

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

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by Charles L. Jacob May 19, 2024

In 1984, two of my Christian friends lived together in Washington, DC, as summer interns. One worked full-time to elect Walter Mondale and Democrats. The other worked full-time to elect Ronald Reagan and Republicans. In August, as they returned to California for their last year of college, they laughed that each probably canceled out the efforts of the other.

How many Christian friends would enjoy the same kind of summer together in 2024?

Way too many of us care way too much about who'll win this year's presidential election. Though the partisan fires didn't burn as hot 40 years ago, Richard Lovelace observed a similar spirit then:

Every four years the American people elect a new president with the hope

conviction that if the right ruler would only come along, the world would be healed of all its wounds.

If I'm honest, presidential elections have meant way too much to me. I

*At the end of history, all empires (including America), will be like chaff scattered to the wind. Only one empire will be left standing:
Jesus's kingdom."

that somehow this will make things better. Economic downturns, crop failures, moral declines and worsening international conditions are all blamed on presidents—who in most cases have little control over events. In the hearts of the people is a groping, inarticulate spent the first decade of my adult life in Washington, DC, including a six-year stint as a political lobbyist for Apple Inc. I know what it is to live and breathe politics as a Christian. During the 1992 election, the Lord began to proportion my political energies with the gospel



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message revealed in Daniel 2. I've returned to the book of Daniel every election year since.

Political History's Kingdom Climax

In Judah's exile to Babylon, Daniel sees God's people suffer on a massive scale. He later sees the Babylonian empire vanquished by the Persians. For Daniel, the question that surfaces is whether the rise of global empires rendered God's kingdom moot. Despite all the bloodshed and appearances to the contrary, the Book of Daniel's answer is an emphatic no.

In Daniel 2, the prophet interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, where

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The Ambassador





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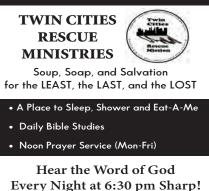
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P.O. Box 3133 Yuba City, CA 95992 Coordinator's Telephone (530) 671-7344 The Bride Church 1321 Peach Tree Lane, YC (530) 751-0505 thebridechurch.org Sundays 8:45am & 11am Craftsmen for Christ Tues 6:30pm

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The Ambassador

INSPIRATION

LANGUAGE LESSONS

by Paula McBride

Pedro, (whose given name is Graham), was a colleague when I taught English at a mission school in Mexico. We both wished we were fluent in Spanish, but we were surrounded by English-speaking missionaries. Many of the children understood some English, so it was easy to default to what was comfortable. Later, when I returned to the States, I took some Spanish classes, but still the language didn't "stick." Pedro, on the other hand took a different path. He signed up for intensive immersion training, living with a host family and taking classes where no English was spoken at all. At all times, he only heard, spoke, and read Spanish. In time, he became fluent and better fitted for service on the mission field.

One day soon, those who belong to God's kingdom here on earth are going to move to a glorious country, heaven, where we will join with people from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 7:9). Although the Bible doesn't say much about what the language of heaven will be, we might consider that it won't be the dialects that have caused so much strife and division throughout the ages. Could it be that the confusion of languages that occurred at Babel will be reversed? Perhaps, in the place where all things will be new, there will be a new language.



If this could be the case, what are we doing now to immerse ourselves in the language of heaven? If immersion means being "at all times" in tune with the dialect around us, what does the Bible say about what we should be doing "at all times"?

We can immerse ourselves in praise. David says, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). We can trust. "Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him" (Psalm 62:8). We can long for God's laws at all times as Psalm 119:20 says. Friendship helps us learn the language of heaven as is written in Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times."

The apostle Paul chimes in on this theme. To the Romans, he writes: "pray at all times" (1:10). To the Corinthians

he urges: "abound in every good work at all times" (II Corinthians 9:8). He prays for the church in Thessalonica that the "Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way" (II Thessalonians 3:16).

