



THE AMBASSADOR

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THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

by Jim Eliff

When wars have ceased, international leaders have become dust and the poverty of their souls is revealed; when enterprises crumble and the last dream has evaporated; when death has claimed the final person, and those alive are changed for their eternal future; when everything earthly and mundane is over, and each person resides in heaven or hell—what will be important? And what among all that is important will be the most important?

This is a question worth thinking about, because finding out what is important in the end will, or at least should, tell you what is important now. That which is important for eternity, that is, for billions of years and more, is surely the most important thing to God for this brief wisp of time called human history. And it should be even more important for you, since you live here for only a small fraction of that wisp.

What if, in your hurry and your worry about so many little things, you actually missed the most important thing?

That which is most important for all time, as is well known only to some, is Jesus Christ. I mean, not just Jesus Christ as a being, but Jesus Christ in the light of what he has done—his life, death, and resurrection. It is a huge gamble to dismiss the one who is the center of everything. There is, in fact, no hope for such a person. You know what it means to forget the most important element of some concoction—like the sugar in sugar cookies, or the coffee in your coffee and cream, or the lens in your glasses, or the

warhead on your nuclear weapon. But some of you have forgotten Christ, and his death and resurrection, as if he were not essential to life and eternity. He is, rather, everything related to life and eternity. This is why I say there is no hope for such an omission.

“What if, in your hurry and your worry about so many little things, you actually missed the most important thing?”

Christ's perfect life, his sacrificial and substitutionary death, and his victorious authenticating resurrection provide the foundation of all hope. As Dr. J. Gresham Machen (1881-1937) stated, "Christianity begins with a triumphant indicative." God declares that something is done on behalf of those who will come to him—Jesus lived without sin as the perfect lamb, took on their sin and died in their place as the adequate sacrifice, and was raised bodily over the power of sin and death for them.

To think little or not at all about the centerpiece of history, is to guarantee that you will have no place in heaven. It is not enough to merely be religious by going to church on holidays or even every Sunday, or doing a few other well-meaning duties. It is not religion that makes you acceptable to God. You must be "accepted in the Beloved," that is, in Christ's merits alone. (Eph. 1: 6) Only trusting in Christ, resting

your confidence in the one who lived, died, and was raised again, can assure you of heaven.

To believe otherwise, to add your little bit of religious activity to Christ as if you could impress God, is actually insulting to God. Either Christ is sufficient or he stands in need of you to satisfy God's wrath and to provide your acceptance before the Father. The declaration of Scripture is that he does not need you; rather, you need him, for without a living relationship with him through faith, you could not possibly be received by the Father. Christ cried out on the cross, "It is finished," meaning, it is paid in full. But "If righteousness comes by the law, then Christ died needlessly." (Gal. 2: 21)

You may say, "Anyone can begin a religion like Christianity." But you give away the fact that you think of Christianity as only a system of duties. You are wrong. It is about Christ and what he has done that could not be done by any other. If you are merely a moralist, using some Christian terminology at times, don't think you have become a true Christian. Moralism damns, in and of itself. Christianity is not based on what you do, but on Christ, his death, and his resurrection. If this is too much to swallow now, you will avow it later, but sadly, when it is too late.

It does not have to be this way. You may put your trust in Christ, terminating your confidence in yourself as sufficient to please God. You may enjoy now, before the end of time and throughout the rest of time, an authentic relationship with him. There is a world, an eternal world, of difference between trusting him and dismissing him as will one day be

Bridal Guide
pg. 8-9

completely understood. It is Christ who will one day be seen by all, rightly, to be the center of everything, the apex of history, the hope of mankind, the reference point of the universe, the conversation and exaltation of heaven, the eternal joy of millions, and the eternal bane of even more. And it is now that you should trust him. Copyright © 2003 Jim Eliff.

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✍ *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 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.

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Christian Courage

By John Piper

Christian courage is the willingness to say and do the right thing regardless of the earthly cost, because God promises to help you and save you on account of Christ. An act takes courage if it will likely be painful. The pain may be physical, as in war and rescue operations. Or the pain may be mental as in confrontation and controversy.

