

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION



CALLAHAN COUNTY

STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

Appreciate God

By Hazel Stone
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Usually when I write, the Lord provides the subject. Recently a short song I sang as a child kept running through my mind. Actually, on Sunday nights about thirty minutes before the evening service, the children in our small church would gather on one side of the auditorium, directly behind the piano, and each child would select a song to lead while the group of children would sing.

One song was called "Grumble" and the words were:

"In every town and city,
some people can be found

Who spend their time in
grumbling, at everything around.

Oh yes, they always
grumble, no matter what
folks say

For they are chronic grumblers,
and they grumble all the day.

Oh, they

Grumble on Sunday,
Monday, Tuesday- grumble
on Wednesday too

Grumble on Thursday,
Friday, Saturday- grumble
the whole week through.

Yes, they

Grumble on Sunday,
Monday, Tuesday-grumble
on Wednesday too

Grumble on Thursday,
Friday, Saturday- grumble
the whole week through.

In James 5:9 we read: "Do not grumble against each other." We know that the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron and that Job was reprimanded for murmuring (Job 15:11). In the Psalms we are told to "avoid murmuring" and are counseled not to complain. In Philipians 2:14 we learn to "do all things without murmurings and disputes." Even Jesus, in John 6:43 said: "Murmur not among yourselves." Martha grumbled about Mary leaving her to serve alone. Psalms and Lamentations both warn as about complaining.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, the whole town came out to sing His praises. He accepted their praise, but He was wise enough to know that in a couple of days the hosannas would turn to hisses.

A new teacher, a young man, had the praise of his students until the first grades came out and then some of the students turned on him. One colleague said, "Praise is like bubblegum- chew it, but don't swallow it!"

Instead of grumbling about all the "what isn't" things in life, praise God for what is! God lives in His people's praises. Psalm 34:1 says "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

After Norman Vincent Peale died, his widow, Ruth, writes that there were always some little aches waiting for her, but she filled her thoughts with praise and found that there wasn't room for both aches and praise.

A noted editor once noticed a particularly fine achievement by a friend, also an editor. He thought he would write immediately a letter of congratulation to his friend. But he didn't. There was a day or two of delay then he said to himself, "Oh, pshaw! He will get hundreds of other notes about it, so I shall not bother him with mine." Then

he met his friend and told him how it happened he had failed to send his letter of commendation. "How many do you think I did receive?" asked the friend. The editor guessed many scores. But the answer was, "not one".

Give others praise when it is deserved. Everyone needs a helpful word.

Scripture says "let everything that has breath praise the Lord..." When we fail to praise God we need to ask for forgiveness. Our Heavenly Father knows exactly what we need. He is so good!

At the end of the year remember the events of the year and praise Him. You could say:

Thank You, Prince of Peace - Isaiah 9:6 - for removing fear.

Thank You, Light of Light- John 8:12- for weddings, babies and reunions.

Thank You, God of All Comfort-II Corinthians 1:32- at funerals.

Thank You, Our Guide- Psalm 48:14- for wonderful vacations, meetings and projects.

Thank You, God of a new year.

Give God "praise names".

We need to learn to praise "in season and out of season". Psalm 51:15 states:

"Oh Lord open thou my lips: my mouth shall show forth thy praise."

Applause is not the best indicator of success. Some never win any praise. Being praised doesn't always mean one is doing right and getting crucified does not always mean one has failed.

One manager told an employee, "I can always count on you." Another manager said to a secretary, "You never get anything done on time."

When it comes to people you and I choose whether to be uplifting with praise and compliments or to be hurtful with faultfinding and criticism.

Fred Bauer wrote: "Stop me God when I would be acidic

Help me be a builder-upper, not a critic."

A building can be razed in a matter of seconds and yet the same structure can take several years to build.

G.W. Goethale said: "No task is too small to be done well". Also, H. Bushnell wrote about complaining. He said: "You are never to complain of your birth, your training, your employment or your hardships. Never fancy that you could be something if only you had a different lot assigned to you. God understands His own plan and He knows what you want a great deal better than you do."

