

Survey Reveals Satisfaction

A nation-wide study shows that nine out of ten persons who have arranged a funeral in recent years were very satisfied with the way funeral directors served them.

That was the underlying conclusion in the survey's findings released today in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by Central Surveys, Inc., who conducted the opinion study during the last two months on the public's attitudes toward funeral directors.

The survey also found that: — 95 per cent felt the funeral director did a good job of explaining the charges for services, facilities and merchandise available.

— Most people feel that funeral directors' charges are "in line" rather than "high" or "low."

— 97 per cent said the funeral director and his staff were helpful and considerate in all ways.

— Most people would call the same funeral director again.

— Only a very small minority had any unfavorable comments.

Respondents also agreed that funeral directors gave an adequate explanation of the services, facilities and merchandise they had available and 94 per cent said the funeral director did not attempt to pressure them into undesired or unnecessary expenses, services, facilities or merchandise.

The survey results substantiate what funeral directors and funeral director associations, both state and national, have been saying since the Federal Trade Commission started its inquiry into funeral practices, that the vast majority of Americans are well satisfied, both with their funeral directors and the services they offer.

Most respondents indicated that they selected their funeral director on the basis of the firm's reputation; secondly, because of personal acquaintance, and thirdly, because of convenience. Hardly anybody selected a funeral director because of his prices or advertising, according to the study.

Officials of the National Funeral Directors Association declared that this bears out their contention that the funeral is not just another commercial transaction as some federal government officials would have you believe, but that it is an experience of real value to the bereaved in which personal service and attention are extremely important.

The survey further reported that most people do not favor increased government regulation of funeral practices. And by the overwhelming margin of 12 to 1, respondents preferred state and local regulation of funeral practices rather than that of the federal government.

In this regard NFDA has maintained that complaints against funeral directors and funeral practices are not widespread and those relatively few that do exist can best be handled at the local and state levels where the consumer has maximum, convenient recourse.

The survey report is based on a nation-wide total of 1,005 personal interviews with adults who have made arrangements for a funeral service within the past ten years. All interviews were conducted by WATS line telephone from Central Surveys' general office in Shenandoah, Iowa under centralized control and supervision. A nation-wide cross section sample of residential telephone numbers was provided by the Marketing Information Center of the Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation.

The National Funeral Directors Association stated that it commissioned the survey to find out what the American public really thinks about funeral directors and the services they offer. And the best way to accomplish that was to query those who had arranged funerals in recent years, NFDA asserted.

It is NFDA's belief that funeral practices should reflect the actual needs, wants and desires of the American public, and not what certain governmental officials arbitrarily determine the public should have.



JUNE WEDDING — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harrell of Rt. 2, Hertford announce the engagement of their daughter, Linda Gail, to Jarvis L. Howell Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Howell Sr. of Suffolk, Va. Miss Harrell is a graduate of Campbell College. She is employed as the Learning Disabilities Teacher in St. Pauls, N.C. Mr. Howell is a 1975 graduate of Campbell College and is employed as an Extension Agent with VPI and SU in Richmond, Va. The wedding will take place on June 12 at the Hertford Baptist Church.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said: "We, too, born to freedom and believing in freedom, are willing to maintain freedom."

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For Your Information

Dear friends,

No man is an island. His death touches and affects his world of relatives, friends, and associates in a direct and important way. In arranging a funeral, it is well to consider the feelings of others who shared in or benefitted by the life of the deceased - for sorrow shared is sorrow diminished.

Respectfully,

Margaret Swindell
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Sunday School Lesson

FAITH FOR FAMILIES (Hebrews 11:1, 8-16)

An average of nearly one family out of five will move during this year. This fact is often lamented by many. Most of us do not like change. Perhaps it would be helpful to recognize that moving from one place to another is not all bad. Some of the most beautiful and most meaningful stories come to us from the Bible of people leaving one homeland for another. Ruth left her homeland to be with her mother-in-law Naomi. Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem and on to Egypt and back. The apostle Paul was constantly moving from one country to another.

Our lesson is about Abraham who went out not knowing where he was going. The concept of the Bible concerning God's people is that they are strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

It does not matter so much where we are as it matters what we are. What we need as families is a faith which anchors the soul no matter where the body may be located.

THE WITNESS OF FAITH (Hebrews 11:1)

What is faith? It is the testimony to the reality of that which we cannot see or feel. It is the proof, the evidence, the foundation, the substance of our confidence in Christ. Faith does not so much make things real as to hear witness of the already existing reality. Faith does not make God love us but it does open our eyes to that love which has existed before the world began.

Faith enables one to see the invisible, to know the unknowable, to experience that which cannot be experienced by the natural senses.

THE WORK OF FAITH (Hebrews, 11:8-12)

Faith caused Abraham to leave all and obey. He had nothing except the bare word of God. That's all he needed. God's word should be sufficient for any man. Abraham went out not knowing where he was going. What difference did it make? God had created all of the earth. God was guiding him and all that really mattered was to do what God said.

Faith enabled Abraham to be content to dwell in tents and move from place to place. It did the same for his children and grandchildren. His faith made him know that there was a permanent dwelling place beyond this life. How encouraging this is to all of us who lay claims to such faith.

Faith enabled Sara to bear a child when she was past the age of child bearing. Nothing is impossible with God. Faith makes it possible to lay hold on His promises.

THE WONDER OF FAITH

(Hebrews 11:13-16)

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and many others demonstrated what it meant to live by faith. They lived out their whole lives without ever really experiencing what God had held out to them. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises." They only saw them at a distance, but they believed that God would make them good. These serve a tremendous lesson to us. They possessed nothing more than the bare word of God, but that was sufficient to change the whole course of their lives! They worshiped, walked, built, and traveled at the command of God. They needed no other evidence. God had spoken. That was enough.

Perhaps it is time for all of us to take notice of our relationship to this world. Are we digging in too deep here in this world or are we also desiring a better country, a

heavenly one where God is not ashamed to be called our God: for He has prepared for us a city!

BIBLE QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
"How long after the death of Jesus before the Gospels were written?"

ANSWER:

Anywhere from approximately 25 to 30 years after the death of Jesus. The book of Mark was probably written around 65 A.D. The book of Matthew was probably written around 70 A.D. The book of Luke may have been written around 80 to 85 A.D. The book of John was probably written around 95 A.D.

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The Sunday School Lesson is sent in each week by Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Ky. and is written by Professor Earl Clark.



VOWS SPOKEN — Ms. Nancy P. Nixon and John W. Hobbs Jr. were married Friday, April 2 in Bethel Baptist Church. Ms. Nixon was given in marriage by her sons, Bryan and Jeff. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Lillian Parrish and the late Mr. Lloyd Parrish. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs Sr. of Rt. 1, Eartford.

Youth Revival Services Set

The New Hope United Methodist Church is having youth revival services this weekend with Wayne and Ruth West leading the worship. Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 9:55 a.m. Sunday.

The Wests are known in this area for their ministry. Both are musicians, sing and play the piano. They operate a coffee house called the Bread Box where they teach and counsel young people. They also have a center for needy boys called Manna House.

Wayne attended Mt. Olive College, Wake Forest University and University of North Carolina. He is a former school teacher and pastor. His current ministry is Bible teaching and music. Ruth attended Mt. Olive College and Eastern Carolina University. They are members of First United Methodist Church, Williamston, N.C.

TEMPLE SINAI Annual Fund Raising Project

The lovely tulips seen in bloom at the courthouse are available now for \$2.15 per dozen through the month of May. Color picture book at Geneva Sawyer's house.

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