



The

Ambassador

Delivering the Truth that Sets People Free

We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)

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A COLLISION OF CRISIS AND FAITH



By Joelle Smith

The preceding article was taken from a personal journal account from Joelle Smith, daughter of Pastor Mike Priebe, Plumas Lake Praise Chapel, chronicling a true-life Near Death Experience (NDE) of when the devil intended to take Pastor Mike out, BUT GOD had other plans in mind.

THE REVELATION

It was a Wednesday morning when I set out on my usual walk through the fields with my dad. My dad is a man whose life isn't just influenced by God, but fully surrendered to Him. He walks in step with the Holy Spirit, listens intently, and lives in obedience. That morning, he turned to

me and said something I'll never forget, "The Holy Spirit told me something big is coming." I smiled, believing in dad's words, "He's always doing something with you. I can't wait to see what this is." I had no idea just how soon we'd find out.

“As for you, you meant to harm me, but God intended it for a good purpose, so he could preserve the lives of many people, as you can see this day.”
Genesis 50:20 NLT

THE CALL

Two days later, on Friday I got the call, "Dad's been in an accident," my sister said calmly. "They're transporting him to the hospital, but everything's going to

be okay." I pulled myself together and headed to meet my mom and sister at the hospital. But nothing could have prepared the three of us for what we were about to walk into. My dad had suffered a massive heart attack while driving, crashing his

truck into a wood post on a friend's rural property. In a moment of divine timing, a neighbor far in the distance just happened to witness the incident. He saw my dad fall out of his truck and collapse near his

vehicle into the dirt, and immediately called 911. That neighbor, in the middle of nowhere, was our first miracle.

THE PROGNOSIS

When we arrived at the hospital, a nurse met us with a serious expression and heavy eyes. "Your father suffered a very massive heart attack. This is VERY serious. I hope you ladies understand what's happening." We understood. But we also knew something she didn't, God was in control. We weren't in denial, we were standing in faith. That night and into the next day, Dad remained in intensive care. No visits were allowed. Updates were vague. We waited. We prayed. And

CONTINUE ON PAGE 12

"Godly Wisdom From Our Spiritual Leaders"
by Carlton D. Ashlock

Page 10



"Your Body Matters"
by Tim Kurtz

Page 14

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Thursday - 7pm

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Hallwood Community
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hallwoodchurch.org
Stacey Hanson, Pastor
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The Ambassador

- ✍️ The Ambassador is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches.
- ✍️ The Ambassador has a circulation of 6,000 - 7,500 and is distributed in local churches and business in the community.
- ✍️ The purpose of The Ambassador is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✍️ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✍️ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way Eternal Life in Heaven.
- ✍️ We welcome editorial content from anyone wishing to promote the mission of The Ambassador. All articles and advertisement content is subject to the approval of the editor.
- ✍️ Views expressed in The Ambassador do not necessarily reflect those of our sponsors or advertisers.

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INSPIRATION

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IT'S "SNOW" GOINCIDENCE



By Paula McBride

The Christmas decorations are put away, but the snowmen get another two months to celebrate winter. The red and green fabric decorations are boxed up, and in their place are blues and whites. The nativity wall art is stored, and the canvas print of my photo of Tahoe's winter wonderland graces the dining room wall. In addition, YouTube provides me with plenty of indoor snowfall along with peaceful music.

Do you ever wonder what God had in mind when He decided the earth needed snow? Was He thinking of people who needed a clean, magical blanket that would inspire wonder and a sense of peace? Did He think of those animals (and humans) who would find in snow's insulation protection from the cold? Perhaps God had in mind a natural reservoir for the earth as melting snow gradually releases life-giving water. Do you think God smiles when He sees His people enjoying winter sports?

That's a lot of thinking, but let's look at one more possibility. Could God be revealing something about Himself and



about us in the creation of snow? Just as God is unique in His being, He created each snowflake to be unique as determined by the specific temperature and humidity conditions it encounters on its journey through the atmosphere. God created each of us uniquely, too. We encounter conditions during our life's journey that form and shape us.

