



## Greetings Friends



*By: Michael Brooks*

Mothers—boy how do they put up with son’s and daughters who love the great outdoors? My mom should have been a saint! I can remember bringing home dead things all the time. In fact I was the cause of my mom not going to church. This particular Sunday was a beautiful day, sunny, warm temps. She decided to walk to church and told me that I should not leave the yard and behave myself. I promised her that I would do that. I was 11 years old at the time, and was easily persuaded to follow the crowd. A friend of mine stopped by with his dad and asked if I wanted to go to the butcher shop with them. I thought about it for a second and said yes. I knew I would be back before my mother got back from church. I got into the car and away we went. I looked around the shop and remember the smell so vividly—smoked meats, sausages hanging by the links near the scales. Then in the corner of my eye, I saw the cows head laying in the corner of the back hallway.

Wow, I thought that would be cool to take home and bring it to school for my science project. I asked the butcher if I could have it, and he said sure for 25 cents. Pete’s dad gave me the quarter and I took the stripped cows head home in a large brown box. When I was dropped off, Pete wanted to help, but I said I better do this by myself. I got a large soup kettle and put in a large amount of water and then put the stove on the high burner, and then added the cows head.

The deadly mistake was that once I felt everything was in order, that the boiling water would take off any of the flesh of the head, and remove the brains, I headed out to the play two houses away. I have no clue how long I was there, until I heard the screams coming from the direction of my house. I raced home and saw my mother with her hands covering her face and stammering saying “what is

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that in the soup kettle?” It’s a cow head Mom! Here my mother thought that my dad had come home early from his army tour duty in Fort Riley Kansas, and decided to make soup. He was a great cook. I looked at her and at the cover from the kettle on the floor, and boy I knew I was in trouble when my dad actually got home. So, I still consider my mom a saint for putting up with me and the goofy things I did as a kid. My mom has been gone almost 20 years, and I do miss her very much. I am relieved that she trusted in Christ on her death bed. I look back and can think of many things my mom did for me and my brothers and sister. Have you told your mom how much you appreciate her and love her? Does she know your feelings for her? Have you told her that she has made a difference in your life? It’s too late for me to say the things that I want, but for many of you it’s not. Have you told your wife how much you love and appreciate her for your kids. If you haven’t, take the time to let your wife know that she is a gift from God, and that she blesses you! That would mean so much to her. I have to say that I miss my mom, and wish I could say the things I feel now, take the time to send her a card, and a phone call. You will be glad you did.





## Bagging His First Gobbler

*By: Rhonda Woolum*

Although it rained during the night, Saturday morning dawned as a perfect spring day and the perfect day to bag a gobbler! Eight-year-old Elijah Woolum of Jackson, Ohio, went out on April 22, 2006 - the first day of the youth spring turkey hunt in Ohio with his dad, Ben. Elijah had gotten a nice hen during fall season, and he was excited about the prospect of getting his first gobbler during spring season.



Elijah and his dad left the house long before dawn and headed down the road to neighboring Gallia County where they would hunt. They met up with one of Ben's buddies, and the trio entered the woods before daybreak and set up to wait for sunrise and birds coming off the roost. Ben used a mouth call and a glass friction call and worked several birds throughout the morning. Long beards came in eagerly, and Elijah shot and missed. Still another bunch of birds came in, but he couldn't get a good shot at those.

About mid-morning, they decided to change locations, and set up the decoys before calling again. At about 11:00 am., a long beard came strutting in to the decoys at about 20 yards from them. Elijah aimed and shot the gobbler with a 3-inch turkey load in his 20-gauge Remington 1100 Youth Model shotgun. Perfect hit!

The excited young hunter checked his bird in at Lakeview Grocery in Oak Hill, Ohio. It weighed in at 19 pounds and had a 10-1/4 inch beard and 1- 1/8 inch spurs. They showed the bird off, got several photos, and took it back to Elijah's grandfather's house where they skinned the gobbler, taking care to keep the tail and feathers intact to make a turkey rug. One of Ben's buddies deep-fried the meat for them later that same afternoon - the perfect ending for a successful turkey hunt!

