



The

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## FALSE TEACHERS: WHAT TO DO WITH THE POISON IN THE WATER



by Steve Burchett

In telling the fictitious story of Barnabas Sackett coming on a ship from England to America in the 1600s, Louis L'Amour describes Sackett's shipmates like this: "They were rascals, no question of that, and a dirty, poisonous lot, enough to kill the fish for miles if dumped into the water" (Sackett's Land, Bantam Books [1974], pg. 71).

In Ephesus, some false teachers had fallen into the waters of the churches in that city (and region), and they were having a poisoning and potentially deadly effect. This is why Paul immediately addressed Timothy, "As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons

*not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith"* (1 Tim 1:3-4).

Paul's appeal to his assistant will help us to think about dealing with false teaching in our churches, whether we are in the "infestation" stage or not. Let's start by considering three questions about the false teachers.

Who were these false teachers? They are called "certain persons" (ESV; "some men," NASB) in verses 3 and 6. We aren't told their exact identity. They may have been former elders in the church because, several years

these men would have been heightened because people might have given them the benefit of the doubt.

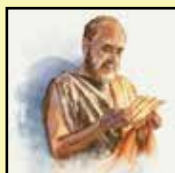
What did they teach? Paul calls it a "different doctrine" (1 Tim 1:3). The same phrase is found in chapter 6 and provides further explanation: "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness . . ." (v. 3) These men contradicted the words of Jesus, and consequently did not produce holy people.

In chapter 4, Paul called their teaching a "depart[ure] from the faith" and demonic (v. 1), and highlighted

**Please Read Seth's Editorial (p. 18) for an Important Announcement Regarding THE AMBASSADOR**

previously, Paul told the Ephesians elders, "From among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:30). If this was now the situation, the urgency to deal with

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 14**



**A Man Named Gaius  
By Dave Peterson**

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**Three Things  
Tim Keller Taught Me**

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**The Ambassador**

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 Facebook: @pcplca

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# INSPIRATION

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## •• The Mountain Top and The Day-To-Day ••

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

On a flight recently, I overheard a woman describing the town she was from. She said it is tucked away in a little corner of the Northeast. I could hear the warmth for her home in her voice as she was speaking. She talked about how the trees were not huge, but there were very beautiful, forested areas. What struck me the most was when she said that the nature there was not the “wow” that you might see in many other areas of the country, but it was quietly beautiful. I knew exactly what she meant.

I have had the privilege of seeing some amazing sights in our country. I have seen the giant stone mountains of Yosemite. I have been in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and made my way to the top of Pike’s Peak. I have lived in California my whole life and have stood where the land and the ocean meet many times. I have gazed up at the giant redwood trees in the coastal forests.

However, I too live in a place of quiet beauty. The oak trees outside my windows don’t make a flashy show of color in the Fall, but they subtly change throughout the year in a steady way. The little bluebirds may not be as brightly colored as some of their feathered friends, but they too are



consistently busy adding cheer to the world just outside.

There is a difference in how we experience these two types of nature. The “wow” type can inspire awe in us for our Creator. I know when I saw the mountains in Yosemite, it really sunk in just how big our God must be. These types of experiences make me think of our “mountain top” times with God, the spiritual highs. The other, quieter type of nature makes me think of our day-to-day lives or the times when we need to “soak” with God, the times when we just need to lean on our Heavenly Father.

Even Jesus, when He was here on Earth, had these two different types of experiences. He had the moment after Baptism when the Heavens opened up and His Father blessed Him. He went up to the Mount of Transfiguration. Then He also experienced being alone and fasting for 40 days and being tested

by Satan. He spent many quiet hours alone praying with God.

We need both of these types of experiences in our spiritual walk. The mountain top times can give us vision, excitement and spur us on, but just like most of us can’t live at Yosemite, we also cannot maintain that type of spiritual high constantly. We are designed to come back down to the quieter, steadier places and live out—sometimes struggle out—those “wow” moments of the mountains.

*“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”*

Psalm 95:1-5

## Did You Know?

- The exact crossing place of the Red Sea is specific as “directly opposite Baal Zephon” (Exodus 14:2) The Hebrew for “Red Sea” is the “Sea of Reeds.” As reeds do not grow in salt water, the crossing is unlikely to have been in the north end of the Gulf of Suez. An Egyptian papyrus has placed Baal Zephon at the southern end of Lake Menzaleh.
- We refer to the summary of God’s law of Exodus 19:2-17 as the “Ten Commandments.” Exodus 20:1 says, “God spake all these words.” The Ten Commandments literally mean the “Ten Words.” They are also known by the Greek term “Decalogue,” which means “Ten Words.”
- For the Israelites, the tabernacle was God’s royal tent. The Ten Commandments were placed inside the ark of the covenant. On top of the ark were two golden cherubim. Among the treasures found in King Tutankhaun’s Egyptian tomb, are two winged guardians made to shield sacred places.
- Rahab provided secret shelter for the spies who entered Jericho. Josephus says that Rahab was an innkeeper. Archeological evidence shows that houses were built into the walls of Jericho. Late Bronze Age fortifications at Jericho reveal casement (hollow) walls, which may have provided Rahab with her rooms.

## 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 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses 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 to 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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## WHEN IT BURNS!

By Diane Weaver

Proverbs 17:3 "The Crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold and the lord test the heart."

How many times have we heard the question "why do bad things happen to good people?" most times we don't know what to say. Often times we attribute it to the evil that is in the world. While true, we often overlook the purpose. We forget to pray and ask the Lord, "What am I to glean from this?"

