

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 2072

Central Baptist Association

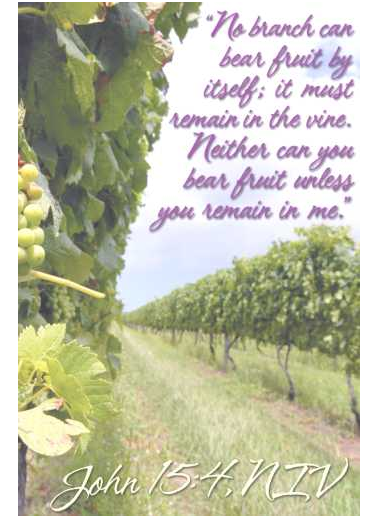
2517 Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112



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



We have a new format for our newsletter. Please feel free to send your comments to:
newsletter@cbabq.com



Central Connection

Central Baptist Association

newsletter@cbabq.com



Volume 16, Issue 5



Good or Bad? by Kevin Branham

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

Imagine you are in a room with 3 switches. In an adjacent room there are 3 bulbs (let's say in lamps which are on a regular table, with a non-removable cord) - all are off at the moment, each switch belongs to one bulb. It is impossible to see from

one room to another. How can you find out which switch belongs to which bulb, if you may enter the room with the bulbs only once?

Answer next month

If you are in a vehicle going the speed of light, what would happen if you turned on your headlights?

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars are treated... by their nation.

-George Washington

These days a word can have hundreds of meanings. We use words like "bad". It can mean a good thing and a bad thing. My son uses the word "sick" to mean a bad thing and also a very good thing. Confusing isn't it? Politician's words are full of double meanings.

Some words seem to have lost their value and meaning over time. Look at the word "hero" for example. We

call someone a hero for doing the smallest of task. The word hero used to represent those few that stood above the norm. The ones who were willing to go that extra mile and do the extraordinary. Today it may refer to someone who gives up a parking spot in the rain. Another word where the meaning is played down is "sacrifice". We seem to think everything is

a sacrifice. We sacrifice watching a television show to do something else. The dictionary definition of sacrifice is "to give up in favor of a higher or more imperative object or duty; to devote with loss or suffering".

Memorial Day is all about remembering the many who have given the ultimate sacrifice in order to uphold a belief in what is

...it means a good thing and a bad thing...

right and for a better country. The veterans that have died for that belief made a

choice and went forward to defend that cause. They sacrificed themselves for others. After reading and hearing some of the stories, I have found that nearly all of the "heroes" tribute their sacrifices as nothing more than duty for their brothers in arm. They were more than willing to give up their lives if necessary, for their comrades. They have definitely sacrificed comfort and a calm and normal

Continued on page 8

Just Thinking



The Cerberus Capital Group, led by CEO Robert Nardelli, is taking Chrysler by the horn and whipping it back into profitability. That is not an easy challenge considering the complexity of the automotive market overlaid with the current economic issues. How would you find a starting place? Do you start

with reducing overhead costs? Do you reevaluate model offerings, do you reengineer the manufacturing processes to squeeze out higher quality, or do you concentrate on marketing to convince the American consumer that there is as much quality in a domestic as there is in an import?

All of these have to be Chrysler targets but that is not their focus. "Our focus is on the customer," is Vice Chairman, James Press's comment. "If we can find a way to give the customers what they want better than anybody else, then what can stop us?" (*Fortune*, April 14, 2008, p51)

Press's comments stimulated my thoughts toward the church in respect to customers. A lot of church talk the last few years has been on the "customer." That line of thinking has produced the famous (or infamous, depending on your opinion) seeker services. We have gone to great lengths to determine the needs of a church's target population. Armed with that information, the thinking goes; it is only a matter of meeting those needs to attract folks into the church. This process has determined what

Just Thinking *cont...*

music a church uses in worship, when services are scheduled, what ministries a church offers, and how staff positions are determined. We use this approach when we start churches. We assess the community needs, recruit compatible leadership and build a ministry response around those needs.

I wonder, though, if we have misidentified our customer. Perhaps, the lost world is not our customer. Hear me out on this. If I understand the Bible correctly, God is the consumer of our praise. He is the one who determines the character of the bride. In the last half of Matthew chapter twenty-five Jesus said that any ministry of service we provide is actually service and ministry to Him. If He is the recipient of our praise and ministry and the one who determines our purpose, He could well be called the customer of the church.



Using Chrysler's logic, God should be the focus of our energies. That is not to diminish the need for strategically targeting the unbelieving world. Our mandate is to preach the Gospel. However, God is the one that captures our love, our attention, and our energy. If that devotion is in the right perspective, it should facilitate our evangelism. I think I remember Jesus saying, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all unto myself."

