

Amwell Church of the Brethren

Amwell Echoes

REACHING OUT WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION SO OTHERS MAY KNOW CHRIST

April/May '03
Volume 3 Issue 1

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www.amwell.org

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From The Pastor's Pen . . .

by Robert DiSalvio, Pastor at Amwell COB



WAR!

"And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled; for such things must needs be, but the end shall not be yet" - Mark 13:7

As of this writing (3/17/03) it appears that war with Iraq is inevitable!

Thomas Aquinas wrote "In order for a war to be just three things are necessary. First, the authority of the sovereign (government leader) secondly a just cause, thirdly a rightful intention".

Does this war meet the criteria for a "just war"? That is up to you to decide for yourself, armed with as many facts (not opinions) as you can muster.

Christians have been divided on matters of war and peace for centuries. Why? Partly because war involves strong emotions of fear, anger, loyalty, and love. Partly because war involves strong and conflicting loyalties such as respect for life, concern for suffering, righteous indignation, devotion to country and preservation of honor.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO? Very few issues are simple. They are usually very complex, having many sides for consideration and are made even more complex where life and death are concerned.

For the Bible believing Christian rule #1 is what saith the scripture?

There are over 200 references to war in the Bible and over 400 references to peace. (Is it twice as hard to make peace then to make war?)

• Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:8 "To everything there is a season... a time of war and a time of peace"

• Mark 13:7 wars and rumor or war: must be as long as there is human governance. Human frailties and human lusts will prevail. Isaiah 59:1-8

• World wide peace can only happen if those who govern and those who are governed are righteous (right thinking right living) Matt 6:33 Luke 2:14

• We will deluded to think that there will be world wide peace in our time! 1 Thess 5:3 (Since the end of WWII in 1945 there have been more than 140 wars!)

(Continued pg 8)

**BLANCHE'S
CORNER ...by
Blanche
Carl**

NOW upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

— Luke 24:1-7 —



MEET...JILL DAMIANO

Our congregation is truly blessed knowing Jill! She and her family are a wonderful addition to Amwell. Even though she lives locally, Jill grew up in the mid-west-- she lived in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. She met her husband Tony in Chicago on a set-up date! A friend introduced them and it was love at first site!

They married in 1986 and settled into life in New Jersey. Tony is a licensed chiropractor in our area and Jill helps out daily running his office and making sure life is smooth for her men! In her spare free time she enjoys arts and crafts, her herb garden, and most sports...especially tennis! If anyone suggests a quick game, Jill is fast to join in!

Even though she truly didn't come to a personal relationship with the Lord until adulthood, Jill was raised Lutheran and always searched for a relationship with Him. She tells us when she finally surrendered all to Him and laid all her burdens at the Cross, she finally felt that special joining with God.

Several times while driving son Anthony to school, she would pass by our little church and wonder what kind of church it was. She sent Anthony to Bible School one summer and was truly delighted with the whole air and feel of VBS. She then started attending services and was really impressed with the messages given each week and with the upbeat music and praise. Jill was baptized at Amwell last year and has been very active as a Youth advisor. She brings to the Friday night gatherings her special gift of ministry to children, her talent of crafts and her love of The Lord.

Jill shares with us a special passage from the Bible she loves dearly...the 23rd Psalm.

We all are blessed to know and to love Jill and her family.

✝ Missionary Outreach ✝

Amwell Church of the Brethren supports many Missionaries. Not only do these people and organizations count on our financial support they greatly depend on our prayers and encouragement. Please send them a card or letter to let them know you care.

Rev. Leon & Lorraine Dillinger
C/O UFM International
Box 306
Bala-Cynwyd, PA 19004

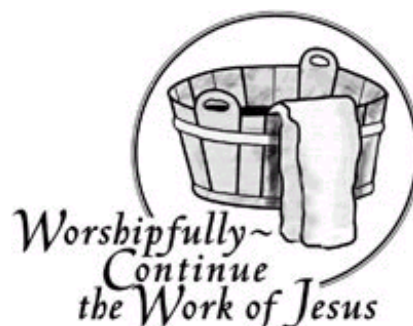
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33813

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MARANATHA NEWS BRIEFS

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NEW YORK, N.Y. -- Americans believe the U.S. would be a better nation if people got more involved in religion -- but they don't care what religion. That's the conclusion of a study funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The study found that 70 percent of Americans want religion's influence on society to grow, and 76 percent said which faith grows doesn't matter to them. The study also found that 68 percent of Americans believe there is prejudice toward evangelical Christians. Three out of four evangelicals said they believe that many journalists have a built-in bias against religion, a view shared by 56 percent of the general public.

