



Success Means Toys? Luncheon Provides Some Answers

By Shirley Mears

“Success” has many definitions. Some would say that success means money and that money means success. But as the newspaper headlines show, many times money means misery. We all shake our heads in wonder as we learn about the “beautiful people” of Hollywood, as they spend their many, many dollars and seem to acquire only more misery. Why would some of the most attractive, in demand actors and actresses be involved in headlines that shout of drugs, alcohol, shoplifting, pornography, murder and suicide? Could it be that our culture has been sold a concept that is based on the deception that those who die with the most toys win?

It is amazing how even little children are pulled into the web of acquiring more stuff. Could it be there is another way to direct the new generation? There was a time in our nation that character was taught as a basis of all lessons.

I met Tom Hill many years ago while attending Bill Gothard’s Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts, now known as Institute in Basic Life Principles. Each year many of us made the annual trek to First Southern Del City for the week-long viewing of video lessons in the Biblical concepts for successful living.



Tom Hill

Tom and Kay Hill, soon identified as ambassadors of the seminar, began sharing the many concepts of success. “Character First!” was conceived when Tom Hill became frustrated. Hill is Executive Vice President and COO of Kimray, Inc., a leading manu-

facturer of oil and gas equipment and controls located in Oklahoma City, OK, with worldwide distribution. Hill had a desire to help all employees be successful. Since all lasting achievement is rooted in good character,

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Book Discussion Group to Look At Works of John Bunyan and Malcolm Muggeridge

By Elbert Overholt

On March 10, the Book Discussion Group (BDG) will present Jack David Arnold in a comparison/contrast review of John Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim’s Progress* and Malcolm Muggeridge’s *Confessions of a Twentieth-Century Pilgrim*.

Arnold first presented Pilgrim at Bethany-Peniel College as a speech recital in May, 1950, and has presented it since then in colleges, universities, and churches in the United States, England, Israel, and the Cape Verde Islands. In May, 2000, he celebrated his fiftieth year of presenting this literary and spiritual classic at Southern Nazarene University. He recently discovered that Muggeridge, 1903-1990, British writer and social critic, was greatly influenced by Bunyan, 1628-1688, English preacher, dissenter, and author.

Anna Belle Laughbaum and James Robert Emmel, former professors, highly esteemed mentors, and loving friends of Arnold for more than fifty-five years, will serve as resource persons in this review.

Arnold encourages readers to review some of the early scenes and characters in part one of Pilgrim before March 10: the City of Destruction, Evangelist, Obstinate and Pliable, Wicket Gate, Help, Worldly Wiseman, Good Will, the Cross, Shining Ones, Hill Difficulty, Watchful, and the Palace Beautiful. Arnold will follow Christian from the Palace Beautiful to the Celestial City in the May 12 BDG meeting.

Quotations from Muggeridge’s *CONFESSIONS OF A TWENTIETH-CENTURY PILGRIM* will be printed out for participants to see how Bunyan’s literary classic affected Muggeridge’s spiritual life.

Excerpts of videotapes will be shown of Muggeridge being interviewed by William Buckley, circa 1980, and of Arnold’s 2000 SNU performance of Pilgrim.

In 1950, Bertha Munro, Eastern Nazarene University professor and author, wrote in her book, *THE PILGRIM’S ROAD MAP*, “[Bunyan’s] *THE PILGRIM’S PROGRESS* is broadly human, universal. It has been translated in practically all languages; it is written in the idiom of life, so is quotable and is quoted constantly. More than that, it is translatable—and is translated constantly—into life, your life and mine.”

If you, as an ASP member, friend, or guest, have never read Bunyan’s Pilgrim or heard of Muggeridge, or even if you are an expert on both, you are urged to attend this unique, inspirational BDG review:

Monday, March 10
9:00-11:00 a.m.
First Floor Conference Room
SNU’s Webster Commons

Refreshments will be served.