Courage is indispensable for both spreading and preserving the truth of Christ. Jesus promised that spreading the gospel would meet resistance: "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name" (Matthew 24:9). And Paul warned that, even in the church, faithfulness to the truth would be embattled: "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30; see also 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Therefore, true evangelism and true teaching will take courage. Running from resistance in evangelism or teaching dishonors Christ. There is a kind of cowardice that tells only the truths that are safe to tell. Martin Luther put it like this:

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle

rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point. (Quoted in Parker T. Williamson, Standing Firm: Reclaiming Christian Faith in Times of Controversy [Springfield, PA: PLC Publications, 1996], p. 5)

Where then shall we get this courage? Consider these pointers.

FROM BEING FORGIVEN AND BEING RIGHTEOUS - "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1). "Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven'" (Matthew 9:2).

FROM TRUSTING GOD AND HOPING IN HIM - "Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD" (Psalm 31:24; see also 2 Corinthians 3:12).

FROM BEING FILLED WITH SPIRIT - "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

FROM GOD'S PROMISE TO BE WITH YOU - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

FROM KNOWING THAT THE ONE WITH YOU IS GREATER THAN THE ADVERSARY: -"Be strong and courageous . . . for the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the

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by Sandra Dutra

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LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles" (2 Chronicles 32:7).

FROM BEING SURE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE BATTLES - "Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight" (2 Samuel 10:12).

THROUGH PRAYER - "On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul" (Psalm 138:3; see also Ephesians 6:19-20).

FROM THE EXAMPLE OF OTHERS - "Most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear" (Philippians 1:14).

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Dress For Success

By Paula McBride

I know I've lived a long time when I remember how I was expected to dress those long ages ago. Imagine me in high school wearing A-line dresses that fell two inches below my knees (I was too plump for the trendy shirtwaist style). It wasn't until my junior year of college that wearing slacks to class was acceptable. Respectable gentlemen wore suits and ties, and women looked like Leave It to Beaver's mom. Times surely have changed. Many of the world's great minds work from home wearing what might be inappropriate to imagine. Workplaces have "conversation" areas where brilliant movers and shakers sit barefoot and cross-legged on couches, fingers racing across their laptops. Instead of ties for the men and dresses for the ladies, teachers can wear comfy shoes and casual outfits.

Does what we wear affect how we work? Moses and Joshua must have had a rather casual dress code because we know they wore sandals. They'd fit right in with the eco-sandaled hipsters of today. Yet, when Joshua had his first interview with God after his promotion to leadership of the children of Israel, God was more interested in how Joshua clothed his heart than the environmental friendliness of his sandals. God had a big job for his faithful servant, and He equipped Him with the promise of His presence and the wardrobe for success.

"Joshua," God said. "Moses wrote a Book of Instructions for you to follow. Study it continually. Meditate on it day and night. Be strong, obedient, and

courageous. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do (Joshua 1:6-9). I know Josh was a good employee, but God must have wanted to nail down His point. He gave Joshua the same work order three times.

As we look toward the new year, we have sixty-six books of instruction for success compared to Joshua's five. On each page of that precious Book, God reveals His desire to clothe us with His righteousness. Sadly, much is also revealed about our determination to stumble around in filthy rags of pride and self-sufficiency. Long ago, the Apostle Paul wrote a message to the Romans that applies to us in 2011. He said, "This is urgent! Time is running out! Remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:11-14).

What we wear does affect how we work in the Kingdom of God. Outwardly, we must be winsome in a way that attracts others to our message. Inwardly, we must be strong in our convictions, courageous in sharing our message, and obedient in studying and applying God's Book of Instructions to our lives. Christ promises to be with us as He was with Joshua. He will clothe us with Himself. That's the way to be dressed for success in 2011. Happy New Year!

(Scripture selections from the New Living Translation)

Right, Wrong, and God's Existence

by Kyle Butt, M.A.

Everyone in the world believes that some things are right and other things are wrong. At times, people do not agree on the exact way to decide whether something is right or wrong. But it is undeniable that the concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, do exist.