BEIJING, China -- The Bible is a national bestseller in China. Even though the Chinese government restricts the sale and distribution of the Bible throughout the country, 25 million copies have been sold in the last 13 years, reports Idea News Agency. Since bookstores aren't allowed to sell copies of the Bible, churches have been the main source of sales.

(BP) -- The House of Representatives voted 241-155 in favor of the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, H.R. 534, which bars cloning not only for the purpose of reproducing a child but with the intention of creating an embryo on which to perform research. Before adopting the bill, the members rejected an attempt to amend the measure to allow the cloning of embryos for experimentation.

ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Heleen Maranda
140 West Pennsylvania Ave
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-269-7462



CHRISTIAN EMERY
122 A Water Gate Drive
Lynchburg, Va. 24506
(this will be till the 10 th of May)

PRAISE GLORIFIES GOD

Read Psalm 50:23

Stephanie became seriously ill with cancer when just three months old.

Her parents, Kathy and Tom, committed her to the Lord and the doctors. And she was cured.

Renting a billboard on US 40 in Maryland, they quoted Philippians 4:6, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

And they added, "He has heard Stephanie's prayers and she has been healed." Let us, in private and public, thank the Lord for answering our prayers.

The Lord says, "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me."

Prayer: We thank Thee, Father, for Thy grace which saves us and sustains us. Deliver us from all that would keep us from worshiping Thee and working for Thee. Help us be unselfish and untiring servants: in Christ's name. Amen

From the Recipe File of ... *Tami Hettman*

CHOCOLATE CHIP CHEESE BALL



- 8 oz. cream cheese softened**
- 1/2 Cup softened butter**
- 1/4 Tsp vanilla extract**
- 3/4 Cup confectionery sugar**
- 2 Tbl. brown sugar**
- 3/4 Cup mini chocolate chips**
- 3/4 Cup finely chopped pecans or peanuts**

Graham crackers for serving (Chocolate and regular)

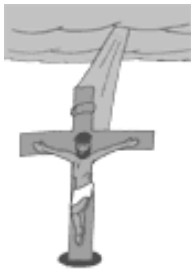
**Beat cream cheese, butter, and vanilla in mixer until fluffy.
Gradually add sugar and mix until just combined.
Stir in chips.
Refrigerate for 2 hours.**

**On a large piece of plastic wrap make into a ball and wrap well in the plastic wrap.
Refrigerate for at least 1 more hour.
Before serving roll in finely chopped nuts and serve with graham crackers.
Makes 1 cheese ball about 2 cups**

Your Deacons desire to communicate more directly with each member of the congregation. We have therefore assigned our Deacons to the congregation by alphabetical blocks as follows. Do feel free to contact ANY Deacon

A-G	George Hettman Sr	609-466-3554
H-M	John Caimano	908-284-2258
N-S	Jeff Kiskurno	215-968-5584
T-Z	Robert Hughes	732-780-3398





From The Cross To A Cloud

*To hang on a cross between Heaven and hell,
With such anguish and pain
Mere words could not tell.
My God, My God, why have you forsaken?
For I've become as their sin
By this action that's taken.*

*I now give My Own Life
For the sons and the daughters,
And am led to God's Judgement as
A Lamb To The Slaughter.
Whipped and beaten a spear thrust in My Side,
And because of My Stripes will My Healing abide.
Sharp nails were driven in My Feet and My Hands,
My Blood now poured out
For the sins of all lands.
It is Finished I said as I hung on that tree, I've now died in your place
So that you can be free.*

*Into Thy Hands I commend My Spirit,
And said it in joy so My Father could hear it.
Darkness came to the earth in
This time that was spent,
And the Mighty Veil of The Temple was rent.
From The Cross I was taken*



*To a tomb that was borrowed.
And for those who did love Me,
Their hearts were so sorrowed.
Now three days had gone by
And the stone rolled away,
And now comes the dawning
Of a great new day.*

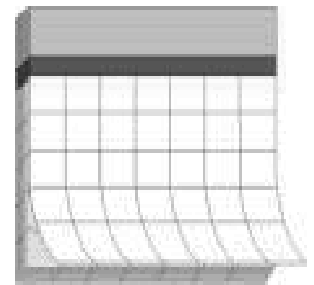
*For I Have Arisen, Just As I Did Say.
And give you My Peace which will not pass away.
I Was Taken Up In A Cloud To My Glory.
Now I Fill By My Spirit,
As you tell My Great Story.
Of A Merciful God Who Left His Own Throne,
To come down to this earth
To gather His Own.*



