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The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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I Am A Grandfather! By E. Dean Kelly

Our "little" girl (she's been married almost three years now) came home the other day from the doctor's office where what we had suspected had been confirmed, she is expecting our first grandchild. A few days later she went back and had her first sonogram. She brought home the picture and said, "There the baby is-our little Lima Bean." She wrote: *Today we had our first ultra sound! It was incredible. I am 9 weeks along tomorrow and the due date is November 9th. Who knew that this early in the pregnancy I would be able to see what I saw. Tommy and I talked about it before we went into the doctor's office and had decided that we would most likely not be able to tell what part was the baby this early. How could we be wrong with our vast amount of knowledge and experience on the subject (much sarcasm applied). What we saw was small but amazing! I could see him/her moving around and I could see the little heart beating. It was no bigger than a lima bean (that's what I'm calling him/her*

right now, "my little lima bean") but it was very easy to see. And then the lady doing the ultra sound turned up the sound and you could hear the heart beat! I've heard a bunch of women describe this before, but the feeling that you have when you see that little being that is inside of you and hear its little heart beating is indescribable!!

I started telling people, very proudly, that I am going to be a grandfather. I am hereby recanting that statement. I believe with all my heart that I am now a grandfather, and that my daughter is a mother-now. Everything that happens from here on happens to her living child. No one (except God) knows right now if it is a boy or a girl. But anyone who is honest knows that the baby lives and is our grandchild, and Carol Leah and Tommy's child.

I saw some placards on television last night: PROTECT A WOMAN'S RIGHTS-DON'T OUTLAW ABORTION. I am angered with a righteous anger when I see this stupidity. When a beating heart is cruelly crushed and stopped, that is murder as surely as if someone took a gun and shot a newborn. But that is not the subject here.

I pray that our grandchild is healthy and will stay that way as

he/she enters the world outside, and as it grows. May it have a long life of happiness and peace.

I quiver as I think about the world into which our grandbaby will be born. Right is called wrong, and wrong is called right on every hand. Movies, television, music, and friends will be pulling this little one in his/her life to come and serve evil. May God be with this baby's parents, grandparents, all those who can influence him/her for good. May the child have a willing spirit of service to God. This world can be overcome and defeated, but it is not easy.

However, I thank God that the baby is being carried by a mother who will not abuse it now, or after it is born. I am thankful that, Lord willing, he/she will be carried in the arms of parents that will care for, love, and nourish her/him. I am thankful that, Lord willing, he/she will be carried in the arms of parents that will care for, love, and nourish her/him. I, above all, am thankful that this baby will learn about God, that he/she will sing "Jesus Loves Me" before singing "Barney," or "Blues Clues," etc. This youngster will be given every chance to go to heaven because of strong Christian parents who love each other, God, and him/her.

I join with my daughter when

she concludes: "I pray every night that this little baby will be as healthy as possible and will make it through all of the dangers that come along with pregnancy. It is still early but I already love him/her with all of my heart!!" AMEN.

Editor's Note: Thomas Harry Hatfield V was born on October 28, 2006 to Tommy and Carol Leah (Kelly) Hatfield.

Families Need Teamwork

By Mike Haynes

In life, as well as in sports, it is vital to know that "we" is more important than "me." the USA basketball team did not win a gold medal in the 2004 Olympic Games. The U.S. team was loaded with NBA all stars. Yet, they lost to Argentina, Lithuania and Puerto Rico. How could that happen? It is a good question. John Wooden, the former UCLA basketball guru, offered this explanation: he said, "The U.S. sent great players; the opposition sent great teams." The U.S. had superstars; but they could not compete with a super-team!"

Ego management is a big concern for every supervisor, teacher or leader. Some individuals have over-inflated egos. They think too highly of themselves. Others have under-inflated egos. They have low self-esteem. The antidote for too much ego or too little ego is the team concept.

Teaching is usually required in the area of team spirit. Some people have been encouraged to be rugged individualists. They are independent in thought and action. Their natural inclination is to watch out for self. Personal glory is more important than team success. And, of course, there are times in life when one must stand alone. But, there is also the matter of community.

There is value in being a part of a learning organization (job, church, school, family, etc.). I was reared in Oxford, Alabama, near the Talladega Speedway. The influence of NASCAR was certainly felt in my community. The big-named drivers, of course, got most of the publicity and attention. But, a big-named driver can't do it all by himself. One, in a sense, isolated individual, must pour gas into the tank of the race car. Another person is responsible for removing and replacing lug nuts. One person removes the worn tire. Yet another person puts on the new tire. One person stands by with a fire extinguisher in case a problem arises. All of these individuals realize they are team members. The family, in a very real sense, is a team. Successful families have a team or family spirit. Parents are responsible for teaching family members about team work. Such teaching will strengthen the family and prepare family members for participation in other groups.

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Startling Statistics

- ◆ Single parents account for 27% of family households with children under 18.
- ◆ One in two children will live in a single-parent family at some point in childhood.
- ◆ One in three children is born to unmarried parents.
- ◆ Nearly half of all marriages end in divorce.
- ◆ More than one million children have parents who separate or divorce each year.
- ◆ One child out of 25 lives with neither parent.
- ◆ The number of unmarried partner households has increased by 72% in the last decade, from three million in 1990 to more than five million in 2000. These figures included both same-sex and different sex couples.

From "*That's a Family*," article in **In-Depth**, magazine of Gospel Broadcasting Network and come from www.womedia.org/taf_statistics.htm