Seth Halpern got me thinking (Did you see the smoke, Seth?) He was telling me how he and Angie stopped at an unnamed coffee place that begins with Star and ends in... you get the point. Any who, they were handed their coffee and it was hot, so they asked for a sleeve. They were informed that sleeves were for Venti's. Can you imagine? As if smaller coffees are cooler, I guess. That's when the wheels began turning... when we are subjected to heat, like fire, it is uncomfortable.

Genesis 50:20 "as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."

Fun fact: Gold does not exist in pure form. It is mixed with all forms of impurities. One process to remove



those impurities is fire; as hot as 2000° Fahrenheit.

Another fun fact: Not all metals melt at the same temperature. We are not unlike these metals. Some of us need a higher temperature to be refined. Ouchie! When we are refined by God, he is purifying us, bringing the dross to the top, separating the impurities from the precious metals. Bringing those pieces of us, that needs to be exposed, out in the open.

None of us likes the process of refining. The Refiners Fire! Some may call them troubles or sins. God calls some of these tests. "Purifying our hearts" Do you remember JOB, who was

"blameless and upright."? Who "feared God and turned away from evil." Satan came to have a chat with God one day and God said "Have you considered my servant Job?" He said that to Satan! Here's what we must remember, there are trials and test allowed by God to hone us. To refine us. Why? FOR HIS GLORY!

This has been a season of challenges for me. My mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and my dad with Parkinson's disease. I drive to Sacramento twice a week to help them and whenever they have doctor's appointments. And let me tell you there are quite a few. God has chosen to allow

this into our lives and a choice has been made; to accept the unacceptable and to grow in the knowledge that Christ is over all. We are not alone.

1 Peter 4:12-13 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed."

I love J Vernon McGee. He ended every sermon by calling people my beloved. So, BELOVED, know that when fiery trials come, stand firm in His promise that His glory will be revealed.

God Bless you all  
My Beloved,  
Diane Weaver

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## ONGOING EVENTS

**ROAD TO RECOVERY** - Sundays, 7:00pm  
Christian 12 Step support group  
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

**GRIEF SHARE** - Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.  
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 about GriefShare you can go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

**PRAYER FOR THE NATION** - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM  
Church of Glad Tidings  
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**GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,  
For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.  
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

**EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER** - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM  
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(530) 671-3160 - [info@churchofgladtidings.com](mailto:info@churchofgladtidings.com)  
"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). 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.

**FREEDOM NIGHT** - 2nd Friday of each month  
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**BETHESDA HEALING WELL** - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM  
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## • Prayer List for June 2023 •

- 4-Jun **Graduations**- Pray for new graduates that their futures would be successful, prosperous and glorify the Lord
- 5-Jun **Pastors**- That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 6-Jun **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 7-Jun **Revival**- Pray that the college student revival would continue and spread to the nation!
- 8-Jun **World Affairs**- Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 9-Jun **The Persecuted Church around the world.** Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 10-Jun **Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed**- pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 11-Jun **Human Trafficking**- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 12-Jun **Race Relations**- Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 13-Jun **Global Revival**- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 14-Jun **Homeless**- Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 15-Jun **Marriages**- Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 16-Jun **Local Ministries**- Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 17-Jun **California**- pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 18-Jun **Father's Day**- Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 19-Jun **Disabled**- that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 20-Jun **Mental Illness**- Pray for those who dealing with Mental Health issues or suicidal thoughts
- 21-Jun **Life**- Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 22-Jun **Addicted**- pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender and get the treatment they need
- 23-Jun **Discipleship**- Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 24-Jun **President**- Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 25-Jun **National Fatherless Children's Day**- Pray that children of fatherless homes and those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 26-Jun **Health Care Workers and First Responders**- Pray for physical protection and endurance
- 27-Jun **Israel**- Pray for safety from violence, and for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 28-Jun **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 29-Jun **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!
- 30-Jun **Unity of Churches/Global impact**- Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!

# CALENDAR

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### "TWIST & TURNS" – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Hallwood Community Church – 2825 Hwy 20, Marysville

June 5-8, 9:00am-Noon

It's time to level up! Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

Registration Form and Registering instructions on the church Facebook page.

### "STELLAR, SHINE JESUS' LIGHT" - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Cornerstone Church, 700 Washington Ave., Yuba City

June 5-9, from 9am-12pm each day

ALL kids, ages 3 (& potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for this out-of-this-world adventure.

### TENT REVIVAL "KINGDOM TIME"

Hosted by Calvary Christian Center PLO and Praise Chapel Plumas Lake

4902 Powerline Rd. Olivehurst, Ca 95961

June 11th- 18th 7pm Nightly

This tent is to show the unity of the local churches coming together for the transformation of our local communities.

### "KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM" - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

The Bride Church, 1321 Peach Tree Lane, YC

June 19-23 , 5:30 – 8:30pm

Huzzah! It's time to charge into medieval times—a world brimming with breathtaking castles, regal kings and queens, fire-breathing dragons, brave knights, and epic battles. During this exciting week of Keepers of the Kingdom: Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth, your knights will learn how to be part of God's kingdom and wear the armor of God. Our Royal Majesty's kingdom is under attack, and we must prepare for battle! Register today on the church website: [thebridechurch.org](http://thebridechurch.org)

### "KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM" – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Word of Life Church, 1229 Buchanan Street, Marysville

June 26-30, 5-8pm

We are engaged in an epic battle for the hearts and minds of our youth. Every day, they are bombarded with lies about who they are, who their Creator is, and where their salvation comes from. Thankfully, God has given his children armor to wear in this battle between truth and lies, light and darkness, good and evil.

