

## News & Notes

Sunday, December 23, 2007

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Francis Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Francis Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; David Lipe; Michael Lumkins; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kelly Parker; Ann Ray; Ruth Ross; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Jon Street; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Luther Williams; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended to the families of Sue Moody and Rural Tapp.

**Pantry item** for the month of December is Ketchup.

The newest edition of **House to House/Heart to Heart** is available in the foyer for those not on the mailing list;

**Ashland Events:** Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; December 31: New Year's Eve get-together in the dining hall; January 19: Ashland Youth Rally at 9:30 AM;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Cure for Stagnation (Revelation 3:17-21)

PM: Love (Matthew 22:37-40)

### For the Record (December 16, 2007):

Attendance: 62      Contribution: \$1093.00      Budget: \$1326.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

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#### Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Worship 5:00 PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Shepherds:

Barney King  
Carrol Street



## "Spare the Rod, and Spoil the Child"

David McCain

One of the hottest topics of discussion awhile back was the punishment of Michael Fay, an 18 year old American citizen living in Singapore at the time. Fay was charged with 53 counts of vandalism and other offenses under Singapore law. In a plea bargain agreement, he plead guilty to 2 counts of vandalism, 2 counts of mischief, and 1 count of retaining stolen property. Under Singapore's stringent judicial system, young Fay was sentenced to a three part punishment for his crimes, the first two parts of which included four months in prison, and a \$2,200 fine. But, it was the third part of his punishment that had the whole country talking about Michael Fay. That third part, which turned that affair into a media event, was the six lashes with a rattan cane, which Fay received on his backside at the end of his prison term.

The caning of Michael Fay was a headline story for "Newsweek" magazine, which devoted six pages to the "hot batton issue" of crime and punishment in the U.S.A. According to a "Newsweek" poll, 38% of

Americans approved of Fay's punishment, while 52% were opposed to it. Other interesting data reported by "Newsweek" included the fact that 27 states now ban corporal punishment in their public schools, whereas in 1976 only 2 states had done so. In a recent survey of parents, "Newsweek" found that 38% use "time-outs" to discipline their children, 24% use lecturing, and only 19% use spanking, whereas a similar survey done in 1962, found that 59% used spanking as their primary form of discipline. While we, as a nation, moved away from using corporal punishment the past 30 years, during that same time violent crime increased more than 500% to the point where America now leads the world in per capita rates of murder, rape and other violent crimes. Interestingly enough, "Newsweek" reported that Singapore, with a population of 2.7 million, had only 58 murders and 80 rapes last year, compared with 1,058 murders and 1,781 rapes in the city of Los Angeles alone. Whether or not you think Fay's punishment fits his crime, Singapore's crime statistics seem to prove that corporal punishment definitely serves as a deterrent to crime.

Does the Bible say anything about this issue of crime and punishment? It certainly does!

\* "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24).

\* "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15).

\* "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Proverb 23:13-14).

\* "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15).

\* "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Proverbs 29:17).

\* "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18).

\* "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6).

According to God's Word, it is the responsibility of parents to teach respect for authority, and to enforce it with reasonable discipline. If parents don't teach their children early-on to respect parental authority, the child will not respect the authority of teachers, nor of the law, nor ultimately of God. The punishment that will result from that eventuality is far worse than a rattan caning! With eternal judgment in view, perhaps the old adage, "spare the rod, and spoil the child," deserves another look by those who fear God!