

# Letters: America's beautiful diversity

February 12, 2014

## **America's beautiful diversity**

Thank you for the [beautiful editorial](#) about "America the Beautiful."

My husband's and my immediate reaction to the new Coca-Cola commercial was, "What a beautiful expression of our nation's wonderful diversity!"

We were pleased to learn one of the languages used in the commercial is Keres, the language of many of our nation's Pueblo Indians—and the only "original American language" used!

Our pastor spoke of this in his sermon Feb. 9. We continue to pray that professing believers will be thoughtful and thoroughly Christ-like as we speak/write about controversial issues.

Nancy Pannell

Denton

## **Interfaith seekers and spiritual independence**

I found the [article on interfaith marriage](#) quite thought-provoking, though the choice of graphic—an observant Jew marrying an observant Muslim—seemed a bit odd for a Christian publication.

My own experience with interfaith marriage, both personally and professionally, suggests most intermarriage is between people of differing cultural backgrounds who yet share the same spiritual values. While it is true these couples face unique challenges, it is also true that these

challenges are surmountable if the couple remains true to those values.

As the recent Pew study of religion in the United States shows, more and more Millennials are taking the path of spiritual independence. They're crossing religious boundaries and seeking wisdom wherever it is to be found—in religion, philosophy, literature, art, music, science, etc.

This will pose a great challenge to clergy of all faiths. Most of us will “circle the wagons” and push interfaith seekers away, sadly robbing them of the wisdom of our particular faith. But some will redefine what it is to be “spiritual” and perhaps even “religious” in ways that welcome the spiritually independent by helping them sharpen their questions rather than feeding them pat answers.

Let me invite you to view [the short documentary film](#) of my children's interfaith wedding that gives insight into this issue.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

### **Did the Bible change on abortion?**

When my wife and I married, our pastor, E.S. James, advised us that if/when she became pregnant, we should avoid Catholic doctors and Catholic hospitals because they would permit a woman to die in order to save a fetus.

Southern Baptists considered that unwise and bigoted toward women, backed by many Scriptures. Then, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Bible began to say something different. Why?

Robert Flynn

San Antonio

## **Praise for public theology**

I can't believe it: First, that ["Christian need to develop public theology"](#) is coming from a Baptist organization. Second, I agree with it.

At church the other day, I said we need to stop harping on the gay and abortion issues. We can't win them.

Also, it is not for us to judge them or to force our morality on other people by legal means. We need to focus on living the Christian life to such a degree others will want to emulate us.

Ken Weaver

Fairview, Tenn.