Local weekly schedule

Jan. 21-28 Thursday, Jan. 21 5:30 pm - Marion Utility Board, City Hall, 301 S. Branson St., Marion.

The Marion Utility Board meets every first and third Thursday.

Saturday, Jan. 23 12 pm – 5th Annual STEAM Festival, Marion

Public Library, 600 S. Washington St., Marion. This is a VIRTUAL festival. Sign up on Facebook, and pick up your STEAM kit at the Library the week of Jan. 18th. Check with the Children's Department for times.

2 pm – Audition Work-

shop Series. Join us for this workshop sponsored by the Fusion Arts Alliance. Open to the public, but registration is required in advance. For registration information email events@fusionaa.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

See Schedule, Page 12

WANT TO MAKE MONEY SELLING SEED?

Dairyland Seed is looking for a new seed dealership to aggressively sell our products in and around Grant County. Earn cash and travel rewards!

For more information please contact Mike Thompson, District Sales Manager: mthompson@dairylandseed.com (260) 388-2862



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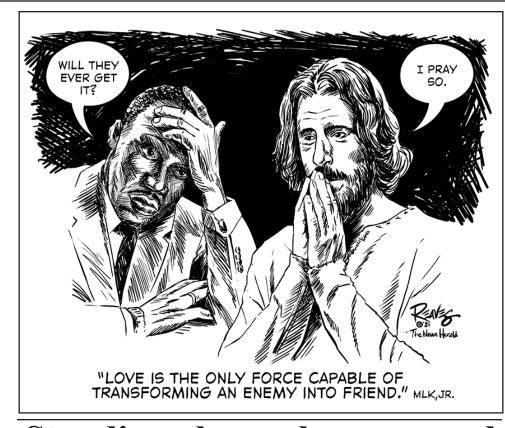
TALKS WITH **PROFESSIONALS** INVOLVED







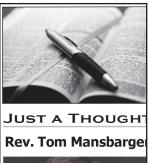
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Standing alone when opposed

I experienced some of the best years of ministry when I was a youth pastor. This was a time in my life that brought great satisfaction, peace, and enjoyment. I can still say that I love teenagers. As I taught them there was always an underlying message. I stressed repeatedly to them the importance of identity. This is not just a teen issue, it fits all our lives. To be what we need to be, we must understand who we are, and that is not easy. Most people live their entire lives never figuring out who they really are. Life usually becomes being what someone else wants us to be. Do you know who you are?

As I think on the importance of identity, my mind goes back to Joshua and the things he faced. Joshua was a great warrior and a great leader. When he was coming to the end of his life he realized that Israel had moved away from the values they had once stood for. They had become more anti-God. It was a good thing that Joshua knew what he believed and what he stood for. At this point he takes a stand and goes against the entire nation. He is now standing alone and understands that the people didn't stand for what he did. This had to be a tough position to be in. Joshua knew that standing alone when opposed was a frightening place to be, but he had been in





many difficult situations and was prepared for anything. Israel was following the pattern of the world while Joshua was still following Jehovah God.

Joshua was a man of strong character and he knew this was just one more challenge. He also knew the battle was a spiritual one, and it would be settled in the mind. There are lots of useful principles we can

learn from this story. The battle we face is between the beliefs and lifestyle of the world system, and those of Jesus Christ. As a Christian, we must realize that this is not our home, we are just passing through. We are transplanted aliens and have a new address (Heaven). The world system, on the other hand, is driven by the power of the evil

one. The devil is the op-

Joshua 24: 13-18

position to the Christian and what we stand for. As a Christian, we worship God, but the world worships idols. We can put it in four parts; fortune, fame, power, and pleasure. You may be wondering how these are implemented. It is simple, each phase represents worship of a particular god. When people put their entire focus on getting rich, they are worshipping the god of materialism. Others put all their efforts in to becoming popular and well known. This falls under the god of egotism. There are others who want to be in control, and they believe they are. This category is the god of intellect and will. Finally, there are those who spend all their efforts to have beauty. Just a sidebar, no one could accuse me of this one. People who are totally consumed by their personal appearance are worshipping the god of physical attraction.

Joshua was a leader who had to deal with all these issues, but he never wavered. He stood alone against all of his people because he knew it was the right thing to do. Now, he didn't say it was the easiest way, but it was the right way. We are no different than Joshua when it comes to what we believe and the values we stand for. Joshua said it the only way it could be said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).