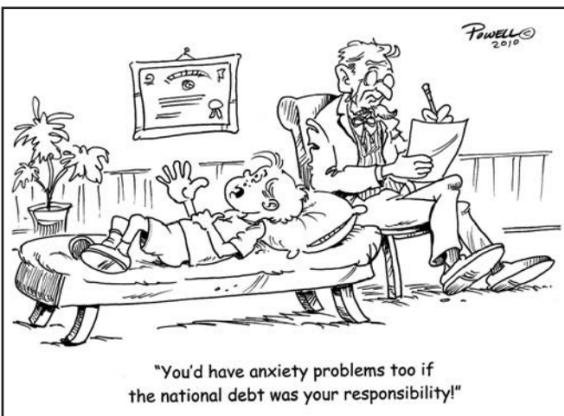


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

An area that I would like to touch on this week is winter driving safety. It is still early in the season and we have already had quite a bit of snow and ice along with some extremely low temperatures. Along with the beauty of a white Christmas comes the increased hazard associated with winter driving.

It is always best not to drive during snowy or icy conditions. Whenever possible avoid driving during extreme winter weather. Even front wheel drive and four wheel drive vehicles are susceptible to snow and ice. If you must drive, the following suggestions are meant as helpful tips to avoid increasing the risk.

During winter you should always make certain that your vehicle is prepared. Vehicle preparation should include keeping your vehicle properly tuned up and making sure that your tires are in good shape. Tires should be properly inflated and have a tread depth of at least an eighth inch. Always keep plenty of fuel in your vehicle's tank and make sure that your battery is up to date and properly maintained.

There are several items that are recommended to be kept in your vehicle during cold weather. These are especially important if you are traveling long distances. Good items to have on hand include bottled water, a flashlight with extra batteries, spare warm clothing, a warm blanket or sleeping bag, jumper cables, snow chains, a tow strap, wooden matches in a water proof container, a fully charged cell phone, and road flares or safety triangles, or both, to make your vehicle more visible. Cat litter can be used as a traction aid, much like

gravel, but is easier to carry in a vehicle.

Some things to consider when driving include slowing down by at least half the speed normally recommended and allowing at least twice the distance between your vehicle and another. Remember to use more gentle controls during slippery conditions. You should start, steer, and stop your vehicle in a gentle, steady, and smooth fashion. If you are braking and your brakes start to lock ease up on the pressure. If your rear wheels start to skid take your foot off the brake and steer the vehicle in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go. Do not try to accelerate during a skid and never use cruise control during snowy, icy, or wet, conditions.

If you become stuck or stranded in the snow, it is almost always better to stay with your vehicle and wait for help. If you run the vehicle to use the heater, be sure that the exhaust is not obstructed and always leave at least one window slightly open to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only leave your vehicle if you know exactly where you are and are certain that you will improve your conditions by doing so.

It is always better to stay off the roadways during winter weather conditions such as snow and ice. The information I have provided is by no means a comprehensive list and is only meant to offer some suggestions for being safer. All the preparation in the world cannot guarantee that you will arrive safely to your destination if you choose to drive in poor conditions. My first advice is that you not drive during extreme weather. If you must, please take precautions and drive carefully.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

God Coming For Us

During the night a little boy was awakened by a terrible storm. He was frightened and went to his mother's bedside to get in bed with her and his father. She took him back to his room and told him not to be afraid because God was there with him. He said, "Yeah, I know, but I want someone with skin on." That's exactly what God did when He came as a baby in a manger. He put on skin. Paul said, "He took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:7-8). In the manger God was with us. Why would Holy God leave His glory to tabernacle with men? He did it to identify with our lowly estate. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet He did not sin. C.S. Lewis said, "If you want to get the hang of the incarnation just imagine what you would feel like if you had to become a cockroach or a garden slug." The birth of Christ means God was made flesh. In the manger God was with us. He did not stop there but He, who knew no sin was made sin for us (II Cor. 5:21). On the cross it was God for us. Jesus did have to become

