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THE EPOCH TIMES HE EP

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Television's Golden Age of Family Sitcoms

By Jeff Minick

Once upon a time, television shows delivered good humor, moral lessons, and family values "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there," wrote L.P. Hartley in his 1953 novel "The Go-Between." If you're looking for proof of Hartley's claim, just tune in, as I recently did, to the early episodes of "The Donna Reed Show," where you can time travel all the way back to 1958.

Alex Stone was a small-town pediatrician whose office is connected to the house. His wife, Donna (Donna Reed), was a homemaker. And both were ar-

ticulate, bright, and witty. Their teenage daughter, Mary, and adolescent son, Jeff, sniped back and forth, but without any real rancor. Donna wore a dress while working around the house—gasp!—and the family took their meals together. (Double gasp!)

In a 2008 online article, Paul Peterson, who played Jeff, commented:

"'The Donna Reed Show' depicts a better time and place. It has a sort of level of intelligence and professionalism that is sadly lacking in current entertainment products. ... The messages it sent out were positive and uplifting. The folks you saw were likable, the family was fun, the situations were familiar to people. ... It provided 22-and-a-half-minutes of moral instructions and advice on how to deal with the little dilemmas of life."

Our Early TV Culture: Some Brief Notes

Interestingly, the writer of that article, Glenn Garvin, snidely belittled Peterson's observations. He called other family sitcoms of the period, such as "Ozzie *Continued on Page 3*

BARRETT WARD/UNSPLASH

FAMILY

Outdoor Activities to Boost Children's Health

Teach your child to be a '90s kid with a summer outside

By Annie Holmquist

It's sometimes said that those who were kids in the 1990s were the last generation to have a true childhood. This is because they came of age before the digital trends of the internet, smartphones, and other tech devices went full throttle.

Having spent part of my own childhood in those apparent glory years, I feel rather bad for today's kids, who are missing out on the delights of a carefree summer in the fresh air. It's likely they would be a lot happier and more creative—even if they were forced outside for an entire morning and told to drink out of the garden hose if thirsty, as the proverbial kid of yesteryear was.

So since a summer outdoors is a thing of the past, here are a number of ideas to pass along to your children and grandchildren to help them experience firsthand the glories of being a '90s—or any previous generation—kid.

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 Bikes offer a way for kids to experience a bit of freedom and responsibility.

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Taking care of a garden gives kids something that author Wendell Berry calls "family economy" and the gift of "local productivity."

FAMILY

Outdoor Activities to Boost Children's Health

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Classic Games Teach your children some of the backyard classics, such as kickball, sardines, kick the can, blindman's bluff, or "red light, green light." Variations on TV tag—we always played book tag and could go on forever by recalling our favorite titles—get both the mental and the physical juices flowing.

Build a Fort

Whether it's a permanent one under a pine tree's boughs, or a temporary one with a tent constructed out of a blanket and the picnic table, forts are a winner with kids because they create a special space to call their own. Even more, how-

ever, forts are great because they foster ingenuity as kids turn scraps into all kinds of useful building materials. After all, half the fun of their hands dirty and something comes through creating it.

Use Tools

Educator Carole Joy Seid encourages parents to ditch

the play sets of tools and provide their chil- Get some hefty sticks of sidewalk chalk, dren with real ones. Doing so will teach them how to handle tools safely and effectively—and also will give them a creative outlet and opportunity to practice practical skills for the future.

Plant a Garden

Give kids an opportunity to get their hands dirty and raise a few plants, even if it's only in a window box. Doing so involves your children in what author Wendell Berry calls the "family economy," giving them the gift of "local productivity."

Ride Bikes

Back in the day, a bike was the "kid car," enabling children to explore far and wide. Life today makes that freedom a little more difficult, but let your children start small, riding first down the block, then around the block, and then gradually to farther destinations as they demonstrate responsibility. The training will help overcome both your fears and theirs.

Board Games

Those excessively hot days of summer when it's difficult to expend much energy are

for. Try pulling out Monopoly, Risk, and Settlers of Catan and setting them up on a table outside. The kids still will be getting fresh air but will be able to practice strategy rather than staring at screens.

Paint the Picnic Table

Chores are one of the best cures for boredom, but there's no rule against chores being fun! Almost every kid is fascinated by paint, so dress your child in some old clothes and hand him or her a paintbrush to paint an easy item such as the picnic table. Your child will have fun and help the family in the process.

Reading Reenactments

Before sending your children outdoors, read some great works of historical fiction to them. Chances are, they'll start reenacting the story once you turn them loose outside, playing King Arthur or Nathan Hale or pioneers on the Oregon Trail.

Water Balloons

This one is a bonus because it entertains not only the kids, but the neighbors as well. My elderly neighbors later confessed that they got a lot of laughs watching me and my childhood friends throw water balloons in the air and then try to get them to smash down on our heads. (Trust me, it sounds much more painful than it really is—at least for a resilient kid!)

Lawn Games

Give kids an

opportunity to get

raise a few plants,

even if it's only in

a window box.

Pick up a croquet set at a garage sale or on Craigslist, then teach your children to play. My friends and I played

this for hours as children and when we got tired of the game itself, we improvised, using the mallets for crutches, or holding them upright and balancing the end of the stick on our fingers, seeing who could do so the longest.

Sidewalk Chalk

and let your children decorate the driveway or make grids to play hopscotch. For older children, suggest they write encouraging messages to others walking along the sidewalk, drawing on Bible verses or poems that they have learned for inspiration. I'm one of those adults who actually reads these unexpected sidewalk messages as I walk by, and they usually bring a smile.