Parishioner's Potpourri

APRIL, 2003

- Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM
- Every Wednesday : Dessert & Bible Study starting 7 PM.
- Olympians and Teen Youth Group Friday Evening
(See Michelle DiSalvio)
- 3rd Busy Bees @ 7:30 PM In The Annex
- 5th Marriage Excursion @ 6:30 PM
- 5th Day Light Saving Begins. Set clocks FORWARD 1 hour
- 17th Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM (Place TBA)
- 18th Good Friday Service @ 7 PM
- 20th Easter Sunrise Service @ 6 AM (Breakfast scheduled to follow service)
- 20th Mission Sunday Scheduled



MAY, 2003

- Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM
- Dessert & Bible Study Wednesdays 7 PM.
- Olympians and Teen Youth Group Friday Evening (See Michelle DiSalvio)
- Every Wednesday: Dessert & Bible Study starting 7 PM.
- Marriage Excursion TIME & PLACE TBA
- 1st National Day of Prayer
- 3rd Annual Women's Banquet (See Jean for tickets/prices)
- Busy Bees TIME & PLACE TBA
- 11th Mother's Day Service
- 15th Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM Place TBD
- 18th Mission Sunday



Taken from the April 15, 2002
Teen Newsweek

From a Distance

Peace on Earth? A basic tenet of most religions is peace, and yet there is so much bloodshed in the name of God. Does the cartoonist think we humans need a little divine intervention? What do you think?

From The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 1)

"Pastor Bob aren't we supposed to be peacemakers?" you ask.

Answer: Yes!

James 3:17,18 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated (persuaded) full of mercy and good fruits without partiality, without hypocrisy and the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Is that reference a description of you? You can do signs, you can do slogans, you can do candles, you can do vigils, and those things can make you feel good. But real peace begins with Jesus in the heart and shines out to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and the church family. If we are not at peace with God and with those around us where is our moral authority to tell the world to live in peace?

I encourage all of us to "Give peace a chance" in our circle of influence 1 Thess 5:1-23

Will the day come when there will be peace on earth?

Yes! Rev 20:1-6. The day will come when God will intervene directly in the affairs of the world. Jesus Christ will establish a righteous kingdom on earth wherein peace will be the foundation of all things.

What should we do now about the war with Iraq?

Do what Jesus did when He was faced with the matter of life and death (His own personal war, if you will).

The answer: Luke 22:39-44 Read and decide for yourself what should be done.

Don't look to me or any other man for the answers to life's tough questions: **LOOK TO THE BOOK!!!**



AMWELL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN COMMUNICATION SERVICES



**Carrying the Gospel as
far as the World can
Receive It**

We are on the Internet at:
www.amwell.org

The Church of the Brethren
Website:

<http://www.brethren.org/>

We also broadcast sermons on:

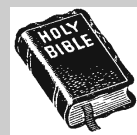
WDVR 89.7
Each Sunday at 7:30 A.M.

We Sponsor the Ravi Zacharias
radio programs:

"Let My People Think"

and

"Adventures in Odyssey"



Announcing: VBS

Preliminary beraldings indicate Amwell Church of the Brethren will host another Vacation Bible School during the weeks of July 7th and 14th, 2003

Details are sketchy at this time but our information leader Barbara Waldron will be making announcements shortly!

Wanted and desperately needed people and things include: Willing Teachers, Able Helpers, Jolly Kitchen Staff, and delicious and nutritious food supplies



The Resurrection of Christ

1. Propesied in the Old Testament:

David - Psalm 16:8-10; Acts 2:25-31

2. Foretold in the New Testament:

Christ - Matt 16:21-23; 17:22,23; 20:17-19 26:1,2,32

Mark 8:31-33; 9:31; 14:28

Luke 9:22

John 2:19-22; 12:32-34

3. Fulfilled in Time:

First Day - Matt 28:1-7

Mark 16:5-7

Luke 24:4-8

John 20:11-13

4. Confirmed by Witnesses:

Apostles - Acts 2:24,32; 3:26; 4:33; 5:30; 13:30-37; 25:19

Romans 1:4; 8:11

1 Corinthians 6:14

2 Corinthians 4:14; 13:4

Philippians 3:10

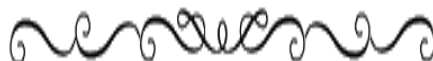
2 Timothy 2:8



DONT FORGET OUR CHILD OF COMPASSION

HELEN

YOUR DONATIONS WILL ALLOW THIS CHILD TO BE THE CONTINUING RECIPIENT OF QUALITY MEDICAL CARE AND THE SUPPLIES SHE NEEDS TO GROW HEALTHY AND STRONG IN THE LORD.



