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# Central Baptist Association

2517 Wyoming Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112



Phone: 505-243-2707  
Fax: 505-292-8638

Central  
Baptist  
Association

Resourcing New Works, Resourcing Leaders,  
Resourcing Churches to engage their Communities

August 2008

# Central Connection

*Central Baptist Association*

*newsletter@cbanm.org*



Volume 16, Issue 8

**“Let my people go, so that they may worship me.”**

July 4, 1776  
States of America

**Exodus 8:1, NIV**

# ??...Riddle Me This...??



Since light travels faster than sound, isn't that why some people appear bright until you hear them speak?

Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?

Which is heavier, a pound of feathers or a pound of gold?

Answer next month

When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: admit it, learn from it, and don't repeat it.

- Paul "Bear" Bryant



# Rules, we don't need no stinking Rules!

by Kevin Branham

In modern society it seems like they are everywhere. No matter where you go or what you hear, they affect you night and day. Rules in every part of our lives and how we live. These rules govern our actions and prevent catastrophes. Rules are meant to keep things neat, orderly and running smoothly. There are some rules that have dire consequences and others that are just for order.

If this is true, why do we spend more time of our lives trying to figure out how to get away with breaking the rules than we do just living in the boundaries? Think about it, how many people do you see driving with cell

phones in their hands when the law

*...for this is the whole duty of man...*

says it must be hands free? Getting into an express checkout of 15 or less when you know you have 27 items or driving 75 in a 55. Parking in a loading zone or

a handicap space, because of the shade, when you do not have a handicap placard and besides it only counts on business days. Here is a favorite of mine, not meeting a deadline because they will and always have, made exceptions and allow you in. How about using steroids in sports and let's not even get started on politics. I used to work for a boss who always told me, "don't tell me what the rules say, tell me how to get around them". We all know about Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden gaining the title of "First Rule Breakers".



Why is it so important to break the rules? Maybe it is the

thrill of being bad and not getting caught. What is really ironic about all of this, the same people who break the rules, are the first to gripe and moan when someone

Continued on page 10

# Just Thinking by Ken Goode

These are nervous times. This morning's Wall Street Journal (July 14, 2008) carried articles with these stories: the Fed's seizure of IndyMac Bank; the collapse of retailer Steve & Barry; the growing concern that the bear market is here for a spell; auto dealers are slashing prices, compounding financial losses, to move trucks and SUV's; and some of us are paying more taxes to Uncle Sam than we owe, and Uncle Sam has no problem keeping it. Stinks doesn't it, all of this bad news.

You could get just as depressed looking at the statistics of our churches.

We ran the twenty-year trend line for all of our churches using data from the Annual Church Profile. Of the seventy some odd churches in the association, only eleven had a ten-year growth trend. Two more had a five-year growth trend. Of the eleven, I suspect a couple have already entered into a level, if not, declining trend.



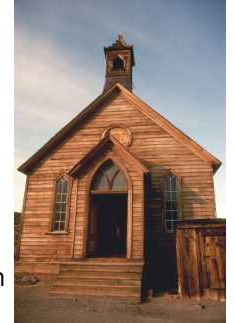
Anybody, is there good news out there anywhere? Are global economics and social unrest destining us to a life of pessimism? Are the churches, except for mega-churches, dead in their tracks in our country? Will the hero save the town and get the girl (I just had to throw that one in)?

Hold on, my bad-news weary friends. There is more to the story than what boils up into headline news. Consider the "gone ballistic" gas prices. It is true that high fuel prices are hammering everyone but Exxon executives. Because of the prices, some industries will disappear or radically change. Economically vulnerable families are breaking under the cost of transportation. However, look at the other side. Families are staying home more and recreating together like, well, families. Less travel will mean fewer accidents. Less travel will

# Just Thinking *cont...*

mean less pollution. Less travel means the destructive tourism pressure on our national parks will find some relief.

Consider our churches. A lack of numerical growth does not mean a lack of divine activity. Last Sunday I preached in one of our churches not on that short list of growing churches. I heard the story of a father coming to Christ and immediately participating in the baptism of his son. God still saves families, even in "no growth" churches. A few weeks before, I preached in one of our smaller churches and watched people line up at the altar in prayer. One of our disaster relief team members shared with me about the young volunteer firefighter who, though originally antagonistic to church, made the decision to go to church because of what he witnessed from Baptist work at the Manzano fires.



These stories do not make the headlines but they are the mortar of the life of our churches. They are the "in spite of" stories that shout, "God is still at work among us." I am not saying we should ignore the problems. Our economy has some serious problems that will have some serious long-term impact. We cannot ignore them. The fact that we only have thirteen numerically growing churches out of seventy-three is a problem we cannot ignore. Nevertheless, these realities cannot immobilize us, detour us, or frustrate us. They should motive us to grow, to push the envelope of risk to the point of sacrifice, to reeducate and retool ourselves, to overcome the challenges. That is what the Kingdom of light has always done when faced with the Kingdom of darkness. There is no reason to expect it is different for us.

*Ken Goode*



August 21  
 Sunday School Training

## *Central Baptist Association*

### Sunday School Training Clinic

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Location: Del Norte Baptist Church  
 5800 Montgomery Blvd. NE  
 Albuquerque, NM

#### Schedule of Events:

- 5:00 p.m. Meal at Del Norte Conference Center  
 (children eat with parents) \*\*
- 6:00 p.m. Childcare Opens in Main Building \*\*
- 6:15 p.m. Training Begins
- 8:30 p.m. Training Concludes

#### Age-Graded Conferences and Leaders:

- General Preschool Conference by Jennifer Hollis
- Younger Preschool Specialized Training by Eloise Paul
- Teachers of Children - Instructors: Lillian Moon & Krista Peterson
- Teachers of Youth - Instructor: Andy Donaldson
- Teachers of Adults - Instructor: Garland Peek

\*\* Must call the CBA Office (243-2707) to make reservations no later than 15 August.  
 Meals will be served to reservations first. Food will be on a first come first served after that. Churches please try to call in as a group. Thanks!



