

The Ambassador

Delivering the Truth that Sets People Free

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

www.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM

ENCORE ISSUE



True "Liberty"

“Liberty,” or “freedom,” is mentioned nearly every day in America by media talking heads, journalists, politicians, libertarians, democrats, left wing elitists and even republicans—as the supreme and unquestioned ‘right’ to which we are all entitled. But what do those words really mean?

To the left—including anti-God, anti-Christian secular elitists in the media, entertainment, the halls of ‘higher’ learning, and civil government—‘liberty’ means the ‘right’ to say and do whatever seems desirable, at any time, at any place. Their idea of ‘liberty’ and ‘freedom’ is ‘progressive’ and ‘enlightened’ or so they tell us. It includes sexual ‘freedom,’ and

the teaching of homosexuality at taxpayer expense and the innocence of our children; removal of religious symbols and the Ten Commandments from public places—including our schools—as well as prayer

at public events, or mentioning the name of Jesus Christ or God...except as ‘swear words’ in their movies and entertainment.

Their definition of ‘liberty’ protects ‘freedom of expression’ including

pornography, flag burning, and just recently, the ‘right’ of college students to video sex acts amongst fellow students for campus television. It also means the ‘right’ to impose their secular viewpoint upon

Christian America whom they believe are moral prudes, ignorant, unenlightened, obstacles to their ‘freedom.’

To Christians, on the other hand, it means something profoundly different, with

truly liberating significance.

When Jesus stood in the Synagogue at Nazareth 2000 years ago and announced His forthcoming ministry, He said, “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has ‘sent me to proclaim ‘liberty’ to the captives...to set ‘free’ those who are downtrodden...” With these words Jesus revealed that His message would ‘liberate’ those who were in bondage and ‘set free’ the oppressed and discouraged.

The Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Galatians says that, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free” referring to

“The Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Galatians says that, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free”

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by Paula McBride

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THE AMBASSADOR
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 Website: www.acyc.family
 Pastor Greg Mansur

Agape Worship Center
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 Sundays @ 11:30am
www.agapewc.com

The Bride Church
 1321 Peach Tree Lane, YC
 (530) 751-0505
thebridechurch.org
 Sundays 8:45am & 11am
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Church of Glad Tidings
 1179 Eager Road, Yuba City
www.churchofgladtidings.com
 (530) 671-3160
 Saturdays - 7pm
 Sundays - 10am
 Thursday - 7pm

Church of God
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 Worship Service - 10:30am
 Pastor Jerry & Desse Gale

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hallwoodchurch.org
 Stacey Hanson, Pastor
 Sundays Worship-10:00 a.m.

Hope Point Church
 2727 Fir Street, Live Oak
 (530) 695-3996
 Sundays - 10 a.m.
 Pastor Sean Blount
hpnlo.org

Household of Faith
 World Outreach Ministries
 1179 Eager Rd., Bldg.#200
 Live Oak
 (530) 763-2756
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www.facebook.com/cccplo

Legacy Baptist Church
 1980 S.-Walton Ave., YC
 Sundays - 11am & 6pm
 Wednesdays - 7pm
 Pastor Dan Callaghan
www.fbcyuba.com

Loma Rica Baptist Church
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www.lrbaptistchurch.com
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INSPIRATION

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- HIS STORY -

By Paula McBride

My tenth-grade history teacher, Mr. Allen Peterson, was the first to impress me with the truth that the heritage of our past is really the story of God's personal interaction in the lives of men and nations. In that way, it is His-story, and not just with Israel, but for all people. As we celebrate the birthday of our homeland this month, let's look at some ways God's hand is evident in our history.

You might ask, "Was it the intent of our founding fathers to establish a nation built on the fundamentals of Christian faith or to establish a country that was spiritually neutral?" The Pilgrims who signed the Mayflower Compact of 1620 had no ambivalence. The Compact begins, "In the name of God, Amen" and says that their purpose was "for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith.

Earlier, the Jamestown colony, the first permanent English settlement, had been a commercial venture, not a religious one. Still, the largest building at the center of the square was a church. Services were held twice every day, morning and evening. On Sunday, services lasted five hours, and attendance was mandatory. You received no food ration that day if you missed the service, and repeated absence was punishable by a public whipping. That doesn't sound like freedom of



religion to me, so let's put in a disclaimer before we go any further.

