



Play it smart with our Credit Card Rate Special
4.99% Introductory APR* until February 28, 2027, then **9.99%** up to **18.00% APR**

Apply Now! ☎ (865) 544-5400 🌐 tvacreditunion.com
Federally Insured by NCUA. *APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional Period for Introductory APR: The promotional APR for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances will apply to transactions posted to new and existing credit card accounts from 9/1/2026 until 2/28/2027. Any existing balances on Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union loan or credit card accounts are not eligible for the Introductory APR. The repayment period for purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances made during the promotional rate period will expire 2/29/2028. Any remaining balance as of 3/1/2028 will revert to the applicable credit card rate. Rate subject to change without notice and based on creditworthiness. If interest is charged, the charge will be no less than \$1.50.



Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 12 Number 33
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

More Than A Newspaper. **75¢**



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:

TOMMY LEE FRANCIS

PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS

EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:

ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

MAIL DELIVERY
SUBSCRIPTIONS

CALL 423-346-2329

POSTMASTER:

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

P.O. BOX 451,
WARTBURG, TN 37887

IN-COUNTY RATES

\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

OUT OF COUNTY RATES

\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT WARTBURG, TN

USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER
(15400)



Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

God Makes Amazing Things

A few nights ago, Mimi and Pap went to watch one of the boys play football.

While there a very nice young father had his 8 year old boy with him. They eventually settled in seats beside Mimi and Pap.

Well, that little boy touched Mimi's heart.

You see, that sweet boy had a little friend come sit with him.

They were chatting and one of them said, "LOOK! WHAT IS THAT?!" Mimi told them that was a big moth flying around in the Friday Night Lights. They watched for a few minutes and in his astonishment he said, "GOD SURE DOES MAKE SOME AMAZING THINGS!"

Mimi agreed, with tears in her eyes, smile on her face, and warmth in her heart. It made her see that with all the ugliness in the world, there is still so much wonder, love and goodness all around. If we all would only take the time to look through the eyes of an innocent child.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

WEEKLY WEATHER



TODAY 9/9  88° 65°

THU 9/10  87° 67°

FRI 9/11  85° 66°

SAT 9/12  82° 68°

SUN 9/13  86° 66°

MON 9/14  86° 63°

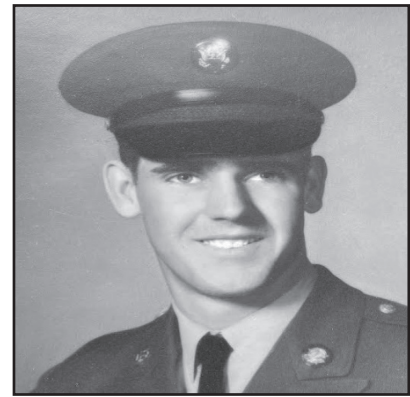


Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



— In Loving Memory —

Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton, 78
United States Army Veteran, Vietnam War Vet.



Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton, age 78, went home to be with the Lord on August 26, 2026 at home surrounded by family.

He is preceded in death by his parents JR and Pauline Wyrick Sexton; mother and father-in-law Arvil and Hester Tilson; precious granddaughter Lee-Ann Taylor; brother David Sexton; sisters Kathy Weatherford and Brenda Melhorn; sisters-in-law Faye Jones, and Wanda Emrihen; brothers-in-law Ray, Paul, Don Tilson and Paul Weatherford.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years Lois Tilson; daughter Crystal Sexton; very special granddaughter Tori Duncan; sister Sherry (Robert) Laymance; brother Merrill (Susan)

Sexton, special sister-in-law Betty Tilson Hobbs (Will); life long best friends who have been there through it all, Doyle Miller and Ronnie Phillips and a host of nieces and nephews.

Tom spent two years serving in the Army during the Vietnam War and that is one of his proudest achievements.

The family will have a funeral on August 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Fork Mountain Church in New River and interment at Beech Grove Cemetery with Bro. Roy Langley and Randell Landrum officiating.

The family would like to thank Best Homecare and Quality Hospice, especially April, for all they did for us during this time.

“Until we meet again, Pap, we love you”

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton.

Shirley Mae Underwood, 82



Shirley Mae Underwood age 82, of Sunbright passed peacefully on Monday, August 25 at the Cumberland Medical Center with her son and daughter at her side.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Underwood, Parents Orville and Nellie Galloway, Brothers Harold and Buddy Galloway, Sisters, Wanda and Clara.

