

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Thank You Bank of Hiawassee

I would like to thank the Bank of Hiawassee and all of you who supported me in such a bad economy for the 2009 Heart Walk for the American Heart Association. That was on September 19. I am a heart attack survivor and all the money that was raised goes to research to prevent, treat and defeat heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, the Number 1 and number 3 killers in the nation. Thank you so much for your support.

Edward Tench

Feeding the bears

When we can't keep ourselves from feeding the bears, take my suggestion: fly to Zurich, then take a train down to Bern where you'll find a guy selling carrot chunks you can buy, and step around the bear pit where you'll see many full sized bears, standing on their hind legs, begging for you to toss a piece of carrot down to them.

It'll make your day!

Betty Birdsall



Sourwood Cove
By Clarence L. Newton

If you are, or were a moderate Republican, your party left you in 2000 when the Supreme Court put a two-gun slinging, pseudo cowboy and a snarling, vicious, oil-soaked grouch in charge of the country. War was their answer to all our problems, along with big tax cuts for the rich.

In 2008 I was afraid of John McCain who, when asked how we should deal with Iran said, "Bomb, bomb, bomb."

The Democrats are employing diplomacy as opposed to war, or threat of war, in an effort to solve numerous problems that confront us in the world.

The destruction and occupation of Iraq, where several hundred thousand people have been killed, and their infra structure nearly totally destroyed, was based on an outright lie. The cost to our nation is already approximately one trillion dollars with over five thousand U.S. military killed and rising. Many thousands have been wounded; most of whom, will need care for the rest of their lives.

It wasn't necessary to jump to war immediately after 9/11. If the CIA is worth a fraction of the money spent on it, it should have been able to track down Bin Laden. A billion dollar reward for his capture may have worked, costing peanuts compared to what has been spent. Unfortunately, some people calling the shots found war to be the ultimate sport and to hell with the costs.

Some promoters of strife tell us that we are in danger from North Korea and Iran. Millions of gullible people believe those hyped up words. A slight reduction in the Pentagon's military industrial budget frightens them half to death. Actually, the Pentagon's military budget is near a trillion dollars per year, and we have over 700 military bases around the world, outside of the USA, with four more just added in Columbia. They tell us it's for the "drug war" in Columbia and South America.

Ah, Socialism: The way that word if thrown around causes a lot of good Americans

to lose sleep. Most electrical service, municipal water and sewer, state and federal highway systems, cross-country aircraft flying, boats and ship navigation the waterways, social security, medicare, the military and many other services are provided for the public welfare. Perhaps we need a new name for these good public services. Somebody please come up with one!

It's time for all of us to be civil enough to allow our duly elected president to serve out his term and if you don't like him, vote him out three years from now. There is no reason in this world to spread hatred the way it is being done today. A lot of emotional and unthinking people are being herded like sheep by manipulators.

Nearly all of the problems, especially financial, inherited by Obama were passed to him by previous administrations - mostly President Bush. All of those problems are the result of unregulated greed. It's a human trait that will exist as long as humans exist. What in the world would McCain-Palin do about that?

About politicians not keeping campaign promises. Hey, they are all the same. Just listen to them. It's impossible to keep all those sunny, sugarcoated promises. That's one way to garner votes. Politicians campaign in poetry and govern in prose.

Now, how many people who are violently opposed to Obama can honestly say that it has nothing to do with his family occupying "our" white house and flying all over everywhere in "our" big, 'ole jet plane. I said honestly. Besides, Obama was born in Hawaii. That doesn't even sound like the United States of America.

I would love to see every politician voted out of Washington after one term. I believe that's what most of the founding fathers had in mind. Of course, at that time, most of them would have gone back to the farm.

Finally, a quote from a great American: "We are not educated well enough to perform the act of intelligently selecting out leaders." Thank you Uncle Walter!

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider." - Sir Francis Bacon.

This is good advice for any age, but especially useful for our age of information - and misinformation. We are all familiar with the term, "rationalize," and have probably used it on occasion to apply to someone who disagrees with our opinion. Scientists who study human behavior use the term, "motivated reasoning," which describes how the brain resolves our internal struggle between the information we have available and the things we prefer to believe. In motivated reasoning we "cherry pick" the facts that support our wishful thinking and forget or minimize the ones that do not. Unfortunately the Internet, which is the greatest research tool ever devised, is also fertile ground for every kind of motivated reasoning. With only a few simple search phrases one can easily find scores of sources which agree with any predetermined notion, no matter how illogical or outlandish. If you want to believe that the earth is flat or that the Apollo moon landings were faked, you can find information on the Internet to support that belief. If the need to believe is strong enough, the brain can even take unrelated facts and connect them:

Nostradamus wrote a poem about an eagle. The United States has an eagle in its Great Seal. Therefore Nostradamus predicted the future of the United States. We mention Nostradamus because of his increasing popularity among those who wish to believe that the future can be predicted. As we approach the year 2012, more and more people begin to believe that this year will be a significant milestone in human history, or will perhaps mark the end of it. The Internet is full of references to 2012 as it seems to be a point of convergence for motivated reasoning of all kinds. Christians, Hindus and Muslims all have prophetic traditions which can be interpreted to foreshadow times of tribulation. Prophecy seekers of a more secular nature point to astronomical alignments, Hopi predictions, the Mayan calendar or scores of predictions by future-predictors from Nostradamus to present day prognosticators. Even the History Channel has jumped on the bandwagon with programming about Nostradamus, end times and the year 2012. Not since the approach of the year 2000 and the Y2K hysteria have so many

