

Faith and Funnies



HELLO.
September

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

September, Vol. 1

This Month In History

- **September 1, 1939** - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe
- **September 2, 1666** - The Great Fire of London began in a bakery in Pudding Lane near the Tower. Over the next three days more than 13,000 houses were destroyed, although only six lives were believed lost.
- **September 2, 1945** - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- **September 3, 1783** - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



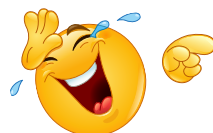
Hey little boy.. that was actually Daniel in the Lions Den.

What do you get when you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A Pine-apple!

If you're American when you enter the bathroom, and American when you come out, what are you IN the bathroom?

European!



The Goodness of God

written by Marla Carter

There's a song we sing at church about the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

And then it says:

*Your goodness is running after
It's running after me.*



I started thinking about what it means that God's goodness would run after us. And then I thought of the prodigal son.

Do you remember the story of the prodigal son? In Luke 15, Jesus told a parable about a man who had two sons. The younger son asked for his inheritance (while his father was still alive, mind you), took off for a distant country, and spent it all in wild living. He ended up homeless, penniless, and feeding pigs to earn a little money. He finally came to his senses and decided to go back home and ask if his father would allow him to live and work there as a servant.

The Bible says: "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" So they began to celebrate." Luke 15:20-24

Continued on page 3...

The father was apparently watching for his son and he ran to him. In that culture, it was considered undignified for a man to run. But this father was so ready to welcome his son back home that he ran to him and embraced him. The son did not expect that kind of welcome because he knew he didn't deserve it. He knew he had lived in sin. He knew he had squandered all his inheritance. What's worse, he knew he had been shockingly disrespectful and unloving to ask for his inheritance while his father was still alive. So how did he know he could even attempt to return home? Shouldn't he be disowned and cut off from the family because of his behavior?

I suspect he knew the goodness of his father. He knew his father would not reject him, no matter what he'd done. The goodness of his father beckoned to him across the miles. It tenderly called to him even in the midst of his reckless living. And that goodness ended up being good beyond expectation. The son wasn't just allowed to come home, he was welcomed and celebrated!

The word "prodigal" means one who spends or gives lavishly or foolishly. So actually, in light of that definition, was it not both the son and the father who were prodigal? The son spent his money lavishly and foolishly, but the father's goodness and love was also lavish--some would even say foolish, to spend so much on a welcome home party for such a disrespectful, wayward son. The goodness of God has run after all of us in the sacrifice of Christ and in His faithfulness to us all our lives. Even when we disdain His love for us by sinning and running away from Him, His love and goodness call us to come back home. There's no place God's goodness can't find you. The prodigal son was in a distant country feeding pigs. Perhaps you are in a distant country--you're bitter and angry and you've run from God. Or maybe you've ignored God's call your whole life and now that your life is nearly over, you think it's too late to turn to Him. You are never too far away from the goodness of God and it's never too late to turn to Him.

SUDOKU # 03

INSTRUCTIONS

Use the numbers 1 to 9 to complete the Sudoku.
Only use each number once in each row, column
and grid.

5				2		7		
4		2			9			6
		9		8	1		4	2
		5		7			3	
2	6		4			9	8	
	4			6	5		7	
	3	1	5					7
7				3	2		6	
	2				7	8	5	

ANSWER KEY

SUDOKU # 03

5	1	3	6	2	4	7	9	8
4	8	2	7	5	9	3	1	6
6	7	9	3	8	1	5	4	2
1	9	5	2	7	8	6	3	4
2	6	7	4	1	3	9	8	5
3	4	8	9	6	5	2	7	1
8	3	1	5	9	6	4	2	7
7	5	4	8	3	2	1	6	9
9	2	6	1	4	7	8	5	3

*Included in case you
need help, but not
necessary to print...