We don't know for sure what the language of heaven will be, but we can be practicing now with our praise, trust, longing for God's law, friendship, prayer, good works, and peace. There will be times of frustration, despair, and feelings of giving up, but we can press on because we have a heavenly "tutor", the Holy Spirit who comes alongside to strengthen and encourage us. We don't know the language fully yet, but we know at least one song: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:10). Hallelujah!

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Did You Know?

The Gospels tell us that Passover fell on a Friday in the year of Jesus' death. This fits the astronomical data for either A.D. 30 or A.D. 33, but not for A.D. 31 or A.D. 32.

Jesus' healing miracles were usually performed with a word of command. He had the kind of authority over disease that an officer has over subordinates. Twice Jesus "gave the order" without even seeing the patient.

Jesus never touched a patient in exorcisms, as he did in other healings. Exorcisms were done by word alone. The conflict was between the demon and Jesus, with the patient the battleground.

Outside Jesus' many healing miracles, the Gospels record a total of only eight other miracles. Five of these supplied food or drink to meet a real shortage. According to the Old Testament prophecy, the future Messiah would feed the hungry.

• When Jesus silenced the storm at sea, he was proclaiming his divinity. The Jews were afraid of the sea, regarding it as out of human control and only God could control it (Psalm 89:9).

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 businesses in the community.

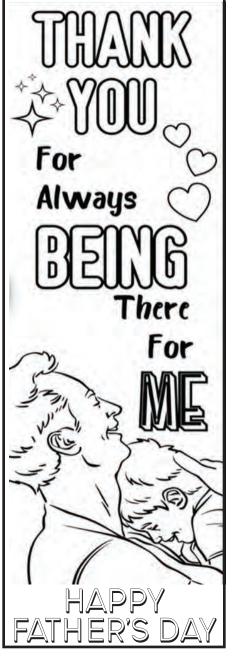
The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ. We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three 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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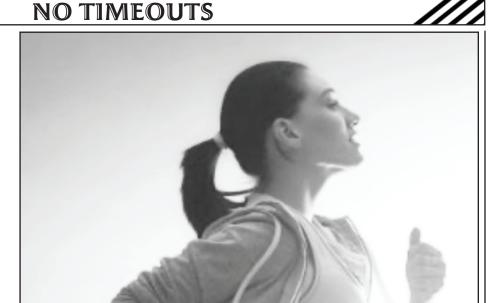


by Christy Boals www.gracefilledpurpose.com

I found it rather ironic that it took me over a month to write a blog about having no timeouts as a parent! In almost every team sport that I can think of, there are a certain number of timeouts allowed. Coaches use these in various strategic ways such as running down the clock in football. However, from the moment one becomes a parent, there are no timeouts allowed!

This thought originally came to me as I was preparing (or trying to prepare) for an important zoom meeting I had in just a few minutes. This was the moment that my 19-yearold son and my 11-year-old son both decided to push every boundary they had ever been given! Over this past month, which has been crazy with too many kid-related activities to enumerate, I have again pondered this idea of parental timeouts.

As I have mentioned in the past, I do begin my mornings with Jesus and coffee. After that though, I am running for all I am worth most of the day. As a child, I hated being sent to my room for a timeout, or horror of horrors–a nap! Now, I wish someone would send me to my room!



At this point in my parenting journey, having young adult children, teenagers, and small children, just walking out of the room for a minute can mean chaos breaks out. However, throughout all of this, Jesus is still sustaining me. I am trying to learn to rest in Him in my spirit, even if I can't physically rest (ideally in a beautiful shady glen in a hammock far away in the woods...) and be patient with everything and everyone around me. As all my family would testify, I am far from perfect at this, but I am getting better. I always find it encouraging to remember that Jesus needed timeouts with God too.

He wasn't afraid to step away for a minute, even though the crowds were all still needy. In this same way, sometimes I need to put my children into God's hands and take a minute by myself to pray.

I suspect that I am still many, many years from having regular timeouts, but with Jesus sustaining me, I can stay in the game!