Three sons survive her: Bill (Crystal), John (Ginger) and Paul Underwood, Daughter: Faydra. Grandchildren: Eugene Underwood, David (Stephanie), Hope (Dylan), Rachel Underwood, Tyler, Savana, Marla, Mason Underwood, and Logan and Shelby England. Also, several great grandchildren.

Shirley was joyful woman who believed Jesus Christ was her Lord and Savior. She did many jobs during her time here on earth but shined when she could bless or help others. She had many special friends and was a grandmother to all.

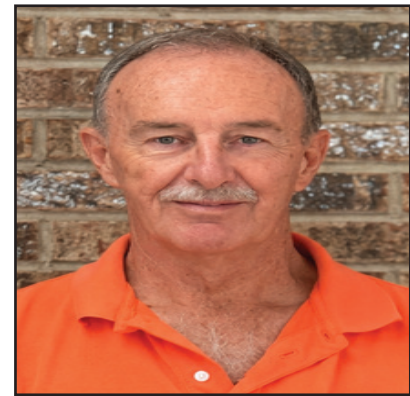
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley Mae Underwood.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Bobby Dale Crouch, 73



Bobby Dale Crouch, 73, of Shady Grove, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2026, at Parkwest Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon Crouch and Mary Schneider, and his grandparents, Arthur and Susie Nance.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Elinor Crouch; his son, Cale Crouch and wife Amanda,

Stepdaughter Telese Sietsema and his grandchildren, Caleigh, Evan, and Reese Crouch, Ethan and Sophia Sietsema.

He is also survived by his brothers, Joe Kerger; Howard Schneider and wife Debbie; Dani Schneider and wife Tami;

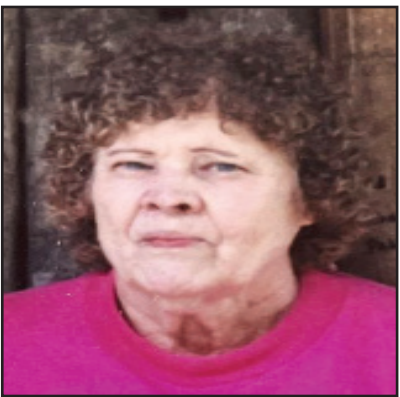
and Albert Schneider and wife Kim; as well as his aunt, Mildred Painter, and uncles, Ralph Nance and Bill Nance along with a host of friends and family.

Bobby retired from Morgan County Correctional Complex. He also owned and operated Performance Body Shop for several years. Bobby was passionate about racing and cars. After retirement, he spent his time hauling cars, trailers and heavy equipment across the country as well as traveling with his wife.

Family has chosen private graveside service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Dale Crouch.

Julia Grace Byrge, 88



Julia Grace Byrge, age 88, of Devonia passed away August 29, 2026 at Diversicare in Oak Ridge. She was the daughter of the late Eli and Willie Lively Byrge.

Julie enjoyed spending time with family, crocheting and crossword puzzles.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Cordis Byrge, Johnny Byrge, Curtis Byrge; sisters Mary Daugherty and infant sister Laura Byrge.

She leaves behind niece Rhonda (Michael) Byrge; nephew Randy Daughtery (Georgia Phillips), Andy Daugherty, Peter Daugherty, Lee (Laura) Daugherty. Also survived by great nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

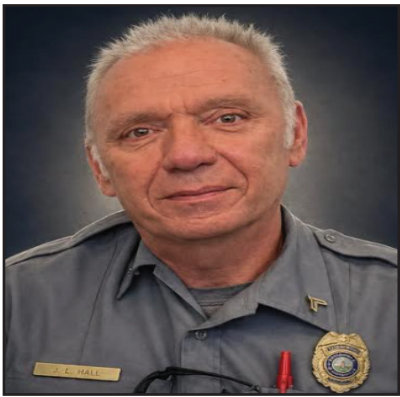
The family would like to send a special thanks to Diversicare and Amedysis Hospice for their extended care during this difficult time.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Grave Hill Cemetery in Devonia with Bro. Danny Lawson officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Julia Grace Byrge.