Your president's point of view:
by Jack David Arnold

**Senior Adults Pull Their Own Weight
As They Redefine and Reinvent Retirement**

*Today we are wasting resources of incalculable value:
the accumulated knowledge, the mature wisdom,
the seasoned experience, the skilled capabilities,
the productivity of a great and growing number of people:
senior citizens.*

—Senator John F. Kennedy, 1956

The widespread myth that older people are relatively unproductive in society is wrong and unjust. The accusation that older people are burdens rather than contributors to society is heard in many places, from the halls of Congress to the living rooms of overworked young men and women.

The measures of productivity are wrong

Two assumptions are that (1) everybody who works for pay is pulling his or her weight, and (2) everyone who does not work for pay is a burden. Both assumptions are wrong. Some people who are paid do little or nothing useful, and some are paid to do things that are harmful, e.g., writing advertisements for alcohol. It is ironic and misleading, as well as unfair, that such things are counted as productive, while taking care of an ill or disabled family member or partner, or working as a volunteer in a hospital or church are not counted as productive.

As people age, and especially as they retire from paid work, their continuing productive activities are increasingly unpaid. Our national statistics thus ignore a great deal of productive activity and a great deal of what keeps our society functioning.

Almost all older men and women are productive in this larger sense. One-third work for pay and one-third work as volunteers in churches, hospitals, and other organizations. Others provide informal, much-needed assistance to family members, friends, and neighbors. It would take more than three million paid caregivers, working full-time, to provide that assistance to sick and disabled people (*Aging in America, 2000*, p. 137).

In 1997, a national campaign was mounted to increase volunteerism in America by urging people to contribute as volunteers. I propose that one way of making volunteerism attractive to volunteer is to start "counting" such work as productive.

The playing field in not level

Older men and women are not given an equal chance for paid employment. Those who want to continue working beyond the usual retirement age see the inflexibility of employers as the main obstacle. Many of those who are still working and would like to continue with the same employer want fewer hours, a change in work content, or greater flexibility in scheduling.

When I resumed teaching at the DeVry University in Irving, Texas, in 2001, after having resigned from there in 1996, Dean of General Education Diana Thomas rehired me to teach two or three senior-level honors courses each semester. This reduced schedule allows me to teach two days a week, do volunteer work in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex and here at the Academy of Senior

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**"Sharing
a
Continuous
Flight"**

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encouraging and building good character helps individuals and families reach their full potential. Successful families lead to successful businesses, communities, and even countries. Since its inception in 1992, over 1200 businesses, 2000 school districts, and 150 communities in the United States and seventeen foreign countries have implemented this "new" paradigm for personal growth.

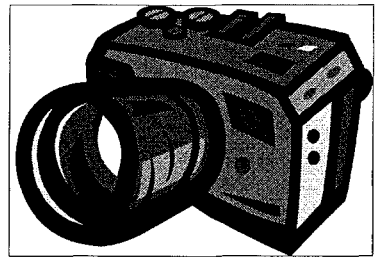
Tom and his wife Kay are active members of Western Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. They have been married for thirty-nine years; have three married children and sixteen grandchildren.

Come to learn more about the leader of "Character First!" and about how a simple message is changing a culture one person at a time.



ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



Above & Right Guest performers Jill Justice and husband Joel McClung help ASP members celebrate upcoming St. Patrick's day.

Above Jill Justice strolls while playing a small "portable" harp. Left Joel McClung plays the bagpipes



President Jack Arnold welcomes ASP members and guests to the March luncheon.



The serving table (above) and the head table (right), as well as other tables, were beautifully decorated by the decoration committee represented (Right) by Dorothy Griffin.



New Members

Left Gerald and Audette Knutson, guests of Trudy Cargill at the February Meeting.

Right Roy and Ruth Franklin who were introduced as guests at the January meeting.

Not shown: Glorene Brown

Correction: Apologies to Carlene Edwards whose name was misprinted in the February ASP-PIX





The Fox Hunt

by Mary Louise Smith*

I was about fifteen years old when I attended a fox hunt. Well, it wasn't really a fox hunt, it was a trip into the woods to hear the dogs hunting the foxes. But there weren't really any dogs hunting foxes, and the only people in the woods were this man and I.

Perhaps I should explain.