The person who does not believe that God exists has only one choice when it comes to explaining morality—man must have thought it up by himself. However, since man is seen as little more than the last animal to be produced by evolution, this becomes problematic. A lion does not feel guilty after killing a gazelle for its lunch. A dog does not feel remorse after stealing a bone from another dog. And a female pig feels no guilt after eating her newborn piglets. Yet man, who is supposed to have evolved, feels both guilt and remorse when he commits certain acts that violate his "moral code." The simple fact that we are discussing morals establishes that morality—which is found only in humans—had to have a cause other than evolution. After all, one ape never sat around and said to another, "Today, I think we should talk about right and wrong." Even the famous atheist George Gaylord Simpson of Harvard admitted that "morals arise only in man." What, or should we say, Who, instilled a conscience in humans? The apostle Peter provided the only legitimate answer. In 1 Peter 1:16, he

wrote that we should be holy because God is holy. The only possible source of knowledge regarding right and wrong is the almighty God who embodies all that is good. In Ecclesiastes 7:29, wise King Solomon wrote:

"Truly, this only I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

To suggest that the morality inherent in all mankind evolved from a warm pool of inorganic slime in the great long ago is an inadequate explanation. Morals could only have been placed in mankind by a Being who understood, even to a greater degree than men, the difference between right and wrong. This knowledge should lead us to follow the directive Jesus gave in Matthew 5:48:

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

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Oh The Crosses I Bear

By Jon Skillman

In Galatians 2:20, Paul writes: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."

To me this means that at the time of my acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior, my old life and all my past sins were nailed to Christ's cross. Also, just as Christ was resurrected, I too have been resurrected into a new life in which His Holy Spirit dwells. In other words, with Him I died and through Him was born again. It is the cross of Christ that marks the beginning of my Christian walk.

This is further emphasized in Romans 6:6 which reads: "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." Even though I had considered myself to be a "pretty good guy" my body of sin was nevertheless... substantial, and a rather heavy burden that He took upon Himself.

All this has come to pass except the part about "we should no longer be slaves to sin." Not that I'm a slave per se, but there are still things that I have yet to let go of or things that still cling to my will. Even though the word "should" offers a little wiggle room... you know like, I "should" eat more broccoli, I think Paul's use of the word in this case takes into account my human frailty and the power of free will.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus tells me: "...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." To deny myself I must forgo my will and heed His. Man, this Christian walk is no walk in the park is it?

Now, I know what I'm about to say is probably not biblically accurate, but it

helps me track my walk with Christ. I see my spiritual trailhead marked by His Cross and on the path before me lays a cross with my name on it. Each day I pick up my cross and follow after Jesus. Well pretty soon the weight of my daily sin accumulates to the point where I can no longer keep pace and I begin to lose touch with Him. So, in order to catch up I stop, plant my cross, crucify my sin, pick up a new cross and hurry to reestablish fellowship. There are two ways of crucifying my sins. One is by using the nails of forgiveness provided me by God's Grace. This usually is a temporary fix because in all likelihood I will repeat the sin and have to go back and re-nail it. The other way is to use the stronger nails of repentance provided by my obedience to both His way and will. This will allow me to keep Christ in sight and not get lost along the way.

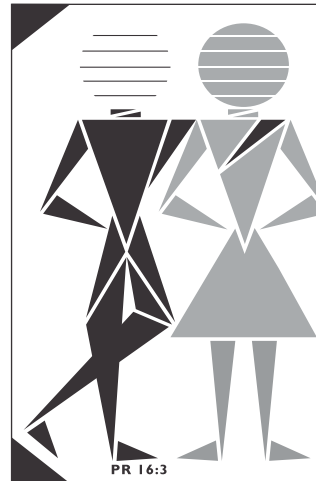
So I see my Christian walk beginning at Christ's Cross and my progress marked by a series of crosses, prayerfully spaced at ever increasing distances. And wouldn't it be glorious if my last cross lay unneeded at the very end of my trail. That would indeed be Glorious... it would also be a miracle.



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ENTERTAINMENT/MEDIA

A Peek At My Bookshelf Recommended Reading by Deena Peterson "Choosing To SEE" by Mary Beth Chapman (with Ellen Vaughn)

I can still remember the day my husband and I read online the news about Maria Sue Chapman. We were stunned, and heartbroken for this family we felt we'd known for years through Steven's music. To be able to share this book with you is a privilege I do not take lightly.

"Choosing To SEE" is far more than the story of Maria Sue, Will Franklin and that tragic day. Mary Beth truly bares her soul for us, letting us get to know her intimately and deeply. She's just my kind of soul sister! I'd LOVE coffee with her one day, either here or in eternity!

The book opens with the events of May 21, 2008, sharing more information than was gathered through the media. Have tissues handy! Only by God's grace and mercy was she able to re-live these events once again, for the purpose of sharing with all of us.