Before God began working with America, He had lots of practice with imperfect nations. Christianity had great influence in shaping our country, but just as America is not perfect, our founders were not perfect, either. Our history includes a legacy of slavery and racial prejudice. Sadly, we have mistreated our native peoples and killed our pre-born babies. God, in His forbearance, knows all this, and still His hand guided our nation.

It was after Jamestown and Plymouth that our founding fathers began discussing independence, and not just religious freedom, but freedom in general as a gift from God. Samuel Adams, the organizer of the Boston Tea Party, said in 1772,

"The right to freedom being the gift of the Almighty...The right of the colonists as Christians...may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutions of The Great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

Benjamin Franklin saw the writing of the Constitution as difficult and contentious. He urged that each session of the Constitutional Convention begin with prayer. He said, "I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth--that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground with His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers

imploing the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business."

These examples of our founding fathers' acknowledgement of the hand of God in the development of our nation can lead us to say with the sons of Korah in Psalm 85, "Lord, You have been favorable to Your land." But the Psalmist prays for restoration of the people of God following a great catastrophe. He acknowledges that the people's troubles were due to their own sin and the merciful discipline of the Lord. He is pleading for restoration and revival. Let's reflect on our nation's blessed past as we celebrate her birthday, and humble ourselves and pray as God unveils His-story in the days to come.

JUST  FOR FUN

Billy paid special attention when the Sunday school teacher said that Eve came from Adam's rib. One day his mother found him on the floor holding his side. She asked him what was wrong, he said "My side hurts and I think I'm having a wife".

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

Editor/Publisher - Seth Halpern - Advisory - Dave Kugelman - Design - Teresa Davis

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LIFE MATTERS presented by Yuba-Sutter Right To Life “Pregnancy Centers Under Attack”

Imagine having such an absolutist position on abortion that you feel it is your duty to attack community organizations that offer women free ultrasounds and strollers. Imagine being so comfortable in your government sinecure that you conclude public funds are best spent harassing doctors and nurses who work or volunteer in the provision of pregnancy help for the poor. Imagine having so little regard for equal justice under the law that you will send armed FBI agents to arrest a father of seven who protested outside an abortion facility, but disregard dozens of attacks causing millions of dollars in damage to pregnancy resource centers and churches.

Well, no imagination is needed, because these exact travesties are happening right now under state and federal regimes that like to think of themselves as liberal.

Here are some examples just from the past two years.

In 2022, two researchers at the University of Georgia College of Public Health devised a map that shows where pregnancy centers can be found, under a derisive rubric that reads, “CPC Map identifies crisis pregnancy centers (also known as ‘fake women’s health centers’) in your area. CPCs primarily aim to



prevent people from having abortions.” Setting aside this crude description of the centers’ support services, vandals have used the map to encourage and conduct violent attacks on these nonprofits.

In June of that year, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), a breathless warrior against pregnancy centers and their effrontery in offering women prenatal care and baby clothing, joined Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and others in introducing a bill requiring the Federal Trade Commission to “crack down” (Warren’s words, used three times in one release) on the centers because they do not offer abortion to the clients who come through their doors.

Many state legislators were just as hostile. Last year, legal abortion advocates in the states advanced at least 26 bills designed to hinder the work of pregnancy centers that support the use of progesterone to rescue pregnancies in which babies are intentionally starved by the drug mifepristone, or advise women on what the medical literature says about potential mental and physical harms of induced abortion.

In September 2023, the attorney general of California filed suit against Heartbeat International and RealOptions Obria Medical Clinics in Northern California, seeking to bar them from offering a course of progesterone when women act

to reverse the effects of the abortion drug.

Earlier this month, New York Attorney General Letitia James sued a number of pregnancy centers in New York state, likewise accusing them of offering misleading information about abortion pill reversal, ignoring the rapidly accumulating accounts by women themselves of how the treatment rescued their babies from death. Statistics gathered by the Abortion Pill Rescue Network show the number of babies saved is now above 5,000.

