

—continued from page 8

autism, even individuals themselves, even the professionals and experts we turn to for answers.

The word “can’t” often echoes through the earliest days of a diagnosis, through sleepless nights of grieving the life a parent once imagined. It lurks in doctor’s offices, in school meetings, in every low expectation handed down from a place of misplaced protection.

It’s not just that you had a microphone, Secretary Kennedy — it’s that you hold a position of power.

And that’s what terrifies us.

Because if your mindset reflects a lowered bar of expectation, we worry not only about the words you spoke, but about the decisions you will make. We worry about the support you might limit, the programs you might undervalue, the opportunities you might never even consider — simply because you can’t see the worth that we have fought so hard to prove.

If these words are what you believe to be true, how can we trust that you will be the one to keep raising the bar, building opportunities, and empowering every individual to be seen for all that they are capable of?

You had one shot to acknowledge the growing crisis — the rise in diagnoses without enough answers — and instead, you deepened the fears and chaos because of how narrowly you view those with autism.

I do believe we need a war — not a war against autism or disability itself, but a war for better support, more resources, greater understanding, and stronger opportunities.

We need leaders who are willing to fight for what families, individuals, and communities need — not fuel outdated fears that set us back.

You broadcast a narrative that too many have fought — and are still fighting — to dismantle.

As a sibling to a brother with a disability, I have lived this story. I spent years feeling the sting when people could only see what my brother couldn’t do, instead of seeing — and celebrating — everything he could.

They dismissed his value because they mistook hard parts of our life for suffering.

They offered pity when what we needed was strength and support.

They lowered expectations instead of lifting potential and creating opportunities.

The real danger, Secretary Kennedy, isn’t just in your words — it’s in the seeds they plant.

When a young mother, just beginning her journey with her newly diagnosed child, hears what you said, she may carry your narrative of fear into her future.

When a third-year teacher with a student with autism in her class hears it, she may unconsciously lower the bar instead of raising it, missing the brilliance sitting right in front of her.

Forgive me for being blunt, but it is your generation’s mindset that built the walls we are still tearing down. When you grew up, individuals with disabilities were isolated, segregated, hidden away — not because they lacked value, but because the world failed to see it.

Today, we know better. We expect more.

And we fight like hell to prove every day that the old narrative was wrong.

Not because we figured it all out — but because we listened better, we believed harder, and we refused to let “can’t” be the last word.



NEWS FROM

BOLING CHAPEL

By Elizabeth Harris
Phone 270-233-4318

I made a run last Sunday early to the ER by ambulance. I had a nose bleed because my blood pressure went too high and caused an artery to rupture. I have had a very bad week. I want to Thank everyone for their Prayers & Calls.

Easter guests and Birthday Celebration for Debbie Baker & Lisa Boling on Saturday at Ricky & Debbie Baker’s were Mitchell & Kelly Drury & Lainey, Mark & Lisa Boling, Carlton & Elizabeth Harris, Ben Baker, and Gracey Zuelly.

Janet Burk spent Monday & Tuesday night with Peggy Barringer in Louisville. She also visited with Tim & Debbie Johnson & A’lonni Russ on Wednesday.

Debbie Johnson, Janet Burk, Diann Livingston & Peggy Barringer met Christina Barringer at the crash site of Austin Barringer on Tuesday.

Mr. & Mrs. David Quisenberry, Mr. & Mrs. Casey Quisenberry & family were Easter Sunday dinner guests of Carolyn Boling.

Steve & Sherry Corley visited his mother, Aileen

Corley, at Cloverport Saturday last week.

Mark & Lisa Boling spent Friday with Mitchell & Kelly Drury, Lainey, Bear & Bo.

Easter Sunday guests of James & Courtlyn Schepers & Ryatt were Jason & Andrea Beville, Dakota & Ashley Beville & Sophie, Bill & Sandy Richards, Sherry & Steve Corley, Evan & Rosa Gogel & Samuel, and Justin & Cierra Hamilton, Cambree & River.

Easter Sunday guests of Rickey & NaDean Boling were Clint & Megan Boling, Zack & Bailey Payne, Zayne & Rebecca Boling & Leyton, Jade & Gunner Hamilton, Shanda Boling, Colton & Hanson White, Cindy Thorp, and Peachie Edge.

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bailey, Parker & Preston spent Friday until Monday with Gary & Cassey Baker & Ryleigh. They live in Louisiana.

Sunday Guests of Mr. & Mrs. Travis Fentress were Gary & Cassey Baker & Ryleigh, Ben Baker, Gracey Zuelly, and Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bailey, Parker & Preston.

Ray & Teresia Harris

had Easter dinner out Sunday with Paulette Paxton in Hartford.

Roger Boling, Donnie Taylor & Ray Harris visited Rickey Boling last week.