God creates snowflakes by sending ice

crystals to form around a tiny particle of dust or pollen. That is much like us, too, as God takes our nothingness and transforms it into beauty.

Snow appears white, but it is actually translucent. We see white, or even colors of the rainbow as light passes through the crystals. Just so, God wants to shine the light of His glory through us.

When we consider the miracle that is

snow, we find it is no coincidence that God inspired His writers to use the whiteness of snow as a comparison of all that is pure, holy, righteous, and victorious. Daniel writes, "the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow" (7:9). Matthew describes an angel at the tomb of the resurrected Christ: "His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow" (28:3). The apostle John, in his vision, saw Jesus "and the hair on His head was white like wool, as white as snow" (Revelation 1:14).

However, Isaiah's use of that phrase describes the completeness of our cleansing from sin. "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be white as snow" (1:18). Only one who is perfectly pure, the Lord Jesus Christ, can take our grimy selves and transform us into persons of beauty and usefulness in His remarkable creation. We need only ask for that cleansing as David did when he cried, "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). That cleansing is no coincidence. It's a miracle of love and grace freely offered by our loving Lord.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Put off the old self and put on the new self, created to be like God"

Ephesians 4:22-24

Don Monroe

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By Christy Boals
www.gracefilledpurpose.com

Quite the question, isn't it? One I have always found difficult to answer. I seem to be able to understand others fairly well, but when it comes to myself, it is a different story. I am guessing this might be true for more people than just me.

We all have messages we received in childhood. Unfortunately, some of these messages were neither kind nor accurate. The problem is, we believed what we were told.

For instance, maybe you were told you were clumsy. Throughout your life, any time you take a misstep, you hear a little voice reminding you how clumsy you are. We can even try to change who we are based on negative feedback from others. I always felt that my personality was a little too much; the message I heard was to hold myself back a bit and not be too enthusiastic. So consequently, I did.

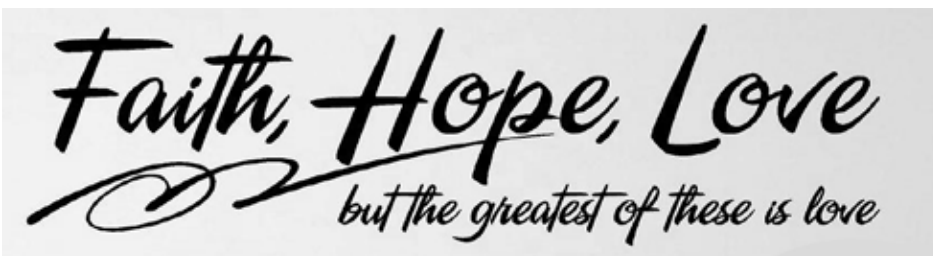
Trying to battle the false messages rolling around in our heads is difficult.

However, the Bible has a lot of truths in it to arm us for this battle. We are told in Romans 8:1 that we are no longer condemned if we are in Christ. Then in Galatians 5:1 it reminds us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again." Such as with things like accusing whispers from our past.

I love what it says in Ephesians 4:24, "Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Isn't that awesome? Jesus can take away all the negative ideas we have about who we think we are and allow us to be our true, whole, new selves in Him.

Of course, it does still take some practice to be who we really are. I'm not quite there yet, but when I get to the point where I can truly be who I really am, I will walk into the room, throw my arms wide and say, "I'm here!" And for the first time, I will be.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32



Bible Word Search

BEATITUDES BOGGLE

V	W	F	X	G	D	V	M	B	S	W	R	J	P	H	W	B	T
U	E	G	C	T	P	Y	D	I	O	H	Z	G	F	Z	L	R	A
M	O	C	U	O	D	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	O	W	O	C	E
T	G	U	N	C	M	K	E	I	S	M	I	R	Z	O	E	M	E
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B	A	T	P	V	M	H	O	N	N	E	V	A	E	H	A	N	L
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A	E	L	Z	R	A	K	R	F	T	D	U	L	U	T	L	U	Q
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Z	N	K	R	Z	I	E	F	M	Q	N	U	R	O	M	E	T	Q
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CHILDREN
COMFORTED
HEAVEN
HUMBLE
HUNGER