In April, a progressive group filed a vague and unsubstantiated complaint with five state attorneys general asking them to investigate pregnancy centers regarding their privacy practices for women who seek their services. The complaints don’t “allege misuse of private health information” but say that the centers “may” violate consumer protection laws. The complaints have no basis and constitute harassment of the centers, which are transparent about the fact that they provide alternatives to abortion—once the mission of all of Hippocratic medicine.

These frantic efforts to stand between

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CALENDAR

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ONGOING EVENTS

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

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EMBASSY HOUSE OF PRAYER - Every Thursday Night 7PM - 8:30PM

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"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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1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak

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Join us for a night of worship, prayer, and freedom

BETHESDA HEALING WELL - 3rd Saturday of the Month 10AM - 12PM

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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

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.

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• **Support Area Church Events** •
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Contact Seth Halpern, Editor - (530) 933-1385

editor@ambassadornewspaper.com

to list Ongoing or Special Events your church is hosting.

(partner churches have priority)

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

• Prayer List for July 2024 •

- 1-Jul **Ambassador** - Please pray for this ministry, its impact and God's provision for it
- 2-Jul **HEAT** - Pray especially for the elderly & homeless to be protected from the intense heat
- 3-Jul **First Responders** - Police, Firefighters, EMT, TIP
- 4-Jul **Independence Day! Thank God for Freedom in Christ and in the U.S. Also pray for safety from fireworks**
- 5-Jul **Unity of Churches/Global impact** - Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 6-Jul **Israel and the Middle East** - For the peace of Jerusalem
- 7-Jul **Homeless/Poor** - Twin Cities Rescue Mission, A Hand Up, Salvation Army, REST
- 8-Jul **Pastors** - That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 9-Jul **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 10-Jul **Mental Health** - Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Health/ Illness issues and suicidal thoughts, that they would receive support & treatment
- 11-Jul **Global Revival** - Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!
- 12-Jul **Local city/county leaders** - Wisdom for leading our community
- 13-Jul **Pray against anti-semitism** around the world especially on our nation's college campuses
- 14-Jul **California** - pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies
- 15-Jul **Local Ministries** - Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 16-Jul **Veterans** - Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- 17-Jul **Pray for a productive summer** for families on vacation. And for family peace, unity, and enjoyable time together
- 18-Jul **Life** - Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies
- 19-Jul **Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden** and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 20-Jul **Human Trafficking**- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 21-Jul **Discipleship** - Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like HIM every day!
- 22-Jul **Marriages** - Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 23-Jul **Pray for your neighbor** - for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- 24-Jul **The Persecuted Church** around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 25-Jul **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 26-Jul **Addicted** - Pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord and pursue and receive the treatment needed
- 27-Jul **Senior and Elderly** - Pray for renewed physical and mental strength
- 28-Jul **Race Relations** - Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 29-Jul **Pray for the Widows, Grieving Parents and families** who are moving forward without loved ones. Pray they find peace and hope
- 30-Jul **Pray that children of fatherless or motherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 31-Jul **Health Care Workers** - Pray for physical protection and endurance

Bible Search Word



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W	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	H	K	Y	I	V
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H	G	A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	R	P	C	V	K	S	Q
C	A	O	V	X	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	L	I	F	E	T	M
R	O	R	O	R	H	G	H	W	F	T	D	W	R	N	I	R	Y
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S	S	A	H	S	N	N	P	K	I	N	D	I	L	M	H	S	A
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T	L	E	N	V	N	A	Z	S	M	Z	X	L	P	S	O	C	R
M	E	R	C	Y	A	V	F	E	H	B	M	V	O	V	A	E	Z
A	K	B	O	G	N	T	D	N	M	Z	T	S	E	X	C	G	O
F	W	W	H	R	W	E	I	N	O	J	W	W	D	A	E	W	W
R	T	V	F	A	R	U	E	O	F	Z	I	J	E	L	P	I	N
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7/9 - Stephanie McKenzie
7/16 - Shannon Glenn
7/23 - Jim & Sybil Weintraub
7/30 - Prayer

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We hope you can join us!
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: TRUE "LIBERTY"

the 'liberty' that we have in Christ as believers, through His death and resurrection. The word 'liberty' means 'release'. All who place their faith in Christ have been 'released' from the enslaving power of sin and death into a new and wonderful 'freedom' that unregenerate and unbelieving men and women cannot experience and do not understand. It is the only 'liberty' that sets men and women truly free.

