

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 109

February 2011

Coming Events

Ss Paul Miki & Companions:	Mon 6
Fr Michael Kennedy's Episcopal Ordination Armidale:	Thurs 9
Ho.T School Hawaii Night:	Fri 10
World Day of Prayer for the Sick: Our Lady of Lourdes:	Sat 11
St Cyril and Methodius:	Tues 14
Prayers for Healing:	Fri 17
Parish Retreat:	Fri - Sun 17- 19
Bishop Kennedy Mass:	Sun 19
Welcome to Seminarians:	Sun 19
Ash Wednesday/Lent: (Fast/abstinence)	Wed 22
First Friday Mass:	Mar Fri 2
First Saturday Mass:	Mar Sat 3
NCC Youth Day:	Mar Sat 3
Parish Mission 2012:	Mar Mon 5

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Wag Contacts

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Phone: 6931 3601

The due date for the next Wag is:
Sunday March 4

Parish News

New Family in Parish

West Wagga Parish welcomes Enrique Ahumada and his wife Marcia Tighe, together with their children Antonia (8) and Leonor (6) who attend Holy Trinity Primary.

The Ahumadas have come from Chile to Sydney and now to Wagga. Enrique is an accountant and Marcia teaches history. They are getting better at English; say hi.



Australian Citizenship celebrations for Newcombe family.

Last Australia Day, Camela Newcombe became an Australian citizen. Camela grew up in the Philippines. Camela said it was an honour to become a citizen on Australia Day. "I am privileged to be free in a free country".



Vale Margaret Kerlin

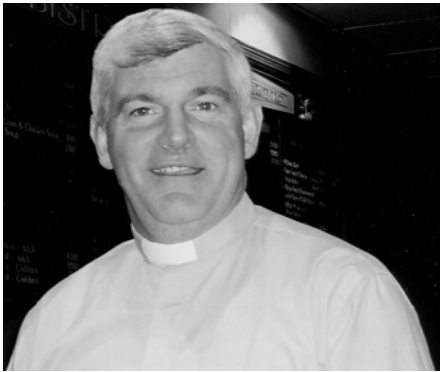
Margaret Kerlin (née McGrath) was born in 1925, the eldest of 4 children. She was a highly skilled and dedicated teacher. "Ma" as she became known entered the Kerlin family when she married Gus Kerlin and took on the exciting challenge of parenting his five children.



Margaret and Gus Kerlin

Ma's love, determination, sense of humour and perseverance are traits by which her family will remember her. Margaret liked to keep busy and was involved with patchwork, St Vincent De Paul, Legion of Mary and with the Church. She was very happy living at Trinity Close in such a supportive community. She will be greatly missed.

pastor's page



In last month's Pastor's Page, I wrote that Archbishop Philip Wilson who is the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference addressed Catholics in Australia and asked all to take part in the upcoming **Year of Grace** from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013.

He wrote in his letter:

'As Bishops, we asked ourselves where we can turn with so many issues affecting us. Our response in faith is to **start afresh from Christ**. We make this call, firstly and most urgently, to ourselves as Bishops. We are resolved, in the words of Pope John Paul II, to **contemplate the face of Christ**. Both these phrases come from his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte (At the Beginning of the New Millennium)*, and we use this Letter as our guide and inspiration.'

Bishop Wilson wrote:

'We are invited to grow in prayer; to help others to pray and to pray better. We call ourselves to repentance for the areas in which we have failed, individually and corporately, by commission and omission. And we will celebrate the gift of holiness, the gifts of the Spirit, with which the Father has blessed us through the Risen Lord.'

In response to the Bishop's encouragement, I suggested that one practical way we can respond to the Year of Grace is devote some additional time to the infinite resources available to us through our faith and especially through regular attendance at Mass and more specifically daily Masses.

The Church is solicitous not just to those who attend Mass regularly but also to those who find themselves in life situations incompatible with the full

benefits and practice of the Catholic faith, including those persons who 'consider themselves separated from the Church'... All 'should be encouraged to listen to the Word of God, to attend the Sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer, to contribute to works of charity and to community efforts for justice, to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace' [CCC 1651].