## Pastor's Corner

*By: Kraig Keck*

I am spoiled, and I admit it. My wife and I have lived in several states since we got married, but our favorite one is where we live now—Colorado. To be specific we live outside of Denver, and I enjoy the view. Often when I'm taking my kids to school I will comment on



how fortunate we are to daily see the mountains God created. I realize that everybody has his or her own preference for natural beauty. For some they enjoy the gentle sounds of the ocean. Others enjoy the quiet of the forest. Still others enjoy the vastness of the plains. Me, I enjoy the grandeur of the mountains.

One of my favorite activities when I have a free day is to drive into the mountains. I usually don't plan exactly where I'm going. I just get in my car and drive west. It's one of the most relaxing activities to me. Although my kids probably get tired of me dragging them along on these trips, I don't get tired of it. There is something magnificent about the mountains. They leave me in awe. It's almost overwhelming.

When I'm out enjoying the mountains—whether it's through hunting, camping, or just driving—I think about how these mountains came to be. Have you thought of that? Where did these mountains come from? Where did the ocean come from? Where did the forests and the plains come from? The answer is God created them. He created them just by speaking...and it really wasn't very hard for Him. Seriously, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1 that God created everything we see and enjoy just by speaking it. He spoke and it happened. God's words are powerful. They create something where nothing was before.

Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so (Gen. 1:9).

You and I don't have that power. When you and I speak nothing happens. Calling your kids to supper doesn't make it happen, does it? Or having a deadline and wishing for a few more hours doesn't





make it happen. Telling yourself to get up early in the morning to exercise doesn't make it happen (maybe that's just my story). But when God speaks...well just read this passage in Jeremiah 10.

When He utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain, And brings out the wind from His storehouses (Jer. 10:13).

One of my most vivid memories of the forces of nature described in this verse was when Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina in 1999. My wife and I were in the hospital where she was giving birth to our third child. The wind and the rain were powerful. The hurricane was bad enough, but the flooding afterwards looked like something from the movies. Three quarters of our town was cut off from the hospital. Nurses were being flown in by helicopter. Cars were overturned. Houses and apartments were ruined. Members of our church lost their homes. It was unreal.

Did you know that we serve a great God? What God says creates reality! That's the power of our God. When He speaks, things happen. Have you wondered if God was powerful in your life? Have you doubted whether God could do something in your circumstances? Nothing is too hard for Him. He is much more capable of dealing with your problems than you are. He's got better solutions than you have.

The next time you're in your favorite part of nature just remember that God created it just by speaking. The next time you experience the forces of nature just remember that God "brings the wind out of His storehouses." Both the majestic mountains and the mighty wind testify to the power of the God we worship.

*Kraig Keck  
Assistant Pastor  
Beth Eden Baptist Church  
2600 Wadsworth Blvd.  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033*

## Elkcamp Experience

*By: Calvin Jarvis*

It's Saturday morning, March 18, and I am sitting in our living room with one of the closest friends I have. Two days ago I had a heart catheterization done which resulted in finding a blockage and a stent was placed in my heart. That day that same friend and his wife were in the hospital waiting room with my wife until the procedure was done. I can only thank God for the bond that we have together, because it wasn't always this way. You see this very close friend and I have developed this bond just recently, as a result of a trip we both made to Elk Camp in Colorado.

Let me start from the beginning. Larry and I have been neighbors in rural southeast Ohio for well over 30 years. His children were in the same school as I, and yes, Larry is 20 years my senior. Larry worked road construction most of his life, which kept him away from home for weeks even months at a time. As a result I never became very acquainted with him during those years. Larry and his wife, Marie, saw to it that their children were in church growing up and they attended the same church as my family did. Graduation came and I went off to college and work and I moved away from the area. Then in 1997 I moved back to the farm I grew up on and Larry became my neighbor again. Eventually our two families found ourselves attending the same church. This is where our COFA experience begins.

In the spring of 2005, Wilbur McCormick and others shared the ministry of COFA to some in our church, including myself. At the time I just understood COFA as being an opportunity to go Elk hunting in Colorado, a long-time dream of mine. Quickly I signed up and started preparing to go in the fall of 2005. Two weeks prior to leaving one of the guys was unable to go, and I was left driving out 30 some hours by myself. At church that Sunday morning, Larry asked if I needed someone to ride with me since he was now retired and loved hunting and the outdoors. I agreed, but I really didn't know Larry that well, and I wondered what this would be like.