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KINGDOM
MEEK
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POOR
PURE
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RIGHTEOUS
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

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ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAY

ROAD TO RECOVERY (Christian 12 Step Support Group)- Sundays, 7:00pm
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

MONDAY

GRIEF SHARE - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Praise Chapel Church -398 Aylor Ave. - Yuba City
A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information contact the church at 530-870-0511.

TUESDAY

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings- 1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

STRONGHOLD SERIES - 2nd Tuesday of the month - 7pm
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak, Building 200
Join us as Jess Parker shares on a particular topic. Corporate prayer to follow.

WEDNESDAY

GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
A group activity for adults to read, discuss, and apply scripture, fostering spiritual growth, understanding of God's word, and fellowship with other believers.

COLLEGE AGE BIBLE STUDY (Ages 17-25) - Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Faith Tabernacle -Yuba City • 760 Spiva Ave - Yuba City
A college age group bible study to read, discuss, and apply scripture, fostering spiritual growth, understanding of God's word, and fellowship with other believers.

THURSDAY

EMBASSY OF GLORY (formerly Embassy House of Prayer)-
Prayer Every Thursday Night 7:00-8:30pm
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak
The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Thursdays, 6:00 pm
Faith Tabernacle -Yuba City • 760 Spiva Ave - Yuba City
A bible study to read, discuss, and apply scripture, fostering spiritual growth, understanding of God's word, and fellowship with other believers.

FRIDAY

MEN'S PRAYER & BREAKFAST - Every Friday Morning at 5:30am
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd - Live Oak, CA 95953
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

PRaise CHAPEL COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT

Every 1st and 3rd Friday at 6:30pm
Praise Chapel - 398 Aylor Ave., Yuba City
(530) 300-1458

PRIME TIMERS

- First Friday every month at 12:00 (Noon)
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Potluck luncheon for 55+, bring your favorite dish and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH YOUTH NIGHT

- Every Friday Night.
Word of Life - 1229 Buchannon Street, Marysville
Come expecting a miracle - Come hear the truth that will set you free.
We have Games, Worship, Fellowship

SATURDAY

MEN'S WALK & TALK - 1st Saturday of the Month 10AM
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd (Building 500) - Live Oak, CA 95953
Looking for a place to find fellowship and develop friendships? Join us for Walk & Talk the first Saturday of the month. For more information contact Phil Britton (530) 300-0408 or churchofgladtidings.com/events

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM
Church of Glad Tidings - 1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com
Come to receive prayer and be refreshed while soaking in an atmosphere of worship and praise. Sorry, No Childcare.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -
Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am.
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Food, Faith and Fellowship.

NIGHT OF PRAYER
Every Last Saturday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Worship Music, Testimonials and Prayer