FYI ...Movies for the Whole Family?

It's true! Well, for the most part. There is a site on the Internet where you can rent movies suitable for the whole family.

<http://www.clearfilms.com> is a movie rental site that is convenient and easy. Movies are edited for their content and are rated E for everyone.

The faster you return the movie the lower your rental fee!

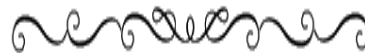
My Heroe And Best Witness

by Sandra McDowell

**Growing up with a Mom with the faith she had
so strong;
You would think I would never dream of doing
wrong.**

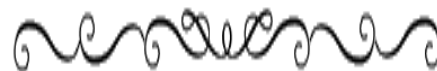


**But Mom always loved unconditionally and never
ceased to pray;
Knowing in her heart Jesus would honor her prayer
one day.
All my life from childhood til now I would try;
But I finally made it and now I know why.
For a Mom who never waivers in the face of
adversity or fear;
Watching her praise Jesus with a joyful tear.
Thank the Lord she never gave up on me;
For I now pray for my children and grandchildren
like she did for me!
This is my way of thanking her so sweet;
For I know now in Heaven someday we'll meet!**



CHOIR INVITATION

**Jean DiSalvio and crew wish to extend an open invitation to anyone desiring to join the choir!
No experience required...just a minimum of time needed for rehearsal and a great
pay...appreciation for a job well done! Feel free to contact Jean or any
member at any time! You will be welcomed with open arms, a huge smile
and a great big bear hug!!!**



**If you have any important announcements or photos you would like in The
Newsletter, just see Karen and you will be accommodated! We would like to
publish graduation announcements, engagement and wedding info, honor roll
accolades and sports achievements!**



News of the Church of the Brethren

Taken from the Brethren website at brethren.org

Stanley J. Noffsinger, who has guided the work of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., since June 1999, has been called as the next general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board. The general secretary serves as the head of the denomination's primary ministry and administrative arm and represents the Church of the Brethren ecumenically.

Noffsinger, who also oversees the General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries program, received unanimous approval from the General Board as it met in closed session Monday morning in New Windsor. He was the only candidate brought by the board's search committee, chaired by Stafford Frederick of Roanoke, Va.

In remarks to a full house of board members, staff, and visitors, Noffsinger said it has been "just an incredible discernment process."

"I'd love to take my jacket off and my tie off and roll up my sleeves, because we have a lot of difficult work to do," Noffsinger said. He called Brethren to roll up their sleeves as well and join in that work as "we embark on a venture of faith and . . . discern who the Church of the Brethren is going to be in this new millennium."

Noffsinger, 48, will succeed Judy Mills Reimer, who is retiring in July after leading the agency for the past five years. Reimer made Noffsinger a member of the General Board's Leadership Team in March 2000 in an administrative reorganization. He will be the first non-ordained person to serve as general secretary.

A graduate of Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.), Noffsinger also holds a certificate in Total Quality Management from Wichita (Kan.) State University. Noffsinger moved to the New Windsor position from Wichita, where he had served as manager of three medical clinics and as a physician placement coordinator. He earlier operated his own leasing company and served as associate in youth ministries at the Wichita First Church of the Brethren. He was moderator of Western Plains District from 1997-1999.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Noffsinger also served at the Brethren Service Center in the mid-1970s, as director of the Church World Service CROP office then located there. He and his wife, Debbie, and two sons now live in Union Bridge, Md., and attend the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

Noffsinger will maintain his residency in Maryland, with dual offices of the general secretary in both New Windsor and at the agency's General Offices in Elgin, Ill., which will continue to serve as denominational headquarters.



A LETTER HOME

Sally jumped up as soon as she saw the Surgeon come out of the operating room. She said: "How is my little boy? Is he going to be O.K.? When can I see him?"

The Surgeon said, "I'm sorry, we did all we could."

Sally said, "Why do little children get cancer, doesn't GOD care anymore? GOD, where were you when my son needed you?" The Surgeon said, "One of the nurses will be out in a few minutes to let you spend time with your son's remains before it's transported to the university".

Sally asked that the nurse stay with her while she said Good-bye to her son.