It all goes back to this close friend I had in high school, Leah. We studied together, made the same grades, and were as close as two girlfriends could possibly have been. Because we so enjoyed being together we were constantly trying to find an excuse for me not to ride the bus home (we lived eight miles out in the country), but to spend the night in town with her. I did spend many week nights with her, but could never spend a Saturday, since first, the bus didn't run on Saturday and then Mother had told me that I had to be home on Sunday. But all was not lost! We came up with a way that I could also spend Saturday in town. I had a neighbor, Marion, who owned a little service station in the town so Leah and I hatched this bright idea that I could spend Friday night with her and I could ride home with Marion when he closed the station and went home Saturday. A perfect solution! I checked it out with Marion and he said of course, he would be glad for me to ride home with him. I offered to be at the station at closing time but he said no, he would just pick me up at Leah's, a distance of two or three blocks.

Saturday evening came and Marion drove up. I started to go out, but he got out of the car, walked briskly to the door, took my arm and escorted me out and seated me in the car. I thought that a bit strange, but what could I do? Or say? I said nothing, knowing, of course, that he escorted all his hitchhikers to the car that way. Right? Wrong!

We started for home, making the usual small talk. So far, so good, until we got to a stretch of a dark, deserted road, actually a shortcut through the woods. He asked me if I minded if we went through there, since he had heard that there was to be a fox hunt that evening and he thought we might be able to hear the dogs. That, I understood, was a legitimate option for certain men who owned the hounds that hunted the foxes. However, I had never in my life thought that I might like to go on a deserted road, or any other kind of road for that matter, to hear fox hounds bark. But what could I say? It was his car and he was driving, and up to that point, at least, I had no reason to suspect that anything might not be quite right. Besides, I was an inarticulate teenager. So I said O.K., and into the woods we went. After about a mile he stopped the car and rolled his window down "to hear the dogs." We listened, but no dogs.

What happened next shall forever be engraved in my memory as one of the strangest episodes in my young life, up to that point. Marion then turned toward me and put his arm on the seat above me. I was young and naïve, but somehow I knew what that meant. I was so shocked that I froze, literally speechless. I remember that I shrunk away from his arm and he moved it a little closer. I shrunk away again, he moved closer again.

This went on until I found myself perched on the last vestige of room on the very outer edge of the seat. Not a word was spoken. I don't know where I would have gone from there had he not withdrawn his arm, turned to the wheel and said, "Guess they're not hunting after all. We might as well go home."

We drove home in silence. He dropped me off at my house, I thanked him for the ride, and never again spent another Saturday in town with my friend, Leah!

In retrospect, I am almost speechless with indignation. How could that middle-aged (to me, anyway), man have thought that I, by the remotest stretch of the imagination, could be interested in him? He was married! He was a neighbor! He was...words fail me!

But besides being indignant, I am thankful. For what could have been and wasn't. What saved me? I think it was first, my innocence, and second, my obvious horror at what was unfolding. Or maybe it was just the Lord's mercy. Whatever it was, I am grateful!

Have I ever been "fox hunting" again? Not yet, anyway!

*Read by Mary Smith for the February meeting of the *Writing Workshop*, which will meet again in April.



Library Resources

By Bea Flinger

Nussbaum, John F., et al. *Communication and Aging*. 2nd ed. London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2000. The number of people over 65 years of age is greater than those under the age of 18, and this trend will continue to grow. Consequently, aging and related processes are primary topics of research.

Nussbaum's edition is a comprehensive update on existing and continuing research within communication and aging studies. It considers topics such as successful aging, positive and negative stereotypes toward older adults, and health communication issues. It helps to relate to barriers facing elderly people in conversations and the importance these have in their lives. Non-relational processes, such as hearing loss, are considered as to how they impact relationships with others and affect the ability to age successfully. It is an awareness alert of the barriers that face the elderly in conversation and how they are affected by this.

*This information was taken from the cover, since nothing can be used from the book itself without permission from the publisher. Location: The R. T. Williams Learning Resources Center. HQ 1064 .U5 N87 2000

From time to time there will be links included for those who search on the internet. Following are two:

National Council of Senior Citizens www.ncscinc.org

Health to finance to diet and hobbies www.seniorsite.com



"If you ask me"
By Vada Lee Barkley

"The Drummer's Dream" is an excerpt from my recent book Smile-God Loves You.