The 'liberty' and 'freedom' spoken of by Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul is, therefore, vastly different from the licentious and unbridled 'liberty' of which untutored, unrepentant men of intellectual prowess and immoral behavior proclaim in contemporary America. The 'liberty' they espouse is a false 'liberty.' It is the corrupted and perverted 'liberty' of the flesh, which leads only to greater bondage, enslavement to sin, spiritual death, and the destruction of a nation. The 'liberty', wherewith 'Christ set us free' however, is the "virtuous liberty" of which our Founding Fathers fought and died to preserve.

In his March 4th 1797 Inaugural Address, President John Adams said, "May that Being who is supreme over



all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice, and the Protector in all ages of the world of 'virtuous liberty', continue His blessings upon this nation." Efforts to ignore 'virtuous liberty,' in favor of redefining marriage—including the granting of 'civil unions,' in accordance with the desires of fallen humanity—and denying our 'religious liberty' and 'freedom of speech,' violates what both God and our Founders intended—what George Washington called "the eternal rules of order and right"—and will fail to set men free into the 'liberty' that all must find if they are to be saved from temporal and eternal judgment.

The 'liberty' and 'freedom' of the secular and licentious 'left' in America comes from the very mind of Satan and is nothing short of pure folly to all who are seduced by it, but "Where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is (true) 'liberty.'" (II Corinthians 3:17) There is good reason to say to all American Christians, "Choose you this day" which 'liberty' you will serve. The future of America turns on that decision.

David Crowe
Executive Director
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5: "LIFE MATTERS..."

women and their own children have so far failed to stop pregnancy centers from offering help to women in need. A new report from the Charlotte Lozier Institute, based on surveys compiled from the nation's leading pregnancy centers, documents the dramatic expansion of the centers' contributions. In 2022, U.S. centers, themselves part of a vast international network, conducted more than 16 million individual client sessions, provided more than \$367 million worth of goods and services free to clients, and deployed the services of 4,779 paid medical staff and 5,396 licensed medical volunteers.

These centers both improve and save lives. A separate study by Lozier Institute scholars Moira Gaul, MPH, and Jeanneane Maxon, JD, determined that U.S. pregnancy centers saved more than 828,000 lives in the five-year period from

2016 to 2020. Critics decry that these centers "deny" people abortion "care," but the mothers helped at these centers overwhelmingly say otherwise. In 2022, a full 97.4 percent of women and men served at pro-life centers reported having had a "positive experience."

Americans continue to deeply disagree over abortion and its impact on our families and society. But it's time for the assault on pregnancy centers, and attacks on women who want to reverse the effects of abortion drugs, to end. These attacks are aimed at people and services who are part of the cure for our nation's spasms of violence against the unborn and their mothers. It's time we offered hope, not more despair, for a new generation.

LifeNews Note: Charles A. "Chuck" Donovan is president of Charlotte Lozier Institute, which conducts peer-reviewed research on science and statistics for life.



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.



FIVE BIBLICAL RULES FOR HAPPY MARRIAGE

- Never bring up mistakes of the past.
- Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
- Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled.
- At least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse.
- Never meet without an affectionate welcome.

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"Christian Seniors and Loneliness: Finding Connection in Faith"

As the years roll on, many of us find ourselves navigating the uncharted waters of aging. For Christian seniors, this season can be a beautiful time of reflection and deepened faith, but it can also bring some tough challenges, with loneliness being one of the most pressing. Despite the wealth of wisdom and life experience seniors hold, many grapple with feelings of isolation. Yet, there's hope and solace to be found within the community of faith.

The Silent Struggle

Loneliness among seniors is often called a silent epidemic. With children grown and possibly living far away, the loss of a spouse or close friends, and sometimes even mobility issues, the social circles of seniors can shrink significantly. For many, this isolation is compounded by the digital divide, where technology intended to connect people can feel alienating.

