



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Dale & Nora Oliver

They met while working at Toyota and were married in 1990. Now have three grown children, Timothy, Amanda and Kaitlyn.

Dale grew up in Hancock County in Western KY, Nora is a Georgetown native. She “grew up in church” – Georgetown Baptist—and was baptized on Mother's Day, May 12, 1968, after being saved at the age of 8 years.

Although Dale also attended church all his life, he wasn't saved until 2016, during a revival service at Bluegrass Baptist Church. Jason and Jessica Noto invited them.

Nora comments: “We knew the first Sunday we visited here it was home!” Dale serves on the security team and Nora is active in the 4 & 5 year old Sunday School classroom.



Katie Bailey

Katie was born and raised in Georgetown. Her husband, Chris, was born in Alaska and grew up in Maryland. He moved to Georgetown in 2010. The story of their meeting is hilarious! In Katie's words, “We met at a restaurant on a Sunday after church. Chris was our server – the worst ever! We waited 40 minutes for drinks and were planning to leave. But I thought he was cute. However horrible his service was, it was worth waiting around.”



Lunch took two and a half-hours!
We married three years later.”

Katie was saved at Harvest Baptist Church when she was about seven years old. Chris is unsure of his salvation. The couple now have two children, Cannon (10) and Kenna (6). Chris is an HVAC journeyman and Katie is a Treatment Coordinator for an orthodontist. She loves coming to Bluegrass. “Pastor Kyle makes me laugh almost every Sunday! His messages are never boring and I always learn and take something away to apply to my life.”

Brian & Marie Billings

They are both from upstate New York and met at a stable where Brian worked and Marie was taking riding lessons. They were married on July 4, 1966.

Brian began a 35 year career as a horse trainer. Following her graduation from a business school, Marie was employed by a gas and electric utility company. The couple owned a stable in New York before moving to Paducah, KY, in 2002, then moved to Wisconsin before returning to Paducah and then relocating to Georgetown. For the past 18 years Brian has driven semi trucks moving horses all over the USA and Canada, and also works in farm maintenance.



They were saved at different times but decided to be baptized together in 2005 at First Baptist Church in Paducah. After their move to Georgetown they chose BBC because “it feels like home—the sermons are wonderful and the people are so kind and welcoming!”

PERSPECTIVE

RELIGION KILLS: THE LESSON OF CAIN

By Pastor Kyle Fannin

(This article is condensed from a 34-part series preached several years ago, "Little Known People, Well Known Problems". Extracts will appear either as articles on our web page, or where appropriate, as a newsletter Perspective).

Most people know the story of Cain and Abel — the world's first murder. But the deeper lesson buried in Genesis 4 isn't about jealousy or violence. It's about the danger of religion itself.

Cain was no atheist. He was a conscientious, religious man — arguably more eager than his brother, since he approached God first. He knew there was a God. He knew sin offended Him. He knew an offering was required. By all outward appearances, he was doing the right thing. And yet God rejected him entirely.

The difference between Cain and Abel wasn't effort or sincerity. It was the nature of what each man brought.

Abel brought a lamb. He built an altar, laid his kindling, and with his own hands took the life of an innocent animal and offered it to God. It was a bloody, brutal, costly act of worship — because sin is a bloody, brutal, costly thing. He stood before God as a guilty man who needed atonement he couldn't provide for himself.

Cain brought the fruit of his own labor. And he likely brought his *best* — not some hasty, careless offering, but the finest of his harvest, beautifully arranged. God rejected it anyway.

Why? Because Cain was, in essence, saying: *My effort is enough. My best is sufficient. I'll come to God my way.*

What makes this striking is that Cain *could* have done it right. He could have gone to his brother, the keeper of the sheep, and obtained a proper sacrifice. But that would have required humility — acknowledging that his own works fell short and that he needed something outside himself. He refused. And in doing so, he chose his own fate.

When God confronted him, Cain didn't repent. He murdered the one whose righteousness exposed his own unrighteousness. As 1 John 3:12 puts it, he killed Abel precisely *because* Abel's works were righteous and his own were evil.

Jude 11 warns against walking "in the way of Cain," and that warning is just as urgent today. Every false religion ever devised follows the same basic blueprint: human effort presented to God as sufficient. Whether it is moral living, religious ritual, family heritage, church membership, or personal sincerity — the way of Cain is the belief that we can earn our way to God.

The verdict of Scripture is unambiguous on this point: *"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin"* (Hebrews 9:22). God doesn't accept our best efforts. He accepts the shed blood of an innocent sacrifice — ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

There are only two ways to approach God: through the cross, or through the way of Cain. One leads to reconciliation; the other leads to the same despair Cain voiced when he said, *"My punishment is greater than I can bear."* He wanted God's blessing without God's terms.

Don't make that mistake. Salvation isn't found in your righteousness, your parents' faith, or your religious affiliation. It is found in trusting Christ's death as atonement for your sin and His resurrection as the ground of your new life.

The way of Cain is as old as human sin — and just as deadly.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Blitz Blesses the Bluegrass Again!

Another big turnout for our April Gospel Blitz saw 2,400 door hangers distributed in Georgetown and North Lexington. Here they are, young and old, praying before going out. Mark your calendar for the next Blitz on May 2.