CALENDAR

• Prayer List for January 2026 •

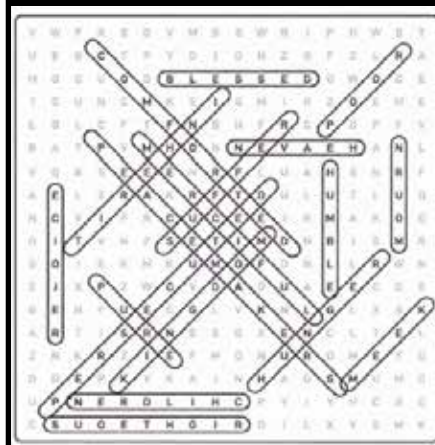
- 1-Jan **Pray for God's blessing** on our nation this new year!
- 2-Jan **The Ambassador Newspaper** - Increased readership and Impact.
- 3-Jan **Homeless** - Safety, health and provision. Bless the Twin Cities Rescue Mission and other local homeless ministries.
- 4-Jan **World Affairs** - Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days.
- 5-Jan **Veterans** - Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need.
- 6-Jan **Marriages** - Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together.
- 7-Jan **Local Ministries** - Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 8-Jan **California** - pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 9-Jan **Discipleship** - Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 10-Jan **Mental Health** - Pray for all the millions of people who are dealing with depression. Pray they feel loved.
- 11-Jan **A Woman's Friend** - Unborn children/Pregnant Women.
- 12-Jan **Israel** - Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem in all conflicts with other countries.
- 13-Jan **Human Trafficking** - Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent.
- 14-Jan **Restore America!** - Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation.
- 15-Jan **Addicted** - pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord, pursue and receive the treatment they need.
- 16-Jan **The Persecuted Church** around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution.
- 17-Jan **Orphanages** - Pray for children to find a loving, bible believing home.
- 18-Jan **Race Relations** - Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension.
- 19-Jan **Pray for the unity of people** to come together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 20-Jan **Pray for your neighbor** - for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- 21-Jan **Youth** - Pray that they will wake up and become aware that "woke" thinking is a tool of Satan.
- 22-Jan **Pray that fathers** would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children.
- 23-Jan **Unity of Churches/Global impact** - Pray for churches to unite & influence the world!
- 24-Jan **Pray for each of us** to be bold by the Holy Spirit to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 25-Jan **Seniors and Elderly** - Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 26-Jan **Global Revival** - Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 27-Jan **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights.
- 28-Jan **Revival** - Pray for a revival in the hearts of His children to spread the world to all nations!
- 29-Jan **Life** - Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies!
- 30-Jan **Mental Illness** - Pray for those who deal with Mental Health issues or suicidal thoughts.
- 31-Jan **Pastors** - That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit.

Finding  Freedom
in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, **Jesus**, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE WORD SEARCH FROM PAGE 5



**NO PRAYER
NO POWER!
LITTLE PRAYER
LITTLE POWER!!
MUCH PRAYER
MUCH POWER!!!**

Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



DR. MARTIN LUTHER

KING JR.

JANUARY 19, 2026



I H A V E A D R E A M

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Spirit-Given Gifts For God's Service

- 1 WISDOM**
(1 Corinthians 12:8)
- 2 DISCERNMENT**
(1 Corinthians 12:10)
- 3 KNOWLEDGE**
(1 Corinthians 12:8)
- 4 GIVING**
(Romans 12:8)
- 5 PROPHECY**
(Romans 12:6)
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- GODLY WISDOM FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS -

The Knowable God

What amazes me about Christianity is that the finite mind of man can understand the infinite mind of the Godhead, and God would have it so. Christianity is a relationship between God and Man whereby Man reflects the image and likeness of God. Man, as it pertains to this writing, is defined in Genesis 5:1-2; "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened," Romans 1:19-21 .

We are instructed to know, on an intimate level, the God we worship, Mathew 11:29. It is possible to know God because he is meek and lowly in heart. In pursuing knowledge of God we obtain true rest. Our true hunger is for the living God. *"My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God,"* Psalm 84:2. The greatest contribution to our spiritual success is to make a concerted and deliberate effort to read, study and apply the Word of God.

To know God is possible because



Carlton D. Ashlock

the Holy Ghost has come to dwell in the saint. *"The Holy Ghost who is the Comforter; whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you,"* John 14:26.

The greatest knowledge that Man has been assigned to know about God, is that God is love. *"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love,"* 1 John 4:8. Love is caring for the wellbeing of the object of love. Therefore we are commanded to *"cast all our care upon him; for he cares for us,"* 1 Peter 5:7. Our heavenly father wants us to experience his love. *"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us,"* Romans 5:5b .