August 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



# Church Needs / Items

## NEEDS

New Life Fellowship— Portable Projector, Part Time Music Person.

Northdale—Floor Buffer

Carlisle Community— Sofa & Love seat, Piano

Sierra Vista— Copier, seats (pews/chairs)

FBC Tijeras—Chairs & Couch, end table

Indian Nations Baptist—Padded chairs, video projector, screens 6x8 or 8x10

FBC Los Lunas—Pastors Desk, Filing

Cabinet

Blake Road Baptist— Bookshelves, visitors chairs, folding tables.

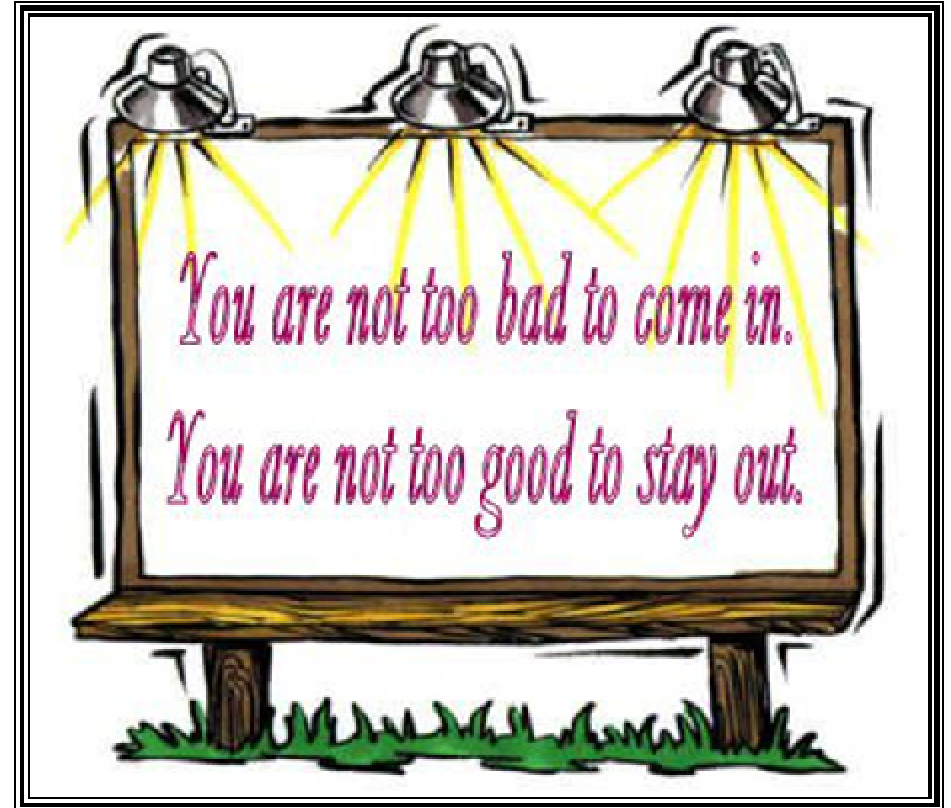
## ITEMS TO GIVE AWAY

Recorders

Sunday School Material

Overhead Projector

# Church Bulletin Board



**Welcome**  
**Willkommen!**  
 ようこそ  
**Bienvenido**  
**Welkom**  
 Bem-vindo  
 歓迎  
**Välkommen**  
**Benvenuti**  
 환영

We have changed our website. Please go by and see what's new. We would like to hear some feedback so feel free to drop a message.

[www.cbanm.org](http://www.cbanm.org)



# Rules . . . cont. from page 2

breaks the rules and it affects them. Let someone cut in line in front of a rule breaker and see how loud they howl or be cut off by someone on a cell phone. The



Constitution guarantees your rights, but the only time we want to use them is if it about us. We don't like a protestor being loud, but want our first amendment right of free speech if we have something to say.

If everyone is so against rules, then why not do away with them all? Let's go back to the good old days of survival of the fittest. If I like your house better than mine, I will just take it. I really think I should just take all of those items and not pay for them. What the heck, I want to live like a king and not worry about anything.

I can imagine people out there right now going hmmm? Then common sense kicks in and we come to realize that with out all of

the rules we have in place, what a truly scary mess we would have. I can not even imagine the turmoil and destruction that would cause.

Since the beginning of man, God has given us rules to protect us from ourselves. If things were left up to man, we would do what we always do, make a mess. You know man's motto "It's all about me"! The Bible shows the good that comes from following the will of God and what rewards this can bring, why can't that be the good we are all looking for.

*"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." Eccl. 12:12-14 (NIV)*

You ever wonder what would happen to our world if we all decided to stay within the rules? ..... Maybe we need to check the rule book and get a ruling on life.

## Kids Korner

We read Thos. Edison  
made light.  
But in SUN. School they said  
You did it.  
So I bet he stoled  
you r I dea.  
sincerely,  
Do NNa

## Biblical Treasure

The following are clues to a bible verse. Solve the clues to find the verse:

Male Paddlers

Not quite a bakers dozen

All of the Roman single digit Vs

July Riddle  
Answer:

Light!  
God created light on  
the first day.

July Biblical Treasure answer:

4th book ~ John

Our solar system, Earth 3rd Planet  
~ 3

12 Disciples, after crucifixion there  
were 11, +5 ~ 16

John 3:16