

The Family Friend

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

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Glenda's Daddy

Glenda Williams of Geneva, Alabama is the wife of Douglas Williams who preaches for the Lord's church in Geneva. Geneva County is the county of my birth (I was born in Samson) and joins the Florida state line. Glenda herself was born not too far up the road from Samson in Elba. She has been a Facebook friend for some time and I am a posting member of the Geneva church's Facebook page. In this way, I am able to keep up with many of the things going on among the congregations in South Alabama (also known as L. A. = Lower Alabama) and the Panhandle of Northwest Florida where I spent my early childhood and boyhood days. Lynn Donaldson, who was a schoolmate in my boyhood hometown of DeFuniak Springs, Florida but not a member of the church at the time, is a faithful member of the Geneva church.

In the May 3, 2015 issue of the Geneva church bulletin, Glenda had the following article about her daddy. I was so

impressed with it that I saved it for a future edition of "News & Views." Here is what Glenda wrote.

We need more people like my daddy in the church

I didn't think too much about it when I was first married, and mother told me what my Daddy was doing. Lately I have thought quite a bit about Daddy. Let me share what I am talking about.

Daddy had been out of fellowship with the church for over 30 years. One Sunday he walked down the aisle and confessed his sins and was restored in full fellowship to the church. We need more people who are willing to do what my Daddy did.

Daddy stopped drinking, smoking and cursing when he was restored. He set a perfect example in just doing it. He gave his life to the Lord a year before Doug and I married in 1965, and never looked back. So don't think it can't be done. I know it can, because my Daddy did it. We need more people like my Daddy.

Daddy drove, and mother rode. She never learned to drive, and it didn't really bother

her. Daddy and mother were always early to the services of the church. They didn't come in late. We need more people like my Daddy.

Daddy was honored to serve. The church at Elba ordained Daddy a Deacon. I can understand that. Daddy was a serving member of the church. On Sundays he looked around on the ground to see if there were any new fire ant beds, and come Monday he was there first thing treating them. He didn't want the people to be stung by those little fellows. We need more people like my Daddy who see things that need to be done and do them without being asked.

Daddy was a carpenter. No doubt today in the Elba church building there are things that my Daddy built to help make the work of the church more efficient. He used his talents in the Lord's work. We need more people like my Daddy in the church.

Daddy took part in the worship of the church. I remember hearing him pray for the first time. He waited on the Lord's table. He led in prayer. He greeted visitors. We need more people like my Daddy in the church.

Daddy went with Harris Winston to help teach people the Bible in the privacy of their homes. He did the best he could to lead others to the Lord. We need more people like my Daddy in the church.

I like to think about my Daddy. We need more people like him in the church.

Indeed we do, Glenda, indeed we do!

Hugh Fulford
May 26, 2015
"Hugh's News & Views"



News You Need to Know

Divorces for Elderly Surge

The divorce rate for people over 50 has doubled in the past 20 years. In 2010, 25% of all divorces were for people over 50. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) and anyone who has been divorced can tell you why. Not only is there emotional and psychological pain involved in divorce, but the ripple effect on families is huge. In addition, the average loss of income for a man is 23% and for a woman it is 41%. The divorce industry in America in 2010 earned \$50 billion. More of an issue for the church is why this is happening.

The ease of getting a divorce is one factor, but it also has to do with the weakening of faith, commitment, and involvement of seniors in spiritual activities and work. The world's values and the pressure to look out after number 1 have rubbed off on us. The weakness of faith in what the church teaches as a major contributing factor.. Source: *AARP Bulletin*, November, 2014, page 16.

—this article is from the News and Notes section of *Does God Exist?*, May/June 2015

“What Happens in the First Year is Profound”

That is the opening line of an incredible article in *National Geographic* (January 2015, page 59). The article is subtitled “A baby's brain needs love to develop.” We have emphasized the importance of nuclear family for over 40 years now, and our arguments have been mostly from personal experience and observation. The article gives solid scientific data to support God's plan for the home. This done by EEG brain patterns and exhaustive studies of children deprived of contact with their parents or other adult care-givers. In Romania in the 1960's the communist government pushed families to put their children into a state-run day care so their mothers and fathers could work in government factories. The day cares had 15–to 20 children per caregiver so the only attention the children got was when they were fed or bathed. The brain-waves of 136 of these children were studied by neuroscientists. One researcher

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said, “It was if a dimmer switch had been used to turn their brain activity down.” Half of the kids were placed with foster families at age 2 and showed remarkable recovery. Numerous other studies are reported, as well as a detailed explanation of how the brain develops during the first year of life. This is an important article for people working with families and for families, themselves to read.

—this article is from the News and Notes section of *Does God Exist?*, May/June 2015

The Lifestyles of Pop Stars

The Week (December 31, 2014, page 9) reported on a study showing that the lifespans of popular musicians is roughly 25 years shorter than the average. Dr. Dianna Kenny looked at 12,000 popular musicians who died from 1950 to 2014 and found that early death was common. Kenny says “The culprit is a culture that glorifies outrageous behavior by emotionally immature artists. The pop scene is toxic and needs rehabilitation.” When our children and grandchildren get enamored with the current rock star, they need to realize that the rock star will die in their 50's, not their 70's or 80's. The Bible's warnings about evil companions are truths we all need to listen to. —this article is from the News and Notes section of *Does God Exist?*, May/June 2015