



# EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS



Let the  
SINGLES

## BLAME & GOSSIP GO TOGETHER

It has always been characteristic of both men and women to blame and gossip to someone else for their problems and their sins. In the garden of Eden we find Adam and Eve doing so. When God asked Adam about his nakedness and if he had eaten of the forbidden tree, Adam said, the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" Gen 3:11

It is so much easier to blame an gossip to someone else than to accept the guilt and shame of our own sin. Dear hearts we don't realize all of the heartache and sorrow blaming and gossiping can cause. Spreading unkind and unnecessary comments about people (whether they are true or false) can destroy friendships, families, and the fellowship we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible says that "a whisperer [gossiper] separates the best of friends" (Prov 16:28). In 1 Timothy 5:13, Paul wrote about the widows who practiced gossiping, saying: "And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not." If we are not careful, we may find ourselves guilty of this same kind of wrongdoing. Keep in mind the words of the wise man: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit" (Prov 15:4).

Some of the most sobering words dear hearts we can hear are found in the following verses. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom 2:6). "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14: 12). When we blame someone else for our sins and gossip to others about it, it is an attempt to escape the penalty and punishment of our sins. With every action, there must come a reaction. When one does a certain deed, he/she must accept the consequences of that deed. That is simply the way it is! You would not want to bear the penalty of someone else's sin would you? Neither do they want to bear the penalty of your sin! Therefore, everyone must bear the punishment of their own sin.

Blame and gossip often gets passed around so much that the facts get lost. Many times, the end of the "blame/gossip train" is full of false, damaging information. "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless" James 1:26

ording  
hath chosen  
him before the  
foundation of the  
world, that we  
should be holy and  
without blame before  
him in love.  
Eph 1:4

All  
that hate me  
gossip together.  
Prosa 41:7

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## THE OCEAN

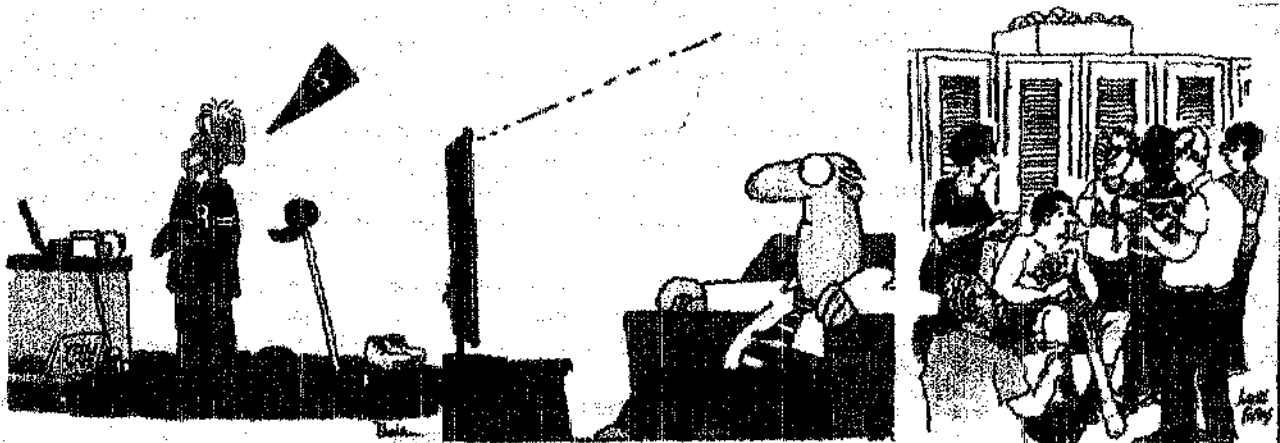
Those of us who live hundreds or even thousands of miles from the ocean are aware that oceans exist, and we may even be aware of some of the life forms that inhabit the oceans. We may be less well informed about how much the oceans affect our daily lives and how they make life on land possible. The oceans contain all of the elements necessary for life to exist. These elements have been dissolved from the crust of the earth and have then been locked up in rock deposits like halite (salt), gypsum (calcium sulfate), dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate), and many others. Marine organisms make shell material out of these elements. Oil is produced by organisms taking material from the sea. As oceans dry up or are displaced, these great mineral deposits end up far inland. Kentucky's famous bluegrass is blue because of magnesium present in an ancient ocean. The oceans also allow weather systems that sustain life on earth. Most of the land on earth is located in the Northern Hemisphere, so the Southern Hemisphere is mostly water. When the earth is closest to the sun the Southern Hemisphere faces the sun. Since it is mostly water, a majority of the extra energy of the sun is focused on the water. Water holds a large amount of heat without raising the temperature very much. If the part of the earth facing the sun when it is the closest were mostly land it would cause extremely high temperatures. When the earth is at its greatest distance from the sun more land faces the sun allowing temperatures to rise without becoming extreme. Because water absorbs so much heat it provides warmth to the entire planet during times of cold, so even places north of the Arctic Circle have substantial heat available. This heat also evaporates massive amounts of water providing rain which brings life to all parts of the planet. Even in places thousands of miles from the ocean, much of the water that falls as rain began its journey to the clouds in the ocean. Prov 8:28-30 talks about the wisdom used to create/control the sea. The sea and its vital role in sustaining the planet and we marvel at God's wisdom.

## ORE CAUSE

"Out of the Body Experiences" (OBE) continue to make the news now and then. Recent studies of the anesthetic ketamine have shown that the drug causes feelings of detachment from one's body and interferes with memory. This is done by cutting the neurotransmitter glutamate's ability to energize certain areas of the brain by restricting transmission of the brain chemical. Ketamine is a "club drug" and has been used in the drug culture for a long time. It is becoming more and more clear that OBE claims can be drug related and lack spiritual connections or meanings.

## MORE CREATION DEBATE

When the solar system was formed, massive amounts of energy were used to forge the planet we now live on as well as the other members of our solar system. We have all seen the molten material thrown out of a blast furnace as it produces iron-related materials. It appears that a similar splash must have been involved in the creation of the galaxies. We have now seen planets that have apparently been thrown out of their original solar systems and are drifting free in space. These wandering planets are very large Jupiter-like objects, but as instruments get better there may be earth-sized planets found as well. Astronomers are trying to discover what kind of process could do such a thing, and how a system like ours could ever become stable in such an environment.



"Actually, Mom, it's more like three triangular meals a day."

"We interrupt this program for an urgent Twitter update from Washington."

"You guys in the press don't realize it, but \$15 million a year ain't what it used to be!"

BTA - Blame themselves because they were late getting back on the bus, and if they hadn't caused the delay the bus would have already passed the location of the mud slide.

Bible - The sons of God- Gen 6:2 --- Acrophens Acts 17:19-23 ---- And unto dust shalt thou return Gen 3:19