Backyard Theater

Have your kids put on a play in the backyard, perhaps drawing on the historical fiction mentioned earlier. Kids always love presenting something and having others watch, and the preparation will get their creative juices flowing. Consider inviting the neighbors to watch, enabling you

to strengthen your community in the process.

Getting children out of the house in the summertime is often viewed as a good thing because it maintains the sanity of Mom or Dad while also keeping children from being bored.

But what we often forget is that getting our children outside makes them healthy,

likely just what board games were created both physically and mentally. For instance, the classic children's work "The Secret Garden" explains how fresh air and exercise made little Mary "less 'contrary" and ready to "do new things." Similarly, Thomas Jefferson recommended outdoor activity because "a strong body makes the mind strong."

So teach your kids the joy of past generations with a summer outside. Who knows? It may just be the key to helping them overcome the mental health and academic struggles that seem to perpetually plague the up-and-coming generation

Annie Holmquist is a cultural commentator hailing from America's heartland who loves classic books, architecture, music, and values. Her writings can be found at Annie's Attic on Substack.

children can write messages for passersby or decorate the driveway.



Television's Golden Age of Family Sitcoms

Continued from Page 1

and Harriet" and "Leave It to Beaver," phony. He wrote, "Reed's tight dresses showed off the same spectacular figure that helped her win an Oscar as a sizzling young hooker in 'From Here to Eternity.'" She "schemed and manipulated to keep peace in her family and the neighborhood," and taught her daughter to use her "feminine wiles" on the boys at school.

Guilty on all counts, though many of us might have overlooked Reed's dresses had Garvin not highlighted them.

But let's save any comparisons between then and now until later. According to the Library of Congress, in 1950, about 1 in 10 Americans owned a television set; by 1960, when "The Donna Reed Show"

was in its third season, that number had leaped to 9 in 10. Huge audiences followed Westerns, some of which, such as "Bonanza" and "The Rifleman," also spotlighted families. Whodunits and police dramas such as "Perry Mason" and "Dragnet" were enormously popular, and millions lapped up variety shows, with their mix of comedy,

music, and dance. Meanwhile, lighthearted entertainments about family life, such as "Donna Reed," attracted a boatload of fans as well, which brings us back to Paul Peterson's comments. "The Donna Reed Show" ran from 1958 to 1966. Do other family sitcoms of this time match Peter-

son's positive recollections of this era?

They're Called Sitcoms for a Reason Certainly, as Peterson noted, the families in these shows were fun, bringing laughter to their audiences with a humor gleaned from situations and stock The Message characters rather than from wisecracks Peterson was right on target when he noted in 1989, Homer Simpson is a doofus dad Jeff Minick has four children and a growor snarky remarks.

"The Andy Griffith Show" (1960–1968), which remains popular in reruns today, is an excellent example of the early situation comedy. It brought together the wise Sheriff Andy Taylor; his son, Opie; his good-hearted Aunt Bee; the inept deputy sheriff, "Nip it in the bud" Barney Fife; and other inhabitants of the small town

of Mayberry, and looked for its laughs in how the characters dealt with everyday problems. No one used foul language, any mockery of others was gently delivered, and the relationship between Andy, Aunt Bee, and Opie was core to this series, though it wasn't strictly a show about

The storylines of other family-focused sitcoms, such as "Father Knows Best," "Make Room for Daddy," and the everpopular "I Love Lucy," displayed a similar light touch. The humor truly was goodhumored.

Love, Marriage, and Family

In these family-centered shows, the husbands generally left for work in the morning while the wives stayed home and raised the kids. Both

spouses may have had different obligations within their families, but as is the case with several young couples I know today, the relationships between these television wives and husbands were balanced, loving, and respectful.

"The Dick Van Dyke Show" (1961–1966) is representative of these television marriages. Rob Petrie (Dick Van Dyke) made his living writing for a comedy show while his wife, Laura, took care of the house and their son, Ritchie. When Rob faced some difficulty at work, usually with his acerbic boss, or when some complication arose at home, Laura and Rob talked it through. Like that age-old advice given

to wives and husbands—"Never go to bed angry"—this show, like most of the others of this time and genre, only concluded when the couple had put a problem to rest.

that these light comedies delivered "moral instructions and advice." One of the more ilv" (1971–1979) featured the bigoted faexplicit of these messengers of virtue was ther Archie Bunker, whose ham-fisted "Leave It to Beaver" (1957–1963). Ward and June Cleaver were raising two boys, teenaged Wally and his younger brother,

told The Epoch Times. "It's a slice of our history, a page out of our history, because this kind of thing goes back to the 1880s."

Every spring for the past hundred years and beyond, Idaho's ranchers have moved herds of sheep from lowland pastures up into the mountains. As the snow melts on high ground, the green grass is ripe for grazing and the great herding gets underway.

In the 21st century, having the huge public sheep crossing close to the city of Boise requires dedicated coordination with Eagle Police Department, which closes the highway temporarily and deploys crowd control to ensure it all goes safely.

"People just love to come out and see the sheep," Stuebner said. "It's turned into a situation where we have so many people that come out to watch that there's a fair bit of crowd control involved. Everyone wants to get their own pictures and videos.

"So I find myself going up and down the road, before it happens, to tell people to be sure to stay off to the side of the road, and keep their dogs leashed, and things like that, so that the ranchers can move the sheep through without any problems."

Once the sheep start coming through, at about 9:30 in the morning, the crossing goes quickly, with the process wrapping up in about 15 minutes. After that, Stuebner said, the sheep are herded into the foothills of Boise, and "they're on their merry way."



Cleaver, and Sheriff Andy Taylor of Mayberry now seems as far away from our digital age as the streets of Shakespeare's London. The dress, manners, and customs from then to now have undergone a radical transformation.

