

Business & Professional Directory



The Pastor With Bees in His Bonnet

I guess it stands to reason that a young farm kid from Holland, Michigan, is gonna learn about the birds and the bees. In this case, he learned a great deal more about bees than birds. So much so that he took it on as a lifelong hobby.

We speak of Richard Huls (see photo, above). Born and bred on a farm in Holland, Michigan, he was quite the student, receiving the offer of an academic scholarship to Michigan State University. He gratefully declined, however, and opted instead to go to Hope College in Hollandia.

You see, besides the calling of bees, he had also heard the call of the ministry and decided to pursue that as a career, knowing full well that if he didn't make it as a parson, well, he would have plenty of honey to nourish him.

In time, he would attend Western Theological Seminary at Holland, still later he would take graduate work at Clairmont University in Clairemont, California. He spent six months at the Hebrew University in Israel, and also studied archeology while in Israel. He also managed to earn his Master's Degree in Psychology Counseling from Chapman, University in Orange, CA.

In addition to all the education he received from the colleges he attended, he ranks the greatest prize he obtained from college was his wife Marcia. He and Marcia raised five children together.

Enlisting in the Navy, he retired after 27 years as Chaplain, and then brought his talents to

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Escondido where, for 30 years, he pastored Escondido's Community Reformed Church.

As is apparent, he succeeded quite well in the ministry. But he still has plenty of honey. He continues his avocation of bee keeping and often lectures on it. In fact, he'll be the guest speaker at the Hidden Valley Kiwanis Club on August 4th. (Call 760.747.7119 for details).

While he technically retired in 2000, that's a relative term. If you follow him around on any given day you'd be hard pressed to keep up with him. He's still a very busy man. He not only keeps bees, and lectures about them, but he also heads up his "Dial-A-Prayer" program, which is also featured here in *The Paper*. His "Dial-A-Prayer" program has been operating for 40+ years, receiving up to 44,000 calls a year. He receives calls from all over the country as well as letters from those who have, or who have had a need. New callers dial in every week, plus there are regulars who will dial in every week for the latest inspirational thought. The service is particularly heavy with calls during the holidays and during times of crisis. The present economic crisis has caused a great many calls to be made. At the end of the weekly prayer there is voice mail for those who would like to speak to Pastor Huls and seek additional counseling. There are no commercials on the *Dial-a-Prayer* program. The program is supported by a free will offering. There are a number of regular subscribers and Pastor Huls puts out a regular newsletter as well.

You can hear the *Dial-A-Prayer* program for yourself by dialing 760.746.6611.



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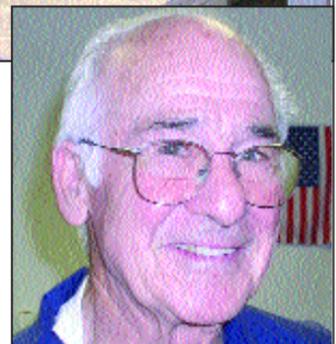
Randy builds several mattresses a day. He has to in order to keep up with demand. He also has a beautiful, large, showroom - all the better to show you the variety of mattresses he offers.

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