Mary Beth goes on to explain that it was never her plan to write this book, and how God orchestrated events to bring the book to life. She then demonstrates how her perfectly orderly life was disrupted by her God time and time again, and how she adjusted (sometimes willingly, sometimes otherwise) to His divine plan.

It was fun to see how Mary Beth and Steven began just like you and I began...in love, broke, and with dreams that seemed impossible. To see them work and strive to make ends meet, and how sometime the ends would move on them just as they do on us.

Celebrity is a myth. These are real, flesh and blood people, who may have a bit more, but still hurt, bleed, and suffer...and are desperate for Jesus. Watching Steven's career take off brought back memories...we've been fans from day one! I remember a cover on CCM Magazine with Steven, Margaret Becker, BeBe and CeCe Winans and one or two other artists, just beginning their careers.

The story of the Chapman family continues on, with Mary Beth very openly sharing her struggles with emotions, disagreements (he's Tigger, she's Eeyore--hey, reminds me of me and Dave!)...the journeys to adoption, and the beginnings of their non-profit foundation.

Then, that nightmarish day. The emotions. The testimonies. The help from friends, family and fans world-wide. And the aftermath.

HAVE TISSUES!

This is a gorgeously written book, filled with truth, pain and hope in the only Hope we have...Jesus Christ. This is a book written by a woman who's wrestled with God and acknowledged that He always wins. And this is a book that reminds us to keep praying for the Chapman family...and to look forward to meeting Maria Sue Chunxi Chapman in Heaven!

I loved every page, even the difficult ones. I had to read it slowly or I would get overwhelmed with emotion--it's a powerful book. And I'm giving "Choosing

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Happy Reading!
Deena Peterson

*An Independent Reviewer
Totally Dependent Upon Jesus!*

For more book reviews by Deena visit
deenasbooks.blogspot.com



Ten Media-Wise Questions for the Culture-Wise Family By Dr. Ted Baehr with Dr. Tom Snyder

Decades of research and evidence clearly shows that the mass media of entertainment creates the culture that shapes the hearts and minds of the average person, especially children and teenagers. That culture also elects the politicians who write the legislation, appoint the judges and hire the teachers that affect families and children everywhere.

To serve and protect you and your family, including your children and grandchildren, Movieguide®: The Family Guide to Movies, Entertainment and Culture offers the following questions you can apply to any movie, video or television program, to make you and your family more media wise and more culture wise, so they may choose the good and reject the bad:

1. What kind of role models, positive and negative, are the main characters?
2. Who is the hero? And, who is the villain? And, how do their character traits agree with a biblical hero or villain?
3. Do the moral statements and themes agree with a biblical worldview?
4. Are real consequences to sin exposed and rebuked?
5. How are relationships and love portrayed?
6. How are Christians, religion, the church, the Bible, and God portrayed?
7. Does the language honor God and people?
8. If violence is included, how is it presented?
9. How much sexual activity and nudity is included?
10. How appropriate is this material for my family and me?

"Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." - 1 Kings 3:9

Editor's Note: For more information and useful tips about this vital issue, and many more topics, please read THE CULTURE-WISE FAMILY by Dr. Ted Baehr and at Boone, available at www.movieguide.org. Movieguide®, the family guide to movies and entertainment, has the latest reviews of the latest movies, from a Christian, family perspective. It also has reviews of more than 4,000 movies, videos and television programs of the recent past and from the Golden Age of Hollywood.

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Bridal

Wedding planning and preparation tips:

When planning the guest list, remember that you do not need to invite your co-workers. If there is some one that you work with that you are very close to, that is one thing but inviting 100 people from the office is just a waste of your money on the invitations because only the ones that you are close to will come anyway.

The first step in wedding planning is deciding how much money you are going to spend and make a budget. When planning your wedding budget allow 25% more for extras that you haven't planned for.

Order the invitations four months in advance. Invitations should be mailed four to six weeks in advance. Take the invitations to the post office to be weighted for sufficient postage.

On your wedding day bring along an emergency kit with a needle and thread, safety pins, hairpins, hairspray, nail polish and extra pantyhose.

Start shopping for a wedding dress six months in advance. You will need several fittings before it is perfect.

Do your hair and makeup before putting on your wedding dress.

Plan your honeymoon six months in advance. Make all arrangements and reservations well in advance.

