

'Dude this is awesome!'



m i K e

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A n D



S p O r T s



**PEOPLE in our COMMUNITY:**

**MIKE**

**RYAN**

**and**

**SPORTS ...**

**“SOMETHING BETTER”**

**By**

**Belinda French**

**Summer 2009**

# **“SOMETHING BETTER”**

## **Books for Children (and Adults)**

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### **Psalm 34:8**

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

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### **Dedication:**

**To: Pastor Joel League who preached the  
sermon who inspired this**

**For: Charles and the other Charles's in the  
world**





# INTRODUCTION

Mike Ryan lives in our community of Georgetown, Kentucky with his wife Nancy. They have three daughters and a son-in-law and grandson. They have a business called SPORTS CONNECTION. Maybe you've been to their store or seen it. It's near Kroger.

Mike really likes sports. He appreciates the ability to be able to get out there and participate. There are some who are not able to do that, who are not able to run up and down the court. If you are able to play, he wants you to **enjoy** it and feel blessed.

Do you like sports? What are your favorites?

**Enjoy Playing!**

As you read this book be watching for the words, "something better." Mike Ryan has experienced a "something better!" Read to find out what that is.

## Mike as a Youngster

Mike has enjoyed playing sports from day one probably as soon as he could walk, tossing a ball around when he was three. His favorite sports were baseball, basketball, and football in that order.

His dad was a great encouragement to him. He was not an athlete himself but attended his son's games. He'd bring the bubble gum for the players. That was his way to show support and goodwill. Probably there was no one who didn't like for him to bring bubble gum!

When Mike was twelve years old he made the all-star team. That was a wonderful accomplishment, but during the tournament games Mike struck out. Afterwards his parents took him out to eat. It was rare for them to eat out, so it was quite a treat. Losing was not quite so devastating. You can see what a wonderful thing his parents did to help encourage him. It's good to be cheered up instead of put down!

A reminder: Be watching for the words, "something better!"

## **More Than Sports**

Mike has continued enjoying sports as an adult, but you know that there is more than sports. Mike is a Christian man. In all that he does he is a Christian, including sports. His relationship with God is his most important relationship.

Mike's church is Gano Baptist, and he is a deacon there. Recently a group from there passed out hot dogs, clothes, and Bibles in Georgetown where there were some needy people. To Mike, church is more than what goes on inside the walls. He likes to take church into the community.

He has been married to his wife Nancy for 28 years. They were married at Longlick Baptist Church. With tennis as his number one sport as an adult, Mike has a tennis court at his house. He also plays golf and softball, but not at home! Mike had the tennis court built there because he wanted to be able to stay home and play tennis as well. He enjoys his family and being a part of what's happening at home. Mike is a good example and lets his Christian light shine! You know there is more than sports.



## **“Something Better”**

There they are! You saw the words, “something better,” didn’t you? I don’t know about you, but sometimes there are disappointments in life. We won’t spend time on what they are, but we’ll spend time on the hope that we have that things will be better than before. Remember the verse at the beginning? Psalm 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” We are always to trust in God and especially when there is a disappointment, we need to trust in God that he’ll bring us “something better.”

Here is a “something better” in Mike’s life. Mike likes softball and was playing more than 150 games a year. That was hard, and it was difficult to keep up the pace. He needed “something better!” About the time he turned 40, God brought some wonderful people in his life that taught him tennis! Right now tennis is at the top of his list of sports that he likes ... higher than softball!

He has some wonderful tennis friends. One time when it was only the second or third time he had ever played tennis he didn’t even get the ball over the net.



His friends were patient. One friend allowed him five serves to get it in when the rules are that you get only two tries. Mike considers my husband Austin a big encourager. They are good friends and tennis buddies.

God is good and always has “something better” for us! Don’t forget to trust Him! There are hard times and disappointments, but there is also hope and encouragement and “something better.”

### **Mike’s Sports Business**

Twelve years ago Mike opened a Sports Connection store in Lexington, and five years ago he opened one in Georgetown. On the next page is a picture of his daughter Jessica. She works in the Georgetown store.

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Hope you’ve enjoyed the book! Stay tuned for another “Something Better” book. It will be about someone else in our community of Georgetown, KY. Who will it be?