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*Sammie*

## Kug's Kolumn

### The Beauty of Forgiveness

By now anyone who has read any of my articles over the past 18 years knows that I am a big fan of John the Baptist. The reason is that I aspire to have that kind of boldness (preferably without the same outcome as John). I personally like being challenged in my Christian walk and I like to challenge others. That is how we grow. However, sometimes those challenges can be a bit painful.

Just recently while sharing my testimony (publicly) at a Christian Community Network meeting, I crossed the line and spoke negatively about another church. No need for me to rehash the details in this article but let me just say I was guilty as charged. My testimony was put on Facebook and a person from that church I spoke sarcastically about watched it and was hurt by what I said. This individual sent me a text message and expressed her feelings. Everything that she said was true. What impressed me was how gracious she was to me with her words.

So now comes the hard part. I responded by offering a clear (no justification) apology via text message followed by a face-to-face apology followed by a public apology at the CCN meeting. Why do I share this humbling experience? Well, my headline says it all. When I was confronted with this situation, I obviously felt terrible for making such a foolish mistake, but I also wondered if maybe I had permanently damaged this relationship.

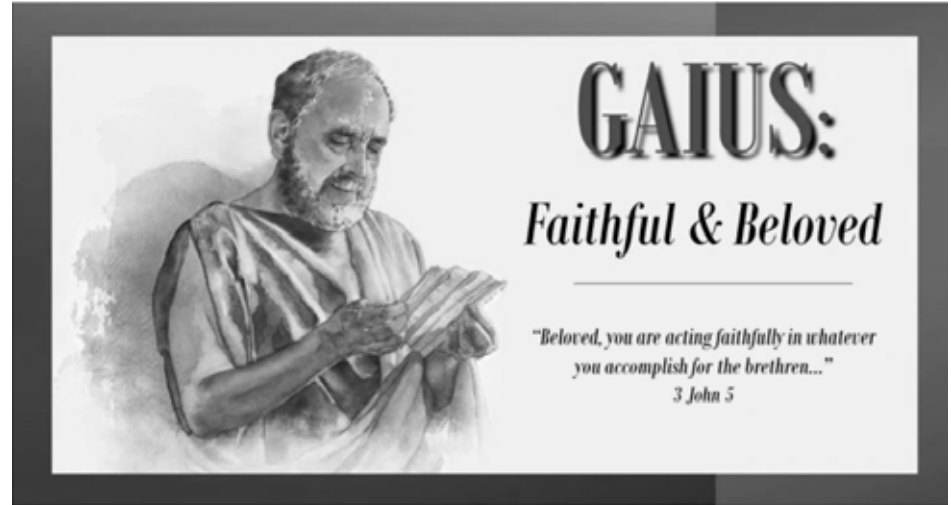
Well, I am pleased to say that the outcome was wonderful because she chose to forgive me and that my friends is a beautiful experience. When I made my public apology, I shared this passage. (I sure love the Word of God)

*"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."* Prov 27:5

*"To err is human, to forgive divine."*  
Alexander Pope

David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Community Network which meets each Tuesday at noon at various locations. Dave welcomes your questions or comments on this article at [drkug@comcast.net](mailto:drkug@comcast.net)

## A MAN NAMED GAIUS



*(Editor's note: This is part one of a series of articles on the book of 2 John by Pastor Dave Peterson of Loma Rica Baptist Church)*

### 2 John 1-2

**1 The Elder: To my dear friend Gaius: I love you in the truth.**

**2 Dear friend, I pray that you may prosper in every way and be in good health physically just as you are spiritually.**

While written to Gaius, this letter, by the sovereignty of God, has made its way into the Holy Scriptures, so while it may seem as if we are reading someone else's mail – the truth is that this letter is for you and I as well.

**1. The Elder: To my dear friend Gaius: I love you in the truth.**

So first, we know that Gaius was an elder, a leader, quite possibly the pastor of a church, and that he was a dear friend of John the Apostle – and that this friendship goes deep, because they have a love that is rooted in the truth.

Not rooted in “a” truth – but “THE” truth – the truth of the gospel, the truth

of a shared faith, the truth of salvation, the truth of Jesus. This is a truth that unites even today. We may disagree on many minor things, but the major thing – Jesus – is what unites us in love.

**2. Dear friend, I pray that you may prosper in every way and be in good health physically just as you are spiritually.**

While the prayer that John prays is for physical well-being, and well-being in every way – that would include financial, employment, family, resources, investments - the foundation, the focus of the prayer is the spiritual prosperity of Gaius.

He is praying that as Gaius soul is prospering, as His walk with Christ is growing, as His relationship with Christ is deepening, He wants to see Gaius blessed in these other ways to the same degree that He is growing spiritually.

Is that a great prayer, or what?!?! Or is it? What if I prayed for you in the same way? Or if you prayed for me in the same way? What if right now, we were

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 16**

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# LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life

## Follow the Trail of Money and Anguish

One of the most pressing issues before the pro-life movement is how to stop chemical abortion. It is called mifepristone, marketed under the name of Mifeprex, the first pill in the two-drug abortion protocol.

It is an outright lie by extreme abortion advocates that "chemical abortion is safer than Tylenol." Our video interview with Elizabeth Gillette defies this falsehood. In addition to the severe pain and hemorrhaging Elizabeth experienced, as she held the child she passed, this young woman faced the horrific, undeniable reality that she killed her baby. This tragic awareness came with a whole other level of serious side effects.