May 1
National Day of Prayer



May 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



May 2 & 3
State Bible
Drill



May 25

May 10
Block Party
Training



May 11



Church Needs / Items

NEEDS

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

Northdale—Floor Buffer

ITEMS

Recorders

Sunday School Material

Good *or* Bad? cont. from page 2

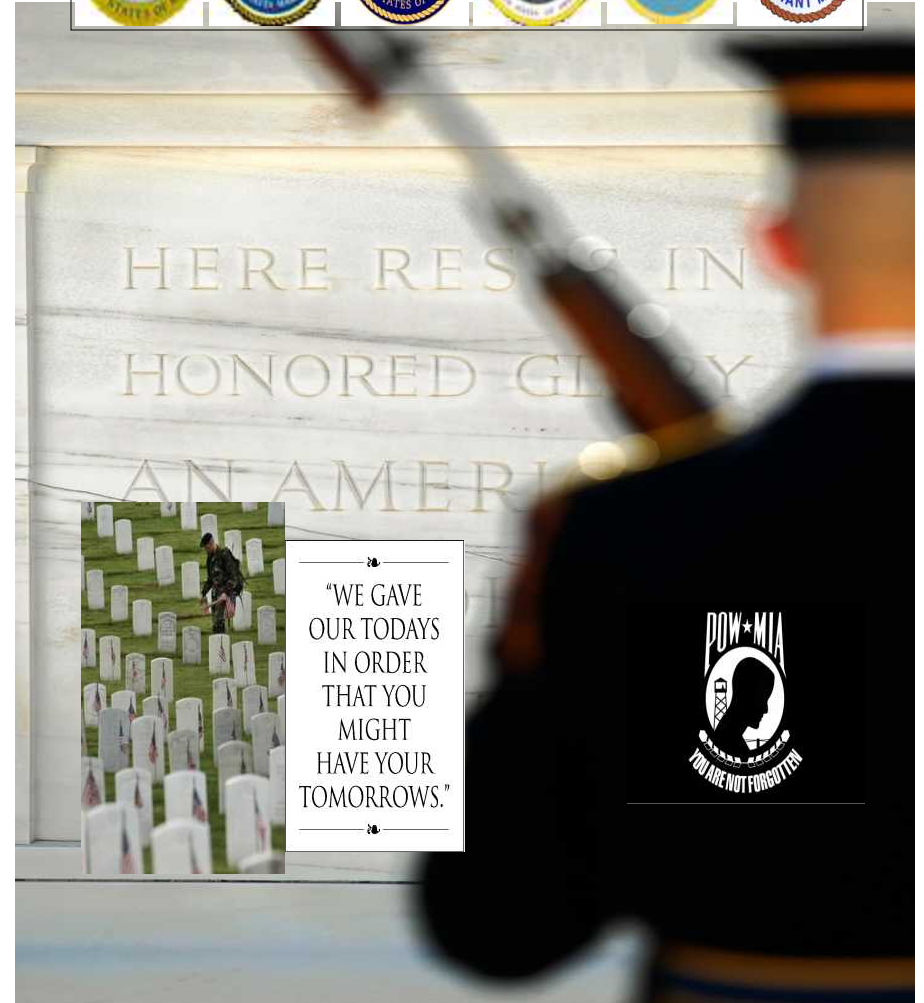
family life for that belief.

Jesus also made a sacrifice. He gave his life so that our sins may be washed away. He made the sacrifice so that we would have eternal life with Him in Heaven. Jesus knew the duty and was ready to give up His life for a more imperative objective, your soul and to keep it from being condemned. In this confusing

time of words, we need to keep focused on the truth, God's word.

Trust me... it's all good!

To the Fallen...

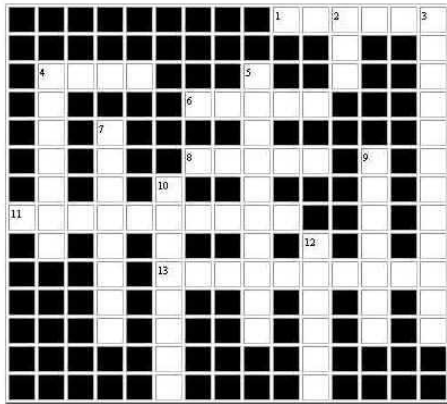


"WE GAVE
OUR TODAYS
IN ORDER
THAT YOU
MIGHT
HAVE YOUR
TOMORROWS."



Memorial Day History Crossword Puzzle

PartySuppliesShop.com



Across

1. For some, Memorial Day marks the beginning of what season?
4. One tradition is to lower the ___ to half-staff.
6. Memorial Day is a ___-day weekend.
8. Which war does Memorial Day date back to?
11. This holiday characterizes what type of feelings as pride and ___?
13. Memorial Day as formerly known as ___ Day.

Down

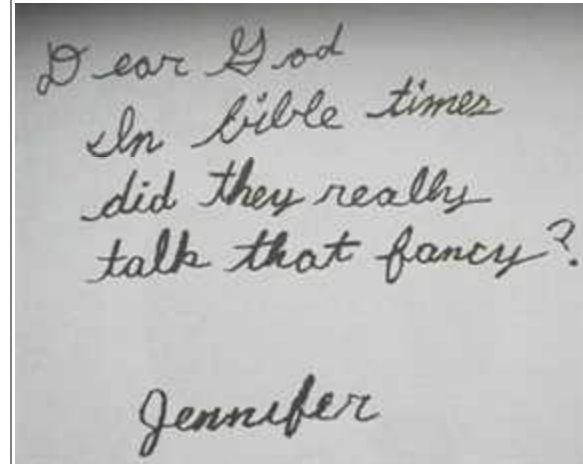
2. In what month is Memorial Day celebrated?
3. Memorial Day is a time for what of soldiersm who have served in past wars.
4. Memorial Day is a state or federal holiday?
5. Flags are placed near the ___ in national cemeteries.
7. This is an ___ holiday only.
9. What do families generally do on Memorial Day?
10. Who fought in the wars?
12. Memorial Day honors the ___ soldiers who served in war time or military action.

Answers on page 11



Thanks to all who attended the VBS Training Conference. We hope that you were able to take something back to your churches that will help your VBS. A special thanks to all of the kitchen workers. Your work may be unglamorous, but it was not unnoticed. Thank You.

Kids Korner



Newsletter Articles
Due by 15th of the Month

Crossword Answers:	Crossword Answers:
Across:	Down:
1. Summer	2. May
4. Flag	3. Remembrance
6. Three	4. Federal
8. Civil	5. Gravestones
11. Patriotism	7. American
13. Decoration	9. Picnic
	10. Soldiers
	12. Fallen