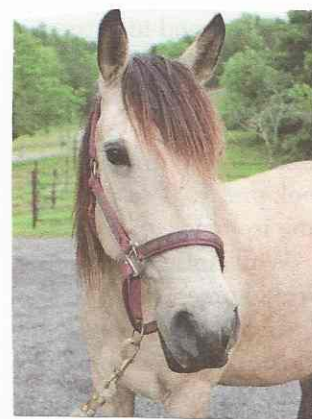
S C O T



W E A K L E Y



A N D



A N I M A L S



**PEOPLE in our COMMUNITY:**

**SCOTT**

**WEAKLEY**

**and**

**ANIMALS ...**

**“SOMETHING BETTER”**

**Second Book**

**By**

**Belinda French**

**Summer 2009**

# **“SOMETHING BETTER”**

## **Books for Children (and Adults)**

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### **Psalm 34:8**

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
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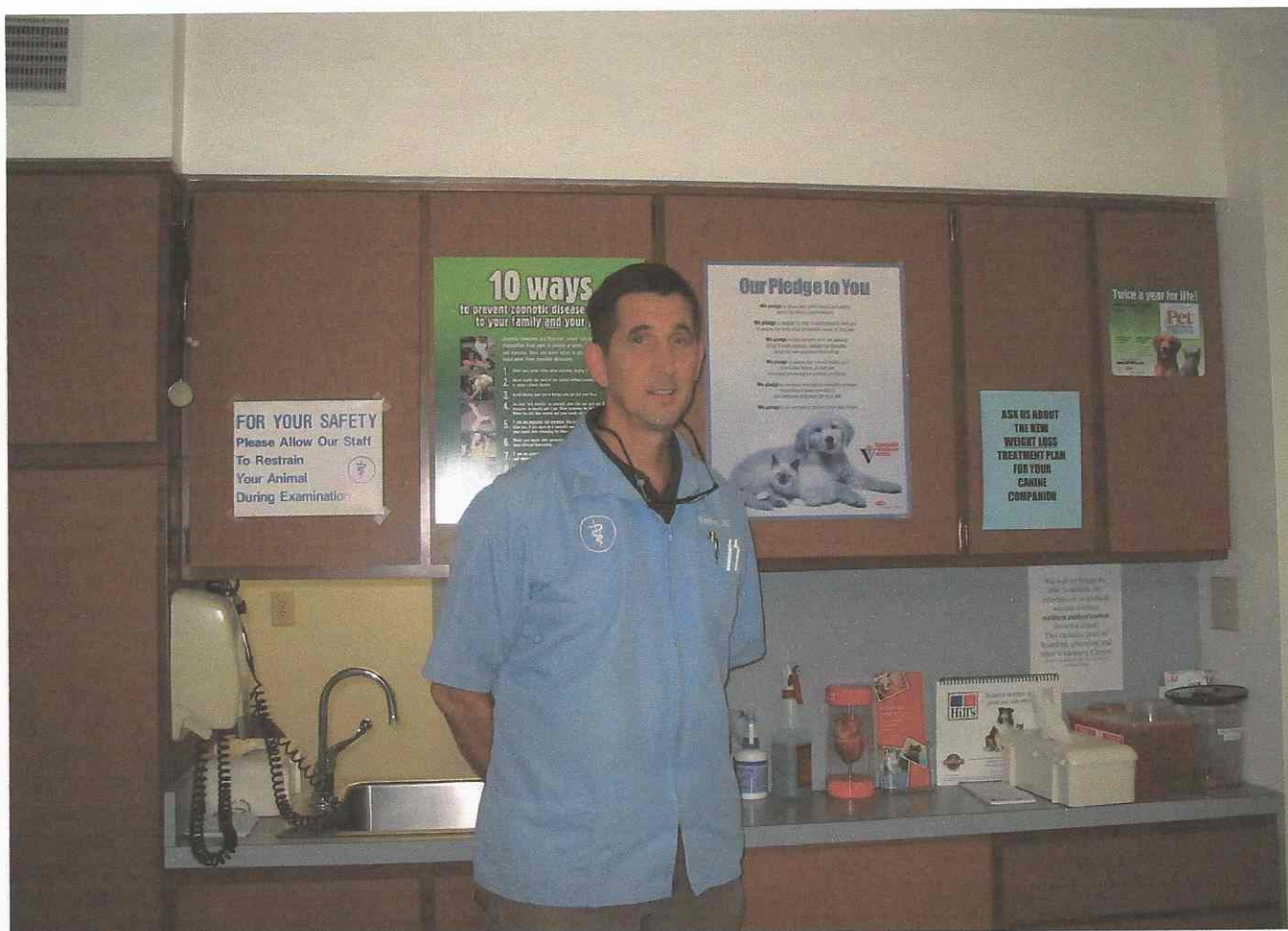
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### **Dedication:**

To: Frank Figg of Shelbyville, KY who was an  
encouragement to Scott Weakley as a youngster  
To: Donald Clark of Stamping Ground, KY and  
his faithful dog Holly

For: Those who like reading about REAL  
people in REAL places doing interesting REAL  
things





## **INTRODUCTION**

Scott Weakley lives in our community of Georgetown, KY with his wife Sue and his two “good kids.” He has been a veterinarian at the Central Kentucky Veterinary Center for 24 years. Our family would take our dog Digger there. Scott Weakley remembers Digger. Have you been to the Veterinary Center? It’s one street over from Sports Connection.