The aftermath of chemical abortion for Elizabeth included, in her words, an "overwhelming guilt I couldn't put away." She also suffered from nightmares, anorexia, and a diagnosis of acute post-traumatic stress disorder. There is no credible study that can associate similar levels of concern with Tylenol.

Who and what is behind the behemoth effort to inflict this chemical coat hanger on millions of unsuspecting women? Let's look at the extreme pro-abortion



activists and those who fund their effort to push these deadly pills.

The most prominent pro-abortion groups pushing chemical abortion are the Center for Reproductive Rights, Whole Woman's Health, Guttmacher Institute, National Health Law Program, and Physicians for Reproductive Health. Besides ideology, these organizations have several things in common, Their donors. Much of their funding comes from left-leaning foundations that give heavily to causes advocating abortion on demand until birth. Let's look at each group and the foundations that give to them.

The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) describes itself as "a global human rights organization of lawyers and advocates who ensure" the

accessibility of abortion. According to CRR's most recent annual report, they document gifts between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The top donors include Laura and John Arnold, who appear to have personally given over \$1,000,000 to CRR rather than through their foundation. In addition, the Ford Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have given enormous sums. While founded by Henry Ford and his son, Edsel, it is important to note that the Ford Foundation is not connected to Ford Motor Company.

The Ford Foundation gave CRR \$500,000 in 2022 which does not include the collective \$15,025,000 that it has given to CRR since 2007. That sum also includes a \$7,500,000

Social Bond in October 2020. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (William Hewlett is a cofounder of Hewlett-Packard) has given CRR a total of \$17,232,500 since 2001 with multiple grants over \$2,000,000. Hewlett-Packard's other founder, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, gave CRR \$500,000 in 2022 and a collective \$3,037,915. Although it is unclear exactly how much was given, Bloomberg Philanthropies - founded in 2006 by Michael Bloomberg - was also a \$1,000,000-plus donor to CRR. It should surprise no one that George Soros is also a large donor. His Open Society Foundation has given a total of \$365,000 in two grants, both in 2016.

Whole Woman's Health (WWH), a chain of abortion facilities, was founded in 2003 by Amy Hagstrom Miller. While this group is smaller, it has received the attention of the large foundations. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has given WWH a total of \$1,000,000 in grants since 2016.

Guttmacher Institute (GI) was initially founded as the research arm of Planned Parenthood. GI is now an independent

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 17**

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## June CCN Weekly Schedule:

5/6- Seth Halpern  
5/13- Wesley Towne  
5/20- TBA  
5/27- Prayer

\*Schedule subject to change

*We hope you can join us!  
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## MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

### Pastors and Mental Health: We Need to Normalize this Conversation

By Mark Dance

Mental health affects a large majority of the population, and pastors are no exception.

What's more, mental health challenges can be one of the largest barriers standing in the way of pastors both serving well and finishing well. In light of Mental Health Awareness Month, churches have the opportunity to empower pastors to continue serving and advancing God's Kingdom by normalizing conversations about mental health.

As pastors, serving well requires having the strength to do so. The weight of a pastor's call to lead both his congregation and his family is rewarding but can be exhausting without adequate support from multiple different sources, including strong staff, close friends and time off. These days, churches can also lighten the load by empowering pastors to seek professional help. This includes answering the call of 64% of pastors who need support in order to consistently practice Sabbath rest.

Since 2020, mental health claims by pastors that GuideStone® serves have gone up by 40%. This trend is



a promising sign that more pastors feel validated to access this important resource in their benefits package. And we are hopeful that continued access to mental health services will play a strong role in reducing burnout and turnover in the churches we serve.

Ministry fatigue is real, and it can stop some pastors in their tracks. I know this first-hand because it happened to me 15 years ago in the middle of my 20th year of pastoring churches. During that time, I was walking through a heavy fog of exhaustion and undiagnosed

clinical depression that nearly caused me to walk away from serving my congregation.

Instead, I was able to seek help from a mental health professional and began attending monthly therapy sessions. By receiving this support, I was not only able to continue pastoring my church, but eventually doors would open to helping other pastors who needed the same help.

More pastors may be refreshed and feel supported if they, too, have access to the help they need. Our country now spends over \$200 billion annually on mental health care, providing increased resources for the 1 in 5 Americans who experience mental illnesses.

Pastors must know these resources

are available and — more importantly — feel comfortable accessing them. That's why it is essential to continue normalizing mental health services for ministers and remove barriers to access by extending insurance coverage for mental health care.

Severe burnout, at least the type I experienced, can be prevented, but not if the topic of mental health remains taboo in the Church. And not if pastors feel discouraged from seeking help in the midst of their darkest seasons. I speak from experience in saying that receiving mental health support can be the game changer pastors need to continue serving the Lord, their families, and congregants well.

Removing barriers to mental health access for pastors empowers them to finish their race well, both in their personal life and in their ministry. In doing so, we not only strengthen pastors' personal well-being but also protect the future of churches for years to come.