A number of years ago an article was published entitled "The Drummer's Dream." It is the story of Brother Benson, a devout Christian, who owned a general store in a country town. Because of sickness in the family and other adverse circumstances, he was unable for a time to meet the payments that he owed the wholesale houses.

His creditors sent a traveling salesman, called a drummer, to visit Brother Benson and to place the store in the hands of a receiver.

Knowing that Brother Benson was a devout Christian, the drummer didn't have the heart to see him immediately upon arrival. He took a room at the hotel. He hoped to have more courage in the morning to carry out his disagreeable task.

That night the drummer had a dream. He dreamed that he went early in the morning to the home of Brother Benson, who met him at the door and invited him in, saying, "We're just having family devotions. Will you join us?" Brother Benson took up the old family Bible, turned to the 23rd Psalm which he read in a strange version:

The Lord is my Banker; I shall not fail.
He maketh me to lie down in gold mines.
He giveth me the combination to His tills.
He restoreth my credit.
He showeth me how to avoid lawsuits for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the shadow of debt,
I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.
Thy silver and gold, they rescue me.
Thou preparest a way before me in the presence of the collector.
Thou fillest my barrels with oil.
My measure runneth over;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I will do business in the name of the Lord forever.

The next morning the drummer called early at Brother Benson's home. The old man greeted him, "Good morning, Sir! We're just now having family worship and we'd be glad to have you join us."

Brother Benson picked up the family Bible, turned to the 23rd Psalm, and read—this time from the familiar version. Then he prayed for his family, for the collector, and for the people who had been so patient in extending him credit through this time of illness and other adverse circumstances.

After prayer, he said to the drummer, "Let's go to the store now and see what we can work out."

When they reached the store, a boy was waiting for Brother Benson. He said, "Dad has decided to buy the property you had for sale. He sent me here to make a down payment on it. He'll pay you the rest when the papers are drawn up."

Brother Benson took the money. Then he turned to the drummer and asked, "Just how much do I owe you?"

He had enough to satisfy his creditors.



A look at a book
By Wini Howard

THE SHUNNING
by Beverly Lewis

If you have ever driven through Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, you have probably slowed down for an Amish man driving his buggy.

Beverly Lewis has an Amish heritage and has written a series of novels about Amish people. One of them is The Shunning. She weaves Amish customs and practices into her stories in an interesting way. However, more than this, she tells absorbing tales, as Amish people are known for their good storytellers. (People of the Old Order Amish probably read little besides the Bible. Eighth-grade education is the maximum.)

Shunning is a practice that is carried out when someone "sins"—breaking one of the rules and regulations of the Old Order. In this story, Katie has sinned. Her love for music,—singing and playing the guitar,—is not at all acceptable by people of the Old Order. They must sing songs only from the ancient hymnal. No others are acceptable.

However, Katie has been raised in a strict Old Order family, and she has even been baptized and received into the fellowship of the church. (There is no church building. The Amish people meet in each other's homes.) Sadly, there has always been a conflict in her heart and mind. She feels obligated to follow in her parents' footsteps, but she can't seem to shut out her love for beautiful music, as well as other beautiful things.

Be assured, The Shunning has a captivating plot and is a well-told story.

This book is at the BFC library. It is also available at Mardels.



Writing Workshop Report

By Carol Spencer

The February meeting of the Writing Workshop began with a lively discussion of what motivates writers. Since all members are serious about writing, and many have published works, there were a variety of reasons based on experience. Finally, the conclusion was that what motivates a writer is both varied and personal. However, those who are serious about writing can be inspired and challenged by hearing what others are currently writing.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in listening to an essay, some research and a chapter from a member's memoir. Mary Smith read her essay, "Bear Bryant," Bob Emmel read some of his research notes on the Johnston floods, and Jack Arnold read a chapter from his memoirs, "The Party's Over." These works will be included in future Perspectives, either entirely or in part.

The last meeting of the Writing Workshop will be on April 14, 2003, 9:30 a.m. in the Commons Conference Room.

Arnold—Continued from page 2

Professionals, and still have creative, leisure time. My ideal case is an exception to today's employment practices for many senior adults today because their employers will not accommodate them.