If your budget is small, share your joy and happiness with only family and your closest friends.

When selecting a caterer try to sample their food before hiring them. If it is a restaurant, go there to have dinner before you hire them.

Invitations should always be addressed by pen, preferably a black fountain pen.

Plan your budget first. The rest you can fit into that budget.

If you and your fiancée have a disagreement, work it out without involving either set of parents.

When shopping for your wedding dress, state your price range at the beginning.

Planning a wedding takes a lot of time. If you don't have the time, hire a wedding consultant.

Remember to always send a "Thank you" note for all wedding gifts you receive.

When choosing a wedding date, take your guests into consideration. Avoid family birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Also think about those that will be traveling.

When you are meeting with a florist for wedding flowers, know what your budget will be and the colors you have chosen.

Eat something before your wedding. Even though you might not feel hungry, try to swallow just a few bites. You don't want to faint on your big day!

Make detailed photocopies of your wedding day schedule beginning that morning and continuing until your departure for your honeymoon. Give copies of the schedule to all parents as well as everyone in the wedding party.

Don't hesitate to ask family and friends to help with preparations. Choose the appropriate task for the person you are asking.

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Guide



5 tips from Danielle Bryan

Let your photographer know in advance your style.

Wear comfortable shoes (you don't want to give that look of discomfort)

Brides: make sure you use matte looking makeup, you don't want a shiny face!

Be spontaneous with your emotions- those can be the best candid shots.

Make sure your well rested & have lots of snacks throughout the day!

5 books
To Prepare You For Your Marriage
(Contributed by Bill Jens/Yuba-Sutter
Healthy Marriage Project)

The Five Love Languages
by Gary Chapman

Sheet Music
by Kevin Leman (1)

Fall in Love, Stay in Love
by Willard Harley

**Before I Do- Preparing for the
Full Marriage Experience**
by K Jason Krafsky

10 Great Dates – Before I Do
by David & Claudia Arp (2)

(1) Get your sex life off to a great start. If your guy doesn't read books? This can change his mind

(2) This also offered as a class starting Jan 7th
(<http://www.yubasuttermarriage.com/classesseminars/datingengaged.html>)

Difficulty finding the books listed above?
They can be purchased thru the
YSHMP – call 671-6069

Danielle Bryan
PHOTOGRAPHY



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POLITICS/CULTURE

EPIC Bible College On A Mission to Make a Difference In the World

In an impressive quest for academic excellence, EPIC Bible College is on a mission, encouraging students to look for experience outside of the classroom as an important part of their educational studies. The college's extensive work-study programs provide opportunities for students to travel around the world to meet and work with others less fortunate in desolate and challenging cultures including Africa, Mexico and the Ukraine. These hands-on experiences offer enrichment, bring peace and give the students a glimpse of post-graduate life as they pursue their own careers.

Most recently, Ken Bluemel, an EPIC instructor and pastor, led a mission trip to Mindanao, a small island in the Philippines. The trip was designed to help the poverty stricken and often violent island to rebuild their faith and fellowship. "We worked, built cultural bridges, shared the gospel, ministered to the children, built and dedicated a church," said Pastor Ken. "Through these missions we all experience deep cross-cultural outreach in places that are hard to get to, but full of personal and spiritual rewards."

Through their teachings, EPIC Bible College has helped to place hundreds of graduates in leadership positions in over 32 countries around the globe – assisting a worldwide population struggling to achieve basic human needs in the 21st century.

Operating quietly and with tremendous success over the past 36 years, EPIC has now proven to be a bright spot on

the economic horizon. The school ranks in the top 10 U.S. colleges in similar size and degree programs (Federal Government Ranking: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System-IPEDS) offering specific academic programs in education, music, psychology, counseling and Christian ministry. The Sacramento Business Journal has ranked the college a competitive 21 out of 25 in their 2009 Book of Lists, along side schools including California State University, Sacramento and UC Davis.

With a record breaking enrollment increase of 78% over the past two years, and a 22% enrollment increase just this Fall, the college has initiated a well-planned growth strategy for a new campus center which includes a search and acquisition phase for enough land and space to continue growth through the next decade.

The new college campus will provide for large, state-of-the-art classrooms, library, resource center, chapels and administrative and student services offices, thus allowing the college to continue its current programs and expand to include online, graduate and doctoral degree programs. The college leaders are also launching a multi-million dollar capital campaign in 2011 that involves alumni and community business leaders to assure its financial stability over the long term.