"Yet the news about Him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:15-16



CALENDAR

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O<u>ngoing</u> <u>Events</u>

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 or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

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

EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM Church of Glad Tidings 1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953 (530) 671-3160 - 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 Church of Glad Tidings 1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak www.churchofgladtidings.com Join us for a night of worship, prayer, and freedom

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.

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

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.

"Ongoing Events" Continued....Keep Reading.

O<u>ngoing</u> <u>Events</u>

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City Feed your body and your soul.

• What Do You Need? • • Find it Here •

S<u>PECIAL</u> <u>EVENTS</u>

4th of July Picnic

Embassy of Heaven Campus/Church of Glad Tidings 1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak, CA 95953 Monday, July 4th • Noon - 4 pm Join us for our 4th of July picnic. Fun for the Whole Family! BBQ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Games, Water Slide, Bounce House, Zip Line, Volleyball and More! Limited Seating Available - Bring Chairs and Pop-ups Free Event - Everyone Welcomed

Vacation Bible School

Loma Rica Community Church 11234 Loma Rica Rd, Loma Rica, CA (Across from Gold Eagle Store) July 8th-12th • 8:45am - Noon This years theme is SCUBA, Diving into Friendship with God. If You Are Entering Grades K-5th Grade, Come Join Us for a Week Filled with Singing, Games Snacks, Crafts, Lessons, and Making New Friends.

Contact Seth Halpern, Editor - (530) 933-1385 editor@ambassadornewspaper.com to list Ongoing or Special Events your church is hosting. (partner churches have priority)

€	Prayer List for June 2024 •	Bíble Search Word
1-Jun	Unity of Churches/Global impact- Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!	
2-Jun	Pastors- That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit	HOLY BIBLE PSALMS PUZZLES
3-Jun	Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations that God would intervene and the leadership woud restore civil rights	
4-Jun	Pray for the futures of new graduates of High School and College	ISEXSPLDMNOQCZMASV
5-Jun	World Affairs- Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days	HQLENMKDOERUXXZNGB
6-Jun	Israel- Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem-and for an end to the war against in Gaza-	WFRSMMNIFEDBELIEFC
	the destruction of Hamas and the protection of civilians as well as limited Israeli casualities	K V R U Y P T Z T U W I M Z V K T Q
7-Jun	Veterans- Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get	ETVYHCZLEATXTSHGTP
	the assistance they need	CCMSEMAPRAISEANCGR
8-Jun	Mental Health- Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Heallth/	FYTLCSKHWHUGTATVHE
	Illness issues and suicidal thoughs, that they would receive support & treatment	
9-Jun	The Economy- Pray for the underemployed, unemployed and struggling	BAFBPRQZWORSHIPINW
10	small businesses- Pray for financial stability and resources	BEIYIPIHJWTXMPTDOP
10-Jun	Global Revival- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!	RVCTWAWPCRYPKSIVWN
11-Jun	Local city/county leaders- Wisdom for leading our community	SJEIHMFNTKCFOVXIEA
12-Jun	Pray against anti-smitism around the world expecially on our nation's	FOVRYUPOYUMTAESDAP
	college campuses	
13-Jun	Local Ministries- Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet	SNNISHPIZPRDMDTYRN
	needs (see page 3)	VSDGXESTDVNEOLERXN
14-Jun	California- pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and	UXAHSISOHDCMRQLBYR
15 Jun	Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.	ECKGTWKVOUBGODDBUM
15-Jun	Pray for a productive summer for families on vacation. And for family peace, unity, and enjoyable time together.	OCZMHXMEPLCEBJEXZN
16-Jun	Fathers Day- Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom and have a positive	
	impact and influence on the lives of their children	PRAYEREDERXWBPVBQR
17-Jun	Life- Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life	FIND WORDS
	for their babies.	
18-Jun	Human Trafficking- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and	BELIEF HYMNS REFLECTION DAVID MEDITATION SCRIPTURE
10 Jun	for traffickers to repent	DEVOTION POETRY SONGS
19-Jun	Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership	FAITH PRAISE VERSES
20-Jun	Discipleship- Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like	GOD PRAYER WISDOM HOPE PSALTER WORSHIP
	Him every day!	Hore Tokelek Wokshir
21-Jun	The Persecuted Church around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution	ANSWERS ON PAGE 14
22-Jun	Pray that children of fatherless homes as well as those in foster care would feel	
00 1	loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord	
23-Jun 24-Jun	Restore America! Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation Addicted- pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender	HOLYCROSS
24-Juli	to the Lord pursue and receive the treatment they need	
25-Jun	Race Relations- Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and	Funeral Home
	collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension	and Crematory, Inc.
26-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!	David Holyana
27-Jun	Homeless- Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local	Helping families honor the lives
	homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat	of those they love since 1998
28-Jun	Seniors and Elderly- Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.	
29-Jun	Pray for your neighbor- for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share	
00 I	the Gospel with them!	486 Bridge St., Yuba City www.holycrossmemorial.co
30-Jun	Marriages- Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord	(530) 751-7000 david@holycrossmemorial.co
	together	

