

RELIGION

Hand fishing and bull riding

By VINCE HEFNER

Every once in a while I battle with sleeplessness. I get tired but when I try to go to sleep my eyes open wide and my mind begins to wander from one meaningless task to the next. Since I don't want to wake up my wife, I get up and turn on the television. You would be amazed at the variety of shows that are on at 2:00 a.m. to help you get to sleep! However, instead of watching shows that make me sleepy, I select programs that

make me question human sensibility.

Recently, I once again was awake at 2:00 a.m. and was in front of my television. The first show I watched was professional bull riding. I have done some unusual things in my life, and I have some dangerous hobbies (kayaking and bee keeping), but I have never had the desire to ride a bull, especially one that does not want to be ridden. As I watched these brave young men get tossed around in the air by these huge animals, I

asked myself, "Who made up the rules for bull riding?" The rules are you can only use one hand to hold on to the bull you toss the other hand in the air. If I had been on the "rules committee," I would have given permission to use both hands and your teeth to hold on to the bull. What about the seven seconds that is required to stay on the bull to make a successful ride? I believe any ride is successful if you can walk (or limp) away from the bull afterwards. I enjoy watching this sport on televi-

sion, but I don't believe I would ride a bull if I had the chance, but stay tuned.

The second sport that I was able to learn about on early morning television is "noodling," or hand fishing. I don't know who invented this sport, but he must have been financially broke, because you do not need a rod or reel, a worm or spinner to catch a catfish, just your fingers! That's what I said; you attract big catfish with your fingers. These brave souls go to river banks, and anywhere else

they believe a catfish is living, stick their fingers in his face so he will bite them, and then they hold on! Can you believe that sport is illegal in most states? How could you get caught for doing this? I can picture a game warden testifying before a judge against a "noodler." The game warden would say, "Your Honor, I found the defendant as he was walking out of the river holding a catfish by his tonsils, I believe he was noodling." The defendant would reply, "Your Honor, I

was swimming in the river when a big fish grabbed me by the hand, and as I was coming out of the river looking for help, the game warden arrested me!" Who is the judge to believe? I would like to see that case settled on "The People's Court!"

I don't know why people do the things that they do, but one thing is certain, we all have different tastes for fun. Even though the differences are many, all people have one thing in common; we all need the grace of God in our lives. Proverbs 3:3-6 tells us, "Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Regardless if you ride bulls for fun, fish with your fingers for supper, rob bees for honey to put on your biscuit, or watch television to occupy your time, kindness and truth can be used to honor God in your life. When we acknowledge God's presence in our lives, He will lead us in His way and purpose. Remember, don't give in to sin. Think about it!

Vince Hefner is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cherryville

BRIEFS

From 7B

a.m.-1 p.m. Call 739-6811 for more information.

The Kings Mountain Council of Church Women have begun planning their annual banquet scheduled for May 5.

Kings Mountain Baptist will host the banquet and provide the speaker. St. Matthew's Lutheran will be in charge of the invocation and benediction. Boyce Memorial ARP will handle decorations, programs and name tags. Central and Grace United Methodist churches will do tickets and reservations. First Presbyterian is in charge of publicity. Resurrection Lutheran hosted last year.

For more information, call Judy Crawford at 704-739-8031 during the day or 704-739-8387 at night or Shirley Brutko at 704-739-4755 during the day.

Festival

Water of Life Ministries, 2021 Compennium Road, Cherryville, gospel sing and festival April 9 at 12 p.m. Fourteen gospel groups will perform. Face painting, cake walk, food. Proceeds to floor and roof the church.

Fund raiser

Macedonia Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, Easter smoked dinner hams, Boston butts and ham shoulders, \$30. Call 739-6811 to place order. Pick up date is Saturday, March 26 between 8-10 a.m.

Grace United Methodist Church, 829 Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain, will have a country style breakfast Saturday, March 19 from 6:30-10 a.m. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 7-12. The public is invited. Call 739-6000 for more information.

The Herald welcomes your church news. The deadline is 12 noon Monday. Bring church news to the Herald at 824-1 E. King St., mail to The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, call 704 739-7496, fax 704 739-0611 or e-mail gstewart@kingsmountain-herald.com

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