The grace of God is a share in his own life, goodness and holiness. When we are like unto God, there is the increased potential to act more *like* God. Adam and Eve were born in grace. It was natural to them. Since Adam's first and catastrophic sin we can only obtain the sanctifying grace of justification through baptism [cf. CCC 2017]. Baptism is something that Jesus said was essential for all to 'see the kingdom of heaven' [John 3:5]. 'Grace is the help God gives us to respond to our unique vocation of becoming his adopted children. It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life' [CCC 2021].

The Sanctifying grace which we first receive at baptism and grows and matures in us throughout life. This happens when we work with the many actual graces God gives us daily. Indeed, Jesus said 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing' [John 15:5]. 'Sanctifying grace makes us "pleasing to God"' [CCC 2024].

Living a life without God's grace is like driving a car with four flat tyres. Like the times of old when wheels were timber, iron or hard rubber. It wasn't much fun! With the invention of air-filled pneumatic tyres and air-bag suspension we can now travel faster, safer and more comfortably. The New Testament Greek word for

spirit is 'pneuma'!

Grace is the Holy Spirit's love gift to us. And St Paul states that this love gift 'has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' [Romans 5:5]. Grace increases with every sacramental and prayerful encounter with God.

To emphasize grace is to highlight the type of life that Jesus, as Man, lived on earth. After Jesus healed the blind man the people affirmed, 'If this man were not from God, he could do nothing' [John 9:33]. It was understood even by the Jews that God's grace is necessary for good works. In emphasising this truth Jesus said to his followers, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise' [John 5:19]. And at another time he stated, 'I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me' [John 5:30]. And finally on another occasion Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him. As he was saying these things, many believed in him' [John 8:28-30].



If only everyone would take Jesus at his word; truly believe in his loving grace and the power available to us we would always do what is pleasing to him. Please make a real effort to attend the Masses of first Friday and first Saturday of each month during this Year of Grace; attend the retreats offered to all and attend the entire parish mission in March as a family .

Thank you for wanting to grow in grace and holiness.

Fr Gerard

February Jokes

Guy 1: somebody said you sounded like an owl.

Guy 2: who?

Q. What do you call a fly with no wings?

A. A walk!

Q. What does a kangaroo and a zucchini have in common?

A. Neither one can ride a bike.

Two snowmen are standing next to each other in a yard.

One says to the other :
"Funny, I smell carrots too."

A string walks into a bar. "Excuse me," he asks "can I please have a drink?"

"Nope" replies the bartender "we don't serve strings."

Upset at the racism the string asks a fellow at the bar to buy him a drink. Seeing this the bartender picks up the string and throws him out of the bar.

The string walks over to a curb rubs himself against it and ties himself in a knot, then walks back into the bar. "Excuse me, can I please have a drink?"

"Aren't you the string that was just here?" asks the bartender. "No" came the answer, "I'm a frayed knot."

Funny Bumper Stickers:

'I'M NOT AS THINK AS YOU DRUNK I AM.'

'I SOUPORT PUBLIK EDEKASION.'

'HONK, IF YOU LOVE PEACE AND QUIET'

A few old couples used to get together to talk about life and to have a good time. One day one of the men, Harry, started talking

about this fantastic restaurant he went to the other night with his wife. "Really?", one of the men said, what's it called? After thinking for a few seconds Harry said, "what are those good smelling flowers called again?"

"Do you mean a rose?" the first man questioned.

"Yes that's it," he exclaimed.

Looking over at his wife he said, "Rose what's that restaurant we went to the other night?"

I wondered why the frisbee was getting bigger, and then it hit me.

What if there were no hypothetical situations?...

Marvin, was in the hospital on his death bed. The family called Marvin's Preacher to be with him in his final moments. As the Preacher stood by the bed, Marvin's condition seemed to deteriorate, and Marvin motioned for someone to quickly pass him a pen and paper.

The Preacher quickly got a pen and paper and lovingly handed it to Marvin. But before he had a chance to read the note, Marvin died. The Preacher feeling that now wasn't the right time to read it put the note in his jacket pocket. It was at the funeral while speaking that the Preacher suddenly remembered the note. Reaching deep into his pocket the Preacher said "and you know what, I suddenly remembered that

right before Marvin died he handed me a note, and knowing Marvin I'm sure it was something inspiring that we can all gain from. With that introduction the Preacher ripped out the note and opened it. The note said "HEY, YOU ARE STANDING ON MY OXYGEN TUBE!"