The Ambassador

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Wishing all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers and everyone who has helped raise a child a very special day.



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June CCN Weekly Schedule:

6/4 - Christinah Uppal 6/11 - David Dena 6/18 - Living Logos 6/25 - TBA

*Schedule subject to change

We hope you can join us! For weekly updated detail emails, send an email to info@ysccn.org

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "FIGHT POLITICAL FEAR WITH KINGDOM HOPE"

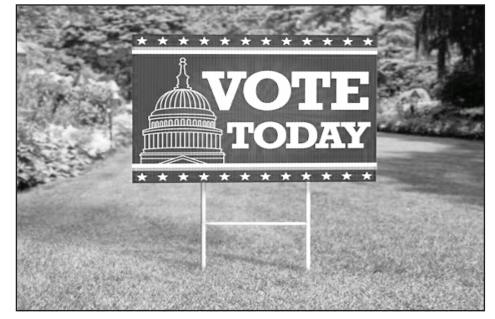
an uncut stone struck and destroyed a great statue representing the world's mighty empires. Daniel tells us that stone represents God's kingdom, and he sees God's kingdom as the climax of all political history: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.... It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms [our world's successive empires] and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever" (v. 44).

If we read all of Daniel, we note how powerful, awesome, and dangerous the kingdoms of men are. It's no wonder that, while working in DC, I felt the oxygen sucked out of my chest when I passed a standing president in the doorway.

But Daniel calls us to be captivated by something even more awesome: the kingdom of God. At the end of history, all empires (including America), will be like chaff scattered to the wind (v. 35). Only one empire will be left standing: Jesus's kingdom. The Lord's Prayer has us praying for this: "Thy kingdom come ... on earth as it is in heaven."

Our Undue Fear and Hope

This frees us to put every political election into perspective. Daniel encourages us to resist undue fear this



year. God's kingdom can't be hindered by any president. He says, "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people" (v. 44).

It has never been easy to be a follower of Jesus (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12). Daniel's friends survive execution by furnace. Daniel survives execution by lions. Despite the dangers, Daniel urges us to keep our eyes on the only kingdom that endures. If Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome cannot stop God's kingdom, neither can any president in our day.

Daniel also exhorts us to resist

undue hope: the kingdom of God isn't established by any political leader but by God himself. Daniel says, "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom . . . "

What the World Needs Most

While working in DC, I volunteered in a college ministry. A retreat speaker once asked the students, "If God made you king or queen of the world, what would you do?"

Students struggled to come up with initiatives worthy of such power. One said he'd make sure every person is offered a great education. Another said she'd distribute the world's food equitably among all. But the room grew restive. No one felt they were taking full advantage of global sovereignty. One student said, "I'd make sure every kid had a loving family." How does one politically affect genuine family love? Finally, another asked, "Can we make everyone become a Christian?" The exercise broke down. At this point, everyone saw they couldn't affect the world's deepest needs through politics.