We left on Tuesday evening after work and began a long journey of continuous driving, switching drivers from time to time. During this time





both Larry and I began to get better acquainted, exchanging stories ranging from family, work, and of course many hunting stories of various types which we each had experience over the years. By Thursday morning we were at a gas station in Ridgeway, Colorado awaiting to meet up with the other members of the camp. Soon we were being introduced to Mike Brooks, his nephews, and others which we were about to get to know. After a short time of exchanging introductions we started the short caravan to the camp site which would be home for about a week.

Words cannot express all that one experiences at Elk Camp, but during the next few days a great bond began to develop among all of our camping buddies. These bonds will never be forgotten and though we may never be together again in this same manner, we can only imagine how it will be in heaven for all eternity.

Larry and I enjoyed ourselves tremendously. Two days before we were to leave, Larry and Mike were engaged in conversation on the other side of the camp. During the conversation Larry had questions concerning knowing for sure one could be in heaven. Larry has always been a good man, very generous of heart, attended church, saw that his children were in church, would do anything to help someone, etc. But Larry didn't see that in order to be assured of heaven, one has to accept the free gift offered by Christ on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, "For by grace are you saved through faith and not of ourselves it is a gift of God, not of works lest any one should boast."

Mike Brooks put Larry and I together and there on the bank behind our sleeping tent, I opened the Bible and explained how Christ came, died, and rose again to pay the debt of sin we owe. And if we only asked Christ to come in our hearts we could apply that payment to our account. Larry did just that and immediately Larry and I became brothers in the family of God.

Since that hunting trip I can honestly say that a bond has developed between Larry and I that words can't explain. Larry is the same loving person he has always been, doing anything for anyone in need, attends church, loving father and husband, but now he has the assurance that when

this life is over there is a home prepared in heaven for him, as well as everyone that has accepted the free gift of salvation. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ (saved) he's a new creature. Old things are past away, behold all things become new."

Now it's been about six months since Elk Camp of 2005 and each of us have many things to talk about that trip, but beyond all the deer, elk and other game I saw out there I have something that towers far above any of that. You see I may not have bagged that bull elk to bring back to show, but what I did get out there was a brother in Christ that has become one of the closet friends I have today.

So from two old hunting buddies from Ohio, we will always remember Elk Camp of 2005. Please pray for us that our growth in our Christian life will continue. And we encourage everyone to lift up COFA and all of its ministries because God can greatly use COFA to bring many to a saving knowledge of Christ. So from both Larry and I, we wish you well and pray that our future hunts will be successful, whether it is wild game, or "bagging" the souls of men for Christ.

## Hunting with Your Camera



By: Michael Brooks

Well, spring is here, you're sitting around the house when you get a bright idea—I wonder if I can get some pictures of that old fox in the back yard. So you go and find your digital camera and put together a game plan to catch him sneaking to get some of the dog food he has been notorious for

taking. You put Sparky in the basement and wait for the unsuspecting fox. You catch a glimpse of him by the honeysuckle vine, checking to see if the coast is clear. He races to the dog food bowl and starts inhaling each morsel of food while keeping a watchful eye out for Sparky. You slowly raise your camera and start taking pictures, "Hey, this is pretty fun" you say. The fox finishes the dog food and splits and you go downstairs to download your pictures off your camera. You get some amazing pictures and a new hobby has just started.





Using your hunting skills to get good pictures works really well. For example, stalking, taking a stand along a trail, hunting skills can help you get some incredible pictures. I use my hunting skills to get pictures of elk, mule deer, fox and big horn sheep. I love spring and summer in the woods. The smells of spring are awesome. The aspens, marshes, and flowering trees make spring breathtaking in the mountains.

Getting started is not that hard. It does not require lots of money. Go to your local camera shop and figure out what your price range is and get a camera that fits your budget. Then study the owner's manual and practice taking pictures. Get family pictures, nature pictures, work on getting to know your camera, inside and out.

Then head out to the field and hunt with your camera. You as a hunter will know where to go to get those once in a lifetime pictures. I get into the field as much as possible. I love watching God's wildlife. The best times I have had were watching sunsets with elk grazing on a grassy slope, the coyote howling in the distance. These will be memories that will last a lifetime.

Hunting with a camera can be really fun. Just go out and see what pictures you can come up with. You can take the family when you go out to a park, taking picture of geese and ducks you can walk right up to. You may want to get the kids involved with taking pictures with you; this can be a great outdoor family adventure. During the spring and summer months pack a lunch and head out to your destination. Make a day trip out of it. You would be amazed on what kind of pictures kids can take. They have a different take on things, and you never know what they will come up with in wildlife photos. Sunrises and sunsets are fun to take as well. Pack a blanket along and enjoy the evening, make it fun for the kids, talk about their favorite animal or bird, get to know your kids on an outdoor trip.