*For more resources on mental health, visit [GuideStone.org/MentalHealth](http://GuideStone.org/MentalHealth).*

*Dr. Mark Dance is the Director of Pastoral Wellness at GuideStone. Prior to joining GuideStone, he served as an Associate Vice President at Lifeway and a lead pastor for 27 years.*



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## GARDENER'S SERENITY PRAYER

**LORD, GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THAT I CANNOT GROW ALL THE PLANTS. THE PATIENCE TO WAIT FOR MY SEEDS TO SPROUT. AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE BEST TIME TO SNEAK ZUCCHINI'S ONTO PORCHES.**

**AMEN**

## Bible Trivia

### "Being Happy With What You Have"

#### Fill The Right Word Into The Blank Space

- Psalm 23:1**  
The \_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_; I shall not \_\_\_\_\_.

shepherd    want    Lord
- Ecclesiastes 5:10**  
He that loveth \_\_\_\_\_ shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_: this is also \_\_\_\_\_.

vanity    silver    increase    abundance
- Matthew 6:31-33**  
Therefore take no \_\_\_\_\_, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we \_\_\_\_\_? or, Wherewithal shall we be \_\_\_\_\_? (For after all these things do the \_\_\_\_\_ seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his \_\_\_\_\_; and all these things shall be added unto you.

clothed    Gentiles    righteousness    drink    thought
- Luke 3:14**  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do \_\_\_\_\_ to no man, neither accuse any \_\_\_\_\_; and be content with your \_\_\_\_\_.

wages    falsely    violence    soldiers
- Philippians 4:11-13**  
Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever \_\_\_\_\_ I am, therewith to be \_\_\_\_\_. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am \_\_\_\_\_ both to be full and to be \_\_\_\_\_, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through \_\_\_\_\_ which strengtheneth me.

content    hungry    state    instructed    Christ
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11**  
And that ye study to be \_\_\_\_\_, and to do your own \_\_\_\_\_, and to work with your own \_\_\_\_\_, as we \_\_\_\_\_ you.

quiet    business    commanded    hands
- 1 Timothy 6:6**  
But \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ is great \_\_\_\_\_.

gain    godliness    contentment
- 1 Timothy 6:7-10**  
For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and \_\_\_\_\_ let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many \_\_\_\_\_ and hurtful \_\_\_\_\_, which drown men in \_\_\_\_\_ and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the \_\_\_\_\_, and pierced themselves through with many \_\_\_\_\_.

faith    raiment    lusts    foolish    destruction    sorrows

Answers Page 17

## Bible Word Search

### Bible Wordsearch

Matt 3:5-17

O	L	J	E	S	U	S	N	D	O	R	D	F	J	T
H	E	D	E	N	E	P	O	E	P	N	R	R	U	G
B	S	R	E	P	I	V	O	S	R	A	A	U	D	T
A	G	N	I	M	O	C	D	A	O	D	E	I	E	A
P	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	D	R	L	T	A	E	
T	W	S	P	I	R	I	T	L	U	O	C	I	H	H
I	O	S	S	E	G	F	P	P	C	J	O	P	H	W
Z	A	A	C	E	U	H	S	R	E	L	O	R	D	C
E	R	I	B	L	N	L	T	E	O	W	O	E	B	N
W	O	E	F	R	A	O	L	I	E	P	N	V	R	W
V	R	I	H	D	A	P	T	R	N	R	E	A	E	O
J	L	A	N	T	O	H	F	S	A	G	I	R	G	R
L	O	A	T	E	A	U	A	W	V	S	E	F	I	H
S	S	H	P	H	L	F	M	M	E	V	O	D	O	T
B	U	R	N	I	N	G	N	I	P	E	E	K	N	E

John the Baptist 2

BROOD	ABRAHAM
CLEAR	BAPTIZE
DOVE	BURNING
FATHER	COMING
FIRE	CHILDREN
FRUIT	GALILEE
FULFILL	JORDAN
JESUS	KEEPING
JOHN	LIGHTING
JUDEA	PLEASED
LOVE	POWERFUL
PEOPLE	PRODUCE
PROPER	OPENED
RAISE	REGION
SPIRIT	SANDALS
VIPERS	STONES
VOICE	THROWN
WHEAT	WARNED

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

WRATH

Answers Page 17

### 10 Ways You Can Help The Ambassador Ministry

- Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "FALSE TEACHERS:..."

its emphasis on externals (v. 3). Fundamentally, they wanted to be “teachers of the law,” and they taught it both confidently and ignorantly at the same time (1:7)! Specifically, they were infatuated with “myths” (presumably far-fetched stories derived from genealogies in the Old Testament) and “endless genealogies” (i.e., unending discussion about family trees). The gospel of grace was nowhere to be found.

What did their teaching produce? It led to “speculations” (1:4). The false teachers started with Scripture, but went beyond what it plainly says both in its original context and its connection to Jesus. The result was an obsession with “speculative theories” that became “vain discussion” (v. 6).

And it wasn’t as if their teaching was “tolerable,” like a person today who talks too often about the tricky details of Revelation but who, overall, really loves Jesus. No, the false teachers’ devotion to the “deep things” of the law was damnable because it promoted “speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith” (v. 4, emphasis added). God’s redemptive design is salvation by faith and for his people to live by faith. But the false teachers moved people away



from that to a “different doctrine” producing “envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people” (6:4b-5a). The gospel was stamped out as they majored not only on the minors, but the obscure! The consequences were devastating.

In dramatic contrast to the false teachers, Paul reminded Timothy, “The aim of our charge,” the goal of apostolic preaching and teaching, “is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1:5). The false teachers “swerv[ed] from these” (v. 6) and instead produced divisive hearts, guilty, confused consciences, and hypocrites (not “sincere faith”). Love won’t ever flow

out of that!

**Three Lessons:**

First, church leaders must “charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine.” No church leader should like this responsibility, but they all should willingly engage when necessary.

Second, church leaders should

consider the fruit of their ministry. Are you seeing people grow in their love for the Lord and one another, or is something else produced by your ministry to them? Love will never flow out of an atmosphere of speculative theories and strife, but a culture of worshipping and listening to Jesus.