The emotional toll of loneliness is profound. Studies have shown that chronic loneliness can lead to serious health issues, both mental and physical, including depression, anxiety, and a weakened immune system. It is a deeply human need to feel connected and valued, and when this need goes unmet, it can profoundly affect one's well-being.



Faith: A Lifeline of Connection

For Christian seniors, faith can be an anchor in the storm of loneliness. The teachings of Christ emphasize community, love, and support, providing a framework for building meaningful connections. The church community, in particular, can be a lifeline. Regular attendance at services, participation in Bible study groups, and involvement in church activities offer not just spiritual nourishment but also social interaction and a sense of belonging.

Furthermore, the Bible is full of messages that resonate with the struggles of loneliness. Psalms like Psalm 23, which speaks of the Lord as a shepherd providing comfort and guidance, can be deeply reassuring. The promise that God

is always with us, found in verses like Matthew 28:20 ("And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."), can bring immense comfort to those feeling isolated.

Practical Steps to Combat Loneliness

While faith provides a strong foundation, practical steps can also help ease feelings of loneliness among Christian seniors. Here are some strategies that can be both uplifting and enriching:

Engage in Church Activities: Many churches offer a variety of programs tailored to seniors, such as social gatherings, volunteer opportunities, and special interest groups. These activities

not only provide a chance to socialize but also to contribute meaningfully to the community.

Leverage Technology:

While technology can be intimidating, it also offers incredible opportunities for connection. Many churches now stream services online and host virtual Bible studies and prayer groups. Additionally, platforms like Zoom or Facebook Messenger can help seniors stay in touch with family and friends who live far away. Another tool, called Portal, created by Facebook, does a great job of connecting you with loved ones who are out of the area.

Mentorship and Volunteering

Sharing wisdom and experiences with younger generations can be incredibly fulfilling. Many churches and Christian organizations have mentorship programs where seniors can guide and support youth or young adults.

Prayer and Meditation:

Personal devotion time can also combat feelings of loneliness. Prayer and meditation can deepen one's relationship with God, providing a sense of peace

CONTINUE ON PAGE 13

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Christian Community Network

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• DEVOTION TO JESUS CHRIST •

Are we completely devoted to Jesus Christ or simply to Christian causes?

Don't continue reading until you take a moment to truly digest that last sentence.

Many Christians are committed to strong causes such as the pro-life movement, standing for traditional marriage, speaking out against the dangers of drugs, alcohol, pornography, the plight of the homeless, meeting the needs of widows, orphans etc. And let's not forget about missionaries or those dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission. Others are strongly committed to their ministries like Seth with the Ambassador or me with the CBA. Don't get me wrong, once saved we are called to good works but even good works can supersede our devotion

to Christ.

Don't you ever wonder why so many good Christians fall away after many years of service to Jesus? Though reasons vary for losing passion for Jesus, I'm convinced that some fall away because they confuse service to Him for devotion and love for Him.

Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" After each of the three times that Jesus asked that question, He then said, "Feed my sheep." First love for Christ, then commitment to the cause. So take a moment and assess your love and devotion to Christ. Because, just like Peter, Jesus is asking us the same question, "do you love me?"

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

Don Monroe

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Continued from Page 12: "Christian Seniors and Loneliness..."

and companionship. Journaling prayers and reflections can also be a therapeutic practice.

Reach Out for Help: It is essential for seniors to recognize that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Many churches have pastoral care teams dedicated to supporting members through difficult times. Seeking out a trusted pastor or church member can provide much-needed emotional and spiritual support.

A Community of Care

Ultimately, combating loneliness among Christian seniors requires a community effort. Churches and faith communities play a critical role in creating environments where seniors feel valued and connected. Simple acts of kindness, like regular phone calls, home visits, and

offering transportation to church events, can make a significant difference.

For those of us within the Christian community, it's a call to action to be mindful of the seniors in our midst.

As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 reminds us, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." By fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, we can help ensure that no senior feels alone or forgotten.

In summary, while loneliness is a significant challenge for many Christian seniors, faith and community offer powerful remedies. Through active engagement, both spiritually and socially, seniors can find renewed purpose and joy, knowing they are cherished members of the body of Christ.