— In Loving Memory —

Jeff Wiley Hall, 60



Jeff Wiley Hall, age 60, of Deer Lodge passed away at his home on September 1, 2026. He was born April 27, 1966 to Randall and Eva Hall.

Jeff loved working on Mopar cars, camping and fishing, traveling, he loved teaching and his leadership was amazing to watch. But most of all he loved his family and spending as much time with them as he could. He loved his job at Morgan County Correctional Facility where he gave 29 years of his dedication. He was a correctional Sargent/K9.

He is preceded in death by his mom Eva Maxine Hawn Hall.

He leaves behind wife of 9 years April Hall; children Gabby Hall (Ronald Smith), Michael (Laquita) Hall, and RT Hall, stepchildren Mahala (Nicholas) Miller, Bailey Norris; grandchildren Zoie, Tennessee, Eva, Lilly, Kielon, Kimora, Lola, and Lyla; father Randall Hall; brother Scott Hall; sister Miranda Hall and a host of extended family and wonderful friends who will miss him dearly.

The family will receive friends Saturday, September 5, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with a memorial to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Mitch Hawn officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jeff Wiley Hall.

Linda Hope Bunch, 74



Linda Hope Bunch, age 74, of Petros, Tennessee, departed our world to be with our heavenly Father and her loving husband William Bunch on August 23rd at 12:42 am. Paradise gained a wonderful soul and she once again can hold the hand of her prince charming and hear his voice. They had been together for 59 years and she yearned to hear his voice once again.

She is survived by her two sons Roger and Brian; grandchildren Michael Bunch, Matthew Bunch, Marrkus Bunch, Jacob Bunch and Allison Bunch;

great grandchildren Jaxson Bunch, LeLand Bunch and Jase Bunch; niece Elizabeth Lawson; sister Nancy Matlock and sister-in-law, her little Betty Boop, who along with Nancy stayed by her side through it all. She was a beautiful butterfly in this world, bringing much love and joy to us all and she will be sadly missed. We rest easy knowing that in her last days she professed the Lord Jesus Christ to be her savior. He always was and always will be, she said.

We will miss you. Go fly high our sweet butterfly, loving mother, grandmother, sister and dear friend. Go be seated with our Lord and hold your husband's hand. Until we meet again, we will all love you forever.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Linda Bunch.

Carolyn Beatrice Bell, 63



Carolyn Beatrice Bell, age 63, of Knoxville, TN, passed away on August 10th, 2026. She was born on October 10th, 1962, in Knoxville, TN, to William Bell and Wanda Bell Roche.

Carolyn will be remembered for her warmth, quiet strength, sense of humor and devotion to her family.

She is survived by her Mother, Wanda, Sister, Charlotte, children Mitchell, Dustin and Aaron, grandchildren Alex, Austin, Kamden, Sierra, Alek, Nick and Ansley, great nieces Shaianne and Ella, great nephews Coy and Cash and many friends, and was preceded in death by her father, William Bell, her nephew Doug Mount and grandson Brayden Pearson.

A memorial service will be held on August 22nd at Schubert Funeral Home. Her family is grateful for the kindness and support shown during this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Carolyn Beatrice Bell.

JP Durham Jr., 58



JP Durham Jr., age 58, born August 28 1967, passed away Sunday August 23, 2026 at home surrounded by his family, his life-long partner and best friend of 40 years Millie Howard Durham; sons Justin Durham and Joshua Durham (Marian).

JP is also survived by many family members, several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces

and nephews that were dear to his heart. Also, his dog and best friend Mocha and several close friends he considered family.

JP is preceded in death by his father JP Durham; his mother Judy C. Hall Durham; brother Tommy Durham and his beloved dog Oreo.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation/contribution for funeral expenses to Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg, P.O. Box 326, TN., 37872.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of JP Durham, Jr.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



Historically Speaking

First Ladies: Observations by Anita McBride and Alan Lowe (part two)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause wrote this four-part series on the First Ladies, which is being presented in the Historically Speaking column before and after the July 4 celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America—the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

On Mar. 3, 2026, Alan Lowe hosted a panel discussion in Oak Ridge on some of the famous wives of American presidents. The women he hosted – one on stage with him and two on Zoom on a big screen – are authors of the 2024 book “Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America’s History-Making Women.” The three authors are Diana B. Carlin (on stage), Anita B. McBride and Nancy Kegan Smith (the latter two were on Zoom).

