

Mark McKinney shares testimony in powerful and insightful book

"I'm sitting in church thinking, 'I must not be saved, and I am sitting here amongst a bunch of haves, when I am a have-not. You are broken. Something is wrong with your inner workings if everyone sitting around you has had the "event" and seen the light, felt the shuddering, and been overcome with joy, peace, or heard a voice..."

Mark McKinney of Lincolnton has written an honest, heartfelt book about his struggle with faith and life with an alcoholic father, a man so in denial about his disease that it ended up alienating him from family and friends and causing serious health problems. "I did not know it or even realize it then, but looking back, it is clear to see that this was one of God's pieces in my puzzle," the author said of his father's sudden hospitalization as a result of years of heavy drinking. "I was so far away from any sort of relationship with Christ at this point in my life that it never occurred to me to even pray for my daddy's recovery."

Commenting on his book, McKinney said, "This book will not teach you how to interpret carbon dating samples, how to be a better singer of hymns, or even the difference between Methodists and Baptists. But it will provide you with a foundation to understand your faith, to embrace that faith, and to utilize it to impact every single aspect of your life and the lives around you."

According to McKinney, it all started when he was asked to lead a coed Sunday School class at Lincolnton Baptist Church. "During the first class I ever taught, I shared with the folks in the room how I came to be sitting in that very spot at that very moment. Afterwards, I realized that I had just given my testimony, which I had previously thought did not exist."

"People told me how much my story had touched them, so I decided to put it all down on paper so I would

never forget any of the details. I realized that my dad's death as the result of alcoholism was for a reason, and that reason had everything to do with me asking tons of questions and in the end, discovering my faith."

McKinney indicated that once he decided to forge ahead with a formal book, he felt a sense of God's assurance.

"I have been adamant from the beginning that the intent of the book is to have an impact on someone's faith — it may be 10; it may be a million — but if it touches just one person then it has been worth it."

He went on to say that it has been a humbling experience when people tell him how much the book touched them or how it changed their life.

"At the end of the day, I would like for every reader to laugh, cry, and reflect on his own life and daily walk."

In other remarks, McKinney said, "Although the original intent of the book was to say to those who have similar faith-based questions that it is OK to struggle and speak up, I was surprised to find out how much this book has meant to people who live or have lived with similar additions in their families. One of the main things I have learned since this book was published is I am not the Lone Ranger."

"I have also learned that you should never be ashamed of things that you or your family members struggle with because these may be the very things that will make you stronger and able to offer support to someone else."

In addition, he learned that things truly do happen for a reason, and if people simply turn around from time to time, they will clearly see the spiritual markers in their lives.

As for the concept of the sticky note, McKinney said he likes to distill ideas down to one page. "A sticky note gives me just enough room to write down what I need to think about for the day."



MARK MCKINNEY

McKinney used the idea of sticky notes, which are basically mini-documentaries of what is important to an individual, to relay how he discovered his faith — tracking down the spiritual sticky notes of his life, then piecing them together like a puzzle. "I never had my moment..." he wrote. "I had many moments."

To obtain a copy of "Faith on a Sticky Note," visit the following website: www.faihtonasticky.com or contact the author at 1-864-630-1082.

Born and raised in McCormick, South Carolina, McKinney attended Clemson University before marrying the former Britt Mattison of Lincolnton. They are the parents of two children.

For 12 years, the couple lived in Greenville, South Carolina, before moving to Lincolnton in 2007, following the death of the author's father in 2006.

Currently, McKinney travels the Eastern seaboard as a software salesman for the Follett Software Company. Also, he is part owner of the Lincolnton Athletic Club.

A portion of the proceeds from every book sold will be donated to the Lincoln County Ministerial Association to help support benevolent works in the community.

Launching RAMP

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The program will accommodate eight students at a time.

Another new teaching tool this year is an electric car, which will be used in Jordan's Engineering Concepts Class.

"Students will gain invaluable experience working on the electric motor for the car, which is like a go-cart."

In other comments, Jordan said she also plans on re-organizing the Technology Student Association (TSA) this year. "Students can compete in TSA events using the projects they complete in class."

These events include robotics, computer-aided design, and dragster design.

2010 marks Jordan's first year at LCHS. A 1991 graduate of LCHS, she holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, a master's degree from Troy State University, and a specialist degree in administration from Lincoln Memorial University.



LCHS hosts CTAE directors

LCHS hosted a meeting of CTAE (Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education) system directors and the Central Region coordinator for the Georgia Department of Education Thursday, August 26. Shown are: (front row, l-r) Nancy Bessinger, Central Region coordinator; Lou Bentley, CTAE director for Wilkes County; Dr. Leslie Clark, CTAE director, Burke County; (back row) Mike Smallwood, CTAE director, McDuffie County; Penny Langston, CTAE director, Elbert County; and Joann Collins, CTAE director, Lincoln County. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways the Perkins Program Improvement Grant could be used to upgrade the CTAE programs in the respective schools.