On the other hand, these same shows have some things to teach us if we let them. Most of the adults are portrayed as grownups-men and women who dress with class, treat others with respect, and avoid rude language or behavior. Children listen to their parents, play games, and display a curiosity about the world around them. Some of our 20-somethings who claim to be confused by what they call "adulting" might, in particular, gain some insights from Rob and Laura Petrie, or Alex and Donna Stone.

And here's the good news: All of these shows are available somewhere online. So if you're looking for lessons from the past, or if you just want some humor delivered with wit and sophistication, hop aboard these time machines of family sitcoms and travel back to a gentler age.

ing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Criticisms of the old family sitcoms as Make The Man." Today, he lives and unrealistic are understandable, particu- writes in Front Royal, Va.

COURTESY OF LIFE ON THE RANG

Every year, Idaho ranchers herd thousands of sheep across Idaho and up into the mountains

And many episodes of "Leave It to Bea-

ver" did indeed end with a lesson in vir-

tue and character, often mildly delivered

by Ward to Beaver, whose curiosity and

youth frequently landed him in trouble.

Though these shows might have encour-

aged better behavior in their younger

viewers, particularly boys of Beaver's age,

they also served as informal guidebooks

for parents, encouraging a combination

Plenty of other family sitcoms hit the air-

waves following these shows. Like their

predecessors, many of them also offered

positive messages about marriage and

parenting. "Family Matters," "Family

Ties," and "The Brady Bunch" are just a

sampling of these successors that pro-

moted the idea of strength and love in

Of course, others equally popular with

the public, like "Married ... With Chil-

dren" or "The Simpsons," taught no such

lessons. For example, in "The Simpsons,"

which began its long and continuing run

with no real character. "All in the Fam-

attempts to govern his household often

of discipline, restraint, and love.

Offspring

the family

The crossing involves around 2,500 sheep, and it takes a well-orchestrated effort to keep them all moving in the right direction.

A lead herder walks in front of the herd with a lead ewe, which makes a jingling sound with a bell around its neck. The rest of the sheep follow the ewe, and several border collies work with the flock, along with at least 10 ner, "and that's good for reducing fire other herders, plus friends and family who come along to help.

Since the lambs are just months old, Stuebner said, they're especially beautiful to watch—particularly for those city-dwellers who don't have the chance to see these animals very often

"We see Grandma, Grandpa there with their children and the grandchildren, and lots of moms with kids. It just seems to be a real thrill for them

to watch, and the animals are all ba-

ba-ing as they trot by," he said. Once the flock gets into the foothills, it continues on into Boise National Forest, and higher and higher up into the mountains, covering hundreds of miles on its route, with the sheep munching on vegetation as they go. "They trim the vegetation," said Stuebdanger. It also invigorates the plants when they're being fed on, so it's really a win-win situation for everything." Stuebner is passionate about Ameri-

can ranching and American meat. "One thing Idaho sheep ranchers

would say is: Buy American lamb," he said. "We get a fair number of imports from Australia and New Zealand, and that affects the pricing that they get for their lambs. So please do buy local; it's a wonderful product."

(L-R) Carl Betz as Alex Stone, Donna Reed as Donna Stone, Paul Petersen as Jeff Stone, and Shelley Fabares as Mary Stone in "The Donna Reed Show."

behavior in their younger viewers, particularly boys of Beaver's age, they also served as informal guidebooks for parents, encouraging a combination of discipline, restraint, and love.

Though these

shows might have

encouraged better

A Slice of History

Idaho's seasonal sheepcrossing keeps America's shepherding heritage alive

By Anna Mason

This stunning visual reminder of America's proud farming heritage is nothing less than a spectacle, and people turn out in the hundreds to witness it. The extraordinary event thousands of sheep streaming across Idaho's most significant north-south highway-looks even more magnificent from above, captured via drone.

Documentary maker Steve Stuebner, 64, produces videos for Idaho initiative Life on the Range, under the sponsorship of the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, telling stories about the remarkable people and wealth of natural resources within the state

Stuebner first filmed the crossing two years ago, and his amazing footage attracted national and international attention. For him, the sight of the public sheep crossing holds great significance.

"People just really enjoy it," Stuebner

fall apart. Then and Now Theodore, nicknamed Beaver. Like other sitcoms about families at this time, Ward often appeared in a suit and tie, and June

Paradise Lost and the Path Back

How we can again gain God's attention

Gustav Doré was a prolific illustrator of the 19th century. He created images for some of the greatest classical literature of the Western world, including "The Bible," "Paradise Lost," and "The Divine Comedy." In this series, we will take a deep dive into the thoughts that *inspired Doré and the imagery those* thoughts provoked.

By Eric Bess

ave you ever looked around and thought to yourself that there's so much evil that it seems L like there's hell on earth? It seems like violence, lust, anger, dishonesty, and discord have become the norm. Or has it? Is there still positivity among us despite the steady stream of

negativity? In the last part of our series, we showed how Satan seduced Eve to eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In this final installment, we take a look at humankind's fall from grace, the road built connecting Hell to Earth, and the hope after the Fall.

> Hardships occur when we ignore that we are creations of God.

Paradise Lost?

Milton suggests that God knew all along that Satan would successfully tempt Adam and Eve. The divine beings in Heaven are all saddened by the human failure. Despite the sadness in Heaven, there must be consequences for Adam and Eve's wrongdoing: They will reap what they have sown. So God goes to the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve their judgment.