Lowe has been executive director of the American Science and Energy (AMSE) Museum in Oak Ridge since 2019. The panel discussion was hosted on the stage at AMSE, where Lowe announced that the First Ladies book can be purchased at the AMSE shop. It was the second of four presentations this year by Our American Roots, a series produced by the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club and Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning.

Lowe, who is also executive director of the Atomic History Campus at K-25 in Oak Ridge and CEO of the Oak Ridge Discovery Foundation, previously served at several presidential libraries around the nation. Since 2020 he has started three podcasts.

He became host and producer on the web of his live interviews mostly with authors by phone for the AMSE Science Cast (a segment of which can be heard on WUOT every Saturday at about 9:30 a.m.), the American POTUS (which is a podcast about the presidency) and the American FLOTUS (which is a podcast about the First Ladies of White House fame). You can hear these podcasts by visiting <https://AMSE.Cast.libsyn.com/>, <https://americanpotus.org> and <https://americanflotus.org>.

Lowe said that he started the American FLOTUS podcast two years ago at the suggestion of his friend Nancy Kegan Smith, who called him to announce the formation of the First Ladies Association for Research and Education, or FLARE. So far, the jointly produced podcast has 10 episodes.

Enjoy the quotes and comments by each of the women experts on history-making First Ladies, as well as founders of FLARE, during the panel discussion in Oak Ridge last March, which is Women’s History Month. This second article will feature, in response to Lowe’s questions and observations, the comments of Anita B. McBride; the third, of Nancy Kegan Smith, and the fourth, of all three authors and Lowe.

Alan Lowe, First Ladies panel moderator, asked Anita McBride to speak about “two of my favorite first ladies, who I know you knew so very well, Barbara Bush and Laura Bush. How did they take leadership roles in human rights here and around the globe, as did Eleanor Roosevelt previously and Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton later?”

McBride is executive-in-residence and founder of the First Ladies Initiatives at American University, founding member of FLARE and former assistant to the president and chief of

staff to First Lady Laura Bush.
Barbara Bush was the wife of President George H.W. Bush (1989-1993), and Laura Bush, Barbara’s daughter-in-law, was wife of her son President George W. Bush (2001-2009).

Barbara was the wife of a congressman from Texas, where she had grown up. He grew up in a well-to-do family that lived in Rye, New York. After George Bush graduated from Yale University, the couple moved down to the Permian Basin in West Texas and settled in the boom-and-bust town of Midland, where oil drilling was a thriving business.

Later in life, Barbara would drive with her children each summer from Texas to Maine, where the Bush family home was. Also, in the car was the young Bush family’s Black nanny. In some southern states, because of the presence of the nanny, the family could not stay together overnight in a hotel during the trip. That’s when Barbara thought hard about the injustice of racism and conveyed her concerns to her husband.

(McBride later commented that Lady Bird Johnson had the same experience as Barbara Bush did in driving north from Texas to Washington. In the car was Zephyr Wright, the family’s Black cook. The Johnson family hid Zephyr in the white-only hotel room where they were staying.)

As a Republican congressman elected from the Houston area, George H.W. Bush supported the proposed Fair Housing Act of 1968, which became law and helped combat widespread housing discrimination against Black Americans. When he spoke about his support for the act during town halls in his district, his Texas voters were furious with him, McBride said. She added that Barbara “supported his decision 100%” and wrote in her memoir about George’s courage in expressing his support for the act to his skeptical constituents.

When George Bush was running for the Republican nomination for president in 1980 against Ronald Reagan, Barbara pondered about her potential role as First Lady while jogging around Memorial Park in Houston, McBride said. “She settled on the issue of literacy because she felt if people were illiterate, then they were not going to have a successful life. They would not have access to education, a good job, and a prosperous and successful life.”

George Bush did not win the nomination in 1980. Ronald Reagan was nominated, and he selected George Bush to be his vice president. They both served a two-year term starting in 1981. Reagan was succeeded by Bush in 1989.

As Second Lady in most of the 1980s, McBride said, “Barbara Bush hosted hundreds and hundreds of events on literacy. Then as First Lady, she established a literacy foundation that exists to this day.

“The foundation has been giving grants all over the country for literacy programs to improve literacy skills, not only for children but also for adults and families because that’s where the cycle needs to be broken. When Barbara Bush died in 2018, she was sad that the literacy rate numbers had not improved much in all her years of efforts, but she left a legacy of not wanting to give up on that issue.”

