

Explosive nature

Dr. W.G. Romine, II

Which button is the wrong button? We need to color code this generation of young adults. What I mean is we need some system to recognize individuals with explosive natures and attitudes. Just as hunters wear blaze orange so they are not hit or shot accidentally, we could avoid contact with people who are ready to explode. However, it also would serve as a flag marking those most in need of attention. Perhaps the very reason they have become so explosive is due to a lack of attention.

The question is what to do with a donkey on edge? How to comfort, encourage and empower a person who is frustrated to the point of violence? People cannot be treated like rabbit animals, put down to end their erratic behavior. They must be stopped, then diagnosed and treated to remove the threat they pose to society and themselves. But first, it's necessary to admit our failure concerning their alarming condition. We have raised them to be insensitive to each other and disrespectful to authorities. They have become perfect examples of the rebellion pent up in the hearts of their parents.

Now, that the monster is grown and out of the basement, what do you expect society to do with it? The line is easily blurred separating criminal from crime; no wonder the police have become Glorified Heavies in search of 'Bad Boys'. Today's criminals are the most ruthless of all time. Regard for life has reached an all time low, and resistance must be met with an equally ominous force. How can we expect our peacemakers and peace keepers to serve and protect us, while we are promoting vile and promiscuous behavior leading to criminal activity by people having no fear of death?

Maybe we are just victims of our own making. The Bible declares,

"But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession].

Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]. For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed and led away by various evil desires and seductive impulses. [These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring and getting information, but are never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth." -2Timothy 3:1-7 Amplified

Dr. W.G. Romine II is from Colby's Redeeming Love Ministries. Romine is online at <http://insidewg.blogspot.com>, or his book at <http://tinyurl.com/ynq4cw>.

Dawn's early light

By Jay Kelley

"Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept." Mark 14:72.

Peter is often easier to understand than Paul. It is not that the great apostle to the Gentiles had no fear, or that he did not struggle with his faith. It is just that Peter's failures often seem so much more human.

"Often wrong, never in doubt," seemed to be Peter's battle cry. Yet, for all his faults, we see a man with a tender conscience and great zeal for God.

When the Lord began to teach about his coming death, Peter had argued and even rebuked him for such talk. Can you imagine rebuking Jesus Christ because you disagreed with something he said?

Jesus, however, was patient with him, probably knowing that such impetuosity — once tempered into thoughtful decisiveness — would serve the church in good stead in those critical early days.

By the time of that fateful Passover, Peter had become a trusted servant, but there were still some chinks in his armor. For one thing, he still had a worldly view of the kingdom, as evidenced by his as-

sault and mutilation of Malchus (servant of the High Priest.)

It may also explain his denial, at least in part.

You see, it is one thing to risk death in a heroic fight against impossible odds for a great cause. It is quite another to go willingly to certain punishment (maybe death) for which you will most likely be remembered as a traitor, or at least one of the foolish followers of a deluded pseudo-messiah.

Jesus was in custody and it looked as though the great kingdom they had anticipated was not going to be. The others had abandoned the Lord as well. Peter's actions may certainly be understood, if not condoned.

Yet, his integrity is evident as he makes no excuse for his sin and weeps bitterly for what he has done. I have often wondered if he remembered that night as he later wrote encouragement to faithfulness to the persecuted brethren.

Peter would, in fact, make more mistakes, some pretty serious, but he never again abandoned Jesus.

We all make mistakes, but they do not have to be permanent as long as we don't abandon Jesus.

After all, he won't abandon us. Jay Kelley is the evangelist for the church of Christ in Colby. His e-mail is jkelly@st-tel.net.

Rural, Christian town worries about plans for mosque

WALKERSVILLE, Md. (AP)

— A Muslim group's plan to build a mosque and convention site on a 224-acre farm has met with resistance from many residents of this rural, overwhelmingly Christian town who fear its tranquility and security may be jeopardized.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA insists it will be a friendly neighbor, but its proposal — including an annual national gathering of thousands of Ahmadis — could be blocked by the town commissioners.

"Muslims are a whole different culture from us," said the mayor, Ralph Whitmore, taking a break at his livestock feed store.

"The situation with the Muslims is a touchy worldwide situation, so people are antsy over that."

Two days after Ahmadiyya leaders fielded questions at a public forum in August, town Commissioner Chad Weddle introduced a zoning amendment that would prohibit places of worship, schools and private clubs on land zoned for agriculture — including the farm the Ahmadis have contracted

to buy.

If the five commissioners approve the measure in a vote expected as early as next week, the Ahmadis could be blocked from building a mosque on the site. Even if the amendment fails, the group still would need a special exception to proceed — their request for one is pending before the town's planning commission.

To some, Weddle's amendment smacks of discrimination.

"The situation indicates this is an action that is being directed toward one specific faith community and, as such, that makes it highly suspect," said Roman P. Storz, a Washington attorney who has been retained by the land's prospective seller, David Moxley.

Muqtedar Khan, a political science professor at the University of Delaware, said the blunt opposition voiced by some Walkersville citizens is reminiscent of the persecution Ahmadis have endured in Pakistan.

There, they are forbidden to practice their religion because they believe there was a prophet after Muhammad — Hadrat Mirza Ghu-

lam Ahmad, who died in 1908.

"It is quite ironic," Khan said, that the Ahmadis — allowed to worship freely in the United States — "are suffering a backlash because of their association with Islam."

But Syed Ahmad, a federal economist who is managing the Walkersville project for the group, said the persecution in Pakistan is far worse.

"Here, people are civilized and they get up and they talk and they oppose you," Ahmad said, "but they're not going to kill you."

Ahmad, who emigrated from Pakistan in 1980, says members of his community won't go where they're not wanted. The group's leaders have gone door-to-door to persuade Walkersville residents that Ahmadis are not terrorists.

Ahmad acknowledged that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the U.S. campaign against terrorism have made residents wary.

"They hear 'Muslims,' and they don't know anything beyond that," he said. "To me, it's natural until they get a chance to ask questions what our beliefs are — and

then they realize these are good people."

Some residents aren't convinced. When the Ahmadis visited Kamra Minor, a clerk at the Walkersville Market, "I told them, you have to understand — there's a certain connotation to a Muslim group, especially in a blue-collar area like this," Minor said.

Resident David Sample testified during a hearing last month that he is an intelligence officer whose office at the Pentagon, about 40 miles away, was destroyed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I just stress to the board and the community that we pay attention to what's going on, what the motive is, who the people are," he said.

Others worry about the traffic that large-scale Muslim gatherings would generate in the town of 5,600. Mark Mowen suggested that the Ahmadis continue holding their conventions at an exposition center in Chantilly, Va., where this year's three-day event drew about 4,200 participants a day. Weddle said he offered his amendment not to block the Muslims but as part of a plan to preserve open space.

SHARE the FAITH

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

Schedule of church services

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, Services start August 26th. Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th, Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, following worship.; Sept. thru May: Kid's Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2856; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Saturday Evening 5 p.m. Worship, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 7p.m. Shop online at: <http://www.cafepress.com/imakers> and <http://tinyurl.com/ynq4cw>

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fcocolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Interspersory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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