Initially, Adam admits that he wants to blame Eve for their corruption because his disobedience was not wholly his own. God replies:

Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey Before his voice, or was she made thy guide,

Superior, or but equal, that to her

Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place Wherein God set thee above her made of thee, And for thee, whose perfection far excelled Hers in all real dignity: adorned



"Nor only tears / Rained at their eyes, but high winds worse within / Began to rise" (Book IX. 1121–1123), 1866, by Gustav Doré for John Milton's "Paradise Lost." Engraving

She was indeed, and lovely to attract Thy love, not thy subjection, and her gifts Were such as under government well seemed, Unseemly to bear rule, which was thy part And person, hadst thou known thyself aright. (Book X, Lines 145-156).

God lets Adam know that he isn't without blame. Adam was made to be the leader of Earth. Yet, he be-

came weak and lost sight of his true purpose because of Eve's beauty. He elevated Eve beyond himself, and in elevating her, he separated himself from his role as a man. The inversion of their proper relationship was the beginning of their fall.

First, they were separated from their proper roles as man and woman. However, that isn't the only separation that occurred. Arguably, on a deeper level, Satan's successful temptation of Eve was nothing more than a separation of her from her proper orientation to things otherwise good.

In the last part of this series, we

showed that Satan used Eve's beau ty to tempt her. He claimed she was so beautiful that she should be worshipped like a goddess instead of kept to Adam alone, and her pride swelled. Yet, her beauty was not bad in and of itself, and neither was her relationship with Adam, despite his improper elevation of her. Her pride altered her relationship with Adam and her own beauty.

The above isn't the only way separation occurs. Taking the forbidden fruit separated them from Paradise, as an angel led them from the Garden of Eden; it separated them from God's commandment; and

What Happened to 'Tank Man'?

An engrossing series on the Tiananmen Square Massacre

By Joe Bendel

June 4 represents the anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) massacre of democracy protesters on and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Thirty-four years after the 1989 mass killings, the world still doesn't know the identity of the man dubbed "Tank Man," who stood in front of a column of tanks, then left the scene of the crime. Hopefully, the CCP will never know either, for his sake.

Considering how iconic the faceless picture of Tank Man has become, securing an exclusive interview would be quite a coup. However, it could be very dangerous for Tank Man, and perhaps also for the reporter who scores stage play.



Lee Berger (Alessandro Nivola) reviews his photo of Tank Man in "Chimerica."

the scoop. Nevertheless, disgraced photojournalist Lee Berger needs to land that story to repair his tarnished reputation in Lucy Kirkwood's fourpart screenplay "Chimerica," which she adapted from her own fictional

As a young, inexperienced photographer, Berger (Alessandro Nivola) happened to lean out his hotel window and snap one of the photos documenting the Tank Man's solitary act of defiance. He also successfully smuggled the negative out of the country, despite

the efforts of the Beijing police, who had suddenly appeared to search his room. That picture helped make the career Berger will jeopardize, in the first act, by photoshopping a front-

page picture of Syrian war atrocities. Berger's Twitter-obsessed paper, The New York Courier (transparently modeled on The New York Times), dumps him after a suitable public shaming. Yet, his frequent reporter collaborator, Mel Kincaid (Cherry Jones), still stands by him personally, and his old editor, Frank Sams (F. Murray Abraham), will sometimes take his calls. They reluctantly agree to work with him on his proposed "Tank Man" story after work hours, but their top priority is the 2016 presidential election. It might be more accurate to say they are devoting their efforts to help elect Hillary Clinton, which they hardly even deny among themselves.

Finding Tank Man

Berger has one lead, a name supplied by his old friend and fixer in Beijing, Zhang Lin (Terry Chen). Lin was one of the student protesters, but he gave it ultimately separated them from life itself as they will both will die. Arguably, the tree itself is a tree of two contrasting-two separatecharacteristics: good and evil. From this point forward, a choice must be made between these two contrasting extremes, and appropriate discernment must be exercised to regain God's favor.

In "Nor only tears ...," Doré depicts Adam and Eve with their naked bodies covered. Their bodies are contorted according to their inner turmoil. Adam throws his head back and puts his hand on his head as if he is distraught. Eve resigns herself in sadness on a hard rock; the green foliage that accompanied them before is now gone and is replaced by gnarled trees.

It's easy to think of Paradise as a mere place from which they were expelled. Doré's image, however, suggests that the paradise they were separated from may have also been within themselves, hence their inner discord upon losing it.

Hell Gained

The separation from Paradise doesn't occur in isolation; it brings with it the union with something horrid. Back at the gates of Hell, Satan's children, Sin and Death, are suddenly full of strength and begin to consider ways of helping Satan's mission on Earth:

let us try

- Advent'rous work, yet to thy
- power and mine
- Not unagreeable, to found a
- path Over this main from Hell to
- that new world
- Where Satan now prevails, a monument
- Of merit high to all th'
- infernal host, Easing their passage hence,
- for intercourse,
- Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead."
- (Book X, Lines 254-261).

Sin and Death's plan is to create something like a highway from Hell to Earth as a monument to Satan. On this highway, all of Satan's followers will easily find their way to Earth where they can continue to wreak havoc on God's creation by permeating it with their evil presence. Paradise lost becomes Hell gained.

Having made his way back to the gates of Hell, Satan greets Sin and Death and praises them for their help. He then orders them to go to Earth and reign there:

- Therefore while I
- Descend through darkness,
- on your road with ease
- To my associate Powers, them to acquaint
- With these successes, and
- with them rejoice,
- You two this way, among these numerous orbs

All yours, right down to Paradise descend; There dwell and reign in bliss; thence on the earth Dominion exercise and in the air,

Chiefly on man, sole lord of all declared;

- Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill.
- (Book X, Lines 393–402).

Not only are they to go to Earth and reign, but they are to also kill human beings. Separated from immortality, humans are consumed by death; separated from God's law, humans are reigned over by sin.

