

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY



January Vol. 3

Am I 'BORN AGAIN'?..
well.. I am certainly 'BORED
AGAIN'.

THEBACKPEN.COM - J. Larson



Little Johnny's newborn baby sister just would not stop crying one day. Annoyed, Johnny asked his mom where they had gotten her from. "From heaven," said his mother. Johnny replied, "Well I can see why they threw her out!"

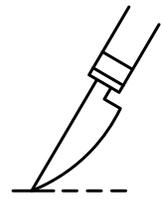


This Month in History

- **January 1, 1863** - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.
- **January 1, 1892** - Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.
- **January 3, 1959** - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

Unseen Wounds

written by Marla Carter



I had a pretty major surgery last week that was done laparoscopically. Thanks to that modern surgical technology, even though I had an organ removed, I only have four tiny incisions. From the outside, you'd never know that my insides had endured such trauma. And because my incisions are on my abdomen, concealed by my clothing, someone who passed me on the street would have no idea that I just had surgery. In fact, if someone saw me laying on the couch all day, they might think I was just plain lazy.

Every day, we interact with people who are walking around with all sorts of unseen wounds. We cannot see them, but that doesn't make them any less serious. Perhaps they were once abandoned by a parent or recently loss a spouse. Maybe they lost a job or failed a very important test. They go about their day covering up their pain. No one knows what's really going on inside them. What people see is what sometimes happens when they're hurting: their short fuse, their irritability, or their quiet sadness. They are then assumed to be rude, mean, or angry people.

That's why it's so important to heed the Bible's commands for us to treat one another with patience and compassion. Colossians 3:12-14 says, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with

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one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also. In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

And yet, what usually happens when someone snaps at us? We snap back. If someone insults us, we hurl an insult right back at them. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well." (Matthew 5:38-40) What Jesus is saying is that when someone snaps at us, we should offer a kind word instead of snapping back. When someone insults us, we should either hold our tongue or maybe even pay them a compliment!

What a difference such acts of kindness would make! Retaliation or repaying insults for insults only fans the flames of discord and anger. Turning the other cheek is like pouring water on a fire. Offering undeserved kindness is a simple and direct way to live out the good news of the gospel. We can extend such mercy because Jesus has given us undeserved kindness, forgiveness, and mercy instead of treating us as our sins deserve.

When someone is unkind to us, let's assume there's a reason for it--not an excuse, but an explanation. Let's consider that they may have some wounds we cannot see, and let's purpose to treat them with tenderness and compassion. "Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."

Proverbs 16:24



Winter Sudoku



Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters S N O W F L A K E. Don't guess - use logic



	A			L			N	
		O	N	E	A	F		
		L	F		W	O		
	L	K				A	S	
S		A				E		F
	E	F				N	K	
		W	K		N	S		
		S	O	F	L	W		
	F			S			O	

