

## We need a 'Good Samaritan' now more than ever

I have been thinking quite a lot on what it means to be human these days. I had a realization that what we say when we say what being human is, is not really connected to how humans really act. Generally, I like to think that when we say "being human" we are taking the higher road and use the phrase to indicate a higher level of thinking, a higher level of compassion, just being better than other life forms. But if you really think about it, being human is a lot uglier than the idealized version of humanity that has been passed around for generations.

Being human covers a lot of ground. In the Bible the character of the Good Samaritan is presented to us as an ideal role model, and he is. But when we look at all the characters in the story, we see that none of the other humans in the story are being the kind of human we would like to emulate. The Good Samaritan was alone, he wasn't just the minority of the peo-



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

ple in the story, he stood out alone from the rest. In reality all the others in the story were indeed being human. The innkeeper didn't even offer the Good Samaritan a discount.

Today, in the current mess we call the world in which we live, it is shocking to me how we treat immigrants. Despite the FBI statistics that show that most immigrants are not criminals and that immigrant populations commit far fewer crimes than does the general US population, there is a continuing argument that immigrants are the agents of organized crime. Over the past few months, the federal policy toward

legal immigrants and legal immigration has made the process considerably more difficult. Indeed, the rules have been completely changed in the middle of the process for every single legal immigrant in the United States that was nearing completing of the years long process for obtaining a green card. Now our government wants them to go back to their country of origin and re-file for a green card. A process that under the rules they started with can take eight or 10 years to complete if you are in the United States. Going

back to their country of origin effectively boots them out of the US and significantly reduces their ability to ever receive a green card. How human is that?

We aren't being very Good Samaritan like.

I like many other people of my age grew up being taught that America was the great melting pot where people from different countries, different races, different religions had come together to form the greatest country in the world. Now it seems we are a boiling pot of rage and hatred. We are showing what humans

are really like when they are at their worst.

One the most laughable arguments presented by those who despise immigrants is they come here illegally to take American jobs. I wonder how many Americans were standing in line for those chicken chasing jobs before those illegal immigrants showed up.

I talk to business operators regularly. They tell me all the time their biggest problem is finding people to work. Particularly in the service industry is it a huge problem finding good employees, which is why immigrants used

to want to come here because they could find employment. But then our politicians and many of our voters collectively lost their minds and decided we didn't want immigrants. They criminalized them for doing the same thing our ancestors did, coming to America looking for a better life.

So, what does all of this tell us about being human? To me it pulls back the cloak of reality and we are seeing people for what they really are, fearful, hateful and selfish. We need a Good Samaritan now more than ever.

## Come together and sing along with others

I really don't know where I'd be if it weren't for the work of Vicki Madison and Elaine Shurley. Their music programs gave me an outlet and a purpose. As a struggling student, this was one place where I could be successful at school.

I recently saw a music teacher explaining the importance of music education and singing in particular. She explained that singing activates the same area of your brain that is engaged when you are in the buff. No wonder singing makes people feel so vulner-



By Emily Morrison

able. Once you have dressed up in a homemade stuffed broken heart costume while singing and dancing the "Achy Breaky Heart" as a middle schooler, you have developed a special

form of tolerance and endurance that can't be found anywhere else. It takes quite a bit to embarrass me as an adult.

The music teacher also spoke to how music activates every part of the brain. If we want to be alert and vibrant. If we want to thrive, we need music. It powers us. It feeds our minds as well as our souls. For this reason I decided that my students at Summer Learning Academy should sing every morning during announcements. That's right, we sing, first thing. It feels so good to see those

bright smiling faces.

With Flag Day just around the corner, we have been learning, "You're A Grand Old Flag." Our summer school theme this year celebrates the 250th Anniversary of our country. We are learning a new patriotic song each week.

Everyone needs a place where they belong. Even if you aren't a singer, sing-a-longs give you an opportunity to join a community. I'm forever thankful for the opportunity to belong in song with others.



## Gas tax reduction isn't the real problem

Tuesday Gov. Andy Beshear extended his executive order for reducing the state gas tax in Kentucky communities where cities and counties had requested the extension. The price of gas will rise 10 cents a gallon in cities and counties that did not make the request for the extension of the lowering of the gas tax.

Some elected officials have blasted the governor for temporarily lowering the state's tax on fuel. It is their position that the state needs the gas tax to keep the roads paved. We sure do because it looks like over weight vehicles are continually battering our highways and interstates.