In Doré's illustration "And now expecting ...," Satan is shown returning to his cheering minions in Hell. In the top right of the composition, Satan's faint figure can be seen flying forth through the billowing smoke caused by the fires of Hell. Figures with bat-like wings populate the barren landscape. They outstretch their hands and weapons in celebration of their leader who mocks God and His creation.

Hope

Back on Earth, Adam is saddened by his disobedience and prays to God. The archangel Michael appears to him to show him the future unfolding of events as later told in the Bible. The creatures from Hell bring with them violence, sickness, and lust, which deeply saddens Adam and fills him with regret.

Michael says several things to Adam that reveal the problem of sin and immorality in regard to the human relationship with God:

Their Maker's image ... then

- Forsook them, when themselves they vilified
- To serve ungoverned appetite ...
- themselves defaced While they pervert pure
- Nature's healthful rules To loathsome sickness.
- worthily, since they
- God's image did not reverence in themselves ...
- So all shall turn degenerate, all depraved,
- Justice and temperance, truth and faith forgot. (Book XI, Lines 515-517, 522-525,
- 805-806)

In his conversations with Adam, Michael suggests that human beings bring about their own hardships when they ignore that they are creations of God and go against nature as God ordained it. Sins have to be paid for, and during this time, they are paid for by way of the hardships brought about by war, violence, sickness, and disasters.

The hope, however, lies in goodness, in realigning oneself with God's intentions and love:

Far less I now lament for one whole world

Of wicked sons destroyed, than I rejoice for one man found so perfect and so just, That God vouchsafes to raise

another world From him, and all his anger to forget ...

Such grace shall one just man find in his sight,

That he relents, not to blot our mankind.

(Book XI, Lines 873–877, 889–890)

outshines them both as Lin, who ultimately emerges as the true protagonist

add a great deal of poignancy as Liuli and Joy, while Oscar-winner Abraham out-snarks everyone as the acerbic Sams. For a thriller, "Chimerica" presents a remarkably complex and perceptive analysis of the CCP's ruthless conduct domestically and abroad. The title is a reference to a term economic historian Niall Ferguson developed with economist Moritz Schularick to ironically describe the intertwining of the American and Chinese economies. It's rather fitting, because Kirkwood's characters are constantly faced with choices between dirty money and hu-

of "Chimerica." Leung and Yang both

"Chimerica" now streams on the *Topic network.*

In English with some subtitles in Mandarin.

Joe Bendel writes about independent film and lives in New York. To read his most recent articles, visit JBSpins.blogspot.com

expecting / Each hour their great adventurer, from the search / Of foreign worlds" (Book X. 439-441). 1866, by **Gustav Doré** for John Milton's "Paradise Lost." Engraving.

"And now

"The heavenly bands / Down from a sky of jasper lighted now / In Paradise" (Book XI. 208-210), 1866, by Gustav Doré for John Milton's "Paradise Lost." Engraving.

In a world occupied by evil, a world reigned over by the darkness of hellish thoroughfare, it's justice, goodness, temperance, truth, and faith that shine like a light to capture God's attention. This light shines so brightly that it takes only one person with these qualities to prevent destruction.

Can we practice the discernment now required to be this shining light for our loved ones? For ourselves? For our fellow human beings? For the world?

Eric Bess is a doctoral candidate at the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA) and assistant professor at Fei Tian College in Middletown, N.Y.

up politics after his beloved fiancée Liuli (Katie Leung, frequently seen in flashbacks) was fatally shot by soldiers clearing Tiananmen Square. Tragically, history will be somewhat of a repeat for Lin when his neighbor Joy (Naomi Yang), a human rights attorney he not so-secretly carries a torch for, is also arrested and held incommunicado by the CCP regime.

"Chimerica" is one of the few TV or streaming series that references the Tiananmen Square Massacre to any substantial degree. There was the "Child of Light" episode of "MacGyver" in late 1989 (the year of the mass killings), the two-part "Touched by an Angel" episode "Spirit of Liberty Moon" in the late 1990s, and that's about it. To her credit, Kirkwood takes the events seriously, depicting all the brutality and confusion experienced by the student protesters in 1989.

However, when updating the 2006 drama for the screen, Kirkwood added some sharply trenchant media criticism. Either deliberately or inadvertently, the "Chimerica" of 2019 portrays the pressrooms of major legacy media

organizations as overtly politicized and overwhelmingly biased to the left. It also boldly incorporates the now largely forgotten Bill Clinton Chinese fundraising scandal as a major subplot. Every major character in "Chimerica" probably votes against Trump, but it would be a highly uncomfortable viewing experience for the Clintons.

There is also plenty in "Chimerica" that Xi Jinping wouldn't want the world to see either, including state-sponsored torture, internet censorship known as the "Great Fire Wall," and ominous midnight door-knocks from the secret police. Kirkwood also shows viewers the spectacle of Berger's potential romantic interest, Tessa Kendrick (Sophie Okonedo), a management consultant, strategizing ways for her clients to sell their souls in exchange for access to the Chinese market. Plus, there are extended flashbacks to the massacre, vividly recreated by series director Michael Keillor. Nivola is solid as the disillusioned

Berger and he shares a good deal of wryly amusing banter with Jones, as the cynical Kincaid. Yet, Chen really



PLAYGROUND ENTERTA

Photojournalist Lee Berger (Alessandro Nivola), in "Chimerica."

'Chimerica'

Director

Michael Keillor Starring Alessandro Nuvola, Cherry Jones, F. Murray Abraham, Sophie Okonedo, Terry Chen **Running Time** 4 episodes **MPAA** Rating TV-14 **Release Date** April 17, 2019

* \star \star \star man rights.

Correction

The C4 article "Painting the High Seas" in the May 31 edition was attributed to the wrong author. The article was written by Lorraine Ferrier. The Epoch Times regrets the error.