Q. Why were the screams coming from the kitchen ?

A. The cook was beating the eggs.

Q: What is the biggest ant?

A: An Elephant

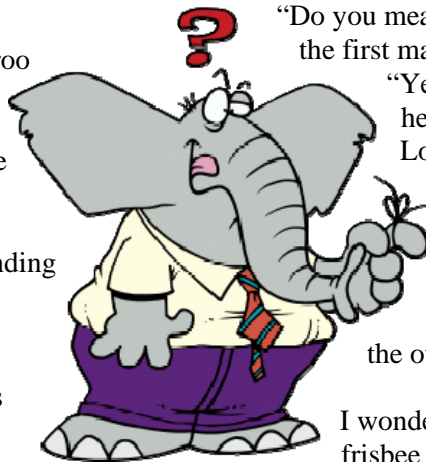
Q: What has four wheels and flies?

A: A rubbish truck.

Q: If a rooster laid a brown egg and a white egg, what kind of chicks would hatch?

A: None. Roosters Don't Lay Eggs!

Before going in for surgery a patient thought it would be funny if he put a note on himself telling the surgeon to be careful. After the surgery he found another note on himself . "Anyone know where my mobile phone is?????????"



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Thanks to Marek Talaraki 10-21-2011
I PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE ... YOU MAY NOW UPDATE YOUR FACEBOOK STATUS

Q. How do you communicate with a fish?

A. You drop it a line.

Q. Why is a swordfish's nose 11 inches long?

A. If it were 12

inches long it would be a foot.

Q. What did one eye say to the other?

A. Between me and you something smells.

Q. What time is it when ten elephants are chasing you?

A. Ten after one!

“Courageous”:

Film turning the hearts of fathers and children to each other

Thousands of men are answering the call to rediscover God's plan for fatherhood, inspired by a new movie, "Courageous," due to be released on DVD on Tuesday.

The film, which debuted in theaters Sept. 30, follows four men striving to fulfill their mission "to serve and protect," both as law enforcement officers and fathers.

Stephen Kendrick, producer and co-writer of the film, told ZENIT that every day he sees some 200 e-mails from "people sharing how the movie has impacted, inspired and blessed them."

"The stories they share are so heartfelt and moving," he said. "Countless dads are now reaching out to win the hearts of their children."

Kendrick continued: "One man realized he needed to step up and reconnect with the daughter he'd abandoned.

"Many have chosen to forgive their dads.

"Wives are saying that 'my husband was a good dad, but now he's becoming a great dad after seeing this movie.'

"Couples heading for divorce have reunited and said that they must resolve to leave a legacy of faithfulness to their children like the men in the movie. We thank God for this!"

Waging war

As policemen, the main characters must team up against gang members and drug dealers to protect the community. Yet even as they battle evil with their guns and Tasers, they learn to use Scripture to fight the demons within in order to become the



men of integrity their families need.

"There is so much in Scripture about what fatherhood means, but most men have not taken time to search it out and then live it out," Kendrick stated. "Courageous' shows it to them in living color."

He continued: "It is so incredible to see how a message about the importance of strong fatherhood is so deeply resonating with audiences.

"The issue of fatherhood touches the core of who we are. Millions of people have seen this movie and have gone on the emotional roller-coaster of laughter and tears as they watch five men trying to figure out what it means to be a great dad."

For actor Ken Bevel, who portrayed the cop Nathan Hayes, the movie was an opportunity to "help serve in turning the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers."

He explained to ZENIT: "As I look at the consistent decline of families and the minimal involvement of fathers in our communities, my heart is challenged -- challenged to the point of action. So, when God provided the opportunity to

address biblical fatherhood through film, I was humbled that he would allow me to be used in such a task."

This role, Bevel said, "caused me to examine my own life and my role as a father."

He added: "I asked myself the question, 'Am I being completely intentional about fatherhood and leading my children to the Lord?' Unfortunately the answer was no. So, 'Courageous' has also challenged me to spend more time in Bible study with my family, while praying for wisdom in leading my children to the Lord."

Kendrick expressed the hope for this "life change," not only for all who worked on the movie, but also for all who view it.