It is easier to play politics than to look for solutions. Currently the state is in the best financial health it has been in years. A temporary lowering of the tax will not significantly impact the state's financial health. Not finding ways to make sure everyone pays their fair share of road cost does.

What we should be doing is determining what affects our highway system's health the most, big trucks or passenger vehicles.

## The man who told me a story that mattered

Many of us churchgoers have attended Sunday services since our mothers could trust us to sit in a pew without slithering to the floor and commando crawling to the front of the church to swipe the crackers on the communion table.

I am a pew-sitter from way back when. I have heard my fair share of sermons and have, as it turns out, forgotten most of them. But I have hung onto a few over the years. In particular, I remember a beautiful illustration told by a fill-in preacher at our church many years ago.

In his story, a crew of sailors, stationed on a ship at sea, went ashore one day on leave. Some of those sailors went to a local beach and spent the day playing in the



**Tales of Grace**  
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

ocean. They swam and frolicked in the water near the shore. All except one lone sailor who was there with them but didn't venture into the water. His fellow crewmen assumed he couldn't swim.

Days later, while the ship was anchored in deep water, that sailor climbed to a high point on the ship and dove

skillfully and beautifully into the ocean. When the sailor surfaced and climbed aboard the ship again, his peers circled him and applauded his performance.

Upon discovering that, before his time in the Navy, the sailor had been a champion diver, one of the men asked him why he hadn't joined them the day they had gone swimming at the beach. After a thoughtful pause, the sailor smiled and said that when a man has learned to dive in deep water, he has no desire to play in the shallows again.

I'm sure you see the spiritual application. When Christians dive into the deep things of God, they have no desire to return to the shallow

places. Although this is a profound truth, I remember the story, after all these years, because of the man who told it.

With wisdom, humility, and an obvious devotion to the God he served, that old minister told us what he knew to be true. With the assurance he had gained from a lifetime of walking with Jesus, he spoke of diving into the deep places of God and finding abundant life there.

From where I stood in the shallows, I believed him. And when the deep water called to me, I walked into it. Partially, because he and so many like him had gone there first and made it look so very satisfying.

I hope someone sees me as I saw him.

## So many facts and stories from Orville to 747's

Well, I survived. To prove it I go Monday to get all those little stitches removed. Looking forward to it, and not. Now a weather comment. It is supposed to be not such a nice drive for me because of rain and storms. I guess we will see.

Last week I told you about Thomas Selfridge being the first person to die in a plane crash. It was in 1908 with Orville Wright as the pilot. Did he have a pilot's license? Well in answer to my own question, before 1926 you didn't need one to fly goods and people. Today you have to be 14 years old before you can take flying lessons (officially that is, I know of some that flew before that age), 16 years old to do a solo flight and 17 years old to be issued a pilot certificate. I do know of a kindergarten student, right here in Calvert City (no



**My Side of the Fence**  
By Mike Harrell

she didn't fly it) but was picked up by helicopter from her class. I think everyone in that class may remember that.

The FFA handles, on average, 44,360 flights a day. 30% of those are commercial flights. Over 3 million people fly every day in and out of U.S. airports. So, you would think the sky would be pretty full of planes. We have 5.3 million square miles of air space. As of the end of 2024, there were 125,425 commer-

cial airline pilots. I only have known one. Didn't get a discount. I didn't fly his airline.

Back to the Wright brothers and the Wright Flyer, it cost about \$1,000 to build. Those that know these things say it would cost about \$35,000 to build today. Plane tickets today can cost more than that first airplane.

One more thing that I didn't know (well, one of many) but I think is pretty neat. In 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts were allowed to bring something significant to them on this mission. Neil Armstrong had several pieces of the original 1903 Wright Flyer with him. After he returned from the moon he donated them to the Smithsonian.

King Kamehameha Day is this week. The strange thing is I know several people that their

first and probably only time to participate in this event was 1994, if memory serves me correctly. Yes we flew, but it was on a 747 airliner and the flight lasted a little longer than Orville's 12 second flight. Also its wingspan is longer than Orville's first flight.

Flag day is this week. Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue.

Birthday greetings are extended this week to Charlene Smith, Jameson Wells, Daniel Sills, Rita Aikins, Kathie Williams, Rita Cook, Lori Emerson and Angela Linsin. Celebrate your special day and yes, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary wishes go to Mr. & Mrs. Mike Spissinger, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Noles and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Colburn. Celebrate your special day.

Stay safe, stay well and as always, stay in touch.

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