JUST FOR FUN

THE LIGHT TURNED YELLOW, JUST IN FRONT OF HIM. HE DID THE RIGHT THING AND STOPPED AT THE CROSSWALK, EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE BEATEN THE RED LIGHT BY ACCELERATING THROUGH THE INTERSECTION.

THE TAILGATING WOMAN BEHIND HIM WAS FURIOUS AND HONKED HER HORN, SCREAMING IN FRUSTRATION, AS SHE MISSED HER CHANCE TO GET THROUGH THE INTERSECTION.

AS SHE WAS STILL IN MID-RANT, SHE HEARD A TAP ON HER WINDOW AND LOOKED UP INTO THE FACE OF A VERY SERIOUS POLICE OFFICER.

THE OFFICER ORDERED HER TO EXIT HER CAR WITH HER HANDS UP.

HE TOOK HER TO THE POLICE STATION WHERE SHE WAS SEARCHED, FINGERPRINTED, PHOTOGRAPHED AND PLACED IN A HOLDING CELL.

AFTER A COUPLE OF HOURS, A POLICEMAN APPROACHED THE CELL AND OPENED THE DOOR. SHE WAS ESCORTED BACK TO THE BOOKING DESK WHERE THE ARRESTING OFFICER WAS WAITING WITH HER PERSONAL EFFECTS.

HE SAID, "I'M VERY SORRY FOR THIS MISTAKE. YOU SEE, I PULLED UP BEHIND YOUR CAR WHILE YOU WERE BLOWING YOUR HORN, GIVING THE GUY IN FRONT OF YOU THE FINGER AND CURSING AT HIM.

I NOTICED THE "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO" BUMPER STICKER, THE "CHOOSE LIFE" LICENSE PLATE HOLDER, THE "FOLLOW ME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL" BUMPER STICKER, AND THE CHROME-PLACED CHRISTIAN FISH EMBLEM ON THE TRUNK, SO NATURALLY I ASSUMED YOU HAD STOLEN THE CAR.

OP/ED

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PERCEPTION PROBLEMS

By Jon Skillman

“In the Christian life, it’s not how you start that matters, it’s how you finish.” “Being a Christian is a process.” “Spiritual satisfaction is not a good thing... It means you have stopped growing.”

These three thoughts from different Christian authors came to me in a rare moment of clarity. They have helped explain some of the misconceptions I have tripped over on my walk.

First of all, being born again brought with it a rude awakening... There is only one God... And, I am not He! I also came to realize... It’s not all about me. Wow! This was a bitter blow to my delicate yet ample ego, and it sent me reeling into the bummer tent to pout and ponder.

But with regular church attendance, aggressive bible treatment and counseling by mature Christians, I learned that I was never really in control in the first place. Oh sure, there’s that free will thing, but I only utilized it to better my worldly standing, which I now realize, was but a grain of sand on the ocean floor (Ouch again). I have to tell you this being born again can be pretty painful.

Anyway, much has changed in my life and all for the better, too. Yet there are

things I still struggle with. For example: Even though God’s word explicitly tells me it is not my job to judge, I still work very hard at it. I think I do this because I perceive myself as being pretty darn good at it. But I’m beginning to understand that my judgment of others is from my perception. I have learned that only God can see into a person’s heart, and He can even see things that person can’t. In effect, human perception is about as accurate as congress’s cost projection on healthcare.

My initial perception of prayer, or more precisely, God’s answer to it, was a bit off too. I thought whenever I encountered difficulty all I had to do was pray and presto! Everything was peachy. Well it didn’t always work out that way, and when it didn’t, I got a little tiffed at God. I have since discovered that God answers go w-a-y beyond my perception and understanding. Sometimes “No” is the better answer... And sometimes the answer is “Wait” (oh I hate that one). But wait is often followed by “I have something better for you.” This brings the old proverb; “Patience is a virtue,” into play because all things are done in God’s time, not mine. And all things are seen from His perspective, not mine.

Lord, may I never be satisfied... Continue Your good work in me, so that I can finish strong in Christ.