The film's release on DVD will allow its viewing by greater audiences. Parishes, ministries and other groups are encouraged to show the movie and utilize the corresponding resources to help effect this life-changing experience.

Tremendous opportunity

One group, the Philadelphia-based Fatherhood and Leadership Initiative, sponsored a showing of the movie that drew the players of two football teams with their fathers, in addition to other families.

Jim Gabriele, one of the group's founders, told ZENIT that "the response was tremendous." People were moved not only by the film, he said, but also by "the underlying message of love of Christ and faith in him as the foundation of a man's most important vocation -- his family."

"This movie clearly brings people together," added Gabriele, "and challenges men in particular to be men of the kingdom, the Godly husbands and fathers we are all called to be."

“Courageous” continued...

He added that the "widespread release of the movie provides a tremendous opportunity to put the emotion we all felt at the end of the movie to practical use in our daily lives."

"It is an unbelievably easy tool to use for ministry, and the producers have provided outstanding resources to bring the movie to life via Bible studies, small group sessions, etc." Gabriele noted.

He continued: "Men are notoriously hard to reach in ministry, but the ability to invite men to an engaging movie, followed by structured discussions and the ability to delve more deeply into their faith and how it applies

to marriage and fatherhood is an incredible gift."

He revealed to ZENIT that his group will be sponsoring an eight-week study series, available through the Internet as well, on scriptural fatherhood.

Kendrick expressed the hope that many of this generation of men will see "Courageous" and "learn that the role of father is irreplaceable."

He underlined the hope that the audience will see that God created

fatherhood "to introduce the next generation to what their loving Heavenly Father is like: a loving Provider, a strong Protector, an honorable Authority, a great Example, a wise Teacher, and an intimate Friend."

The producer continued: "We hope that men get a vision for this and begin to step up with courage and begin to lead their families by example as God intended. This will positively affect the next generation in countless ways."

"We produced a movie," he concluded. "But only he can change a heart. To him alone be the glory!"

Reproduced from ZENIT 16/01/12



Cheerio Neil and Pauline

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Neil and Pauline Upfield who have lived in the parish at San Isidore for the past 38 years.

Together Neil and Pauline raised seven children at their home in 11 Benedict Avenue. Each of their children went through the San Isidore Public (Catholic) School until it closed and then the younger ones attended Holy Trinity Primary and later to the Catholic High Schools. The oldest was Paul, then Mandy, Kim, Danielle, Michael, Luke and Amy. All the family has now moved to various parts though Danielle still lives in the parish in Flowerdale.

It's sad when people move from the parish area and the worshipping community but we know they will be of great joy

to their new parish and community on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Both Neil and Pauline made a significant contribution to the area with their family but were also a great blessing to the church at San Isidore where Neil has taken up the collection at nearly every Saturday Vigil Mass. Pauline too was instrumental in assisting the children at the primary school by coaching the netball teams and the success rate of victories was outstanding

which brought great joy to all.

Then of course there is Pauline's sense of humor. Each of the priests have been kept on their toes as Pauline would chide them about sermons, hymn selection, sermon length, music, flowers, cooling and heating, candles – in fact there is probably nothing that was not used to put a smile on the faces of all and a cheer in the heart.

Neil worked at the Kapooka Army Base for the last 32 years and had a big and moving send off to show their appreciation. Similarly, the Carey Family very kindly organized a sendoff for Neil and Pauline from their home saying goodbye with many tears.

The parish thanks Neil, Pauline and their family for all that they have contributed to the parish and the San Isidore Community and we wish them well and every blessing for their future retirement.



The House at Ephesus

by Paula J. Sandlak

I am happy to tell my story, I hope it brings people to the faith and opens up their hearts to listen to God's call for them.

My parents are military, so I traveled. They were Methodist but became sort of nondescript Protestants. I was about 20 or 21 when my dad was stationed in Turkey. Turkey is a very interesting place. It is the home of the Trojan Horse, has lots of ruins, and a very special place called Ephesus.

Some may have heard about it, some may not. It is reported to be the last home of the Blessed Mother. The place where the disciple John took her after the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

We were on vacation when we visited Ephesus, just seeing the sights. I had been thinking about conversion for a long time, but hadn't really gotten anywhere. When we visited this house, I, like hundreds of other tourists, went into the home. It is a plain stone structure with dirt floors. There was a small altar and kneeler there, so I knelt down to pray.