Again, you don't need an expensive camera to take wildlife pictures, just a great hunter's instinct on finding game. Check some areas out that maybe you have considered hunting, but take that camera along so your friends can see the big game shots you took. Good luck and enjoy your field excursion.





## The Power of a Praying Mom



*By: Cathy Channing*

I accepted Christ as my savior when I was only nine years old, so sometimes I feel like I don't have this incredible testimony. When I accepted Jesus, I had not lived long enough to have sown any wild oats or to have had much worldly damage affect me at that tender young age. However, being a Christian doesn't mean we're perfect, it means we're forgiven. And even a Christian who has walked many years with the Lord, even since childhood, encounters temptation along the way and can fall in and out of relationship with God. But in my many years of walking with the Lord, I have never really fallen out of relationship with Him through all the trials and temptations. So, when someone asks me for my testimony, I used to think I didn't have much of one. But that was before I became a mom.

Much of what I consider my testimony is tied up in my son, Matthew. I married at 19 after my freshman year in college and the man I married was not a Christian. Of course, I thought I could change that, but only God can change the hearts of men. After three years of an extremely abusive marriage, I became pregnant with my first child—Matthew. On Christmas day when I was 7 months pregnant with Matthew, my abusive husband threw me down a flight of stairs and I could have easily lost the baby from the fall. That's the day I began praying for my child and the day I began praying for God to provide my escape from this man. Matthew was 6 weeks old when I filed for divorce, so my prayer at that time was for God to take care of the two of us and keep us safe.

I dated here and there and most of the guys I dated were great guys for me, but not "daddy material" for my son. After 2 1/2 years of the single life, I began praying for God to put the perfect man in my life—a God-fearing, loving, Christian man—who would be the one God made for me and my son. Let me tell you, God will answer your prayers when you turn everything over in faith to Him. A month later, I ran into Greg and knew that God had answered my prayer.

## What the Bible says About Mothers...

*Gen 3:20* Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

*Exo 20:12* "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

*Lev 19:3* "Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

*Deu 5:16* "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

*2 Ki 4:30* But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

*Prov 10:1* The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

*Isa 66:13* As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

*Ezek 16:44* "Everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: "Like mother, like daughter."

*Luke 1:43* But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

*Luke 2:51* Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

*John 19:26-27* When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Greg and I had been best friends in high school, but had never dated. We went to the same church throughout school and as soon as we ran into each other again, both of us knew right away that it was God's plan that we be together. Not only did Greg accept Matthew as his own child, but his entire family accepted me and Matthew as their own and it's been that way for 21 years now. But God didn't stop there; He made the way clear for Greg to adopt Matthew and make him truly his own child with his name and my ex-husband lost all parental rights and has been completely out of our lives





since that time. God's timing is perfect and so much better than our own.

Fast forward a bit—we took a family vacation to New Braunfels, Texas to go “tubing” down the Guadalupe River. Matthew was only three years old so he had a life jacket on and was inside an inner-tube as we floated the river. We went down a shoot and Matthew ended up behind me. The force of the water threw Matthew and me both from our inner-tubes and the rest of our party didn't see we were in serious trouble as they floated on down the river without us. I grabbed my inner-tube but couldn't get up in it, but I was able to get Matthew up in it, but broke his life jacket in doing so. I was getting so very tired from fighting the current and felt I would drown, but made sure my child was in as safe a place as possible. I began praying for Matthew to be saved, not caring about my own fate as long as my child was pulled from the current. There were many people walking along the bank but nobody seemed to hear my cries or take them seriously. Out of nowhere, a man jumped into the water and pulled us to safety along the side. Once I knew we were safe, I turned to thank the man but he was gone. God had placed an angel in our midst in answer to my prayer to save my son.

Throughout Matthew's years in middle school and high school, my knees were scarred and battered from hours in prayer for my son just to make it through and for God to allow him to be the young man He created him to be. Any parent of a teenager can attest to the trials and tribulation of seeing them make it to adulthood. I don't know how any parent can survive the teen years without a close relationship of daily walking with God and depending upon Him to pull you both through and make the crooked places before you straight!!! Through all the valleys of despair, Matthew did make it through and graduated from high school and even began college. Then he decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps.

