Version:1.0 StartHTML:0000000194 EndHTML:0000002657 StartFragment:0000002450 EndFragment:0000002621 SourceURL:file://localhost/Volumes/SERVER/EDITORIAL/1-25-11/COLUMNS/ruralviewpoints.doc @font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 12pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; } I hope my readers will enjoy this as much as I did.

Version:1.0 StartHTML:0000000194 EndHTML:0000002792 StartFragment:0000002453 EndFragment:0000002756 SourceURL:file://localhost/Volumes/SERVER/EDITORIAL/1-25-11/COLUMNS/ruralviewpoints.doc @font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 12pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; }

I love this story from an old issue of Sports Illustrated (unknown date):

The game was played in Wellington, Florida. In it, a seven-year-old first baseman, Tanner Munsey, fielded a ground ball and tried to tag a runner going from first to second base.

Version:1.0 StartHTML:0000000194 EndHTML:0000005550 StartFragment:0000002457 EndFragment:0000005514 SourceURL:file://localhost/Volumes/SERVER/EDITORIAL/1-25-11/COLUMNS/ruralviewpoints.doc @font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 12pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; }

The umpire, Laura Benson, called the runner out, but young Tanner immediately ran to her side and said, “Ma’am, I didn’t tag the runner.” Umpire Benson reversed herself, sent the runner to second base, and Tanner’s coach gave him the game ball for his honesty.

Two weeks later, Laura Benson was again the umpire and Tanner was playing shortstop when a similar play occurred. This time Benson ruled that Tanner had missed the tag on a runner going to third base, and she called the runner safe. Tanner looked at Benson and without saying a word, tossed the ball to the catcher and returned to his position.

Benson sensed something was wrong. “Did you tag the runner?” She asked Tanner.

His reply: “Yes.”

Benson then called the runner out. The opposing coaches protested until she explained what had happened two weeks earlier. “If a kid is that honest, “ she said “I have to give it to him.”

It may be that no Christian characteristic has suffered more in our society than honesty. It’s lacking in the workplace, it’s lacking in many of our marriages, it’s lacking in our government, and sometimes it’s even lacking in our churches. Like Diogenes of ancient Greece, we sometimes feel the urge to take our lantern and begin our search for an honest man.

There is something about Christian that should stand out like a neon sign on a dark night. Jesus wants His people to be known as people of truth. We should establish a reputation, like Tanner, for speaking the truth even when it would benefit us to do otherwise. Then, only then, will those around us trust what we say without hesitation, without wondering whether or not we really mean what we say.

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Ephesians 4:25)

Don’t Say Much, Do You?

A little boy never said a word for six years. One day his parents served him cocoa. From out of left field, the kid says, “This cocoa’s no good.”

His parents began to celebrate. They said, “Why did you wait so long to talk?”

He said, “Up till now, everything’s been okay.”

When Is your Birthday?

Mike and his mother were in the doctor’s office for his preschool physical. The receptionist, completing his medical history asked. “When is your birth date?”

“February 25,” Mike answered.

“What year?” the receptionist asked.

“Every year,” was Mike’s matter-of-fact reply. –Betty L. Herring, Midland, Michigan.

Christian Reader, “Kids of the Kingdom.”