At a time when Americans were afraid to visit and touch people suffering from the deadly viral disease AIDS in the 1980s, Barbara served as a “good human rights example,” McBride said. She visited an AIDS orphanage in Washington, D.C. and held Baby Donovan, who was orphaned by and afflicted with AIDS. He died not long after her visit. He was inconsolable at first as she held him but then calmed down as she comforted him.

“That was an act of courage,” McBride said, noting that the image of Barbara holding the baby fatally ill with AIDS that was seen around the country and the world conveyed an important message without anyone saying a word.

Laura Bush, then Barbara’s daughter-in-law, came into the first ladyship of the next century of American history. It was a different era dominated by the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001, on New York City and Washington, D.C. That attack that killed thousands of Americans triggered the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001 to try to destroy the terrorist infrastructure of the group al-Qaeda, which carried out the airborne attacks and was being sheltered by the Taliban regime of Afghanistan.

“Laura Bush became a global advocate for President Bush on so many issues around the world,” McBride said. “She was a global advocate for literacy and education. She came to the role as a teacher and a voracious reader. She had been a teacher in minority schools where she observed the disparities.” Laura also supported a better life for the girls and women of Afghanistan who had been denied for years. an education, healthcare and the right to hold jobs.

In response to a request by Lowe, McBride then talked about Michelle Obama, wife of President Barrack Obama, the first Black president in American history. He served from 2009 to 2017. As First Lady, Michelle worked on civil rights and ways to fight obesity.

Starting with the fact that she was America’s first Black woman to be First Lady, Michelle was “so revolutionary in regard to civil rights,” McBride said. “When Senator Obama of Illinois was elected president in November 2008, this was a sea change for our country. There was a lot of pressure on her as the first African-American First Lady” to meet the expectations of different groups of people.

“Because she wanted her daughters to be settled first in the White House, she rolled out her first initiative, ‘Let’s Move About Childhood Obesity,’ almost one year after arriving at the White House.

“She wanted to be a role model for young minority women and tell them what they could achieve and that education is important in their lives. She took that message around the world and established an initiative that is ongoing as a private foundation.”

McBride said that during the 2016 Democratic National Convention where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was the party’s presidential nominee, Michelle gave a speech in which she talked about “waking up every day in a house that was built by slaves.” Her talk led to research on the history of the construction of the White House and the names and backgrounds of laborers who built it, including immigrants and enslaved Black men.

“Michelle inspired an initiative called Slavery in the President’s Neighborhood, launched by the White House Historical Association,” McBride said. Historians have spent years documenting the staging of immigrant and slave labor in the president’s own backyard, which is now Lafayette Park, in the process of building the White House.

Next: Nancy Kegan Smith tells stories about several First Ladies.

Historically Speaking
First Ladies: Observations by
Anita McBride and Alan Lowe
(part two)

By Ray Smith -
Oak Ridge City Historian



Anita McBride participated via Zoom (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Nancy Reagan was one of the First Ladies that Anita discussed

2 Corinthians Chapter 6 & 7



Melvin Howard

(2 Cor. 6:1-10) The ministry explained: Working together with God (or Christ), the apostle pleads with the Corinthians to “receive not the grace of God in vain.” This text gives Calvinists spasms. They claim a person who receives God’s grace can never be lost, thus grace can never be “in vain.” Some allege, therefore, that Paul referred to those who had received a “false” gospel and never were saved. This is false. (a) The Greek very represents timeless action: “having received and continuing to receive.” (b) One cannot “receive in vain” what he never received initially. (c) Paul’s use of Isaiah 49:8 parallels the reception of God’s grace with the fact that the Lord had listened to them, and they enjoyed “a day of salvation” (v. 2).

They were not to provide an occasion of stumbling in any way, so that the apostle’s ministry might be blameless (which his opponents were attempting to impugn). Instead, they were to commend Paul and his workers as “ministers of God” who labored with much endurance in the face of hardships---which adversities were credentials of his integrity. He catalogs some of these, “commending” themselves as worthy of their support (due to the nature of the task): (a) “afflictions” (a generic term, signifying “pressures”); (b) “necessities” (distress, pain); (c) “distresses” (“tight” situations producing anguish); (d) “stripes” (wounds from beatings) (11:23); (e) “imprisonments” (prison time) (Acts 16:23; 2 Cor. 11:23); (f) “tumults” (riots) (Acts 19:23); (g) “labors” (exertion to the point of pain); (h) “watchings” (loss of sleep); (i) “fastings” (without food) (11:27).