When Matthew joined the Marines, it was absolutely the best and worst time of my life all at the same time! It was the worst time because my baby was being sent to Iraq into war in the most God-forsaken place on earth. It was the best time of my life because it forced me to give

everything I had over to God, knowing that my child's very life and survival was in God's hands, not mine. Matthew being in Iraq and me knowing the clear and present danger he was in forced me to be closer to God and depend upon Him more than I ever had in my entire life up to that point. I don't understand how any parent of our military personnel can carry on without a living, breathing dependency on God to pull them through—it's all that got me through eight months of my own child being in danger every minute of every day! He never removed the danger Matthew was in--He protected him in the midst of the danger.

Even though Matthew is 23 years old now, my prayers have never ceased for him. He was injured in Iraq and underwent two separate surgeries. Had I not been praying for him, I honestly believe he would have been injured much worse, or lost his life. Knowing now what all he encountered in Iraq, I know it's only by the grace of God and His mercy that my child is even alive, much less whole. I prayed for him from Kuwait, through the desert sands of Iraq and back again. I prayed through his two surgeries and over his post traumatic stress syndrome. I prayed over his faith in the face of war as he struggled with life and death issues.

He's out of the Marine Corps now because of those same injuries and living back in Colorado with his wife. Life has never been a cake walk for Matthew, but I can't even begin to imagine what it may have been without the power of a praying mom.

Yes, much of my testimony is tied to my son, but just as much prayer has covered my daughter, Brittany, as well. As moms, it is our God-given responsibility to be the heart of our homes and nurture our children and families. But before having a heart for our homes, we must seek the heart of God as our compass to guide us through to the finish line He has planned for us. When your child is born, you dream of all the years ahead of you. You dream of birthdays, holidays, school, weddings, etc. However, the greatest gift you can give your child is the gift of prayer.

Happy Mother's Day all you moms!





## Tips for Our Readers

### Mother's Day

This Mother's Day, all across America, mothers, grandmothers, and even great-grandmothers will be honored, blessed, and thanked for years of service to their children and families—most will even get a break from cooking! But the Bible says the most honorable quality in a woman is that she fears and honors the Lord.

Today, may the Lord bless and honor you as you have honored Him. May you experience refreshment in His presence as you continue to develop your relationship with Him through worship, prayer, and study of the Word. As you do this, I know you will receive the "reward you have earned" and "your works will praise you at the city gate" (Proverbs 31:31).

### Gossip=Hurtfulness

Have you ever heard someone say, "Now don't pass this on, but did you hear . . .?" When you hear someone say that, don't you always think, "Then why are you passing it on to me?" I'm sure they don't think that sharing the latest juicy tidbit is going to hurt anyone.

But the truth is it can be extremely hurtful. It can ruin the relationship between business partners, close friends, and even between a husband and a wife. The Bible says that a gossiping tongue is "a restless evil and full of deadly poison." It can literally destroy a person's life.

But when we choose to use our words to say good things about people, even when they have made mistakes, we can influence their lives for the better. We can bring healing to the lives of hurting people when we choose to encourage and uplift them instead of tearing them down.

So if you know something bad about somebody, let me encourage you to keep it to yourself. And if someone tries to share "the latest news" about somebody else, politely stop them and encourage them to pray for that person. We must all learn to walk in love. When you show mercy to someone who is experiencing a difficult time in their life, God will show mercy to you and you'll live that

abundant, prosperous life that He promises to those who faithfully serve Him.

### Praising in ALL Circumstances

It is easy to praise God when you are in church on Sundays. Unfortunately, we can't stay there all day, every day. We have to go back to our homes where the atmosphere may not always be as worshipful. The washing machine breaks, you get stuck in traffic, and the phone is ringing off the hook interrupting everything that you are doing and somehow it is not so easy to praise the Lord.

Your circumstances can cause you to have a pity party because of all that is seemingly going wrong. But when you are faced with adversity, instead of focusing on the bad, look for the good. That is when it really becomes a sacrifice of praise! It's easy to praise the Lord when things are great, but the true test of our faith is when we praise the Lord regardless of our circumstances.

At those times when you are most tempted to complain, let us encourage you to look for the good and to praise the Lord for all the blessings in your life. Find the good, and thank God, in every situation and He will begin to pour out His blessings and favor upon you like never before, and you'll experience the overcoming life of victory that He has in store just for you.