Suddenly, I heard an interior voice say, "Now is the time." I thought someone was telling me it was time to go, but I looked around and no one was there. It was very subtle, kind of like being encased in a sound-proof bubble. I was staring at the statue of Our Lady and the same silence came and the same voice, "Now is the time"

I went out, we left and finished our vacation. We went home. But all the while, it nagged at me. After several weeks, I finally said to my mother, "What would you think?" She completed the thought, "If you became Catholic?"

It was downright eerie. I asked her how she knew what I was going to say, and she told me that from the moment I came out of the house at Ephesus I seemed at total peace. She had already set up an appointment with me with the Priest on the base. He was great and very helpful and welcoming. He said to me "I think that Our Lady was as direct with you as she could be without hitting you on the head with the

Bible."

My instruction started that very afternoon. I know the good Father was exhausted because I had so many questions. Very patient. He gave me my first rosary and said, "This is the most powerful weapon of the Church." I said, "what do I do with it?" Realizing I had no idea what it was for, he patiently taught me. Everyone should have a priest like that!

I went back to school in Colorado. I found a parish there and took up instruction. Since at that time there was no RCIA, I was on my own. I took instruction for about 4 months and then, I was conditionally baptized, (I was already baptized Methodist), received confession, and first communion all in the same day. It was glorious!



February Parish Retreat

In Praise of God;

Sacraments as Divine Intervention

Baptism ~ Opening Life

Confirmation ~ Perfecting Life

Marriage ~ Making Life

Eucharist ~ Growing Life

Penance ~ Repairing Life

Anointing ~ Healing Life

Priesthood ~ Sanctifying Life

TOPICS

Feb, Fri 17– Sun 19



Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin. All hope consists in confession. In confession there is a chance for mercy. Believe it firmly. Do not doubt, do not hesitate, never despair of the mercy of God. Hope and have confidence in confession.—*St. Isidore of Seville*



In early March, God the Father is sending to the West Wagga Parish Fr Hugh Thomas CSSR. He is a missionary of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. He has preached missions in Australia and overseas for many decades.

Fr. Hugh as a missionary spent over 22 years in the Philippines.

Parish Retreat in March

During that time he had a roving mission going from village to village preaching, administering the sacraments and training lay leaders. He has just completed 12 years in WA, where he conducted many retreats and parish missions. For the last 7 years he has spent a couple of months each year in Indonesia and Singapore giving retreats to priests and promoting adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. With Fr. Doug Harris, a diocesan priest of Perth, he has helped establish 30 chapels of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in different islands of

Indonesia. Fr. Hugh has recently been transferred from Perth to Sydney. He has the wisdom and maturity of a seasoned missionary who has heard it all and has helped many who have come to him as a representative of Jesus.

Fr Hugh will be at Holy Trinity from the weekend of February 25 and the mission will begin on Mon March 5. It will end with the 40 hours of Eucharistic devotion finishing on Sun March 11.

All are welcome to attend any part or the entire mission. Details at www.westwaggaparish.com

Unborn Baby's Kick Prompts Mum to Save Father's Life

LifeNews.com _ 1/16/12 3:59 PM

File this one under amazing tales: We've all heard stories of how children — or even pets — have been able to alert 911, emergency officials or simply another person to an alarming situation that involves a life or death situation.

In this case, in a story out of Atlanta, Georgia, a baby saved his father's life before he was even born.

According to Sara McDonald, who is 7 1/2 months pregnant, her husband, Thomas, wouldn't be

here today if her baby hadn't given her a very powerful sign that something was wrong - a big kick. She says that kick from her baby, Cameron, jolted her out of a deep sleep where she found her husband unresponsive.

She told a TV station he didn't have a heartbeat and that he was "purple from the waist up." She was, understandably, terrified and called police after trying to perform CPR herself. Officers say they weren't sure he would make it, but fortunately he did, and he's

going to be fine.

McDonald has no doubt that her unborn son was responsible: "It's like my baby saved my husband's life. It's



Modern Medical Miracles

Aug 12, 2011

Doctors at Zurich University Children's Hospital have performed surgery on unborn babies still inside their mothers' wombs.

