

BELIEFS & Values

Jehovah convention coming to county

Instilling values requires deliberate parental action

FOCUS ON THEOLOGY



REV. TIMOTHY F. BABCOCK

As you read this column, it is between two popular and important national observances — Mother's Day and Father's Day. These observances highlight the major contributions of one of life's most important callings — to be parents. I thought this might be an appropriate time for a few reflections about this most important role.

In doing so, I hope to continue some fine thoughts presented here two weeks ago by my fellow "Focus on Theology" colleague, the Rev. Ronald Byars.

Around the time of Mother's Day and Father's Day, it is not uncommon for various forms of the media to publish things like, "What My Mother Taught Me," or "Things I Learned from My Dad."

One of these I read asked local celebrities of various walks of life to reflect about what were the most important things that their mother had taught them. I found many of these very interesting.

Some were interesting for what they said, others for what they did not say. I wondered how some of the mothers felt as they read what their offspring thought were the most important things they had learned from their mother.

I would suggest that among that many things parents hand on to their children, the most important are a strong sense of clear values. Where else can children learn their "core" values?

How else do they learn about measuring life, particularly behavior, in terms of what is good for them personally and for others with whom they relate? How do they come to an awareness of what they should

strive for in life? Where else do they receive a basis for their priorities as they grow older and as they make lifestyle decisions in the future?

Parents need to be very aggressive in the effort to teach values to their children. These children are going to grow up in a world of very mixed, and often very shallow, values. They need to have a strong clear foundation upon which they will base their decisions about what they seek, and what they do.

Parents cannot just hope that their children will turn out right. They need to be strong teachers of those things which elevate human attitudes and behaviors above the level of simply personal comfort and convenience. They need to help their children learn the importance of evaluating the circumstances and behaviors they face, and then of making choices that will be not only for their personal benefit, but also for the good of those they love and, indeed, society as a whole.

Parents generally deal well with day-to-day behavior. They try to teach good patterns of behavior and guide their children in daily choices. Often, however, parents need to be much stronger in taking the children deeper into the basis for attitudes and behaviors.

What values guide their choices? How do they determine not only what is attractive and satisfying here and now, but what is best from them in the long term?

Secondly, parents need to be very clear that they teach as much by what they do as by what they say. If parents are willing to live a consistent lifestyle, guided by beliefs and values, they will teach a clear lesson.

If, however, parents in their own patterns of behavior frequently set aside their values in the interest of some immediate satisfaction, and this

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It's been nearly five decades since former Unionville, Michigan resident Jennie Klukowski attended her first big assembly of Christians in St. Louis Missouri.

New 70-year-old Klukowski is returning to her Michigan roots for another huge religious gathering as she attends the International Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses at the Silverdome in Pontiac June 12-14.

Delegates from 30 countries will attend the program, "God's Way of Life" which will provide information on improving family life, managing stress and finding joy in a troubled world. All are welcome including those of other religions or those with no religion at all.

"I can think of lots of good reasons for people to attend this event," said convention coordinator Paul Fralin. "There will be talks, lively discussions, interviews, true-to-life presentations called demonstrations, and a moving Biblical drama with costumes actors are scheduled."

Some 41,700 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the three-day event. At the same time seven other cities across North America will host international conventions with estimated delegates from 28 countries.

A special feature at this year's

convention will be the presence of many foreign missionaries who will share their experiences of working in other countries. Those reports will be presented at 11 a.m. Friday, at 11:30 a.m. Saturday and at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Klukowski will be among the missionaries who will share stories of 48 years spent as a missionary in Brazil. Some 84 of her Bible students later got baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses.

In my personal ministry, it has been more than gratifying and satisfying to hear students say that, "Bible truth and principles saved my marriage," Klukowski said. "And I am happy to call Brazil my home — a country of friendly and outgoing people."

The Silverdome convention will begin at 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 12, when the keynote address "Christ's Ransom — God's Way of Salvation" will be presented. A symposium entitled, "Parents, Inculcate God's Way in Your Children" will fol-

low at 2:10 p.m. Bible-based talk on the subject, "Is there Life after Death?" will begin at 4:20 p.m. to conclude the Friday afternoon sessions.

On Saturday, a baptism and ordination ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday's program will begin at 11:10 a.m. with a Biblical drama entitled "Families Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life." The drama will portray a story from the Bible demonstrating that the Bible is not just a book of ancient history, but that its counsel is truly beneficial to both young ones and adults today.

The main topic of the convention will be presented by Daniel Sydlík, of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses from Brooklyn, New York, at 1:50 p.m. on Sunday. The subject will be "The Only Way to Everlasting Life."

Jehovah's Witnesses acknowledge God's Kingdom under Christ as the government soon to rule over the earth in righteousness.

ness. They trust in this Bible-based promise and are therefore neutral toward all human governments.

The modern organization was incorporated in 1884 and the society has published more than 21 billion Bibles and Bible-study aids used by Jehovah's Witnesses during the past 114 years.

There are more than 5.6 million Jehovah's Witnesses in 232 countries.

They are organized into more than 85,000 congregations, all of which work under the direction of a central governing body located in Brooklyn, New York.

Each witness is ordained a minister at his baptism, an event which is accompanied by a formal ceremony. He thereafter ministers to family, friends and public by preaching under the direction of his local congregation.

"We allow nothing — neither race, nationality, nor ethnic background — to cause us to hate our neighbors. We will not kill anyone," Fralin said.

All convention sessions are free and open to the public. No collection will be taken. The program will begin each morning at 8:30 a.m. and afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

To learn more about Jehovah's Witnesses visit their website at www.watchtower.org.

Christian drama duo appearing at Evanswood

Evanswood Church of God of Troy and Metropolitan Church of God of Detroit are co-sponsoring a special weekend of Christian drama June 12-14.

Custer and Hoose present 40-plus years of experience in music, comedy, and drama.

They present full musical theater productions and perform a variety of sketches on different topics and family issues.

Custer and Hoose have been a duo since 1989. Together they have worked with a wide range of national and international ministries.

They have helped create an instructional video series with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, made presentations and developed radio spots for Promise Keepers, created characters voices for Focus on the Family and worked with Touch Ministries International, presenting workshops in Asia.

In addition, they are respected authors, having published with Word and Lillenas. They are the founders and editors of The National Sketch of the Week Club.

Jim Custer is a recognized fig-

ure in the Christian acting community. He has toured with Jeremiah People.

His experience includes Christian films and professional stage work. Bob Hoose has worked extensively in both Christian and secular theater and radio for more than 20 years.

He has produced Christian National touring groups, including the Jeremiah People.

A dinner theater presentation will be on Friday evening, June 12 at Evanswood Church of God. The dinner begins at 7 p.m. and costs range from \$3.50 per meal.

registrations are required for dinner by June 10.

Custer and Hoose will perform at 8 p.m. Cost for performance are \$5 per person and the public is invited. Admission fee will be collected at the door.

Children under 5 are not encouraged to attend the program — child care is available for \$1.00 per child.

Drama Workshop will be held at Evanswood Church of God on Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Box lunch included in cost of the event. Costs for work-

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