### Count Your Many Blessings

Did you know that having a life full of joy and fulfillment is a matter of choice? Many people are not living in victory today because they have walked around with a chip on their shoulder. They are constantly complaining, always dwelling on what they don't have or focusing on their problems.

Let me encourage you to stay out of that trap. Wake up every morning and begin each new day by counting your blessings. Take time to make a list. Write down at least 10 things that you are thankful for. Whatever your situation in life, find things to add to the list.

Keep your list in a place where you can see it every day. When you feel yourself getting negative, when you're beginning to get discouraged, check your list; read it out loud. Focus on all the blessings that God has given you. Begin to thank Him for what He has already done for you and for all that He has in





store for your future.

Give God an offering of thanksgiving every day. As you begin to express your appreciation and praise to the Lord, you will begin to see Him pour out His blessings and favor in greater portions, and you'll experience the overcoming life of victory He has in store for you.

### Attitude Adjustment

Many people ask us, "Why am I not receiving God's best? My boss is mean, my house is old, and my spouse doesn't treat me right. It doesn't seem like my prayers are ever answered!" When people ask us that, we usually encourage them to look at what they just said. Perhaps the answer lies in your attitude.

Have you ever considered that maybe the Lord is waiting for you to be thankful for what you have before He will bless you with more?

The Word instructs us to pray with thanksgiving in every circumstance. Develop an "attitude of gratitude" and see what God will begin to do. He will take you places you've never dreamed of and you'll live the abundant life that He has in store for you.

### Guarding Your Words

Like the rudder on a ship, your tongue sets the direction of your life. It does not matter how hard the wind may blow, the rudder keeps the ship on its course. The words you speak are like that ship's rudder. No matter how hard the winds of life may sometimes blow, you need to guard the words that come out of your mouth. If you speak words of defeat, don't be surprised if your life continues on a course of defeat. But, when you choose to speak overcoming words of victory, you will experience victory.

It's not enough to refrain from speaking negative things. You must proactively say positive and encouraging things about yourself and your family. As you speak words of blessing over your life, you will find that they become a self-fulfilling prophecy. You can change your world by changing your words.

The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Make sure that the fruit your tongue produces is sweet. Declare that you are blessed and that whatever you do will succeed. Begin to speak those words of faith and victory over your life and over your loved ones, and you will reap a harvest that will bless your family for generations.

### Be a Blessing

The Bible encourages us to use our words to bless people. "To bless" means to speak well of, to pronounce favor, and to declare good things. And everyone has someone who needs to receive your blessing, especially your spouse and children.

Are you giving your children the blessings of love, affection, and encouragement? Are you speaking words that build them up and bless their future? You may not have received this approval from your own parents. Perhaps there wasn't a lot of love in your home. Perhaps your mom or dad always talked down to you. Let us challenge you to be the one to break the stronghold over your family. Decide today that you are going to stop talking down to one another. Choose instead to encourage each other. Stop focusing on what others are doing wrong and start thanking them for what they are doing right. Begin right now to bless each other's future.

Your decision to be a positive influence will have a greater impact on your family than you could ever imagine. It will affect generations to come. Speak these blessings over your family, your children, those whom you love and care for. If you will bless others, God will certainly bless your own life beyond what you ever hoped or dreamed.





## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Ohio Deer Hunt

*April (exact date to be determined)*

Limited to 8 hunters, this is COFA's second deer hunt in Ohio. This is a shotgun and handgun hunt. There is a \$125 non-refundable deposit required.

Wilbur (Grizz) McCormick—740.286.5522  
leejoy@adelphia.net

### Fishing at Arvada Reservoir

*Sat., 4/29/06—7:00 AM*

*Meet in the parking lot at the entrance*

Great place to catch walleye, trout, small mouth bass and musky's. This is a great lake to take children to, lots of trout for kids to catch. Bring beverages and snacks and enjoy a great time of fellowship and fun. There is an entrance fee per car.

Ron Burley—720.494.7675  
rburleyfishdude@yahoo.com  
Mike Brooks—303.456.0555  
George Reinbold—303.880.3800

### Fishing at Chatfield Reservoir

*Sat., 5/27/06—7:00 AM*

*Meet- at north boat ramp in parking lot near restrooms.*

Great walleye and small mouth bass in lake. There is a cost to get into state park. Bring beverage and snacks.

