

From the mailbag:

Reader takes issue with Telegram columnist's take on women's trust

To the Editor,
A columnist for *The Norton Telegram* asks the question, "Who can you trust?" and answers with the statement, "Trust women." After reading the column and comments given concerning Planned Parenthood and the cartoon with the fetus saying, "I sure hope mom lives in South Dakota," I must write and say I trust God.

We women are too prone to succumb to pressure (as mentioned about the teen girl) from family, so-called friends, and the culture around us that tells us that "it's my body" and I have to do what's best for me. I beg to differ. We belong to God. We are made in His image and likeness and His Son, Jesus, paid the price for our sinfulness and inability to make right choices all the time.

Abortion is death — it stops a beating heart that no matter how it came to be, is. Our rationalization of children born with handicaps (who determines what's severe) or genetic abnormalities, or careers that are just beginning, or schooling that is so important, or not enough money or time, or just on and on is just our way of saying, "I am more important than this new life I am carrying."

South Dakota has stepped up and out and said enough is enough, when is one life more important than another is? Perhaps that aborted baby was the one God had planned to take care of you in your old age, or find the cure for breast cancer, or bring a smile and hug to all of us. When we decide to play God and/or encourage others to, we have turned our backs on our creator and in effect said, "I know what's best for me right now so I will make the choice."

Having been made in the image and likeness of God, we choose to destroy that which he has made and deemed worthy. What about that saying, "A child is God's way of saying the world should go on?" We were created for a purpose, to love and serve God; to be His hands and feet in this world. We are called to care for others, old, young, infirmed, handicapped, abandoned, forgotten, to be Christ to others. Sin is a turning away from God and His love. We are taught to recognize sin and avoid it as we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But he is always waiting for us to return to Him. That's why we hate the sin but love the sinner.

We are a self-indulgent society. We want what we want when we want it, whether it's food, money, sex, vehicles, furniture, trips, and you name it. The Bible speaks very clearly about our weakness and poor choices and encourages us to be strong and encourage others to be strong. There are so many loving families who want children, children who want to be born, loved and follow the path God has for them. Abortion takes all that and more away and leaves the woman with an aching heart and soul that wounds her throughout life until she reaches out for the healing hand of God.

There is an organization, Rachel's Vineyard that is made up of women who have made the choice of death, found God's forgiveness and now they help others find hope and peace. Let's help all girls and women choose life and not death by encouraging and supporting them. Let's talk about self-control, abstinence, demanding respect for the whole person, and our bodies as temples of God.

As a country we are very conscious of disasters and the loss of life they cause. We are a people who value the God of our fathers and life. Let's spread that news. Life is a gift from God to us. Let's not throw it back in His face.

Ardith Scheetz
Clayton

These people are simply illegal aliens and we need not surrender to them

To the Editor,
The two-column letter by Denise Schmitz-Deettlefs on immigration could be reduced to two paragraphs.

One, these people aren't immigrants, they are illegal aliens. They make no effort to learn our language, adopt our culture, or assimilate into our society. They are a drag on our educational and medical facilities, and should be rounded up and sent back to wherever they came from.

Two, we certainly don't need to surrender our country to illegal Mexicans so businesses can have cheap labor. That's their problem. If Tyson Foods can't find enough cheap chicken pluckers, and vegetable growers can't find enough cheap lettuce pickers, they can close down and we'll just have to eat something else.

Thank you,

R.W. Yeager
Norton

WHERE TO WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and daytime phone number of the author for confirmation. We do not publish anonymous letters.

We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

E-mail letters to tomd@nwkansas.com, bring them by the office, or you can mail them to us at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, 67654.

Next 'Thumbs Up to...' to appear Friday

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Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping
Hypatia Day advertising



Speaking to grads new experience

High school seniors, everywhere, are considering their futures. Sunday night we were given an opportunity to deliver an address to three young people in a little Nebraska town just over the border from us.