Life may knock you down, but it's never too late to get back up

By Jeff Minick

n the summer of 2000. Adam Davis spent every free moment with one particular person: Amber. Both were 18, both had just graduated from high school, and, as Davis plied him with alcoholic drinks and sesays, "We were absurdly in love with each other."

father were sitting on the front porch of overwhelming sense of failure he felt their house in Dothan, Alabama, when in his life, brought him to a rendezvous his grandfather turned to him and said, "The only thing the two of you don't do is an empty lot, sat alone in his patrol car, stay in the same house together. I'll set and with tears streaming down his face, up the wedding for next Saturday and find you a place to live."

Which is exactly what he did.

Hearing Davis tell this story brings a around began. laugh, but it also reveals much about the man. Even at 18, Davis knew what **A New Way** he wanted and was willing to pursue it. In his recently released book, "Uncon-His relationship with his grandfather quered: 10 Principles to Overcome Adolder men and seeking their counsel and and the willingness to make changes and jump into something new, which has marked certain moments of his life.

Hard Times and Wounds Unhealed When asked why he had married so thankful no one stopped to ask for direcyoung, Davis replies, "I felt like I had life by the horns and everything figured out."

Like many other young men, Davis ning, where he explained to her that soon discovered how wrong he was. God had intervened in his planned sui-Over the next 15 years, he and Amber cide, and together, they set out to find faced tough times financially and spiritually and experienced the good and bad seasons of marriage. Davis worked a variety of jobs, from bank teller to construction worker, until 2009, when he became a law enforcement officer. The stress and rigors of that service took their toll on him and his marriage. He grew distant from Amber, his "best friend," to the point of separating from her and his children and moving into a "shack" hind the Badge: 365 Daily Devotions for on his father's property.

a grip on me and were consuming my of readers, and with co-author Lt. Col. life," he said. "I began having terrible Dave Grossman (Ret.), best known for panic attacks, becoming physically ill, "On Killing," Davis wrote the popular

Davis also carried traumas suffered during childhood. He was 5 years old when an older male, unrelated to his family, sexually assaulted him. When he was a voung teenager, a woman who had charge of his care from time to time duced him. These dark parts of his past, when added to the broken connections One afternoon. Davis and his grand- in his relationships as an adult and the with himself. One evening, he parked in drew his service weapon and prepared to end his life.

And right there is when his turn-

reveals a lifelong habit of listening to versity and Live Above Defeat," Davis recounted in detail his failings and menadvice. Finally, he displayed the daring tal health battles before coming to that dark moment in his patrol car.

"In the instant I cried out to God in utter imperfection and wretchedness, he met me," he wrote. "Right there, in a marked patrol car. To this day, I am tions or needed aid. It was definitely my God moment."

He returned to Amber that same evethe path back to their old love and to a healthier life

As they did so, Davis began writing down some of his thoughts. This journaling, undergirded by his reading and by counseling he received from a pastor and friends, led him to put together his observations into meditation guides and prayer manuals aimed at the audiences he best understood. Books such as "Be-Law Enforcement" and "Be Awakened: "Worry, anxiety, stress, and doubt had A New You in 40 Days" won the attention and snapping at those I loved dearly." "On Spiritual Combat: 30 Missions for During these up-and-down days, Victorious Warfare" and "Bulletproof

COURTESY OF ADAM DAVIS



Adam Davis is a down-toearth man who's pointing us to the stars, telling us that we aren't meant to be prisoners of our past.

"Unconquered: 10 Principles to Overcome Adversity and Live Above Defeat" by Adam Davis.



66 When we

surround ourselves with people who challenge us and people who genuinely care about us, we are in a better position to achieve our goals and see our dreams become reality. Adam Davis, author

Marriage: A 90-Day Devotional," which were aimed at military personnel, law enforcement, and first responders. These books, in turn, led to invitations for speaking engagements around the country.

And in "Unconquered," Davis brings together the insights gained during his lifetime.

Faith First and Foremost

In an interview with The Epoch Times, Davis specifically addressed three of the principles that had led him back from the abyss and that he tries to share with others.

First among these is his religious faith. "I had to completely surrender to God in that patrol car," he said of that evening when death came so close to him.

"Live surrendered" is one of Davis's mottos, meaning that throughout the victories and defeats of life, he now remains obedient to the messages of scripture. Although some people have advised that he tone down or abandon the biblical and spiritual references in his books, pointing out that he might sell more if he did, Davis refuses.

"That is my deepest conviction," he said. "There's no sum of money I could sell my convictions for."

Amber's faith is equally as strong, and Davis also draws sustenance from the community of the nondenominational church he attends.

The Treasure Box of Friendship

In an age in which many commentators regard loneliness as an epidemic in our culture, Davis strongly advocates the value of friendship in his books, his talks to groups around the country, and in our conversation.

"Cherish your relationships," Davis said.

Just a few of the influential figures he mentions from his own life, in addition to Amber and their three children, are his pastor, John Dowdy, "a friend and a brother," and a former police chaplain, Mack Ballard.

"My dad and one of my friends from elementary school, Heath, are also two of my best friends," Davis said.

In "Unconquered," Davis wrote: "One of my dear friends and a retired law enforcement officer, who happens to be my neighbor, says it like this, 'If they don't make you better, they aren't your friends.' If you are spending time with people who don't challenge you or people who are constantly draining you of energy, even relationships that are one-sided, it's time to evaluate those associations.

He later wrote, "When we surround ourselves with people who challenge us and people who genuinely care about us, we are in a better position to achieve our goals and see our dreams become reality."

Trust in the Future

"Hope makes all of our tomorrows bearable." Davis said. "Without it, we are really lost."