This exercise was arresting for me. If global sovereignty was so limited in its effects, what was a puny political affairs professional hoping to accomplish? I have friends who've contributed much through politics over the decades. But it's critical to realize Jesus doesn't need your candidate to win for him to establish his kingdom.

Our Responsibility

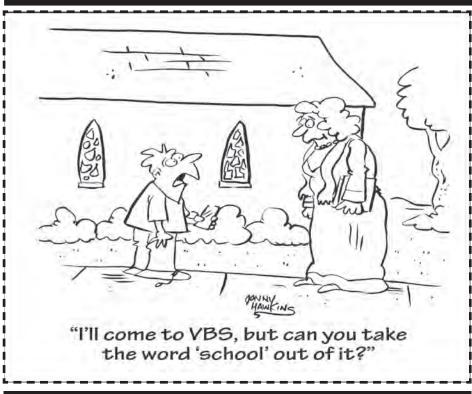
So as we vote this year, let's turn down the anxiety and frenzy. Billions of dollars and man-hours are being spent to call this the most important election of your lifetime. I'm 61 years old. I've been told this every four years. I no longer buy it.

Instead, let's humbly seek the Lord's will, consider the issues and candidates,

CONTINUE ON PAGE 11



The Ambassador



CONT'D FROM PAGE 1: "FIGHT POLITICAL FEAR..."

and confer together as "iron sharpens iron" (Prov. 27:17). Then let's vote lovingly and respectfully, knowing Jesus's kingdom isn't ultimately dependent on the election's outcome.

And if the relational bonds of your faith community are being fractured by politics, lovingly name the real problem, as 18th-century pastor John Newton did: "Faintly the power of the gospel is felt." Paul so deeply felt that the gospel was the "power of God for salvation" (Rom. 1:16) that he never worried about who Caesar was. Oh, that Jesus would make us so experience his kingdom as the pearl of great price and as the hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44–46) that we can get our heart-claws out of politicians and into our eternal king, Jesus himself.

Charles L. Jacob (MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary; BA, Stanford University) is an ordained Presbyterian pastor. He lives in Durham, North Carolina, with his wife, Diane. They have three young-adult children.



Fíndíng Freedom ín 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.



(A Note From the Editor: In this twopart series we will give you the tools to help you overcome or at least control your anxiety. Of course, Prayer is the first and foremost tool to bring healing. Here are the remaining four of the eight ways to control anxious thoughts.)

What Is Lovely?

This refers to whatever is beautiful or attractive; whatever promotes love and peace. When you're anxious, you may be tempted to believe that God doesn't love you, or you may be tempted to act unloving toward others. An accurate understanding of love begins with God's love, and the Bible is not short on descriptions of His love. God says that He has *"loved you with an everlasting love"* (Jeremiah 31:3). His Word is clear that nothing in all creation *"will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:39).

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the



truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4–8).

What Is Admirable?

Also translated as "commendable" or "of good repute" or "good report," this refers to things that are well spoken of or have a good reputation. When we're anxious, our thoughts often run through a filter of fear, doubt, skepticism, and worry. We tend to see things that are bad, negative, or destructive instead of seeing what is good, positive, constructive – or commendable.

"When people commend themselves, it doesn't count for much. The important thing is for the Lord to commend them" (2 Corinthians 10:18 NLT).

What Is Excellent?

MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE - Part 2

"8 Ways to Control Anxious Thoughts"

The final two qualities listed in Philippians 4:8, "excellent and worthy of praise" act as a summary for the other qualities. Excellence refers to moral goodness or virtue. We tend not to associate anxiety with morality, but anxiety can lead to immoral behavior if we seek to relieve our worries and fears through ungodly means.

"Make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with selfcontrol, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone" (2 Peter 1:5–7 NLT).

What Is Praiseworthy?

