. They would appreciate our prayers.

THE ANNUAL MINISTER'S CONFERENCE was very inspiring with lots of great conversation, Bible discussion, prayer times, a few book reviews and even some comedy. One afternoon was free for a tour of the new Coke museum plus dinner out. The first night I counted about 60 in attendance. Thanks for keeping me in your prayers as I and many others traveled to Atlanta.

JOYCE BOLHOUS fell on ice 2-14 breaking her ankle. There was quite a bit of pain but she's now recovering using an inflatable cast.

“MARCH”-ING FOR MISSIONS

The S.S. department approved our observing this conference program during March to raise funds for our conference mission work. We will have special presentations each of the 5 Sundays by our Missions Chairperson, Pam Weaver.

We will use our faithful “vortex” and the big jug for coins ... *and* it will hold paper money too! ☺ Thanks for your support of the many needs of our church outreach!

DAN CAIN passed his tests and interviews and is now the proud owner of a license to serve as a minister in the Church of God. Our congratulations! Also, **Sam An** (my son-in-law) also received his license the same week! We're proud of you both!

GOLDEN CORRAL, a buffet restaurant, got the most votes last Sunday as the place to hold our annual Dutch Treat church outing – April 6th. No reservations are made on Sundays but said they could seat 20 together. Meal is \$9.95 / \$11.45 with drink.



EASTER COMES EARLY this year. **EASTER LILIES** can be brought to the church in honor or in memory of loved ones. Give the names to Pastor Rex by Mar. 19th for printing on the 23rd.

MICHAL SITTEK (our exchange student), on Mar. 14th leaves with Explore America for California returning 3-21. He just got back from Hawaii last week – tough life. ☺ His parents from the Czech Republic will also land in Cleveland the same day (21st) (Michal's birthday is

the 20th)! They plan to be here Easter Sunday! Remember Michal & family in your prayers.

PRAY FOR: Pastor Linford Moore (1-23, heart attack), Phil May (job search), Sonny Koston (burned), Mellisa (by JWetzel), Marti Wohn (by GWhaley), Jeff Stoneman (cancer, by Whaley), Ruth Schuld (treatments), Ken-Kathy Cramer, Terry James (cancer, by Roper), Evelyn Pennington, Jack Hearp, Ruby Korode, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Edith Speer, Jacob Hinton*, Kathy Reed*, (*by Skip), W.C. & Craig Blankenship, College students: Andrew Weaver, Jackie Schuld, Dan & Rachel Cain (internship / teaching degree), Shut-ins: Evelyn Pennington Military: Rodger Schuld, Those serving in other countries: Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. Colleges / Churches: RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

FEBRUARY 2008

21-24 NE Prophecy & Business Conference / Bruschreek Church near Dayton

24 Mark Cain speaking

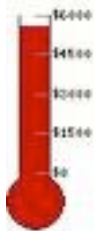
MARCH 2008

2 Monthly communion observance / Elder Steve Weaver, leading

Future Dates: March – Mission's Month / Mar 9, Daylight Saving time begins / Mar 16, Palm Sunday / Mar 23, Easter / Apr 6, Annual Church Outing, Golden Corral / May 11, Mother's Day / May 17 Andrew Weaver's wedding / Jun 15, Father's Day / Jul 12, Rachel Weaver's wedding / Aug 24, SS picnic / Sep 21, SS Mtg

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.
WORSHIP 10:45A.M.

Today's Program Was Put Together by
Mark Cain, Frank Roper and Doris Schuld



A THERMOMETER GRAPH on the entrance door now shows we have received \$1140 toward our goal of \$1300 for the new copier; a heart-felt thanks to those (some mailed from a distance) who have helped with a donation to offset this unexpected purchase. We're near our goal!

(Book Review Next Page)

BREATH FOR THE BONES

By Luci Shaw

Art and faith were once tightly connected, with some of our finest art having religious themes. With the Enlightenment, art and religion began to split apart. Now there is generally an uneasy relationship between artists and the church. This is most unfortunate for it robs us of many means of better understanding God, the Master Creator. This author says that some Christians, especially fundamentalists, tend to have a stunted view of art as something nonessential. Yet it is from God Himself that creative impulses flow. Our creativity mirrors His creativity. Creative impulses are universal in humans. We all make creative choices daily, even if it is only to part our hair a new way or to try on a new color we don't usually wear or to change an ingredient in a recipe. Artists simply make creativity a more central focus in their lives than most people do.

Breath for the Bones (Art, Imagination and Spirit: A Reflection of Creativity and Faith) by Luci Shaw - Anyone with artistic leanings who is feeling somewhat disconnected in the church might find comfort in the thoughts and feelings of Luci Shaw who was both committed Christian and avid artist. She joins the two related prongs of human life—art and faith—back together again in an inspiring and lucid way which helps the reader to understand why art is so important in the church. She says we can't even see God without some form of art (with God's art in nature and the Bible two prime examples). She says that God is too glorious to be apprehended directly. "A full frontal view of the Almighty, swift as light, sharp and intense as a laser, with the energy of the universe flashing from his eyes, and with the earth and us on it, cradled like a marble in his palm, would paralyze, flatten, and annihilate us." Could it be that the distance that has developed between art and faith help account for the small, rather ordinary, view of God many people have? It is the role of the artist, Shaw says, to call us to attention.

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