Scott really likes animals. He knows that animals need our help, and he likes helping them. He also knows that animals help people. They help us learn about God’s wonderful creation. They also are mostly loyal and faithful. It’s good to have an animal that you can count on and that you can help take care of!

Do you have a favorite animal?

**We help animals, and they can help us too!**

Be watching for Scott Weakley’s “something better.” It’s good to remember that God has a “something better” for us.

## **Scott as a Youngster**

Scott, along with his two brothers, grew up on a farm in Shelby County, KY. They had dogs, cattle, a few horses, sheep, and about 50 bunnies! They raised the rabbits to show at fairs.

Sheep can get nervous and jump. One day when Scott was 6 or 7 he opened a door where the sheep were, and one came running at him, hit him in the chest, and knocked him over!

He and his brothers worked hard on the farm and even worked their way through school earning money for their work. Even then Scott enjoyed helping with sick animals.

Some of those who encouraged him most were Dr. Coots, Dr. Figg, his dad and grandfather, and Fred Trammel. Mr. Trammel was a retired man who helped him and went with him to show cattle.

Scott's favorite animal was his dog Bull. His parents had given Bull to him as a reward.

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## **More Than Animals**

Scott had many animals then and has many now! He and his family currently have ... are you ready for this? Are you sure you're ready? Here goes ... 1 cat Rose, 4 dogs Buddy, Goldie, Sally, and Jasper, 1 squirrel Savor and 5 baby squirrels, 1 donkey, 2 horses, and 4 calves! Wow! But ... you know there is ... more than animals.

Scott Weakley is a Christian man. God is his anchor to keep him from getting upset about small things. His Church is Bedford Acres Christian Church in Paris, KY, and he is on the board of elders. The Church is a big part of his life. It's a wonderful support and gives opportunity to serve.

Scott gives a lot of credit to his wife Sue. She spends a lot of time with their "two good kids," as he calls them, and they are! One time Scott was out in the field trying to rope a heifer that needed his help, and his family was in a pickup cheering him on, saying, "You can do it, Daddy!" It was a happy time together.

**You know there is more than animals!**

## **“Something Better”**

In order to be a veterinarian you have to concentrate in school, do well especially in the sciences, and spend time with veterinarians. Scott was about to graduate from school but needed to do one more thing to finish up. That one thing was called a preceptorship. He left AL where he was in school and came to Georgetown, KY for what was thought to be a 3 month preceptorship so that he could graduate. After graduation he and a friend had a plan to buy a vet practice in Bristol, VA and move there.

How many of you know that “... the Lord is good: Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” God had a “something better” for Scott.

A vet technologist named Sue worked at the Central Kentucky Veterinary Center where Scott was doing his preceptorship. They began to eat out together and play some tennis. Toward the end of the 3 month period H Sutton asked Scott, “Are you going to leave or stay?” He stayed! God had a “something better” for Scott ... better than a vet practice in Bristol, VA.

## **Central Kentucky Veterinary Center**

Scott Weakley enjoys helping animals with serious conditions get well, then seeing them over and over again, and knowing that he was able to help them get better. He has enjoyed getting to know people too. He noticed that H Sutton would talk to people and get to know them. There were two Dr. Suttons (H and H's dad), and both were an encouragement to Scott.

The picture on the next page is a patient at the Vet Center. His name is Thunder, and the young man is Tyler. Thunder is a Catahoula Leopard Dog from LA. Thunder had surgery on his tail because a door closed on it. Ouch! He seems to be doing well now! I'm sure Tyler and the veterinarians are happy he's fine.

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Hope you've enjoyed the second book in the "Something Better" series! I'm already excited about the next book. It'll be about someone else in our community of Georgetown, KY. Stay tuned.









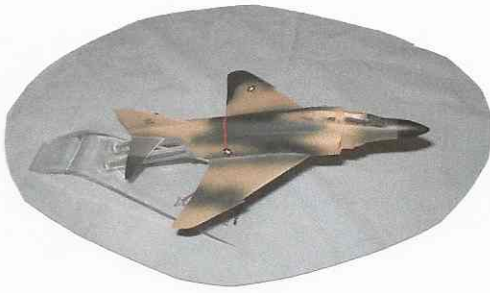


BO

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k e r r

AND



AIRPLANES





**PEOPLE in our COMMUNITY:**

BOB

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Third Book

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# **“SOMETHING BETTER”**

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### **Psalm 34:8**

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

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### **Dedication:**

**To: My husband, who for awhile had a deep  
down desire to have an airplane of his own**

**For: Those who likewise might have a deep  
down desire or those who just like reading about  
them**





## INTRODUCTION

Bob Kerr and his wife Patt have lived in our community of Georgetown, KY for 6 years. They have two married children and 7 grandchildren. They are our friends and live in a neighborhood not far from us.