After listing certain trials of his ministry, the apostle lists positive, internal qualities that sustained him (6-7): (a) “Purity” (free from moral contamination) (11:3); (b) “knowledge” (practical knowledge, understanding of spiritual truth); (c) “longsuffering” (keeping one’s temper under control); (d) “kindness” (goodness in action); (e) “in the Holy Spirit” (walking, being led, and living by the Spirit’s direction) (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25; Eph. 6:17), thus producing his “fruit” (22-23); (f) “love unfeigned” (void of hypocrisy); (g) “in the word of truth” (22-23); (truthful speech or message); (h) “power of God” (through his word and providential activity).

Paul now shifts his grammatical gears from the introductory term “in,” to “by,” then “as”. He survived: (a) “by the armor of righteousness” on both sides (blunting the barbs of his adversaries); (b) “by glory and dishonor” (when commended or insulted); (c) “by evil report and good report” (the evaluation of others did not deter him); (d) as “deceivers” and “true” (whether labeled as a liar or truth-teller); (e) as “unknown” or “well-known” (regardless of his reputation); (f) as “dying” or “living” (on the brink of death or in safety); (g) “as chastened, and not killed” (beaten almost to death, but not quite); (h) “as sorrowful but happy” (many heartaches but with an ultimate overwhelming joy); (i) as “poor” but making others “rich” (physically impoverished but conveying great spiritual wealth to many); (j) “as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (financially strapped; owning all things Mt. 5:5).

(2 Cor. 6:11-13) A plea to children: the Corinthians are Paul’s children in the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15). The apostle’s “mouth” stands open (he has withheld nothing), and his “heart” stands enlarged---large enough to receive them all. They are not in a tight spot because of Paul’s lack of love for them; their own “affection” is where the problem lies (v. 12). It was time for them to return the apostle’s love in full measure. “Open your hearts to me as I have done for you” (v. 13).

(2 Cor. 7:1) An appeal for cleansing: Blessings ought to motivate obedience, and Paul makes this point. Having already received wonderful promises (6:17-18), they were to cleanse themselves (obedient response in accessing divine cleansing power) of defilement, both of flesh and spirit, bringing holiness to a state of maturity in profound reverence for God. Note the distinction between “flesh” and “spirit.” Man is not wholly mortal as materialists suppose. “Flesh” stands for carnal appetites. Some of the Corinthian brothers, under Greek influence, felt it was permissible to indulge the flesh so long as the spirit remained genuine. Divine cleansing would occur only when the offenders submitted to the conditions for such. In the case of erring Christians, this would require repentance (sorrow for sin and a resolution to change) and prayer (Acts 8:22).

(2 Cor. 7:2-4) An appeal for reciprocal affection: The apostle appeals tenderly to those who may have fallen under the influence of the anti-Paul faction. “Open your hearts to me; we have not wronged, corrupted, or taken advantage of anyone, as we have been charged.” He was not trying to be harsh; they were in his heart, to live or die together (v. 3). He does not hesitate to speak highly of this church. He is comforted by what he knows concerning most of them, and even in his affliction his heart overflows with joy when contemplating.

(2 Cor. 7:5-16) The effect of his earlier letter: When he came into Macedonia, the same sort of afflictions he had endured elsewhere (in Ephesus) (1:8) and Troas (2:2-13) continued to plague him, surrounding him on every side. There were adversities externally and emotional stresses internally (v. 5). Nevertheless, the God of comfort blessed him by the providential arrival of Titus (for whom he had been so concerned) (2:13). His comfort was compounded by the news Titus brought of the love the Corinthian saints had for their “father” in the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15). They missed him, were sad for him, and were still zealous about him (6-7).

Paul brings up the matter of his former epistle. An older generation of scholars viewed this as 1 Corinthians; others hold it to be a lost letter. The difference does not affect the principle. He acknowledges the epistle caused them sorrow (which he temporarily regretted with natural human emotion), but no longer does, for it made them sorrowful (for a sufficient period of time), producing a deeper sorrow, that of a godly nature, that produced the fruit of their repentance (for their lack of discipline regarding the fornicating brother (1 Cor. 5).