Many things are worthy of praise – a job well done, good food, a helpful friend, our family members, co-workers, and most of all, the Lord. When you

consider God's work in creating you, sustaining you, saving you, and giving you a hope-filled future, praise is the appropriate response. We have much to praise God for. Praise often leads to joy, which is a positive emotion to battle the negative feelings of anxiety.

"I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises ... I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:1, 4 NLT).

The Greatest Thought You Can Have

When seeking to control your anxious thoughts, remember that Jesus is the greatest thought you can have. That is why God says to "fix your thoughts on Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1). Jesus is the most true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy person in the world. And the great news is that Jesus is for you. He is with you. And He even dwells in you. When anxiety weighs you down, Jesus can lift you up and raise your thoughts to Him and the glorious future He has for you.

June Hunt, M.A., is an author, singer, speaker and founder of Hope For The Heart, a worldwide biblical counseling ministry. Her lifework has yielded landmark contributions in the field of Christian counseling.

"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."

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Psalms 63:4 New International Version (NIV)

Kug's Kolumn

I have been in sales most of my life. A good salesperson learns what common objections there will be to his or her product or service and knows how to effectively answer each one of them. Fielding each objection allows the sales process to continue with the ultimate goal of making the sale.

The same principle applies when it comes to sharing our faith. We need to know what the common objections are to receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior and learn how to respond to those objections. Let me address one of them and see how Jesus responds.

The objection: What about those who have never heard about Jesus?

DON'T GET STUMPED!

Let me summarize the first what happens in John 21:15-19. After Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him three times and Peter responds each time, Jesus goes on to tell him that there will be some unpleasant experiences for him in the future.

Let's pick up the story in verses 20-21; Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

And in verse 22; Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me. "In other words, someone's great



concern for someone else is in reality a smoke screen. The final scripture to consider is this:

Luke 9:18–20 Peter's Confession of Christ

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him,

he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

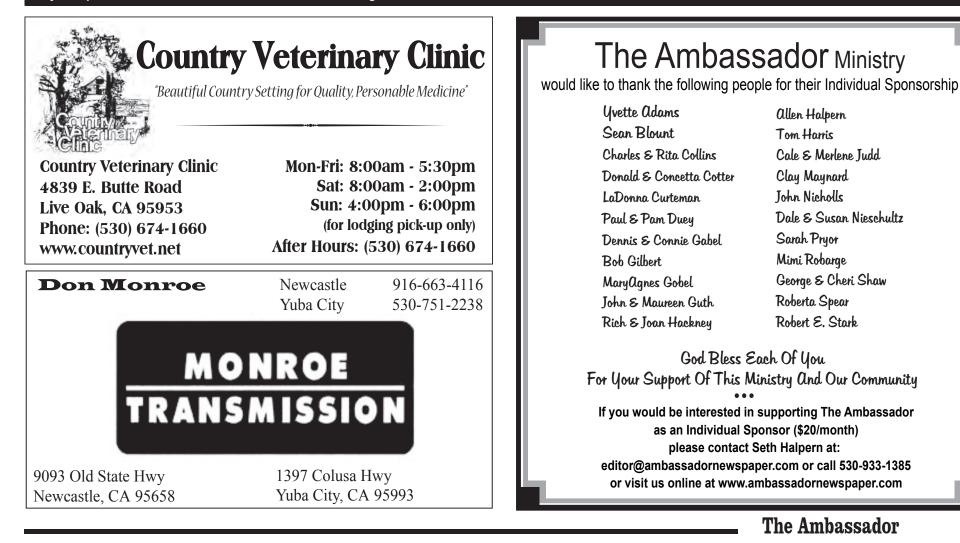
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

There you have it. I am not saying that you do not have to give an answer to their "what about others question)" but the starting point is keeping them on track regarding their response to considering Christ.

This line of logic helps me in how I witness, and I hope it will help you too. It's harvest time!