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bailey, Parker & Preston, and Mr. & Mrs. Gary Baker & Ryleigh visited with L. Cronin & Tracey Hubert Sunday at Tell City.

Easter Sunday guests at Bobby & Peggy Jackson’s were Wendy & Debbie Jackson, David & Kaili Jackson, John & Alisa Hagan, Ethen & Kelly Hagan, Aaron & Kirstie Hagan, Willow, Reed & Oliver, and Greg & Lydia Jackson, Nicholas, Brennan & new baby, Charlotte Rose (2 wks. old).

Last week visitors of Carlton & Elizabeth Harris were Sandy Richards, Ben Baker, Lisa Boling, Debbie Baker, Gary & Cassey Baker & Ryleigh, and Parker Bailey.

David Jackson & Kaili were Tuesday supper guests of Bobby & Peggy Jackson.

Billie Edge, Barbara Johnson, Kylie Johnson, and Dusty & Alicia Johnson & Natalie were Saturday guests of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson, Landon, Avery & Waylon in Henderson.

Janet Burk visited Billie Edge Wednesday.

Derek Harris visited Ray & Teresia Harris Sunday.

who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices ... You fill me with joy in your presence” (Psalm 4:7, 5:11, 16:9, 11, NIV).

Listed prominently among the fruit of the Spirit is joy. Paul also writes, “rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice” (Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:4 NASB). Note the word “always.” This includes the troubling seasons of our lives, as well as the favorable.

It is, in fact, during times of difficulty that we should dig deep and do our best to muster up an attitude of jubilation and delight. As Scripture says, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4 NASB). As one dear saint wisely declared, “I could have done without many pleasures, but could not have spared one sorrow that God allowed to come into my life!”

Author Leo Buscaglia recalls this memorable account of a “misery dinner.” It was the night

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

extension.ca.uky.edu
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Hagman
Hancock County
Extension Agent

Rabbit Club

The next Rabbit Club meeting is TODAY at the Fairgrounds. The meeting will start at 5:00 pm and bring your rabbits! The next meeting will be Thursday, May 8th at the Fairgrounds.

Shooting Sports

Shooting Sports is starting! There will be a registration, rules, meet the coaches and a safety orientation Monday, April 28th. The meeting will begin at 5:30 at the Development Complex.

Shotgun and .22 will start range practices Monday, May 5th and continue the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Rifle will start at 5:00 pm and Shotgun at 6:00 pm. Range practices are held at the Hancock Game and Fish Club.

County Extension

Council

The spring County Extension Council meeting is Tuesday, April 29th at the Development Complex. Members should watch for their invite and RSVP details.

Homeschool Club

The next Homeschool Club meeting is Tuesday, May 6th at 1:30 pm.

Camp Fundraiser

The 4-H Council is sponsoring its first ever online Dessert Auction! 4-H would love to have your dessert donations brought to the office on Thursday, May 1st by 3:00 pm. They will be photographed and uploaded to the Hancock County 4-H Facebook page. Online bidding will be from 5:00-7:00 pm. At 7:00 pm, the highest bidder will win that dessert. The dessert will be available for

pick up at the Extension Office Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

If you would like to donate a dessert or a gift certificate to a dessert place, please contact me at 270-927-6618 or email lhagman@uky.edu. We would love to have the community support to help send our local youth to summer camp!

Camp Dates

We are working hard planning summer camp! We will camp July 8th-11th at West Ky 4-H Camp in Dawson Springs. We are working hard to develop more fundraisers for camp scholarships! Camp registration opens soon. Deposits will be due with the Reservation Form. Information was sent home with all 3rd-5th graders and is available in the Middle School Office. Forms can also be mailed and emailed!

Any adult attending camp is free and receives a discount for 1 camper. Please contact me if you are interested in going to Camp! All volunteers must complete the Client Protection Screening process.

The Invisible American

By RobRoy Herzog



Easter

As I pound these keys it is Easter Monday and a reminder of how different Australia is from the USA. Although both countries’ culture is derived from Great Britain some cultural aspects have strayed apart, greatly. Australia still has a more profound respect for the Easter holiday than is evidenced in the USA and like most of the former British colonies has always held Good Friday and Easter Monday to be public holidays. So anyone looking for a loaf of bread or bottle of milk on either of those two days might have to search diligently. Most stores simply do not open. Traditionally small corner stores, IGAs, 7 11s, etc, are open as this gives them a day in which to trade without being overshadowed by the large chain stores. But whereas that was once a legal exception granted to them it is now more a matter of large stores not wanting to pay holiday wages, higher on public holidays, thanks to a healthy union movement.

Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday is nominally business as usual but few workers need report for work around the country. Traditionally this last weekend of near summer weather is to the advantage of people wanting one

last good weekend at the coast, back home with parents or grandparents, etc before the onslaught of winter. Airports, train stations, bus depots are clogged with passengers and our highways are almost parking lots for a time Thursday evening and almost as bad on the evening of Easter Monday. So wise motorists ensure they have plenty of petrol and are stocked up with patience. I took my family to a tropical beach resort only once for Easter. A well meaning friend gave my kids chocolate Easter eggs before we set out. Being tropical it was still very warm to hot weather and when we arrived at the beach kids and car seats were horribly besmeared with melted chocolate.

When my daughter was doing volunteer work at a museum in Louisville she was surprised to learn that Americans got Easter Sunday off, mostly, but otherwise ignored the Easter holiday. The Great God Money demands commerce continue.

With a low depression whipping up the seas officials were issuing warnings to people to stay out of the ocean along the coast of New South Wales and Victoria. But we have had a record number

of drownings this year despite the warnings. Common Sense is as Uncommon here as it is everywhere else so our news reports are filled with reports of drownings and boat accidents. Rock fishermen in particular are being swept off their rocks by errant waves. A father son pair drowned after being hit by a freak wave, neither wearing a life jacket. So many people just do not listen until they hear harps being played.

This year the weather played the last card over much of Australia. The seemingly unending rain up in Queensland has in fact ended, aside from the normal occasional showers that are an unavoidable part of tropical living. Many areas have had record breaking rain and flooding. Some record the highest falls in 20 years or more. Meanwhile down here it has been rather dry and summery. I had planned to cook a couple of hams, some steaks, chicken pieces and spuds over charcoal with hickory chips providing a touch of extra smoky flavor. As luck would have it about the time I would have fired up the barbecue the weather changed with cool winds forecasting rain to come. So my Easter dinner has been electrified.

Pity. I was looking forward to the aroma of hickory smoke. Might have to fire it up tomorrow, weather permitting. I’ll have plenty of ham left over and potatoes are great barbecued. But even if I have to barbecue corn flakes I’m going to do it. I hope your Easter went well. rrrherzog@bigpond.net.au



WORDS TO LIVE BY

James Todd Gaddis

Where’s the Joy?

Wendy’s launched an advertising campaign in 1984 featuring 81-year-old Clara Peller. Upon being served a small hamburger patty on a large bun, this elderly manicurist/beautician asks, “Where’s the beef?” These commercials became a cultural sensation, with Wendy’s annual revenue increasing by 31%.

Forty years later, one wonders, “Where’s the joy?” Has there ever been a time when we’ve had more, yet are enjoying it less? Such a question should be considered by the Christian community specifically. Christ gave His life in order that our sins would be forgiven. As a result, the Holy Spirit lives in us. Yet, all too often, we’re missing out on the abundant life that could be ours.

I have in my sermon illustration a file a survey that includes several factors that attract unsaved people to our churches. Number one on the list is “joy demonstrated in

the lives of Christians in every area.” People are hungry for something that only a relationship with Jesus and a connection with a community of believers can provide.

The Old Testament book of Nehemiah tells of the wall around Jerusalem being rebuilt in 52 days. Upon completion of the project, a dedication service was held featuring, among other things, a reading of the law. When the people present heard the words spoken by Ezra the priest, they wept. At that point, Nehemiah said, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep ... Go, send portions to him who has nothing prepared ... Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:9,10 NASB). Despite their humble state of conviction, this was to be a time of celebration.

David writes, “You have filled my heart with greater joy than when grain and new wine abound. But let all

THE BOOK MARK



Debra Gaynor

Title: The Summer of You and Me

Author: Denise Hunter

Maggie Reynold’s has spent the last five years grieving for her deceased husband Ethan. She believes she is ready to move on. Maggie is a teacher; she plans to spend the summer in Seabrook, NC along with her four-year-old daughter Zoey. While she and Zoey are visiting a carnival, she sees someone that looks like her deceased husband. She contacted Josh, her best friend and brother-in-law. Josh has loved Maggie from the day he first met her. But his older brother won Maggie’s hand. Josh’s feelings for Maggie have destroyed all his relationships including his marriage.

He rushed to her side to attempt to figure out who she saw.

Maggie has feelings for Josh, but she feels guilty because he is her former brother-in-law. She feels like she is betraying Ethan. She doesn’t want to get hurt.

It is so obvious that Maggie and Josh love each other. I enjoyed watching their feeling grow and how they overcome obstacles standing in their way. Maggie and Josh work well together. They uncover several secrets as they search for the identity of the person she saw at the carnival.

The characters in this book are mostly interesting and likeable. Zoey is sweet. Josh’s parents were loving and supportive. However, Maggie’s mother is horrible. Author Denise Hunter demonstrates the importance of good family dynamics, the need for closure, the need to heal. This tale demonstrates Christian values.