In the chapter of "Unconquered" titled "Now Is the Time," he expanded on the vital importance of hope: "I recently saw a meme on social media that said, 'Live. Learn. Hope."

Those three words, which he described as both simple and profound, sum up his journey from boyhood to the present. He lived, although often unhealthy in mind and spirit; he learned to change through experience, faith, and the help of others; and today, he finds hope in his faith and in his deeper understanding of himself.

Adam Davis is a down-to-earth man who's pointing us to the stars, telling us that we aren't meant to be prisoners of our past. Like him and millions of other Americans, we may have suffered deep trauma. But, as he reminds us repeatedly, it's our scarred mindset, not the trauma itself, that often locks us in the cell of the self.

If we get help, whether from friends, a therapist, or a renewed religious faith and if we learn from our past, then hope becomes the key that unlocks the door of that cell and sets us free.

Adam Davis may be contacted at Adam@LiveUnconquered.org or at his website, TheAdamDavis.com

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va.



Lemon Pie

By Edgar A. Guest The world is full of gladness, There are joys of many kinds, There's a cure for every sadness, That each troubled mortal finds. And my little cares grow lighter And I cease to fret and sigh, And my eyes with joy grow brighter When she makes a lemon pie.

When the bronze is on the filling That's one mass of shining gold, And its molten joy is spilling On the plate, my heart grows bold And the kids and I in chorus Raise one glad exultant cry And we cheer the treat before us Which is mother's lemon pie.

Then the little troubles vanish, And the sorrows disappear, Then we find the grit to banish All the cares that hovered near, And we smack our lips in pleasure O'er a joy no coin can buy, And we down the golden treasure Which is known as lemon pie.





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This Week in History

THE KING **VISITS AMERICA**

n June 7, 1939, His Royal Highness King George VI became the first British monarch to ever visit the United States. He, along with his wife Elizabeth, crossed the Canadian border to Niagara Falls, New York. They continued on to visit New York City and Washingon, D.C. While here, the king called for a greater

involvement from the United States in the escalating European crisis that became World War II.



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Toronto City Hall in 1939.

ELENA BATKOVA/GETTY IMAGES

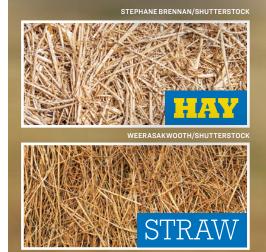
By Aidan Danza

(AND STRAW)

or most residents of suburban and urban America, straw and hay are interchangeable

terms, appearing usually on porches in the fall, but there is a real difference that is quite important in rural areas, particularly when it comes to livestock For livestock, hay is edible and straw is

mostly) not. The reason for this lies in the origins of straw and hay



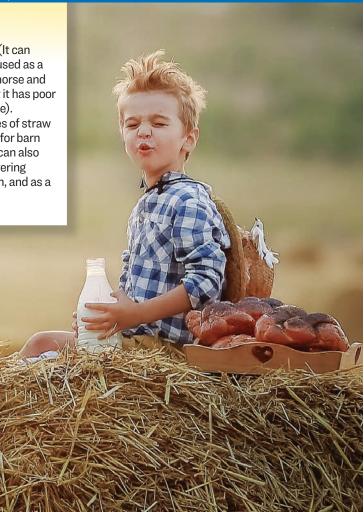
Hay consists mostly of grasses, such as tescue grass, timothy grass, Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass, or orchardgrass, and it can also contain legumes,

such as alfalfa, red clover, or white clover To harvest hay, a farmer has to first make sure the pasture has enough of the goodquality grasses. If it doesn't, more of the good grasses have to be planted, usually alfalfa or ryegrass. Then, the grass is allowed to grow until it's just at the point of flowering, at which point, it's cut with a mower, spread evenly to dry, and then baled with a baler into either round or square bales.

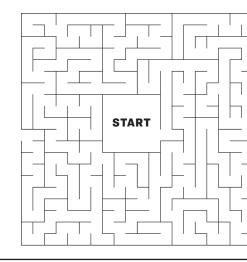
Both machines are pulled behind a tractor. Sometimes, the hay is raked to turn it over, so that all sides of the cuttings are exposed to the light. Depending on the climate and variety of grasses growing in the pasture, it's possible to get two or three cuttings

per year. Straw, on the other hand, is mostly a byproduct of the harvest of cereal grains, such as wheat, barley, and rye. The seed is the only part of the plant that is used for food, and after that, there is an entire stem that would go to waste were it not dried and balec into straw. This means that straw isn't fed to

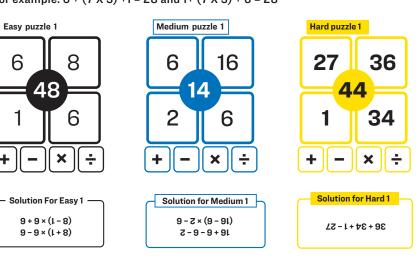
most animals. (It can technically be used as a filler for some horse and cattle feed, but it has poor nutritional value) The main uses of straw are as bedding for barn animals, but it can also be used for covering lawns, as mulch, and as a decoration.







USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: $6 + (7 \times 3) + 1 = 28$ and $1 + (7 \times 3) + 6 = 28$





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DEAR NEXT GENERATION Advice from our readers to our young people

6 Tips for Life

A good life starts with how you approach it

Dear Next Generation, My advice for the younger generations:

- 1. Follow Christian values, especially that of treating others the way that you want to be treated.
- 2. Believe in yourself, even if you're trying to do something totally new. Research what you want to do before you start, and find people who were successful and those who were unsuccessful. If you can't find anything or anyone who attempted it, make a plan and don't be afraid to change that plan over and over.
- 3. Listen to others. Even people you don't know may have just the right opinion. Have an open mind.
- 4. Follow your dreams. If you don't believe in yourself, you'll never follow your dreams. Keep trying and

listen to others. Your dreams will change over time, and that's OK.