Ron Burley—720.494.7675  
rburleyfishdude@yahoo.com  
Mike Brooks—303.456.0555  
George Reinbold—303.880.3800

### Shooting (Bailey, CO)

*Sat., 6/10/06—8:00 AM*

*Meet in Subway in Conifer, CO*

This is a great time to shoot and enjoy pistol and rifle target shooting.

Mike Brooks—303.456.0555  
mbrooks33@aol.com  
George Reinbold—303.880.3800

### ATVing, Dirt Bikes, Hiking & Photography

*Sat., 6/24/06—8:00 AM*

*Meet at Ranger Station in Idaho Springs, CO*

Take I-70 West to exit at Mt. Evans Ranger Station on right side of the road. Bring snacks, beverages, and camera. This is a great time to explore the trails.

Mike Brooks—303.456.0555  
mbrooks33@aol.com  
George Reinbold—303.880.3800

### Women's Hike (Mt. Falcon in Morrison, CO)

*Sun., 6/25/06—9:00 AM*

From 285, take Parmalee Gulch Rd. (Indian Hills). Turn right on Pictis Rd., turn left to Comanche Rd. Stay to the left and follow Nambee Rd. to Mt. Falcon Rd. Parking at top (follow Mt. Falcon Trail signs).

Sandy Tippins—303.467.0289  
Call Sandy for additional information or directions.

## COFA Leadership Training Boot Camp of the Rockies

8660 Fairall Road, Morrison, Colorado

Date: June 3rd, 2006

Time: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

303.456.0555

COFA is often asked, "How do you guys put these hunting and fishing camps on?" Believe me, over several years of learning from mistakes and good common sense, COFA does a good job at making its camps safe in operation and a place to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you're someone who wants to learn how to share your faith with people in your hunting or fishing camp or learn about the nuts and bolts that makes a safe and productive camp, this leadership training class is just for you. What makes a good clean camp? COFA will show you with hands on, all day classes. Topics covered in this seminar are listed on Page 1 in Mike's "Greetings Friends" section.

This training will be open to the public, there will be a \$75 fee for non-COFA staff. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mike Brooks at 303.456.0555.





## COFA's Elk hunting Camps, hunts of a lifetime! 2006



Dates for rifle hunt:  
Oct 19-25 Colorado  
Nov 2-7 Colorado

Dates for Archery  
"watch for dates to  
be posted in March.



This years COFA elk hunting camps, will be bigger, better and we will have more camps to offer. We are in the process of putting together bow hunting camps. We are excited to add additional volunteers to help run these camps. Here is the hunting information.

**When:** October 19-25 2006, this includes camp set up on Thursday and scouting on Friday and hunting beginning on Saturday 21st, Second camp will be November 2nd-7th 2006.

**Where:** Uncompahgre National forest unit #65

**Cost:** There is a \$150 dollar non-refundable donation fee to hold your place in camp. We are limited to 15 per camp, so sign up early. Elk hunting tags can be checked on the DOW-Division Of Wildlife website at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/> for prices on elk tags, you can buy bull tags over the counter, but you must do this before the season begins. We highly recommend that you try to purchase cow tags, lots of cows in area!

**Tents and eating arrangements:** You will be assigned to a group of people who are responsible for taking turns cooking evening meals during the week. That group will plan and cook meals for the entire group. You will only have to cook one evening meal. Your group will provide everything from main course, breads, desserts, and beverages. Each person is responsible for their own breakfast and lunch. Tents will be provided and they are large, warm and have plenty of room to walk around in. No pup tents in this camp!

**Gear and such:** You will need your hunter safety card, no exceptions for lost cards. As far as tent gear, a sleeping cot, with a foam pad under your sleeping bag, two extra blankets. A pillow, a carpet square to go under your cot. Hunting gear and rifle recommendations, call Mike Brooks at 303.456.0555 for COFA suggestions. ATV's need a current state sticker.

**Spiritual context:** We encourage Christians to bring non-believing friends or family members to this camp. We will share the gospel around the campfire in a clear and concise manner, from a fellow hunter or peer. This is an incredible hunt, sign up soon, before the camps fill up. Call 303.456.0555 to reserve your spot! Or e-mail mike at [mbrooks33@aol.com](mailto:mbrooks33@aol.com), see you in on the trail.

