## The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

### Having Children Is a Pleasure Best Left Until Later

Norm and Vera had many problems in their marriage. (All characters are fictitious.) They fought about money, sex, in-laws and how to raise the children. They never hit each other but they yelled a lot. Just as there were many problems, there were many causes.

One cause was a handicap that came early in their marriage. Vera voiced it one day in counseling, "Our first baby was born ten months after we were married. Then two more came along quickly. I think it would have been better if we could have had some time without the children. It seems as if we have always been parents, first and a couple, second."

Vera was right. A newly married couple needs time to get to know each other. This takes years, not months. Developing the closeness that will keep a marriage strong through the tough times does not happen quickly.

Sam and Diane had a similar problem. "We were already engaged when Diane got pregnant," Sam told me, "so we just moved up the wedding date. We had our first child after being married only five months. I wish we had waited."

Sam and Diane present a strong argument for sexual abstinence before marriage. Luckily they were already in love and engaged, but in any case "having to get married" because of pregnancy is not a good way to begin a married life together. This means that the baby will arrive shortly and the couple will have precious little time to build their own relationship. Cementing their bond as a couple takes a backseat to caring for a child.

Cliff and Myrtle illustrate a different scenario. "We talked about it before marriage and knew we didn't want to have children for a while," Myrtle explains. "We decided not to have sex before we got married, and, even afterward, we planned carefully to make sure that pregnancy would not happen."

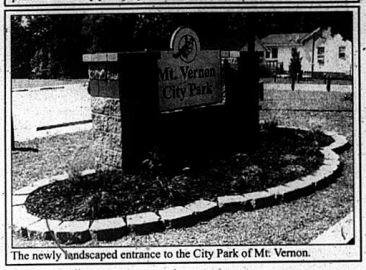
"This gave us a chance to get to know each other," Cliff continued. "We were both in school but we still had time to do things together. Weekends were our time to do whatever we wanted. One summer we drove clear across the country, just because we knew we would like that. We had a life together before we ever had children. I would recommend that to any young couple starting out."

After graduation from college and working for a few years, Cliff and Myrtle decided it was time to start a family. That took awhile, but finally their first child was born. "We had been married six years before we had children," Cliff said. "Those first six months of parenthood were hard on our relationship. The baby seemed to need constant attention, and both of us felt drained. I can't imagine going through that after having been married only six months."

Cliff reported that they had to endure some pressure from family when they produced no children after the first three years of marriage. Both sets of in-laws were anxious to be grandparents and made some not so subtle hints about the matter. Friends would kid them about "not knowing what to do," and Myrtle's aunt even suggested they were being selfish. "It wasn't always fun," Cliff reported, "but we didn't let the pressure get to us. I am glad now we waited."

Children are an incredible blessing. They also create a considerable amount of stress in a relationship. Careful planning can give a couple time to build a strong marriage before the stress of child-rearing comes along.

Jessie Murray of the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club helped Kathy McCauley in the beautification project by donating funds to purchase the stones and plants for the city park project.




The newly landscaped entrance to the City Park of Mt. Vernon.

# Task Force says thanks

If you are a regular walker at the city park in Mt. Vernon or if you take your children there to play or if maybe you picnic there on pleasant days, you will have noticed the great job Kathy McCauley has done on the landscaping in front of the park sign.

Kathy is an avid gardener with beautiful flower gardens in her yard. But after weeks of driving past those two dead trees flanking the park sign, she decided to take control and do something about it.

After talking to members of the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club and securing the money to buy the stones and plants, she worked nonstop for a couple of days and made a wonderful difference.

She planted several perennials-black eyed susans, candy tuff, daylillies and daises that will come back each year. She then replaced the dead trees with tall grasses and added an attractive stone border. She carefully finished the job with a layer of mulch and thus created a more inviting entrance to the park that is being used by so many local folks.

*The Rockcastle Development Task Force for Clean-Up and Beautification* would like to commend Kathy and her helpers, Gene Mink, Libby and Jim Earl Hammons and David McCauley, Jr.

The Task Force would also like to thank the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club for their contribution to this beautification effort, but especially Kathy for her vision and her willingness to use her talent to give back to her community in this way.

Kathy McCauley working in her community to make a difference.

*Photos by Martha Cox*

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## "What Saith the Scriptures"

The past few weeks we have been discussing the importance of taking things in context. Let's look at another example.

The idea and the word "pastor" is greatly misunderstood by many today. The general theory is that "the pastor" is the local preacher at a church, who can be a young man, a single man, a married man without children, or a married man with young children. But the way the word is used in the scriptures it refers to the office of a bishop or elder. In Acts 20:11&28 we read, "*And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. . . . Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*" [see also I Pet.5:1-3] Notice Paul is talking to the elders. They are overseers or bishops. They "feed" or pastor the flock of God. Thus the pastors are the bishops who are the elders. Now there are qualifications for those who serve in this capacity, as we read in I Tim.3: 1-7 and in Tit.1:5-9. A pastor or bishop or elder among other things is to be married, having children, having children old enough to be believers. And one more quick point, there are to a plurality of elders or pastors, or bishops in a local church, not just ONE. So we can see how important context is in determining what is right.

Providence church of Christ
Dan McKibben-758-9316 · E-mail: Dan.McKibben@Juno.com
Web Site: www.*WhatSaithTheScriptures.com*
Time of Services: **Sunday** 10am Bible Study, Worship 10:40 & 7:00pm; **Wednesday** 7:30pm Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM

*Absolute Estate*

# Auction

*of the late Mrs. Tennessee Northern's*

**House and 65 Acres More or Less in Two Tracts**
**Personal Property**

**Saturday, July 6th • 1:00 p.m.**

***Maple Grove Ridge Road • Orlando section of Rockcastle County***

LOCATION: Turn off Highway 25 South onto Highway 1004 at Burr (near I-75 exit 59). Follow 1004 past Jean's Restaurant approximately 2 miles to Maple Grove Ridge Road. Proceed on Maple Grove Ridge Road approx. 1 1/2 miles to the auction site. Auction signs are posted.

In order to settle the estate, the Northern heirs have authorized our firm to sell this property for the absolute high dollar.

Tract 1: Contains 2 acres more or less and is improved with the above pictured home. This vinyl siding home has living room, kitchen/dining combination, 2 bedrooms, a bath and a utility room. It also has city water and central heat and air.

Tract 2: Contains 63 acres more or less and is being sold by the boundary. There are approximately 6 acres of cleared land with the balance in woods.

This farm will be offered in tracts and as a whole selling in the manner which reflects the best returns for the seller.

PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT WILL BE SELLING INCLUDES: hutch • buffet • dresser • chest • night stand • iron bed • washer • dryer

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Don't miss this opportunity to purchase a home with a little elbow room or a large tract of land at your own price. Remember, this is an absolute auction and the last bid will buy.

TERMS: Real Estate: 20% down day of sale, balance in 30 days
Personal Property: Payment in full day of sale.

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

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