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RELIGION



Integrity in daily living

Job 27: 2-5; 31:5-15, 24-28

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, a long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit.

I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny integrity.

"If I have walked in falsehood or my foot has hurried after deceit-let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless-if my steps have turned from the past if my heart has been led by my eyes, or if my hands have been defiled, then may others eat what I have sown, and may my crops be uprooted.

"If my heart has been enticed by a woman or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door, then may my wife grind another man's grain, and may other men sleep with her.

For that would have been shameful a sin to be judged. It is a fire that burns to Destruction; it would have uprooted my harvest.

"If I have denied justice to my menservants and maid-servants when they had a grievance against me, what will I do when God confronts me?

What will I answer when called to account?

Did not he who made me in the womb make them?

Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

"If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,'

If I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon moving in splendor, so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

Scientists and creationists square off over age of the Grand Canyon



By Adele M. Banks
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

Traditional scientists and Christian creationists have lined up on either side of a dispute over sales of a new book at Grand Canyon National Park that claims the canyon dates to the biblical flood of Genesis rather than millions of years ago.

The presidents of such organizations as the American Geological Institute and the American Institute of Biological Sciences have written or signed letters to the park's superintendent expressing concerns that the book's presence could leave visitors with the impression that it is endorsed by the National Park Service.

Answers in Genesis, a ministry whose president wrote an essay in the book, is urging its supporters to ask

park service officials to permit "Grand Canyon: A Different View" to remain on the shelves of the park's three bookstores.

The debate has reached the point that a Washington policy office of the National Park Service is considering how to handle the matter, officials said. "They sent the book in here and we're looking at it with our attorneys to try to get a policy statement out," said David Barna, spokesman for the National Park Service. "It's not so much about this book as it is about what we do with the other views of the way geologic features in parks were created."

The difference between the views of some groups is—literally—millions of years apart. "The Grand Canyon was formed millions of years ago," said William Ausich, president of the Pale-

ontological Society, who signed a letter along with presidents of six other scientific organizations. "It is the job of the National Park Service to present the best scientific information possible to the public and the book is complete pseudoscience."

Mark Looy, vice president of Answers in Genesis, said four staff members of his organization contributed essays to the book and believe the canyon is much newer. "The canyon was formed as a result of the aftereffects of Noah's flood, a worldwide global flood," he said. "Most of the canyon was formed by a lot of water over a relatively short period of time."

His organization, based in the Cincinnati suburb of Florence, Ky., has raised \$10.5 million toward the construction of a Creation Museum.

It's difficult for women to avoid temptations

BET.COM

In a world packed with promiscuity, materialism and all-out naughtiness, more and more young women are finding strength through spirituality.

Three years ago, Lori Joe was living a life like many other single 27-year-olds:† She'd party with girlfriends from around the way and date men she'd meet on the dance floor. Even though she grew up in the church and

was even teased for being a "PK" (Preacher's Kid), she had pulled away from her upbringing as she matured to where church was only in her life on Sundays. But one day in the church pews, she says, her conscience told her: "This is wrong."

"I always felt guilty while I was in service for sharing intimate relationships with men without being married," she explains. "Without a part-

ner in the picture, some of my close friends were having serious baby's mama drama, and I decided that I wanted to have a family, and deserved to be a wife... not just a girlfriend."

She devoted time to a new church, found new friends and made big changes in her two-year relationship. "I cut back on being physically intimate with him," and a couple of

See DIFFICULT/7B

Something's Kosher as food takes on mainstream identity

By Andrea Rouda
FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Growing up Jewish doesn't always mean growing up kosher.

That certainly was true for Jessica Nemeth of Northwest Washington, who grew up not following the kashrut — the dietary regulations of Judaism.

Today, though, Nemeth and her husband, David, have officially declared themselves

kosher. They made the decision 10 years ago, when they were starting their new life together and buying all new equipment for their kitchen. In that way they're like many young Jewish families who may not have grown up keeping kosher but today are finding it a way of embracing their faith.

