

Biker Church  
reaching out  
to '1 percent'

PAGE 2C

## Life

FAITH

SECTION C

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Bible Barrel Racing  
Clinic being held

National and international barrel racing expert Joyce Loomis-Kerneck, of Wayne, Okla., will conduct a two-day Bible Barrel Racing Clinic Aug. 16-17 at Circle C Ranch 10 miles north of Bismarck, said Circle C owner Trish Lenihan.

Lenihan said that she and Loomis-Kerneck have been friends since 1963, share a deep love for horses and the western way of life, and will spend some time during the clinic discussing their faith.

Loomis-Kerneck has won barrel racing championships in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Paint Horse Association. She has won the National Finals Rodeo and was also Miss Rodeo America 1963. She has taught clinics in Canada, Italy, Spain, Germany and Brazil, where she has spent a great deal of time helping organize the Brazilian Barrel and Pole Bending Trainers Association. For a number of years her primary focus has been training; she has started and seasoned more than a score of horses that went to the NFR. One year three of the top 15 horses had once been hers, Lenihan said.

She teaches a limited number of clinics each year. Enrollment is limited for this one and preregistration is required.

For more information, including fees for registration, auditing and arena spectators, call Lenihan at 222-8870.

Groups focusing  
on addictions join

The Family Alliance for Drug Education, formerly Bis-Man Mothers Against Meth, is joining its mission with Overcomers Outreach and will meet the second Thursday of each month.

The next meeting of the two organizations is at 6:30 p.m. today at Cowboy Community Church, 105½ Third Ave. N.W., Mandan. Those struggling with addictions, those in recovery, their families and friends and others interested in the problem of drug and alcohol addictions are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Wendy at 255-3653 or 426-2311, or visit the FADE Web site [www.bismanmamas.org](http://www.bismanmamas.org).

Third MOPS chapter  
will be starting up

Starting Sept. 6, meetings of Mothers of Preschoolers will be held the first and third Thursday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Brethren Church in Bismarck.

Mothers of infants through kindergartners attend MOPS for programs, speakers, creative activities, games and demonstrations. Breakfast refreshments and child care are provided at every meeting. MOPS meetings are held during the school year from September through May. Topics this year include winter activities, financial planning, marriage and date nights and more.

Registration for the Grace Lutheran Brethren MOPS group will take place at an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 30 at the church, 503 N. 24th St. Mothers will be able to meet with leaders, get information about MOPS and register for the fall semester. Registration also will be available at the Sept. 6 and Sept. 20 meetings.

The group is affiliated with MOPS International, which has ministries in more than 35 countries. About 100 mothers attend the two other MOPS groups in the area.

For more information, visit <http://www.MOPS.org>.

Church of ACTS  
sponsors service

The Church of ACTS will host a Neighborhood Church Service and barbecue this Sunday at Eagles Park in Mandan. The Teen Challenge Choir will share music and testimony. A free barbecue will follow the service and inflatables will be provided to entertain the children. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Backlash against trash?



Above and below, teen girls model modest fashions at the Pure Fashion show in Atlanta in April. Pure Fashion is an Atlanta, Ga., faith-based organization that promotes trendy-but-modest dress for teens.

Submitted photo by purefashion.com

## ■ Author encourages modest dress for tweens

By KAREN HERZOG  
Bismarck Tribune

Is "sexy" an appropriate look for an 8-year-old? No? How about a 10-year-old? A 12-year-old?

Younger and younger girls, including "tweens" ages 8 to 12, are the marketing targets for tight T-shirts, low-rise jeans and spaghetti-strap tank tops, said Nancy Rue, of Nashville, Tenn., author and speaker with Virtuous Reality Ministries, a national ministry that aims to provide girls with tools to deal with what the ministry calls "promiscuous" cultural messages.

Teachers tell Rue that 7- and 8-year-olds are using words like "sexy," she said.

"Our whole culture has just become very sexualized, on TV, movies, ads, music and videogames. It's everywhere," she said.

Rue is the author of more than 100 books, including "Girl Politics: Friends, Cliques and Really Mean Girls" and "Body Talk," the Faithgirlz! "Sophie" series, "Beauty Lab" and "Everybody Tells Me To Be Myself But I Don't Know Who I Am."

Rue said what she finds particularly disturbing is that there's no difference between what fashions are offered to teens and to tweens.