We were booked as a team. The organizer wanted Jim and I to sing some songs and say a few words to the graduating seniors from this farming community. When I agreed for us to do this, I was quite flattered, thinking someone, finally, realized how eloquent I could be. I visualized the audience hanging on every word.

As the night of our debut approached, I came to realize the awesome responsibility of what we were about to do. I kept bugging Jim, "What are you going to talk about? What are you going to say?"

A practiced public speaker, he would only say, "Calm down, Carolyn. I'm working on it. It's coming to me."
"Well, work out loud. I need to know what you're going to say, so I don't say the same thing," I told him.

He gave me a cockeyed look that I translated to mean, "There is no way you could begin to say the same thing I am going to

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



say." Which was true, but I was beginning to get nervous.

I read somewhere public speaking is one of life's most stressful situations. I believe it. I have no problem with spontaneous conversation. I can make small-talk with anyone.

Somehow, this seemed different. What I said was supposed to be profound. It might have an impact on these young people's lives.

Then, my husband gave me the best advice in the world. "Just speak from your heart."

So, I did. I told the kids I hoped their parents had let them make a few mistakes. That the best way to learn how to make good decisions was to make a few bad ones.

I told them they would have two important decisions to make in their lives and neither one had anything to do with where they went to school or what they would do for a living.

I said their first decision would be whether or not to make Christ the center of their life. The second most important decision would be who they would decide to marry, and, to not be unequally yoked.

Then I threw in one extra bit of advice for free. I told them to have a purpose in their lives. To be of service to others.

Next, it was Jim's turn. In true Jim Plotts style, he changed his message, on the spot. The message he delivered was not the message he had prepared. He said my comment about service inspired him and he presented, what I thought was a fine message. The phrase he used was "Only one life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

It's true. If we can be servants of our fellow man in their time of need, we are fulfilling our purpose.

You don't have to look very far to find a need. Perhaps, you're just the person to fill it.

U.S. 36 or I-70 to Denver? Read on

OK, you asked so now I respond. Norton to Denver. U.S. 36 vs. I-70. I used both routes this past weekend — 36 going out and 70 coming back.

To my son Todd's home in Aurora, it was 270 miles in 4 hours and 25 minutes. From his home via I-70 to Colby and then angling up to Norton, it was 303 miles in 4 hours and just under 20 minutes. I used a little more gas coming back (75 miles per hour has a way of slurping up the fuel). Going out the speed limit was 65 and I pretty much held true to that in order to establish one of my mission's goals.

And traffic wasn't a problem. In fact, traffic sometimes just wasn't. The scenery along U.S. 36, for most part, is a plus. I-70 offers nothing but nothing. It's just a superslab with all kinds of vehicles racing to wherever.

U.S. 36 takes you through several small towns, notably Joe's and Last Chance. By the time I got to Last Chance I prayed that I get another chance. I did and eventually met up with I-70 at Byers.

So there you are. And what will be my next trip out? It will all depend on how I feel — like a NASCAR nut or a laid back bum.

-td-

Here are a few church bulletin items that will spark a chuckle or two, thanks to the way they are phrased:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight:

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



"Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Charlene will sing at today's service, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new

members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5 p.m., prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 o'clock there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at Church on Wednesday. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

-td-

Here are a few tips sent to us by the Department of Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars on U.S. flag etiquette:

(a) A flag displayed on a car should be fastened to the right side bumper, antenna or to the window; (b) if displaying a flag on a wall, the blue field should be in the upper left corner and it should never touch the ground; (c) when displaying an all-weather flag outdoors 24 hours a day, there should be a light near it at night so it is not in complete darkness; and (d) above all, when the flag becomes worn, please replace it.

Remember, Old Glory has been flying for more than 229 years and will be flying many more years in the future.

-td-

The television commercial said, "Lose 12 pounds in two days." Almost sounds like an overdose of Ex-Lax.

-td-

Have a good evening!

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

□ Governor Kathleen Sebelius, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

□ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

□ U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

□ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

□ State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. Phone (785) 296-7399

□ State Rep. John Faber, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500