The operations - the first of their kind outside the US - were conducted on unborn children with spina bifida.

The condition can lead to

paralysis of the lower limbs and sometimes to mental disability.

The two successful prenatal surgeries were conducted late 2010 and halfway through this year, Martin Meuli, director of surgery said.

A hospital statement described the procedure as a major step for prenatal surgery in Europe. It is very challenging for the surgeons:

two distinct patients, the mother

and the unborn baby, have to be anaesthetized, monitored and operated on at the same time.



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish

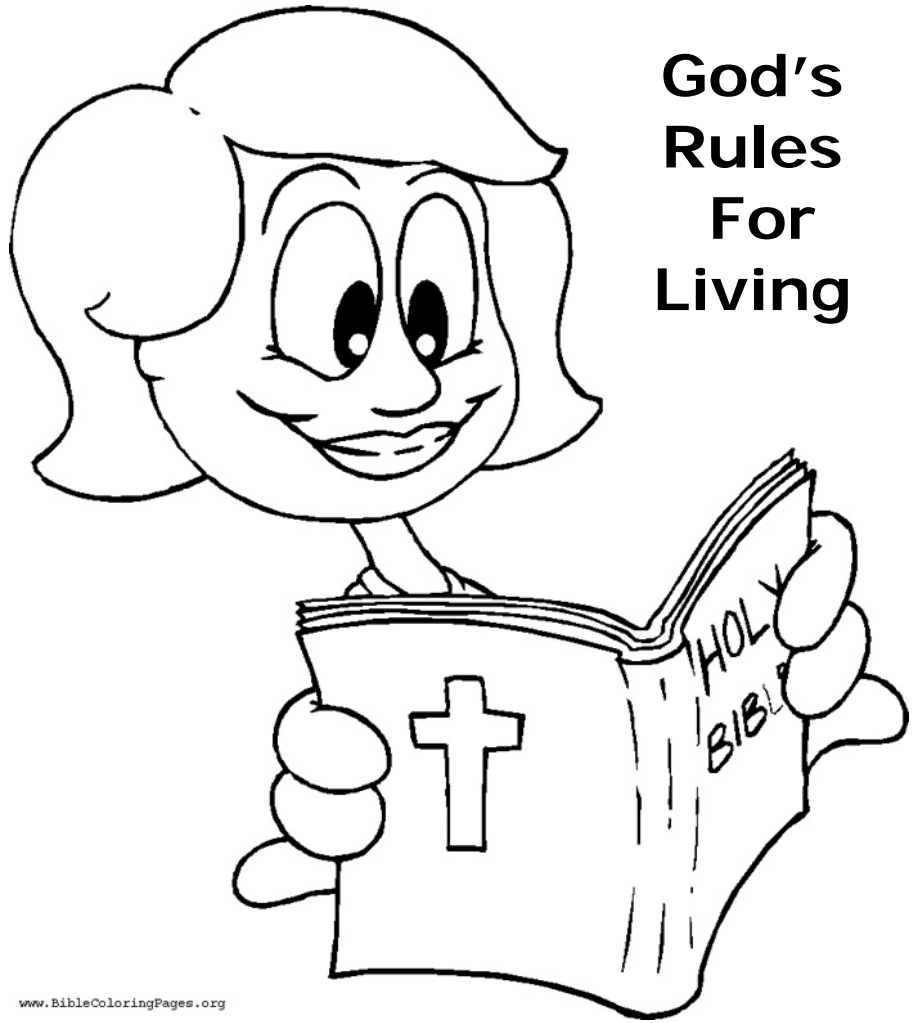


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God's Rules For Living



Jesus in the Synagogue

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

R	O	P	U	G	J	E	Z	Q	W	X	F	V	L	K	T	I	D	C	M	A	B	H	N	S	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-21-22-22-21-16-23 _____
- 25-26-24-21-5-2-5-4-7 _____
- 16-7-21-19-23-17-24-5 _____
- 21-20-21-8-7-18 _____
- 25-3-17-1-17-16 _____
- 25-23-2-2-15 _____
- 9-4-17-7-16 _____
- 25-23-1-17-7-15 _____

AMAZED	SYNAGOGUE	SHOOK	SABBATH
SHRIEK	TEACHING	SPIRIT	QUIET