Third, believers must watch out for Bible teachers who major on the minors (or the obscure) to the neglect of the gospel and the “plain things.” Saying something a tad strange is normally not a problem. But when weirdness becomes the norm and Christ is overshadowed, beware! And think about it: we will go our whole lives and never achieve a full understanding of Jesus and his teaching. Why would we ever want to stray from something, and SOMEONE, so magnificent?

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Just For Laughs...

The Gust Of Wind And The Golf Ball.

This Pastor decided to skip church one Sunday Morning and go play golf.  
He told his assistant he wasn't feeling well. He drove to the golf course in another city, so nobody would know him.  
He teed off on the first hole. A huge gust of wind caught his ball, carried it an extra hundred yards and dropped it right in the hole, for a 450 yard hole in one.  
An angel looked at God and said, "What'd you do that for?"  
God smiled and said, "Who's he going tell?"



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## Three Things Tim Keller Taught Me

By Robin Schumacher

I've had the privilege for many years to work out with Tim Keller.

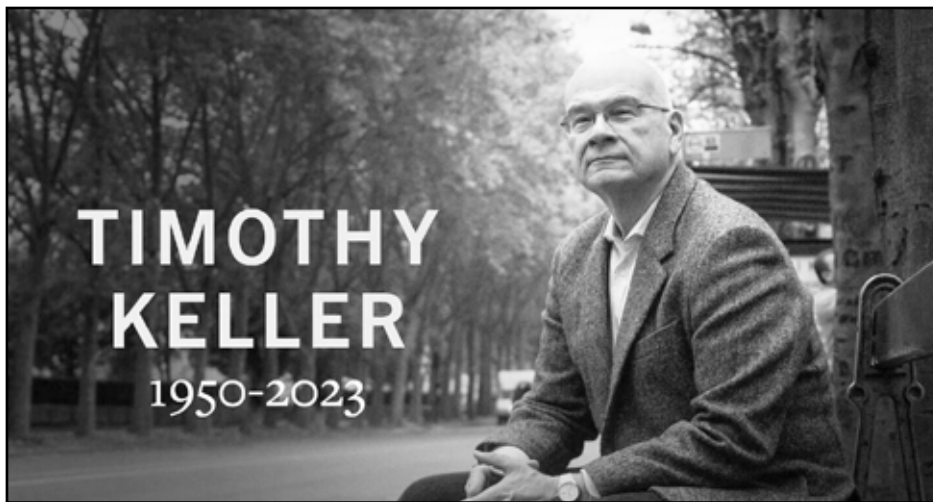
Well, actually, Tim and I never met in person. But I've listened to countless of his "Gospel in Life" podcasts while training at the gym.

If you're like me, you probably have a rotation of trusted Christian teachers you use to increase your knowledge of God. Currently, I have four, with Keller leading the pack.

Like many of you, I was deeply grieved to learn about Tim being ushered into the presence of the Lord He has served so faithfully. It's no exaggeration to say our world is a bit darker now with one of God's brightest "lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15) being absent.

The online journal I use to document meaningful quotes and links to impactful articles and videos about Christianity is brimming over with Keller material, and for good reason. The man is a master of communication with brainpower that far exceeds my own in every direction, especially when it's aimed upward as his always is.

It's difficult for me to pluck out the top three things Keller has implanted in my soul about God, but I'm going to take a swing at it nonetheless.



### #1 Good religion, philosophy, and science all arrive at the same place

We've all heard the line "All truth is God's truth". If you've ever listened to or read Tim's books, you know he is a maestro with few equals when it comes to bringing together diverse and vast amounts of intellectual firepower to make his point.

Tugging at the thinking of the ancient Greek and contemporary philosophers while at the same time summoning the thoughts of leading scientists and theologians, Keller will lead you back to God, one way or the other, with every word that comes out of their mouths.

And when he does that, he shows you that right thinking – whether it's purely philosophical, scientific, or theological

– all end up at the same destination: right in the Creator's lap.

Our problem with that fact, and with God in general, isn't so much intellectual, Tim said – it's usually either pride or a too-good-to-be-true attitude. "Grace is insulting," says Keller, "One side says they don't need forgiveness whereas the other side says that's too easy."

### #2 It's OK (even good) to be real about your faith

I remember laughing out loud during one of Keller's messages about faith where he stated, "People think that faith is something others naturally possess like good looks, athletic ability, etc., and think I'll never have that. When

they get into a situation that's bad, they think that faith is like your furnace and thermostat where your heat just automatically kicks on. WHOOSH."

Except that's rarely how faith works, he said. Most times, we're crippled by life's body blows and can barely speak the words, "I do believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

How true.

Tim admitted his own struggles with understanding both the difficult sayings of Scripture and events that seemed to not make sense in life. And that, he said, is normal so we shouldn't be embarrassed to feel that way sometimes or experience guilt when we cry out like Habakkuk in anger to God.

### #3 It's all about Jesus

**He does it in every message. Every. Single. One.**

Just today, I listened to Tim's sermon "Abraham and the Torch." Keller, like always, masterfully worked through the Old Testament text of God making a covenant with Abraham.

He got to the part where the Scripture says, "When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 16**

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8: "A MAN NAMED GAIUS"**

*to pray that prayer over everyone who reads this article, and instantly, your bank account would reflect where you are spiritually this morning?*

Now at first, we might say, "Well, I'd be fine with that. I'm saved. I go to church."