Carlton D. Ashlock
Worshipper of God

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**LIFE MATTERS presented by
Yuba-Sutter Right To Life**

*Many Political Figures Say They Are Pro-Choice,
But Shut Down Pro-Life Choices for Women*

By Jeanneane Maxon and Moira Gaul

For decades, Big Abortion and extremist politicians have attacked pregnancy centers in futile attempts to chill their life-affirming work. These efforts culminated in the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision in National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra, which struck down a California law that forced pregnancy centers to engage in objectionable speech.

The court ruled that this violated the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

Despite that clear precedent—and the consistent failure of similar state efforts—some government officials continue to target pregnancy centers. These include Democrat Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, and New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin.

Platkin has issued sweeping subpoenas to First Choice Women' Resource Centers demanding donor names and internal records, launching a biased investigation (hand-in-hand with Planned Parenthood). This prompted a federal lawsuit, First Choice Women's Resource Centers, Inc. v. Platkin, which the Supreme Court



will consider on Dec. 2. Platkin's attack on the freedom of speech of pregnancy centers is a blatant example of viewpoint discrimination and hostility toward faith-based service providers.

The outcome of First Choice will have far-reaching implications—either bolstering or undermining First Amendment protections. SCOTUS will decide whether nonprofits can challenge state investigations rooted in viewpoint discrimination before suffering full enforcement harm. The outcome could define the boundaries of ideologically motivated regulations—not just for pregnancy centers, but for faith-based charities nationwide.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 11

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Cont'd Page 10: "LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life"

Many Political Figures Say They Are Pro-Choice, But Shut Down Pro-Life Choices for Women

Moreover, this case has broader implications that impact the legal framework of First Amendment law. Ultimately, a ruling against First Choice would harm Americans, especially the most vulnerable among us.

According to a new report by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), 2,775 pregnancy centers provided services and material goods valued at over \$452 million in 2024. These included: more than 636,000 ultrasound exams, nearly 240,000 STI tests, and \$116 million in essential baby items, such as diapers, wipes, infant formula, and clothing.

These centers are meeting the real needs of families and have an exceptionally high client satisfaction rate of 98%.

In addition, the new CLI report highlights striking upward trends in services since 2017: moms and dads attending evidence-based prenatal and parenting education (up 34%), total ultrasound exams performed (up 59%), total new clients (up 15%), and—since 2019— total STI tests (up 50%) and the dollar value of material aid (up 334%).

With the involvement of over 10,000 licensed medical professionals and over 55,000 additional workers in 2024, pregnancy centers delivered



compassionate, life-affirming and practical care helping to promote improved health for women, children and family well-being.

Erosion of this network of care would have significant ramifications for many communities.

Clearly, the stakes in the First Choice case extend far beyond one organization—they cut to the core of America's constitutional commitments.

At the heart of this dispute is freedom of speech. Government may not regulate or punish expression simply because it disfavors a viewpoint, yet that is precisely what happens when pregnancy centers are singled out for investigations driven by an ideological disagreement with their speech.

Equally important is the right to donor privacy and free association. New Jersey's demand that First Choice hand

over confidential donor lists echoes the unconstitutional overreach rejected by the Supreme Court in NAACP v. Alabama (1958), where the court held that exposing members and donors to potential harassment chills protected advocacy.

Finally, women—and communities—bear the greatest cost. It's compelling that pregnancy centers have grown in their provision of services and material aid to women and families over the past eight years at a time when abortions have been on the rise.

The upward trend in this outreach and high client satisfaction speak to the trust communities place in this vital care for women, their children, and young families. Discouraging women from accessing these resources harms those who need care the most. Every sweeping subpoena, public "consumer alert," and politicized investigation sends a message to others considering offering life-affirming services: Stay silent!

The result is a chilling effect that narrows, rather than expands, the choices available to women. If pregnancy centers are prevented from fully serving communities, those communities will suffer.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "A COLLISION OF CRISIS AND FAITH"



Pastor Mike Priebe, Plumas Lake Praise Chapel

we held the line in faith. Then came Sunday morning. The phone rang. Too early. A nurse's voice, urgent and trembling, "Your dad isn't doing well. You need to come now. HURRY!" His organs are failing. His body is crashing.