diverse beliefs converged on a single date. What is happening now in the parts of the world connected by the World Wide Web and electronic media is an effort to join together many diverse beliefs into a single agreement that the year 2012 means - something. It is intriguing that concurrent beliefs can appear to be found among diverse and unconnected cultures over a span of thousands of years. However, there are two other facts that should be given equal consideration when reviewing this subject. One is that throughout human history the vast majority of "prophecy" has occurred after the fact. That is to say that after a historical event has occurred, a verse of scripture, a quatrain or an enigmatic symbol is interpreted to be a prediction of the event. Another fact to consider is the question of motivated reasoning at the root of much of the search for prophecy. The earth is overpopulated. The climate is changing. Media hammers us incessantly with a selection of the worst events that occur around the world. Fear increases as a growing population faces a shrinking planet that naturally changes in ways we struggle to understand, much less to predict. It would be nice if we knew what was going to happen. It would be nice if many of the changes that can be traced to our own actions could be attributed to the Great Spirit or a cycle of changes beyond our control. It would be nice if God would reach down and destroy all the billions of bad people cluttering up the place so that the chosen ones can inherit a cleansed and renewed earth.

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmenc.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

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Keys That Will Give You A New Life

By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
 Living Word Revival Center

The Bible gives us many promising scriptures that present to us the ability to do some great things with our lives. For example, the scripture found in Mark 10:27, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Simply having a relationship with God, opens up a great amount of possibilities that can help us truly have a more successful life. I want to share some keys that will help you to be able to receive a new life and to become the person that you have always wanted to be.

The first key is to never give up on yourself or God. Remember that you are never alone. You have to believe that God is with you and on your side and that he is prepared to help you in all things. The Bible says in Psalms 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." If you will have faith in God and believe in yourself, you will be able to stay positive and hold on to any dream that you may ever have in your life. God can and will make those dreams happen if you will believe!

The second key is to be able to put your past history behind you. Many times it is self-condemnation that keeps you from becoming a winner in life. You find yourself stuck in a certain pattern that has disabled you from fulfilling your dreams. Maybe you have been abused with condemning words that you would not amount to anything or maybe you have done things that you are not proud of that has tagged you as being a certain way. You can be free of these things. First of all, you have to recognize that in Christ, you have been forgiven and each day is a new day in order for you to advance your life. The Bible tells us that God has good things planned for you. (Jeremiah 10:27) The Bible also says in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." If you will walk by the spirit of God and not the flesh, you will understand that Jesus Christ came to save us, not to condemn us. By trusting in God and by putting things behind you, new beginnings are possible and can be achieved. Life is not over and the fat lady hasn't sung yet, so get yourself back up!

The third key is to renew your mind through the Word of God. Jesus said to us that he is the way, the truth and the life in order for us to find out the answers

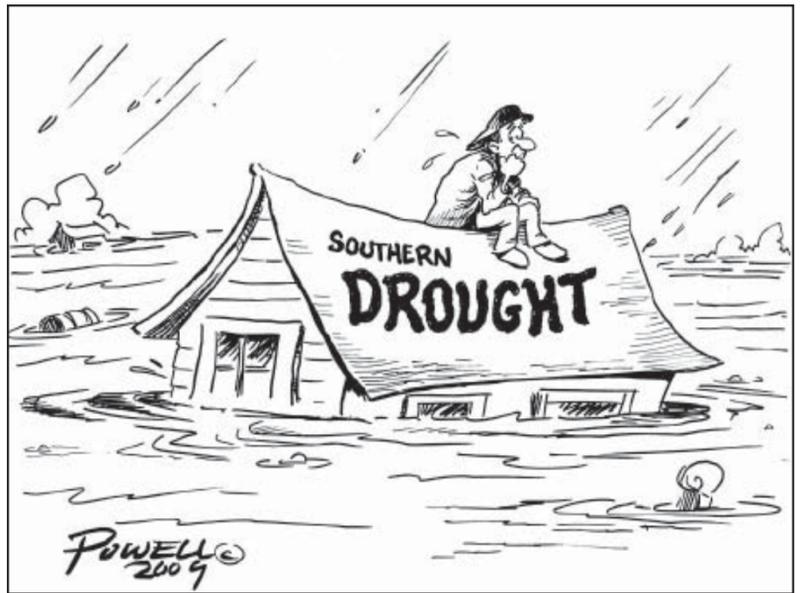
that many of us have in life. If we could take those steps to educate ourselves in the Word of God, we could find out that God knows how to guide our lives with perfection. The Bible says in Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." By allowing your mind and heart to be transformed through developing the truth in God's word, you can set out to prove God's will for your life. The Bible says that as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is. Your thinking has to change also if you are going to move forward. You have to develop a winning attitude in your thinking before it can manifest in your life. It just doesn't happen because one day you wake up and decide everything must change. It takes time to train and discipline your thoughts. This is where the Word of God and His promises will develop within you a faith attitude and the power to become a brand new person. New life is beyond a new attitude!

The fourth thing that can help you maintain your new life is to be faithful to your dreams. Don't draw back when things become hard, it is just part of the process. Just keep on pressing into them until you accomplish your goals. The Bible says in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." The Lord is on our side in order for us to have life and to have life more abundantly. By living a stable and faithful lifestyle before the Lord will only insure the outcome of his promises for you.

The truth is that God cares about all of us and wants to enable us to become successful and prosperous in this life. His ways will work for those who will work them. So by using these four keys today, you should be able to get started on the new life that has been hidden within you.

So don't, recant, recede or retract in your faith, for this new life will begin with one step in the right direction. God Bless you!

Pastor Steven Swisher cordially invites you to join us at Living Word Revival Center for our services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. or on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. We are located at 1762 Hwy. 64 east, just 1-1/2 miles east of the main traffic light. (828-389-3444).



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