Sally ran her fingers through his thick red curly hair. The nurse said, "Would you like a lock of his hair?" Sally nodded yes. The nurse cut a lock of his hair and put it in a plastic bag and handed it to

Sally. Sally said, "It was Jimmy's idea to give his body to the university for study. He said it might help somebody else," and that is what he wanted. I said, No at first, but Jimmy said, "Mom I won't be using it after I die, maybe it will help some other little boy to be able to spend one more day with his mother". Sally said, "My Jimmy had a heart of Gold, always thinking of someone else and always wanting to help others if he could".

Sally walked out of the Children's Hospital for the last time now after spending most of the last 6 months there. She sat the bag with Jimmy's things in it on the seat beside of her in the car. The drive home was hard and it was even harder to go into an empty house. She took the bag to Jimmy's room and started placing the model cars and things back in his room exactly where he always kept them. She laid down across his bed and cried herself to sleep holding his pillow.

Sally woke up about midnight and laying beside her on the bed, was a letter folded up. She opened the letter, it said:

Dear Mom:

I know you're going to miss me, but don't think that I will ever forget you or stop loving you because I'm not around to say I LOVE YOU. I'll think of you every day Mom and I'll love you even more each day. Someday we will see each other again. If you want to adopt a little boy so you won't be so lonely, he can have my room and my old stuff to play with. If you decide to get a girl instead, she probably wouldn't like the same things as us boys do, so you will have to buy her dolls and stuff girls like. Don't be sad when you think about me, this is really a great place.

Grandma and Grandpa met me as soon as I got here and showed me around some, but it will take a long time to see everything here. The angels are so friendly, I love to watch them fly. Jesus doesn't look like any of the pictures I saw of Him, but I knew it was Him as soon as I saw Him.

Jesus took me to see GOD! And guess what Mom?

I got to sit on GOD'S knee and talk to Him like I was somebody important. I told GOD that I wanted to write you a letter and tell you Good-bye and everything, but I knew that wasn't allowed. God handed me some paper and His own personal pen to write you this letter with. I think Gabriel is the name of the angel that is going to drop this letter off to you. God said for me to give you the answer to one of the questions you asked Him about. Where was He when I needed him? God said, "The same place He was when Jesus was on the cross. He was right there, as He always is with all His children. Oh, by the way Mom, nobody else can see what is written on this paper but you. To everyone else, it looks like a blank piece of paper. I have to give God His pen back now, he has some more names to write in the Book Of Life. Tonight I get to sit at the table with Jesus for Supper. I'm sure the food will be great.

I almost forgot to let you know now I don't hurt anymore, the cancer is all gone. I'm glad because I couldn't stand that pain anymore and God couldn't stand to see me suffer the pain either, so He sent The Angel of Mercy to get me. The Angel said I was Special Delivery!

Signed with love from: God & Jesus & Me.

The Story of Mother's Day



The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday". Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter), "Mothering Sunday" honored the mothers of England.

(For more information on Lent/Easter check out - [Easter on the Net](#)) During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe the celebration changed to honor the "Mother Church" - the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time the church festival blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church.

In the United States Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to the Battle hymn of the Republic) as a day dedicated to peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Mass ever year.

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. By the next year Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia.

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessman, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

While many countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, there are some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May

Happy
mother's Day





JUST A LAST MINUTE THOUGHT...

Submitted by Robert Hughes

These are from an Arizona placemat published with advertisements by Coffee Gram for a small roadside cafe and other establishments.

When you reach for the stars you may not quite get one, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either.

In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.

I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.

As scarce as truth is, the supply seems greater than the demand.

If you don't like the news, go out and make some.

A key chain is a gadget that allows us to lose several keys at the same time.

If we look at the path, we do not see the sky. We are earth people on a spiritual journey to the stars. Our quest, our earth walk, is to look within, to know who we are, to see that we are connected to all things, that there is no separation, only in the mind.

The essence of good government is to persuade an impatient nation to accept short-term pains for long-term gains.

If you expect a place in the sun, you have to expect a few blisters.

My one coat and I live comfortably together. It has assumed all my wrinkles, does not hurt me, has molded itself on my deformities and is complacent to all my moves and I only feel its presence because it keeps me warm. Old coats and old friends are the same thing.

It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best you very often get it.

When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, how would the Lone Ranger handle this?

Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.

The boss said this his employee: you are slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children . One of these is roots; the other is wings.

When the most important times are occurring, we don't even recognize them or notice. We are just busy living out our lives. Only looking back do we know what was a great moment in our lives.