Panic and fear threatened to overtake me, but I ran into my closet, the first quiet place I could find, and cried out to God like never before. I wept. I begged. And in the midst of my desperation, I felt the Holy Spirit wrap around me like a blanket.

We rushed to the hospital, hearts pounding. When we were finally allowed to see Dad, a nurse met us with tears in her eyes. "I'm so, so sorry," she whispered, as if preparing us for the worst. Dad lay pale and still. The color had drained from his body. He looked... gone.

presence of the Holy Spirit. Meanwhile, friends and family began arriving in the waiting room. What began as a visit soon became something else, a room full of intercessors. Later that day, a doctor told us they were arranging a transfer to a cardiac specialty hospital. "If he makes it long enough," the doctor added, almost too casually. To the medical staff, the odds were not in our favor.

WALK BY FAITH...

But we didn't give in to what we saw. Instead, my mom, sister, and I stood beside his bed, huddled together, and cried out to the Lord, firm, unwavering, and full of faith. The staff looked at us like we were out of our minds. But we weren't. We were surrounded by the

FANNING THE FLAME OF FAITH

But we weren't looking at odds, we were looking at God. One quote that

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13

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CONT'D FROM PAGE 12: "A COLLISION OF CRISIS AND FAITH"

anchored me came from Barry Bennett, "What others see as hopeless, you see as possible. You have the eyes of faith and the words of God in your heart... You are not a victim. You are an overcomer." And of course, 1 John 5:4: "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith."

THE FIRST MIRACLE – "UNUSUAL"

Hours later, the miracle we had been praying for came. Dad was stable enough for transport. The room filled with praise. The same nurse who had met us with tears asked if she could ride in the ambulance. She didn't want to miss what was happening. At the second hospital, the cardiac team greeted us with a mix of disbelief and awe. "We've heard all about your dad," one doctor said. "He shouldn't be here. This case is very unusual." We heard the word "unusual" over and over again during his stay. But we weren't surprised. We knew exactly why Dad was still alive: God had him.

THE SECOND MIRACLE

Dad ended up spending sixteen days in



the hospital, six of those days on full life support. After he came off life support, he began sharing powerful encounters he had while unconscious, glimpses into the spiritual realm. His stories were filled with divine beauty and clarity. I tried

to document as much as I could. They felt like gifts from the Lord. We had witnessed God's hand on our dad. We knew, God wasn't finished with him yet! In fact, He had "big plans" not just for Dad, but for our whole family. Watching

Dad heal and regain strength was one miracle. But seeing him grow even more spiritually and preach again just two weeks later. That was something else entirely. I'll never forget the look on the doctor's faces, stunned, speechless, as my dad "came back to life" in front of them. They kept saying: "He's a miracle." "This doesn't happen." "We're so happy to see him alive."

THE THIRD MIRACLE

Dad's story wasn't finished. This journey wasn't just about a medical emergency, it was a "collision of crisis and faith." A moment when our family chose to believe the report of the Lord over the report of man. We saw firsthand that even when things seem their darkest, God is working. What began as a walk through the fields turned into a walk through fire. But we didn't walk it alone. We walked it in step with the Holy Spirit and He sustained us through it all. And just like Dad always says....

“... But God”

Google...."But God" is a powerful biblical phrase signifying divine intervention in hopeless situations, meaning God steps in to turn impossible circumstances into hope, rescue, or victory, highlighting His mercy, power, and sovereignty over human limitations. It's a declaration that despite human failure or disaster, God ultimately has the final, transformative word!

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YOUR BODY MATTERS



By Tim Kurtz

A few years back, the phrase “Black Lives Matter” became popular. Shortly after, another phrase arose, “All Lives Matter.” Now we see numerous phrases about “something” that matters. The idea behind this trend is to re-emphasize or remind us of “something” that we already know is important. Because even important things have ways of becoming undervalued. With that in mind, I chose the title “YOUR BODY MATTERS” for this new series of monthly articles in the Ambassador. These articles will focus on topics related to your physical health. I know many readers of this wonderful newspaper are church-going Christians. I want to emphasize to that crowd as well as to anyone else, this important point, “YOUR BODY MATTERS.”