Time for some brutal honesty. That is simply Christianity-lite. Diet Discipleship. Saved, and in church is not quite the same as sanctified, set apart, on fire, in the Word, praying Jericho walls tumbling down prayers, and being passionately devoted to the Lord.

Too many of God's children are living in spiritual poverty, neglecting time in the Word and prayer, and choosing to play with the world rather than devote time to growing in their relationship with the Lord.

This is why this passage is more about

the spiritual fitness of Gaius, than him prospering in "every way." Because according to this prayer, if Gaius is spiritually weak, spiritually flabby, spiritually anemic and spiritually out of shape, then the prayer to "prosper in every way" is not going to amount to much prosperity in any way.

The Apostle Paul echoes this idea of being spiritually fit when he wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "...train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

So I pray that you too may be in good health, and to prosper in every way – but even more so, I pray that you might be spiritually healthy, strong in prayer, worship, and the study of the Word, living out your faith as you live out your life.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15: "...TIM KELLER..."**

passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram" (Gen. 15:17-18).

Tim discussed how God Himself passed through the sacrifices Abraham had prepared to ratify the covenant in the deep darkness that had fallen. He then made a sharp right turn to the New Testament and read an account of the crucifixion of Jesus: "From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land" (Matt. 27:45).

In his typical undramatic style, Keller then joined the two accounts together to show how Jesus became our sacrifice in the darkness to sign, in His own blood, God's covenant with us. Had I ever made that connection before?

Never.

But that's what Tim does every single time – he makes a beeline at the end of each message to Jesus to show us that the Bible is, ultimately, all about Him.

And now he's with the One he has pointed us to for decades. Our loss. His gain.

Tim's cancer may have finally overcome his body, but the man himself is now where every oncologist is out of a job. When, by the grace of God, I get to where Keller is right now, he can count on me looking him up to thank him for being such a source of knowledge, help, and inspiration to me.

And if there are gyms in Heaven, who knows, maybe he and I can work out together in person. Now that would be something.

*Robin Schumacher is an accomplished software executive and Christian apologist who has written many articles, authored and contributed to several Christian books, appeared on nationally syndicated radio programs, and presented at apologetic events. He holds a BS in Business, Master's in Christian apologetics and a Ph.D. in New Testament. His latest book is, A Confident Faith: Winning people to Christ with the apologetics of the Apostle Paul.*

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





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CONT'D FROM PAGE 9: FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF MONEY AND ANGUISH

research nonprofit and is named in honor of the former president of Planned Parenthood, Alan Guttmacher. GI has received \$2,000,000 since 2019 from John and Laura Arnold's foundation, Arnold Ventures. GI has been given a total of \$5,325,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation since 2018. Meanwhile, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has granted GI 27,002,700 since 2011. The Ford Foundation has doled out \$3,680,000 in total while the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given GI a total of \$19,494,409 since 1995. Lastly, Mackenzie Scott (former wife of Jeff

Bezos) – through her foundation, Yield Giving – granted \$15,000,000 to GI in 2022. GI a total of \$19,494,409 since 1995.

The National Health Law Program (NHLP) was founded by Ruth and Milton Roemer in 1969 to help low-income individuals and families with healthcare and also with abortion. Arnold Ventures has given \$485,000 since 2020. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has donated two grants, totaling \$530,000. The David and Lucille Packard Foundation has given \$1,428,250 in grants since 2018. The Ford Foundation is the largest

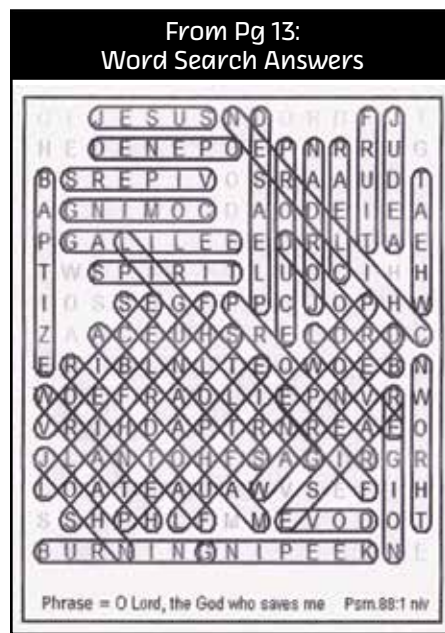
collective donor to the NHLP, with \$3,534,750 given since 2007. Lastly, George Soros makes another appearance with the Open Society Foundations, giving \$1,000,000 in 2017.

Physicians for Reproductive Health (PRH) was founded in 1992 by a group of physicians in New York City with a mission of teaching others to effectively defend late-term abortion, advocate against pro-life pregnancy centers and promote illegal self-managed abortions. Arnold Ventures gave \$250,000 in a two-year grant from 2021 to 2023. The William and Flora Hewlett

Foundation granted the collective sum of \$4,220,500 to PRH. Lastly, the Ford Foundation granted \$450,000 in 2006 and \$600,000 in 2008.

This is just a sampling of the big money behind Big Abortion. Many of these donors are older foundations that were initially set up to do good in the world but have veered off their original, intended courses.

As Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's ruling makes its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, we intend to shine a penetrating light on those inflicting such bodily harm and mental anguish on millions of women like Elizabeth.