"Tweens are little girls," she said. "They're still children (but) encouraged to dress like 'mini-teens.'"

Kids may seem more sophisticated than ever, but they're not emotionally equipped to leave childhood behind so soon, Rue said: "Girls are not given a chance to live out their little-girl-hood before their teen years."

"The disturbing part for teens is the emphasis is on looking 'sexy,'" she said, "rather than feminine, or choosing what fits your personality or body."

These days, a girl who dresses modestly doesn't have society backing her up as it did when Rue was a teen in the '60s, she said.

Then, girls who looked trashy were teased; now it's almost the opposite, she said. Rue sees the rates of suicide and depression among teens as an indicator that teens can't handle the pressure.

Rue, who has a master's degree in education from the College of William and Mary in Virginia and is a lecturer and Eucharistic minister at her local Episcopal Church, said it's important to instill in girls "how much God loves you, and you're worth waiting for."

And it's important for girls who choose modesty to surround themselves with like-minded



people and not "just give in to it," Rue said.

Pure Fashion, a faith-based organization headquartered in Cumming, Ga., has been promoting modest dress for girls 14-18 for eight years with its "formation program," a seven- to eight-month learning program that teaches girls to present themselves well, said Brenda Sharman, the group's national director.

The formation program focuses on skills such as standing and walking like a lady, public speaking and leadership, Sharman said, and culminates in a fashion show featuring everything from sportswear to formal wear, "clothing that is pretty, not provocative," she said.

The Pure Fashion organization encourages parents around the country to establish relationships with retailers in their own communities to carry more modest lines of merchandise for teen and tween girls. Pure Fashion leaders also learn to be selective and creative with fashions that are available off the rack, layering tops when necessary, for example, she said.

Some retailers such as Nordstrom's and Macy's have responded to parental concerns by carrying more covered-up clothing lines such as the Shade brand, Sharman said.

Rue is encouraged by what she sees as the beginnings of a backlash against trash and some signs of a return to modesty.

"Clothes this season are a lot less trashy,

from what I can see," she said. "They're more fun, more feminine — baby doll dresses, long flowing dresses and fun accessories such as belts and tights. The ultra-mini is in, but it's also trendy to wear tights or leggings under it."

What's not so good, she said, is the continuing popularity of low-rise "skinny" jeans, "but tops are at least over the belly button these days, so we don't have to see the thong undies," she said.

Looks from the '80s, such as cleavage and bare shoulders, are coming back, however, and Rue still sees the emphasis on "being thin, thin, thin — clothes made for the girl that nobody looks like."

But young starlets and celebrities getting arrested for DUIs or ending up in rehab is giving parents a bit of leverage for talking to their daughters, Rue said. The out-of-control young celebs "are doing us all a favor," she said. Watching these young women "making complete fools of themselves is providing a bit of a backlash against the pressure to be bad, realizing that does not empower a girl," she said.

Choosing clothes is a good place for parents to start helping tween girls make good choices, she said, "before the teen choices come that have deeper consequences," Rue said.

It's important to start having those conversations at that tween age, Rue said. "Thirteen is pretty late in the game."

For parents with daughters who like to push the envelope, it's important to have a talk before setting out to shop — don't wait until you're in the dressing room to have a confrontation about limits, she said.

Look through fashion magazines together beforehand and decide what appropriate parameters are, Rue said. "Get out the tape measure for skirt length and jean rise and say, that's it. Let her choose within those limits."

"Have fun with it. It doesn't have to be a battleground. I see back-to-school as a real opportunity to teach some things, a chance to bond," she said.

Dads as well as moms need to get involved, Rue says: Fathers' involvement can encourage girls to respect themselves and to expect to be treated well, she said.

The younger the girls are, the less they understand about how others, especially boys, interpret their clothing, she said.

"It's important for dads to be open with their daughters, to tell them that where the (clothing) focus is, that's where the eye and mind will go."

(Reach Karen Herzog at 250-8267 or [karen.herzog@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:karen.herzog@bismarcktribune.com). For more information on Nancy Rue, visit <http://www.nancyrue.com> or <http://www.faith-girlz.com>. For more information on Pure Fashion, visit <http://www.purefashion.com>.)

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Nancy Rue, author and speaker with Virtuous Reality Ministries