Genuine sorrow for sin, motivated by a love for God, will motivate and activate a change of conduct necessary for forgiveness (Mt. 3:8). True repentance, even for the straying child of God, is “unto salvation” (v. 10)---clear testimony that it is possible for a Christian to fall away and lose his salvation. It is strange indeed how Calvinist expositors can write as if this text were not even there. There is a difference in godly sorrow and worldly sorrow, which produces no fruit (as in the case of Judas (Mt. 27:3-5) and yields only “death” (eternal separation from God (Rom. 6:23).

Their godly sorrow issued in such wonderful results---for the offender, for themselves, and for Paul. They truly had exonerated themselves (v. 11). The apostle wanted them to realize that his letter had not been solely (the sentence is elliptical) concerned for the worldly brother, or even his offended victim; it also was motivated by his desire that their care for him might be invigorated and that God might be pleased (v 12). He wanted them to know he had been “comforted” even more by the good news from Titus that, while he was among them, they wonderfully refreshed his spirit (v. 13). Paul hints that he had bragged on the Corinthian church to Titus, and their embracing of him demonstrated that the apostle’s confidence had been well placed. His whole association with Corinth had been in the interest of truth, both his teaching and actions, and their response had confirmed his high regard of them. Titus agreed with this assessment (v. 14).

The respect of Titus for the Corinthian church had grown significantly (suggesting he likely had some earlier trepidation). “His affection is truly genuine and he constantly remembers (the verbal force) how obedient you were to his instruction, so they graciously received him with deep respect and trembling (in the prospect of divine punishment).” Paul was overjoyed and was encouraged at the prospect of this church.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by

The Lord's Church

102 Paxton Road, Lancing





Always On Your Team

Be ready for every game with the **KTVAECU® Debit Card¹** and **Mobile App²**.

Learn More! ☎ (865) 544-5400 🖱 tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. 1. Available to qualifying Members. Some restrictions may apply. Ask for details. 2. Some restrictions may apply. Ask for details. Message and data rates may apply from your wireless carrier.



KNOXVILLE
TVA EMPLOYEES
CREDIT UNION

Caring for our community



Griffith Family PHARMACY



Your Community
Health Mart®
PHARMACY

Wartburg

📍 1236 Knoxville Hwy
Wartburg, TN
37887

☎ 423.346.6337

Rockwood

📍 600 N Gateway Ave
Rockwood, TN
37854

☎ 865.590.6339

Harriman

📍 1701 Roane State Hwy
Harriman, TN
37748

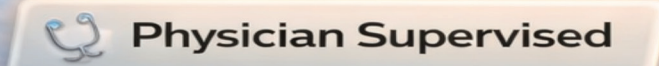
☎ 865.590.6337

@ griffithfamilypharmacy.com

This pharmacy is independently owned and operated under a license from Health Mart Systems, Inc.

GET YOUR BEACH BODY BACK

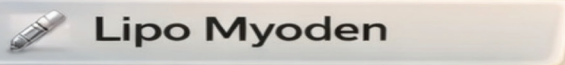
🏥 **FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzepatide Injections**



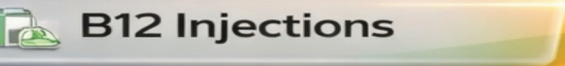
Physician Supervised



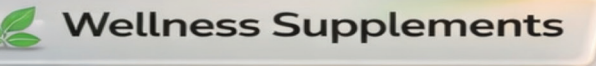
Prescription Diet Plans



Lipo Myoden



B12 Injections



Wellness Supplements





DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC

Walk-ins welcome!

19102 Alberta Street
Oneida, TN ☎ **423-286-7546**

Old Hwy 127 S, Jamestown, TN ☎ **931-879-8444**



**FREE
CONSULTATION**





Randy McFarland

105 S Kingston Street
PO Box 690
Wartburg, TN 37887-0690
(423) 346-7670

www.randyismyagent.com





COLDWELL BANKER Jim Henry & Associates



Real Estate Agent Glenda Johnson

Direct: (865) 591-6900
Office: (865) 376-2121 x102
License: 251289 TN
glenda6900@bellsouth.net

With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.