Age discrimination exists in the workplace

Older people who are seeking new jobs report that companies are reluctant to hire them. Many employers seem to believe, mistakenly, that older workers are less productive, more often absent, or are liabilities in some other respect.

Finding and keeping a job for older workers is not always easy. In fact, age discrimination complaints filed with the equal Employment Opportunity Commission rose from 14,000 in 1999 to more than 17,000 in 2001, a jump of 23 percent (*AARP Bulletin Online*, 17 January 2003, <http://www.aarp.online/bulletin>).

Sally James, Executive Director of Career Encore, knows about the barriers older adults face in making career transitions. She links employers with job seekers 50 years and older in Southern California.

What job seekers think about themselves can create formidable obstacles. A typical older worker's attitude is: "As an older worker, I am not welcomed in the workplace." Ms. James comments: "This kind of thinking is society-driven. Turn this thinking around by showing you have something to offer. Join a job support group to learn from others who are managing their career transitions. Stay in touch with the new flexible work world and keep your skills current. You want to sell something that is used in the year 2003, and not in 1980." (*Making Age Irrelevant*, 17 January 2003, p. 1, http://www.aarp.org/working_options).

Millions of senior adults are ready, willing, and able to work

When Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) was first enacted in 1935 during the Great Depression, most people did not live to the legal retirement age of sixty-five years. Most of those who did, it was assumed, would be neither willing nor able to work. Since the early twentieth century, life expectancy has greatly increased, and the health of older people has greatly improved. Although some are not able to work, and some do not wish to work, millions of older men and women are ready, willing, and able to work.

Companies that have emphasized the recruitment and retention of older workers confirm that older employees meet or surpass expectations, often bringing the added value of increased insight and experience to the work environment.

Each senior adult's "working retirement" is unique

Experts say that every retirement is unique. Finances, health, family, and personal preferences all help shape a person's later years. They also predict that "retirement work" will continue to grow in coming decades. When the Baby Boomer Generation, which includes those persons born shortly after World War II, retires, its legions—76 millions strong—will strengthen this trend. As the healthiest and most educated generation ever, it has a real responsibility to continue to contribute to society and not become a burden to it.

Older adults need to look into their hearts and find the things that provide them with a sense of joy and passion and explore those to the nth degree.

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast us.

—William James



ASP Calendar

Monday: February 10

9:00-11:00	am	Book Discussion Group-General Conf. Rm.
10:30-11:00	am	Shuttle: West BFC Parking Lot to Commons
10:30-11:00	am	New ID's available in Faculty Lounge
11:15am-1:00	pm	Luncheon meeting-Heritage Room
1:00-1:30	pm	New ID's available in Faculty Lounge
1:00-1:30	pm	Shuttle: Commons to West BFC Parking Lot
1:15-2:00	pm	Administrative Council-Fireside Room



News Briefs

- **Luncheon Reservations:**

Please be prepared to honor your luncheon reservations. We are responsible for the number of reservations that we make. If you do not fulfill your obligations for reservations made, the Academy has to assume the expense involved. Thanks for your cooperation.

- **ASP Identification Cards:**

SNU office personnel will be set up in the Faculty Lounge before and after our March 10 meeting. They will take pictures and prepare ID's for all paid-up members. Come early or stay a few minutes after the luncheon meeting and receive your ASP SNU card. It provides you privileges at the SNU library, admission to athletic events, discounts at the SNU bookstore, etc.

- **Upcoming Votes:**

All members should be reminded that two important votes will be taken at two monthly meetings: (1) March 10, vote on Bylaws and Organization changes, and (2) April 14, vote for election of officers for 2003-2004.

- **Membership Dues:**

If you have not paid your 2003 membership dues, please make it a priority to pay them by the March 10 meeting and obtain your ASP ID card. Margaret Dawson is the dues-collector.

- **Leadership Opportunities:**

If you are interested in volunteering to chair the Research Interest Group (RIG) or Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) for the 2003-2004 academic year, please contact President David Arnold (972-406-8627 or JackArnold@aol.com) or Director Elbert Overholt (405-789-2036 or overez1@msn.com).