Farewell to Faithful Friends



Mark and Debbie Woods began faithfully attending our church from the very first meeting over 17 years ago. Mark was our treasurer for all those years, a trusted friend who, with Debbie, was always available to help wherever needed. Now they're moving to Eastern Kentucky where they will be close to their grandchildren, no doubt rocking some to sleep in the porch chairs we presented to them (each chair has a plaque attached marking the occasion). They will be greatly missed, and not forgotten.

Modular Building Makes Way for New Construction



Going....



Going...



Gone!

Golfers Got Game!

It wasn't quite up to PGA standards, but golfers had a lot of fun chasing around a little white ball in the great outdoors on a beautiful Monday evening at the end of April. Longview Golf Course was the venue for three teams made up of guys of all ages—some of whom had never before held a golf club. Nobody was injured, although Team 1 did score an eagle (the eagle survived?) and Team 2 finished with the best score. A second match may be planned later in the year to give Team 3 the opportunity to earn some sort of commendation.



ENCOUNTERS:

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

*Here we share anecdotes from church members, telling their experiences as Christians living in a world that is indifferent to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **Gary Wilt** tells the story of his encounter with Jesus Christ after a long and winding road led him at last to an understanding of his need for a personal relationship with the Savior of his soul.*

I was born 77 years ago in the Appalachian region of West Virginia. Our family was so poor that when my father left us my mother had to send her four sons to live with different family members because she could not support us. By the grace of God my grandmother took me in as an infant until I was 7 years old. She was a wise, godly woman who loved me and cared for me as her own child. She taught me about Jesus and faithfully took me to church. Her home was located in an impoverished area where moonshining was a prevalent way of life, and I began attending a one-room school house there.

When my mother remarried, she and my step father took me to live with them on their dairy farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where I worked until I was old enough to leave home. I joined the Marine Corps in 1972 and later was blessed to get a government job in Alexandria, Virginia. The spiritual foundation laid by my grandmother had left an inner desire to find peace with God, but the way eluded me until a co-worker explained how I could be saved. I received Christ as my Savior and then joined a Bible study group taught by a Navy chaplain. There I met people who invited me to a good Baptist Church where I was baptized and attended a Bible Institute for two years.

During that time I met Nona, who was in the process of graduating from Tennessee Temple University with a degree in Elementary Education. We were married after her graduation and Nona accepted a job at Fairfax Baptist Temple Christian School in Northern Virginia—the same school where our first child, Jessica (named after my dear grandmother), would eventually teach. It was at that church where she met and married Kyle Fannin.

A few years later Kyle and Jessica planted Bluegrass Baptist Church in Georgetown, Kentucky. We followed them here after our retirement. Now after almost 48 years of marriage, three children, Jessica, Andrew, and Samuel, and ten grandchildren, we are still happily serving the Lord. On a Sunday morning you will find me in the church kitchen serving coffee, and singing Gospel Bluegrass songs at every men's prayer breakfast, me with my guitar and Mark Byrum picking on his banjo.

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*In this section we answer questions about Bible doctrines or texts or Church life or Christian life in general. If you have a question that you think may prompt an answer helpful to yourself and to the church family in general, please let us know. This month **Joe Rincon** answers the question: **Is it Wrong to Question God?***

Questions are a normal part of life. We all seek to ask questions and understand life more deeply because we don't know everything. But is it wrong to question the Almighty Creator of the universe?

In short, the question might be better phrased: Is there a right way and a wrong way to question God? Scripture shows time after time that God's people came to Him with questions, desiring to understand how He was working.

In Psalm 22, David begins by crying out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (This is the same phrase Jesus quoted while being crucified.) In this passage, David is experiencing deep turmoil and is asking where God is in the midst of his trials.

This Psalm paints a wonderful picture of David's trust in the midst of his questioning. While he laments his circumstances and asks where God is, he never loses sight of *who* God is.

David encourages himself with the reality of God's presence and sustaining power throughout his life (vv. 9-10), inwardly affirming that God is his true strength (v. 19).

Towards the end of the Psalm, David boldly states, “I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee” (v. 22).

This is a beautiful example of how, despite his honest questions, David never loses his trust in God.

In Luke 1, we see the contrasting responses of Zacharias and Mary to the message of the angel Gabriel. Zacharias questions how he will have a child, seeing as both he and his wife are of old age. This seems like a legitimate question; however, Zacharias asks it with a spirit of unbelief. This is revealed in Luke 1:20 when Gabriel takes away his ability to speak, saying, “because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.” Contrast that with Mary’s response when confronted with the angel’s news. She asks, “How shall this be?” But her question is rooted in trust in God’s plan, not disbelief. It stems from a genuine desire to know how God will bring such a miracle about.

We can see, then, that one can question with a spirit of trust or distrust—with belief or unbelief. Often, our tendency as fleshly human beings is for our questions to devolve into doubts. Just as in the Garden of Eden, we can be tempted to doubt that God is giving us His very best. We question God’s motives in allowing certain things into our lives while withholding others.

It is critical to understand that God *does* welcome our questions about how He works in our lives, but those questions must never turn into doubts. To doubt something is to display a lack of confidence or trust; to doubt God is to question His sovereignty and His goodness. At our core, we must always believe that God’s will and intent toward us is only and always good.

In summary, we can bring our honest questions before God. He is not insulted or displeased by them. But we must ask our questions with the right heart attitude—an attitude of peace and submission to what God chooses for our lives. The attitude of “nevertheless not my will but thine be done”.

Ultimately, it is our heart's intention that determines whether our questions are right or wrong.