It's the little things that really make up the whole of life. At the end of life, people often look back and realize that it was the little things in life that were really important.

Robin White Goode wrote: "Father, help me to recognize that I cannot be given the big things until I've been proven faithful in the little things." We should start each day by listing a few of the wonderful little blessings the Lord provides to make us happy.

God has everything-can do anything- is everything- and yet He wants something from us. He wants our devotion, our gratitude, our obedience and our praise. In return, we get everything. What could be more wonderful?

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is filled with so many things

Such as love,
life and freedom

Love, floats
around you and
your friends

Life, is
exciting and joyful
And you have
freedom with your
friends

Friendship
is also filled with..

Support, care,
loyalty

Care, because
they are always
looking out for you
They're loyal,
because they
respect you for who
you are

Friendship is
also filled with..

Faith, laughter,
and most
importantly fun

They always
have faith in you
Laughter is
like a shield around
us

And well we
always have FUN
together.

- Rachel Villarreal
Baird, Texas

Happy
Easter



Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.
3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must include a SASE for the return of the submission.
5. Please address all submissions to:
Literary Editor
Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers
P. O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448
email: thebairdspotlight@att.net

Submissions sought

to:

Star
P.O. Box 29
Eastland, TX
76448

email: thebairdspotlight@att.net

S.A.S.E, for returns

--WANTED--

20 lines,

double spaced or less

Poetry

Fiction or Non

Each entry with brief biography notes. All must be family oriented; no smut, slander or liable material.

American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Some of you are so accustomed to flying that you no longer

sit by the windows. But I'd guess that at one time you

gazed down, after dark, and looked at the lights below you

with innocent wonder. This poem by Anne Marie Macari of New

Jersey perfectly captures the gauziness of those lights as well as the loneliness that often accompanies travel.

From the Plane

It is a soft thing, it has been sifted

from the sieve of space and seems

asleep there under the moths of light.

Cluster of dust and fire,
from up here

you are a stranger and I am dropping

through the funnel of air to meet you.

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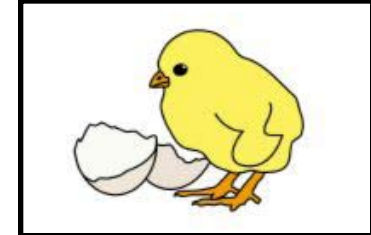
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introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United

States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to

the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do

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Solitary Recluse

Where is thy keeping Okatydid
Your wispy web of mystery trails
'neath Willows weeping neath garbage can lid
'Mongst refuse so foul and rusty nails.

I seek you out by such shrill a cry
And marvel at the sounds you issue
I prowl through dirty rags and strongly try
To feel you out 'mongst littered tissue.

I poke and peek 'neath the tangled twine
Then lift to peer 'neath rumped refuse
And there 'long side the Bacon's wrinkled
rind

I wrest this solitary recluse.

I snort at this wee magical gnome
Whose lute I have finally followed
Then pant and puff as I nastily mean
And then fell on the ground and wallowed.

Grasping my fiery finger I shook
And gaped at the bite of this biter
Then hobbled away from this thing I mistook
For a Katydid, this Brown Recluse Spider.

- Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas

**Wanted:
Writers &
Poets**

Words You Can Use:

Imsonic: This describes a word that is onomatopoeic. That should tell you what it is, but a quick thought is that it is a word that sounds like what it is. Consider the "oink" sound from a pig.

Lyssa: Do pigs get rabies? Here is another word for hydrophobia, when you need a third one. They don't use it much around Sonora, Texas.

Nepheligenous: This word describes the act of smoke being in the clouds. It was so common somewhere, that they made a word for it. Who do you think saw it first?

Ophiasis: If you have waved bands of baldness, you have this condition. Some have said it occurs in some squirrels that get lyssa. There have been no reports of it in new rock music groups in Chicago.



The pen is mightier than the sword