flesh, and He did have to become sin if man were to be saved. I am eternally grateful that God chose to take my place on the cross. He took my sin and the sin of all the world and nailed it to the tree. In the manger God was with us and on the cross God was for us. But wait, that's not the end of the story. After His resurrection He was on the earth for forty days and then He ascended back to His Father. Ten days later, as He had promised, the Holy Spirit descended on the believers to fill them with God's power. This happened on the Day of Pentecost. In the manger God put on skin; that was God with us. At Calvary He bodily hung on the cross in our place; that was God for us. At Pentecost and since Pentecost every saved individual has God in him! At Pentecost was God in us. He personally resides in every believer. Christmas means God with us. Calvary means God for us. Pentecost means God in us. All of this has taken place in order to bring about the main event, the second coming of Christ. Christ took on skin and revealed God. He hung on Calvary to save our skin and redeem us. He came at Pentecost to inhabit our skin bodies and at His second coming this robe of flesh will be shed to seize the everlasting prize. He became like us that we could become like Him. In the manger God with us; on the cross God for us; at Pentecost God in us; at His return God coming for us.

Letters to The Editor

An Answered Prayer

My granddaughter and her family were traveling to Michigan on Saturday. I called her Friday evening and asked if she was packed. She said, almost. I told her to save room for a passenger because during my evening prayers I was going to ask for the Lord to travel with them and see to their safe arrival. She said, we always have room for him. I asked her to call me when they arrived in Michigan.

Saturday evening she called and said, Grandpa, your prayers were answered. Then she told me an astonishing story. We were stopped at a red light, Bob reached for the thermos and started pouring coffee. The light turned green and because he was pouring coffee I just eased ahead about ten feet and hit the brakes as we watched a car speed through the red light at about sixty miles per hour! Was the coffee pouring a coincidence? The Lord used that to keep the family safe from a very serious or even a deadly accident. Indeed, my prayers were answered!

Franz C. Goring
Hiawassee, GA

An outstanding investment for 2011

Are you looking for better returns than current CD rates? If so, read on. My wife and I recently completed the AARP Driver Safety Program for persons over age 50 at a cost of \$24 for both of us. As a result, our auto insurance company reduced our rates by \$63.28 per year for the next three years or an annual return on investment of 264%. Just another small step along the way to personal financial success!

Wm. Ronald Gibson
Blairsville, GA



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Did you ever take an Anger Management class? Frankly that whole idea troubles me just a little. Anger can be a devastating emotion. You feel like there's something churning inside. You end up doing things you wish you hadn't done. You end up saying things you wish you hadn't said. You may know someone who, in a burst of anger, did some wild and crazy thing that can't be undone...destroyed a relationship that can't be repaired, for instance.

My question is, Why would you want to "manage" something like that? Why would you want to leave those feelings churning inside and only try to contain them? It seems to me that the smart thing to do would be to get rid of them. Not manage them, but rather eradicate them.

Let me make an extraordinary suggestion: Try forgiveness.

Here's why: Anger is generated when we expect others to behave in certain ways and we expect all situations to turn out just as we think they should - and they don't. Think road rage. Think of the last time your boss treated you disrespectfully at work. Think about the last

time your young daughter embarrassed you in public. A common instinctive reaction is anger.

Here's the key: Anger will disappear as soon as we decide we're going to forgive rather than retaliate. Retaliation is a decision; so is forgiveness. That driver who cut you off in traffic - what if you decided to say to yourself, "Well, that was a bad decision he made, but I'm not going to let him control my feelings and spoil my day?"

That boss who blows up and uses some demeaning words because you didn't get a project finished on time - what if you were to think to yourself, "OK, she's not perfect, but I'm not either...we'll get through this and talk it over when we both feel less stressed?"

This column is about parenting, so think about your six-year old who drops a jar of pickles when you're shopping at the market - what if you were to think to yourself, "I probably pulled that kind of stunt when I was a kid, too..." No retaliation, no anger. Forgiveness...it's a great way to start a new year!

Submit your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

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.

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