Bible Trivia Answers · From Pg 13:

1. **Psalm 23:1**  
The **Lord** is my **shepherd**; I shall not **want**.
2. **Ecclesiastes 5:10**  
He that loveth **silver** shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth **abundance** with **increase**: this is also **vanity**.
3. **Matthew 6:31-33**  
Therefore take no **thought**, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we **drink**? or, Wherewithal shall we be **clothed**? (For after all these things do the **Gentiles** seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his **righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.
4. **Luke 3:14**  
And the **soldiers** likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do **violence** to no man, neither accuse any **falsely**; and be content with your **wages**.
5. **Philippians 4:11-13**  
Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever **state** I am, therewith to be **content**. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am **instructed** both to be full and to be **hungry**, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through **Christ** which strengtheneth me.
6. **1 Thessalonians 4:11**  
And that ye study to be **quiet**, and to do your own **business**, and to work with your own **hands**, as we **commanded** you.
7. **1 Timothy 6:6**  
But **godliness** with **contentment** is great **gain**.
8. **1 Timothy 6:7-10**  
For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and **raiment** let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many **foolish** and hurtful **lusts**, which drown men in **destruction** and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the **faith**, and pierced themselves through with many **sorrows**.

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# OP/ED

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## THE WORD ACCORDING TO PETA

by Jon Skillman

Have you heard the news? PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has elevated themselves to deity...not only to the point of speaking for God, but to the point of actually correcting God. In their arrogance, PETA has taken it upon themselves to rewrite the book of Genesis. Why, to make it more animal friendly and vegan acceptable.

But check this out...PETA has enlisted an internet AI bot to do it (AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and bot is short for ro-bot). I find it both ironic and idiotic, to try to correct the all-knowing God with artificial intelligence. A quick check of synonyms for artificial brings up, fake, false, mock and synthetic. AI can be programmed with a bias towards or against any subject. This becomes evident when comparing God's version of Genesis to PETA's.

In Genesis, according to PETA, the words animal and animals are replaced with the more generic words, being and beings in order to bring them to equality with human beings. But, God is quite clear in Genesis 1:25-26 that He made animal beings and human beings very different and with different purposes...verse 25 states; "God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds..." Verse 26 says; "Then God said, 'let us make man in our image, in our likeness,

and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth'..." So animals are not men and men are not animals...well there are exceptions.

Anyway, PETA's rewrite of Genesis 21 goes something like this: After the long awaited birth of Isaac, Abraham and Sarah adopted a dog named Herbie, and when they walked Herbie, they were reminded of how much better it is to adopt from a shelter rather than buy from pet store or breeder. Well shut my mouth and call me skeptical but I'm pretty sure that in 1829BC, in the Negev Desert, shelters and pet stores were far and few between. And if artificial intelligence couldn't figure that out then it's pretty stupid!

But wait, there's more! In PETA's rendition of Genesis 22, Abraham doesn't "slaughter" the ram God provided as Isaac's substitute, no, Abraham befriends a gentle lamb as proof of his faith and kindness. As Andy Griffith once said, "Don't that clutch ya?"

Obviously PETA knows very little of God or His word. If they did, they would be aware of God's warnings about adding to or taking from His Word (see Deuteronomy 12:32, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18).

Look, I don't care what a person chooses to eat or not eat. But if you mess with God's Word...you'll wind up eating crow.

**The Ambassador accepts opinions and editorials (op-ed's) as long as they are well-written and less than 450 words. Op-ed's will be published purely at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to submit your op-ed, please email it (written in MS Word) to editor@ambassadornewspaper.com.**

The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.

## USING THE PAST TO HELP THE FUTURE

The past 2 to 3 years have been full of challenges. Through the challenges, I've processed a lot and I've grown a lot. The Lord has been working in me transforming me into a different version of myself. Though it was hard-agonizing at times, it is what God thought I needed, and of course, He was right. In nutshell, here is what I've experienced over the past few years, described in big brush strokes.

For decades, I have battled Depression and Anxiety. Not simply the blues or reasonable worry. I'm talking about Clinical Depression and Generalized Anxiety Disorder. I was always been reluctant to call it Mental Illness, but that's exactly what it is. That mindset led to improper eating, very little exercise, obesity, and an all-around unhealthy lifestyle. I ate for comfort. I didn't exercise for...well...comfort! This resulted in a diagnosis of diabetes a year or so ago. I tried to keep it under control but lately it has not been. This led to further problems and medical tests, and it was recently confirmed that I have Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease with Cirrhosis.

Hearing the news was at first unsettling until I learned more about it and then I was devastated! How could I get cirrhosis when I never drank alcohol? Well, as the name suggests - it is what Non-alcoholics can get when they/we don't care of ourselves. The medical experts say that there is no cure and that diet and exercise is important only to slow down the progress of liver failure- when the liver cannot process the toxins in our body as it is supposed to. I do believe (and I'm praying for) God to reverse



**Seth Halpern - Editor**

the cirrhosis and heal my liver.

This wake-up call requires an immediate leave of absence. I have published an issue of The Ambassador every month for 17 years (even when I was having an open heart surgery). But now, it is time. I will be publishing the next three issues (July, Aug, and Sept issues) of The Ambassador as "Encore issues". We have 17 years of awesome content written by gifted writers. They are worth another look and quite possibly many readers didn't read it when the original printing came out years ago. While the ads and calendars will still be current, I have curated some great articles from the past. I trust that God will bless you as you read them.

I have been wanting to reprint some of these articles for a long time and this is the perfect opportunity. I have also badly needed time off to work on my health, physical and mental, so that I can return refreshed and creative once again. This is the Lord's vehicle and I have not been able to serve Him and you at the standard He has placed upon me. I appreciate all your prayers for my health and overall well-being. Thank you for your support.

***FAITH is about TRUSTing God  
even when you don't understand His plan.***

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