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



OP/ED

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

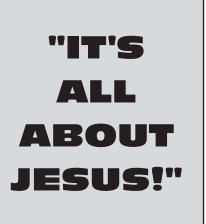
by Jon Skillman

You may have noticed that my articles often mention daily devotionals. There are several reasons for this. The first is, they start my day off on the right foot, they direct my focus to and on God's word. They sometimes remind me of things I have forgotten or, they answer some of those questions that lurk in the gray areas of my understanding. In addition, they often provide ideas for an article.

Just this week there were two devotionals that filled all of these reasons. One spoke of our struggle with idolatry while the other asked, who do you worship. These two subjects are dependent on the state of the other, meaning a change in one changes the state of the other.

We live in a very "me" centered society. We tend to idolize ourselves and place our wants above the needs of others. We quote snappy sayings like, "He who has the most toys wins." or "I'm looking out for number one!" The value we place on our toys (material things), or who is number one (usually ourselves) determines what we idolize and what or who we worship.

When we are truly born again, our thinking changes. The Bible says, "We are transformed by the renewing of our minds." The first thing we have to come to grips with is...It's no longer all about me, it's all about Him. Jesus says in Mark 8:34-35, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." This is commonly known as our Christian Walk. It is a walk away from self and closer to Christ (to become more like Him). The meaning of taking up our own cross is in reference to our crucifying



our old life as described in Romans 12:1. "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God" Why? Because, " this is your spiritual act of worship." Worship of who? Only God...there are no idols in His Kingdom, He is God!

What constitutes a living sacrifice? Denying yourself (Mark 8:34 above) which is confirmed in Galatians 5:24, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."

In the secular world there are many idols ranging from self to money... celebrity to possessions, a plethora of things to idolize and worship. In God's Kingdom...only the sovereign God over all creation is worthy of praise and worship. He is not an idol; He is God Almighty! An Idol is anything we place above Him. It all comes down to how we prioritize our lives. If you are a Christian, God must be priority one, followed by family, then the church. After that, plug in anything else...just don't let it become an idol!

As you can see; daily devotionals not only teach and remind, they lead us to deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

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WHEN "GOOD NEWS" IS BAD

Many of us spend time daily scrolling through our newsfeeds. Most of us complain about posts that are meaningless, time-wasting, or negative and discouraging. We'd all like to see something that would lift our spirits and encourage us. Right? Well, why then would I get angry enough to the point of writing about a post that "seems" like a blessing of encouragement and hope? Here's why.

Perhaps you are being inundated (like me) with posts stating "Credit BANK Alert is coming to 1000 members Before 12pm Tomorrow!!! Claim it" and "CONGRATULATIONS. Don't Miss out. Money has come to build a House for you to CLAIM IT". I pulled these from my newsfeed and there are plenty more.

Is this just positive thinking and hopeful words? I don't believe so. What's worse is that the many, many comments for these bogus promises are repeatedly "Amen" or "Yes, Lord. I receive it". This is more superstition than it is faith in God Almighty. I'm not quite sure what there is to gain for the person posting. Is it simply to get "likes" and "comments"? Maybe there is an even more sinister motive. I have wanted to

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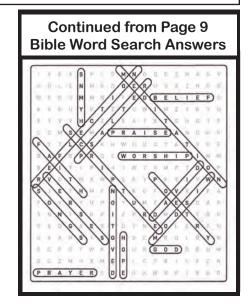
The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.



Seth Halpern, Editor

comment myself asking if any of the people "receiving it, claiming it, or Amen(ing) it got what they were told. I've got a hunch that the answer would be "No". These are simply lies and we as Bible-believing Christians must be biblically knowledgeable and discerning enough to know that.

I'm sorry (sort of) for venting or ranting about this but I have observed more and more false "prophecies" among those who claim to know the Lord. This is a very dangerous and slippery slope of allowing the flesh to take control. God gives us what we need. He is not a genie in a box. In addition to giving us what we need, God's mercy doesn't give us what we deserve for our sin. THIS is the "Good News"!



The Voice of the Christian Community, serving Yuba, Sutter, and Butte Counties

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IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, JUST COME