Bob has been an airplane pilot both for the Air Force and UPS for a total of 43 years, 25 in the Air Force and 18 at UPS! His favorite airplane is the F-4, also called the Phantom II. For him the best thing about flying is to look down on the earth from 5 miles up and see the beauty of the United States.

Have you ever flown in an airplane?

If you've flown, do you like to look down and see things?

**Well, strap in!**

Bob Kerr has experienced a "something better."  
Read to find out what it is!

## **Early On**

Bob became interested in flying when he was in the fifth or sixth grade. He was out mowing the grass, looked up and saw the white trail (contrail) of an aircraft flying above. That created in him a desire to fly.

He had to wait awhile though! The first time he was in an airplane was when he was in college. He signed up for the Air Force ROTC to apply for pilot training.

Because most flying jobs require a college degree, anyone interested should study hard in physics and math. If you want to become a pilot in the Air Force, you need to have a college degree with a math or science background and 13 months of pilot training.

In Del-Rio, Texas Captain Schaumburg, a pilot training teacher, helped Bob by giving him a good rank in his graduating class. Your rank determines your assignment. Bob was then able to fly fighters instead of transports or bombers.

## **More Than Airplanes**

During his time flying he and his wife Patt have lived in **MANY** places, both in the United States and other countries. Here are some of the states: Texas, California, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, and countries: Germany, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and England. But you know ... there is ... more than airplanes!

Bob Kerr is a Christian man. He realizes there is a power beyond what he can do, and that power is God. For the past 5 years his Church has been Victory Life Church in Georgetown.

He and Patt have been married for 41 years. They met in Japan, where Patt also lived at the time. Her father worked for the Air Force as a civilian. Bob and Patt's two children were born in Japan.

Why do Bob and Patt live in Georgetown, KY? They moved here in 2003 because they wanted to live where some of their children and grandchildren live! They really enjoy the family! Remember ... there is ... more than airplanes!



## **“Something Better”**

As retirement from the Air Force was getting closer, Bob's new assignment was to be a year and a half in Korea without his family. He didn't want to go without his family and refused the assignment. That meant automatic retirement.

How many of you know that God has a “something better?” Remember Psalm 34:8?  
“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him.”

God had a very good UPS job waiting for Bob!

This is how it happened. He opted to retire with no job lined up. In a short period of time he had 3 job offers, and God helped him choose which one to take. His experience as an Air Force pilot helped him get an airline transport pilot license which enabled him when he retired to go to work for UPS. He then began his second career, flying out of Louisville, KY with UPS. He continued to fly until age 60, and he was a flight engineer another 5 years!

## **Air Force and UPS**

Bob Kerr is very thankful for his two careers and that he had a safe flying career. He enjoyed going to work every day.

Part of his time in the Air Force he would teach students. One time Bob was teaching a student, and the student messed up, but it turned out okay. They were in an F-15 Eagle, the student in the front seat and Bob in the back. Bob was teaching how to fight attacking enemy aircraft in what is called a Dog Fight. They were turning their heads looking for the enemy aircraft, and the student accidentally pushed the wrong button and shut off one of the 2 engines! Like I said, it turned out okay, and Bob did like his job!

He also taught students how to refuel their planes while still in the air. He calls it the gas station in the sky. There is also the blindfold test where students have to know where the switches are and be able to reach for them without looking. If you've seen Top Gun, Bob had a call sign or name. It was RAK.

While working for UPS, instead of fighters as in the Air Force, he flew a DC-8 and a Boeing 727. These planes take quite awhile getting off the ground compared to a fighter. They can hold a lot and are called the 18 wheelers of the sky. The fighters are the sports cars, and the UPS planes are the 18 wheelers!

On the back cover you'll see a picture of Bob in front of a Buckeye tree that he planted in his yard in Georgetown. He is from the buckeye state of Ohio and has brought some of Ohio with him to our community of Georgetown, KY. He originally got interested in flying while a boy in Ohio, and now he has such rich experiences to share, as you have read about some of them here. Thanks Bob!

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This completes the third "Something Better" book. We now have a "Something Better" trio:

Mike Ryan and Sports  
Scott Weakley and Animals  
Bob Kerr and Airplanes

**Hope you've enjoyed the trio!**





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