"Keeping kosher is one of the most effective ways to keep Judaism present in my life every day," says Nemeth.

"It's my identity. It's also a way to teach ethics about food to my daughter; she should know not to just stuff random foods into her mouth."

It doesn't hurt that keeping kosher is a little easier now than years ago, when the choices of food were much more limited. Today, kosher foods have gone mainstream, and the industry has the numbers to prove it.

According to Kosher Today,

the official monthly trade publication of the kosher food industry, there are nearly 80,000 products certified as kosher on the nation's grocery shelves. Frito-Lay potato chips, Duncan Hines cake mixes, Nabisco Oreo cookies, Lipton soup mixes and Coca-Cola beverages are just a few.

That's a far cry from 1965, when Hebrew National was breaking into the mainstream market with its juicy hot dogs. "We answer to a

higher authority," the ads boasted.

These days even many non-Jews, especially vegetarians, choose kosher food because of allergies, lactose intolerance, or a belief that the foods are generally safer and healthier, or simply taste better.

But the kosher practice is growing most notably among young Jewish couples like the Nemeths.

Rabbi Ethan Seidel of the See KOSHER/7B

CHURCH NEWS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Diocese of Charlotte office for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is accepting grant applications for 2004-funding year. CCHD makes small grants from \$500 to \$5,000 to

organizations without regard to religious affiliation. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 14.

The CCHD Committee solicits programs and projects that:

1. Seek to affect the root

causes of poverty in the target community;

2. Involve genuine participation of the people served in the planning and decision making of the sponsoring organization

3. Indicate potential for

institutional change, empowerment for the people and community involved, and the development of local leadership

4. Conform to Catholic social teaching

For an application, contact

Terri Jarina, Diocesan Director, CCHD, and Office of Justice and Peace, 1123 South Church Street at (704) 370-3234 or hit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

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Make most of rapport with Jesus

One thing I have taken from the Bible and veteran Christians is being at peace with your Creator is primarily based on your personal relationship with Jesus.

But as of late I've found myself struggling with my personal relationship. I realized that I am just like many who claim to love Jesus. Not saying we don't love Jesus but I think it's very possible we don't have a clear understanding of who Jesus is because we haven't developed a personal relationship with Him.

About two weeks ago I said something to a person that really hurt their feelings. I didn't think my words were harsh until I replayed them in my head. Once I analyzed my words I realized that once again I had let the enemy use my mouth to assassinate another person. And now God had to heal another soul I murdered with my tongue.

Since the person I hurt was such a good friend I couldn't move on with my life oblivious of what I had done and I had to deal with the consequences of my actions.

So I replayed what I said and asked myself this question: "How in the world can I continue to say things like this if I really love Jesus?" In all truth my love had to be limited for my Savior and my personal relationship with Him had to be out of wack.

After looking at my actions of late I realized that I had a dysfunctional relationship with Jesus. I had a religious form of a person that loved Jesus but didn't have a healthy personal relationship with Him. I didn't do the things you do when you have a personal relationship with someone.

You can't have a personal relationship with someone you don't talk to for extensive amounts of time. Another thing I was guilty of is I wasn't listening to what Jesus was saying to me. After I hurt my friend's feelings I realized that Jesus had been telling me for a long time I had some nasty things in my heart that is causing me to cut people with my tongue. I simply refused to listen. And we all know that a relationship can't grow without listening to the thoughts and concerns of the other person.

The danger I was in and others get in is we go to church, Bible study, volunteer and say the things we know we should say. But in our hearts we are still harboring past hurts, grudges and all types of things that are hindering us from becoming closer to our personal Savior.

I have a better understanding now that Jesus is my personal Savior and He has some things that he wants to say just to me and there are some things I should do if I love Him.

Developing a personal relationship with Jesus is crucial. Because in the end it's not going to matter to Jesus what the world thinks of me or you. The only opinion that will count is His personal opinion of our relationships with Him.