This is one of those “somethings” we already know, but can be taken for granted. We can allow the focus on our physical health to take a back seat in our daily priorities. It is interesting that physical health receives a very minor role in our church culture. The Bible describes us as three-part beings: Spirit, Soul, Body. All three parts are to be made holy and kept blameless, 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Yet our church gatherings and activities focus almost entirely on edifying the spirit and the soul. I admit spirit and soul are of primary importance since they make up our eternal inner man. But on this side of heaven, we live in a body that, if not cared for, can become sick and weak. Then our ability to serve God in this present world becomes directly diminished.

The apostle Paul tells us that the new covenant temple is our body, 1 Corinthians 6:19. It is the sacred house of the precious Holy Spirit and our born-again spirit man. Christian people are known for keeping themselves from drinking, smoking, and drugs, things that harm the bodily temple. This is proper, but are we also known for being healthy eaters and excellent in our physical condition and exercise? Unfortunately, in decades past, the opposite has often been the reputation of the typical churchgoer. In recent times, this has begun to change (for both the believer and unbeliever alike), as Americans are awakening to the health crises in our land.

So my encouragement is that we who follow Christ should excel and be examples in every area, including physical health and wellness. Unfortunately, the emphasis on a healthy, physically fit body has been viewed by some Christians as secular or worldly, even conflated with those who vainly obsess on their physical appearance. I believe we can and should put attention towards our physical health without becoming what may be considered as “fleshly.” These efforts are not done for ego. Instead our goal is to fulfill God’s purposes in this life as we attempt to stay unencumbered by sick, weak, dysfunctional bodies.

The ancient Hebrew priests offered pleasing sacrifices to God, kept the temple operations from defilement, and cleaned and kept the temple in pristine

"PLAN WITH GOD"

It’s the beginning of a new year, and many of us are making goals and plans in hopes of making this year better than ever. We need to ask ourselves: have we reflected on the goodness of God in the past year we just experienced? Have we shown our gratitude for all that He has done for us through both blessings and trials?

My thought is that we won’t know what we want for the new year until we reflect on the year that has passed. God has been there and has given so much to us; we need to provide him with praise and time in worship. As we spend that time with Him, He will begin to reveal some of the plans He has for our future.

Let’s allow God to give us the plans for our lives. Let’s make goals and plans with God. Our lives are not our own, but God’s, and the most remarkable thing we can do for our lives and our future is to let Him be Lord of our lives.

So, as we sit down and write out plans and goals, let’s ask God to show us how to plan. Let our spirits be in connection



Marci Dena, Editor

with the Holy Spirit so that we can truly fulfill His design for our lives. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

We can live in peace knowing that God has us and wants so much for us. As we lean in to Him and rely on Him, we can know we have a great future ahead of us, whatever it may bring. *“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part, He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified.”* — I Peter 4:14

*Greater is He that is in me,
than he that is in the world.*

1 John 4:4

condition. Are we, as new covenant priests, also responsible for keeping these new temples of God (our physical bodies) in excellent condition?

This is not a small task, as it requires discipline, lifestyle choices, and education. In the months ahead, I will endeavor to look into many topics that can help us maintain and improve our

physical condition. By combining our best efforts and accessing by faith the healing power of the One who made our incredible bodies, we can look toward the hope of longer and stronger lives as we enjoy and serve our amazing Creator.

“Beloved I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers.” III John 1:2

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New Year,
New Challenges,
Same Great God,
2026

The image features a central white cross. Surrounding the cross and text are several stylized fireworks in yellow, blue, and red. The text is written in a white, elegant script font, with the year '2026' in a larger, bold, serif font. The entire design is set against a black background.