- 5. Pay special attention to another Christian value: Help those who need help, no matter how small or large. You'll be rewarded by the satisfaction that you'll feel for helping. You might do something you think is very small for someone, but what's small to you can be the help the person needs to go forward—and maybe exactly what you need also. Never pass up an opportunity to help others.
- 6. If you have regrets, determine why, then make plans to fix them. If it's not possible to fix it, apologize to the person affected by what happened. If that isn't possible, ask God to forgive you and move forward.

—Frank Wissel, Idaho



Help those who need help, no matter how small or large. Never pass up an opportunity to help others.

Frank Wissel

 Helping someone else might seem a small kindness, but it might be just the thing they need to keep moving forward.

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations? We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive. Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to Next-Generation@epochtimes.com or mail it to: Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

'JUDGE ME NOT'

New Show Tackles Mental Health Awareness

Judge Lynn Toler's new show explores mental health struggles through municipal court cases

By Catherine Yang

udge Lynn Toler has spent her career imparting life wisdom and grounded advice. She served as the longest-reigning arbitrator in the longest-running courtroom show, "Divorce Court," for 14 consecutive seasons, and co-hosted three seasons of "Marriage Boot Camp," where she mentored couples after watching them for 10-hour days and always made a point to explain—in a way the recipients of the advice were sure to understand—what it is that they were doing that resulted in communication breakdowns. Toler has also long been vocal about her own mental health battles, discussing them openly and telling audiences they were nothing to be ashamed of, but something to be aware of and worked through. Years before "mental health awareness" entered the cultural lexicon, Toler discussed mental illnesses, and how she saw a psychiatrist because she wanted to know about her problems before anyone else did. Her father was born in 1919 and worked in a coal mine as a teenager to help provide for his family, as his own father was disabled. He was also bipolar, and Toler herself grew up in a volatile home environment where she experienced emotional trauma at a young age. But she saw through her mother how to not just

live with, but even thrive with mental illness. In 2007, she published "My Mother's Rules: A Practical Guide to Becoming an Emotional Genius," with 43 rules that guided Toler through life. As someone who graduated from Harvard undergraduate and then University of Pennsylvania Law School, became a lawyer, wife, and mother of four, and then won her first judicial race as a Republican in a district where Democrats held the majority five-to-one by the age of 34, Toler says she's an example of thriving despite so that people know, and I used to talk about it all the time on 'Divorce Court,' I do have mental health struggles, and it doesn't define you. It doesn't demean you. It doesn't limit you. And on occasion, whatever different affect you're sporting will assist you. I wanted to give a broad understanding."

Toler's first case with a mentally ill man stuck with her: She was given a note from the man's psychiatrist that said the man refused to plead guilty by insanity, "because of his delusional belief that he is not insane," and thought, "What do I do with that?" In the television drama series, Toler says she's turned that case into a completely fictional storyline that is woven throughout.

"Everybody struggles, and I think I read people well in part because I'm always managing my personal self. I know where my emotionality lies. I manage

it. Most people are just emoting. I never do because I understand that, and I actually think it's a process and procedure to use; we should all think "The authenticity in the material and the stories was just incredibly attractive," Lanye said.

Start the Day Grounded

Both Toler and Layne have daily practices to keep themselves grounded, and one of the most important ones is to start the day the right way.

"I always stop in the morning and do a 'weather report.' How am I feeling and why am I feeling that way? What do I have to do today?" Toler said.

"I do all the stuff I don't want to do at the beginning of the day, because that frees up my psyche. If I'm in a depressive period, I go on the treadmill. I listen to music in a particular order, from sad to happy, so I can adjust my mood in a forward fashion."

"Then I read certain things. I keep a journal," Toler said. These days she journals online too, sharing her own process along with humor and wisdom on social media.

For Layne, therapy is something new, something she's added the past year, but staying grounded is not.

"I listen to a sermon every morning,"

mental health issues.

And nowher career is to be the basis of a new show, on which Toler is a creator and writer. "Judge Me Not" premiered May 25, starring Chyna Layne as Zelma Jay Johnson.

"I wanted to tell a story about a municipal court," said Toler. "Most of these court shows are about these big monster cases, but municipal court is where humanity comes in waves, and exciting and it's fast-paced and people never get to see that."

"I also wanted to do an honest story about mental health struggles



"Judge Me Not," created by Judge Lynn Toler, is based loosely on her own life and career in municipal court.

about how we feel before we act on how we feel."

"I was forced to do that, because of my mental health circumstance. I think it was

a boon. I think it helped me as a municipal judge, because I understand feelings, and reading people, and I understand people do things because of how they feel, not because of what they

know," Toler said. Layne ("She's Gotta Have It," "Precious," "The First Purge") found Toler's book "My Mother's Rules" incredibly inspirational, and useful, for getting into her role. Layne said. "Strengthening my relationship with God and putting more of the focus on trusting what He has in store for me, and that He's taking care of my battles so I don't have sit there and fight every single battle that comes my way, that's been incredibly important and healing."

Hindsight is 20/20, and both Toler and Layne felt if they could give advice to their younger selves, it would be to stress less, and that was as good a reminder as any to do so going forward as well.

Working on "Judge Me Not" together has been an experience in humanity and empathy for both women, who hope the audiences who watch it will leave with a more nuanced and less judgmental understanding of people—including themselves.

"You can be running and gunning and trying and crying and fighting and carrying on, and still, you can show up, show out, and get it right," Toler said.

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