Chamber looking for ghost stories for upcoming Halloween festival

"You could almost breathe in the darkness — the house sat on the hill, waiting and watching. The thunder and rain were merely background noise as the car loaded with Gap-clad teenagers squealed into the overgrown driveway."

"The house shuddered because it never missed anything...a lone raven, the ivy crawling around the widow's walk, the drooping gait of the caretaker, or the opportunity to..."

The Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln County Development Authority are collecting local urban legends and ghost stories.

Urban legends are defined as "stories of unknown origin involving incidents in the past that include supernatural elements and tend to be believed as true by the local community. These stories are generally passed on by word of mouth."

Whether it is Halloween night or simply sitting around a campfire with

friends, telling ghost stories and urban legends is a popular American tradition.

Now, for the second consecutive year, the chamber of commerce and the development authority are asking people in the county to write down these local legends.

"We are looking for stories that are historical and entertaining in nature, involve a supernatural event, and are believed to have a non-fiction origin," said Susan Banks, executive director of the chamber of commerce. "The stories should include details in regard to the time, place, characters, and plot."

The stories will then be featured at the Second Annual Ghostly Graveyard, a Halloween mini-festival set for Saturday, October 30, from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Welcome Center.

"Everybody knows at least a few urban legends — we strongly encour-

age local residents to share their stories with other members of the community by participating in this special project," said Banks.

Not only will the stories serve to entertain, amuse, and even frighten just a bit, they will provide the audience and posterity with an informal record of the folklore in circulation in Lincoln County. Following the festival, the stories will be archived in the genealogy department at the Lincoln County Library.

The spooky stories and urban legends may be dropped off at the Welcome Center, located in the Blanchard House at 112 N. Washington Street; faxed to the chamber at 706-359-5477; or e-mailed to the following address: sbanks@lincolncountyga.com. The deadline is Friday, October 8, at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the chamber office at 706-359-7970.

Next hearing Tues.

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than the payback," said Chairman Williams. "I'm going to fight for the citizens. There will be a legal challenge. I'm not against the taxpayer; I'm one, too."

Another question from the audience concerned whether the interest rate on the bonds could be negotiated.

It was noted that renegotiations can take place after 10 years.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board assured the audience it would take their comments into consideration.

The third hearing will take place Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the board office on Metasville Road.



Congressman Paul Broun (r) is shown receiving the "Defender of Economic Freedom" award from David Keating, executive director of the Club for Growth. The award was presented to Dr. Broun for his commitment to support policies that encourage economic growth.

Club for Growth presents Freedom award to Broun

United States Congressman Paul Broun recently received the "Defender of Economic Freedom" award from the Club for Growth for his commitment to support policies that encourage economic growth.

Dr. Broun earned a perfect score from the club for the second consecutive year.

"Economic freedom is the foundation of prosperity and opportunity," stated the congressman. "Unfortunately, Congress' refusal to rein in spending, produce a budget, or ease the regulatory and tax burdens on America's small businesses threatens to destroy this freedom. But it is not too late to turn things around."

Broun went on to say that he appreciated the Club for Growth's efforts to encourage a high growth economy and a swift return to America's founding principles through legislative involvement, issue advocacy, research, training, and educational activities.

"I will continue to advocate for commonsense, economic policies that provide opportunities for our nation's job creators," he stated.

In his remarks, Chris Chocola,

president of the Club for Growth said, "With his score of 100 percent, Congressman Broun has demonstrated a clear commitment to economic liberty and growth. During one of the toughest economic years in recent memory, he showed that the principles of free enterprise and free markets are the only way to create jobs and rescue our economy."

The Club for Growth is a national network of thousands of pro-growth Americans, from all walks of life, who believe that prosperity and opportunity come through economic freedom.

The policy goals of the club include:

- Reducing income tax rates.
- Repealing the death tax.
- Social Security reform.
- Ending abusive lawsuits through medical malpractice and tort reform.

In addition, the group believes that the goal of tax policy should be to raise the amount of money needed to fund legitimate functions of government while doing the least amount of damage to the economy and respecting the principle of treating taxpayers equally.



WELCOME

Luciano Fiszer, M.D.
GENERAL SURGERY/WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

Self Regional Healthcare welcomes Luciano Fiszer, M.D., to its medical staff and to the community. Dr. Fiszer earned his medical degree in 2001 from Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Favaloro University in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He completed residencies in surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York in 2005 and Tulane University in New Orleans, La., in 2009, and a minimally invasive and bariatric fellowship at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Fla., in 2010.

- Medical School: Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Favaloro University Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Residencies:
 - Mount Sinai Medical Center, N.Y.
 - Tulane University, New Orleans, La.
- Fellowship: University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

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