BEAR (NOT BARE) ONE ANOTHER'S BURDEN

I heard about a recent meeting of Craftsmen for Christ, where the men were asked to take a brick from a brother and walk hand in hand to a cross where they would lay it. It is a great symbol of what we are supposed to do for each other in the family of God. We often seem to think that “bearing” a burden, means simply to pray for it. The Greek word for “bear” (Bastazo) means to lift up and carry. In Gal 6:2 Paul says that we “fulfill the law of Christ” when we carry the burdens of another. This is more than a quick prayer. Prayer Chains are important when they don’t become gossip networks. Now, I’m not preaching a social gospel of helping only. Earnest Prayer is the most effective thing we can do for each other, WHEN it is accompanied by physical help (when necessary). This has always been a challenge for me personally, but God keeps pointing me to His Word. James speaks of telling your brother in need of food and clothes to be warm and full” (James 2:16) That’s like telling someone who has no brakes to “drive safely”. “I’ll pray for you” we often respond when someone cries out with real need. How nice of us! The New Testament writers



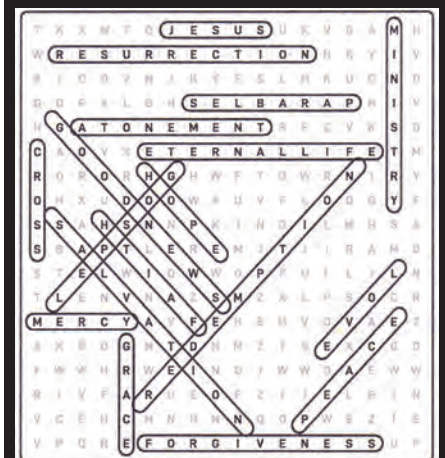
Seth Halpern, Editor

assumed that we would pray, but also told us to act. Remember, in Acts we are told that the early church believers sold their possessions to make sure that others wouldn’t have need. It is a far cry from our current culture, where we go home after church or Bible Study often forget the hurts and pains of our “family members” outside the home. Obeying God is simple but hard. Simple in instruction. Hard on the will. The Good Samaritan not only paid the “hotel” and “hospital” bill for the Jewish person in distress, but also, inconvenienced himself getting there. Let’s try to look and listen for opportunities to carry a burden and enjoy the blessing of fulfilling the Law of Christ!

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.

Continued from Page 9 Bible Word Search Answers



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A Declaration of Dependence

1. I believe that God is the sovereign ruler of all creation.
2. I believe that God is a God of order, not confusion or chaos.
3. I believe that I am lost and hopelessly ruined without His daily intervention and interaction in my life.
4. I believe that the systems of this world lie within the power of the evil one who unfailingly pursues the destruction of all of God's creation, including me.
5. I believe that reliance on human effort, human thinking and human willpower aligns me with the systems of this world and places me within the power of the evil one.
6. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to redeem me from the power of sin that would otherwise dominate and control my life.
7. I believe that Jesus alone can set me free from this slavery to self and systems.
8. I believe that Jesus calls me to a baptism of death in order to destroy self-sufficiency and system-addict thinking.
9. I believe that until I surrender completely to His will and lordship, I will falter in every attempt to live a life pleasing to God.
10. I believe that discipleship is the invitation to become a voluntary slave to the will of Jesus and the plan of the Father.
11. I believe that God's path of righteousness is clear to those who are led by the Spirit and trust in His Word found in Holy Scripture.
12. I believe that I must live by every word from the mouth of God, eschewing all temptations to rely on my own understanding, efforts and abilities.
I believe that I am called to emulate Jesus, accept his path, identify with
13. his suffering and experience the power of his resurrection.
I believe that God is trustworthy regardless of all my circumstances and
14. that He will not fail to bring about what is best for me.
I believe that others should see Jesus in the conduct of my life.
- 15.

To this end, I declare today a commitment to act only under the direction of my Lord and God, leaving behind any consideration of the world's measures of success and any attempts to determine my own agendas for life. I realize and acknowledge that this commitment will require my total dependence on moment-to-moment interaction with my Lord. Today and henceforth, I am a slave of Jesus the Messiah.

Signed _____

Date _____