"The necessity for a new campus was inevitable," stated Harden. "We are



blessed with continued enrollment increase. Our need is mission critical! "

To learn more about admission, scholarship and giving opportunities, please contact Dr. Ronald W. Harden, Epic Bible College, 916-348-4689.

"What I like best about the Ambassador is that it offers insight and information about what is going on in our culture, the world, politics, etc. and at the same time it offers information about our community and the surrounding areas. This local information includes ministries, the marketplace and the information is provided by local people. I look forward to reading it every month!"

~Darlene Myers



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ONGOING EVENTS

Christian Business Alliance Luncheon

Every 1st Tue @ Noon
Bonanza Inn, Yuba City
Join us for Lunch, Fellowship and God's Word! For info contact Dave Kugelman 530-632-9292

Right to Life Monthly Meeting

1st Wed., 7pm (1st Wed of every month)
St. Isidore's Community Parish Hall Conference Room. Business Meeting open to the all interested in pro-life issues. For more info, visit www.ystrtl.org

ME Dessert (Marriage Educators)

Mon 6:30-8PM (Monthly 2nd Monday)
@ The Cookie Tree, YC
1st timers Welcome! Have a cup and a cookie while listening to what others are & planning to do to strengthen relationships and families. If you have an interest in strengthening relationships, we can fan your flame. Call Robbie @671-6069 or visit www.YubaSutterMarriage.com

Free Coffee Friday (New)

7-9am Hallwood Church of the Nazarene, 2825 Hwy 20, Marysville
2nd & 4th Friday of each summer month. Free coffee and donuts to help your morning commute.

Souper Mondays

First United Meth. Church, YC
Monday's 12-1pm
Enjoy a free car wash while you have a BBQ lunch on us"

WISE (Women In Search of Excellence)

Bible Study
Cornerstone Church
Tue. 7pm

FREE Karate Classes

First Baptist Church of Olivehurst
Mon 6:30pm
FREE karate classes taught from a Christian perspective. 743-1831 for info, Pastor Miguel.

DIVORCE CARE

Church of Glad Tidings
1179 Eager Road off Hwy 99
Wednesdays 7 - 8:30pm
A Divorce Care group is a special place of encouragement, information and sharing. Divorce care groups meet weekly, providing you with an ongoing "support team" as you deal with the issues surrounding your separation or divorce. Info: 530-671-6069 www.YubaSutterMarriage.com

Weekly Recovery Groups

Crossroads Community Church
Sundays 7-8pm and at Noon on Thursdays.
We also offer a Grief Recovery Group on Wednesday Evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, please call Joyce Jordan at: 674-3441.

Celebrate Recovery

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Tues 7pm - 674-9210

Celebrate Recovery

Loma Rica Community Church - Moy Hall.
Fri., 7pm.
Call church office for more information 743-5435.

Crossroads Clothes Closet

Crossroads Community Church, YC
Shop at our - FREE Clothes given away! Open weekdays 10-noon & 2:00 -4:00 pm

AWANA

Wed's, 5:45-7:45 PM during the school year
Evangelical Free Church
3785 Olive Hwy., Oroville
For information please call 533-6866
Awana is a boys and girls club consisting of small group time, games, large group time. Awards are given for Bible verse memorization and handbook achievement. For ages 2 through the eighth grade.

Prayer Vigil for LIFE!

Last Wed of each month, 4-5pm
Join us as we gather with people of faith throughout our area, as we peacefully pray on the sidewalk at the Yuba City Planned Parenthood. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month. For more info, please contact Heather Pugh (530)751-9349.

WestWord Riders Motorcycle Ministry

Gridley Grill, 484 Hwy 99, Gridley
January 15th, 8:30am
The WestWord Riders motorcycle fellowship meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. Meetings are followed by a planned ride so dust off that helmet and join us! For any other information contact Willy Alongi at 701-1045.

FREE YARN CRAFT Class

First Baptist Church of Olivehurst - 1777 8th Ave, Olivehurst
Monday's, 10am.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Hope Point Nazarene, 600 N. George Washington Blvd, Yuba City
Wed, 6:30pm
Hope Point Nazarene, 2727 Fir Street, Live Oak
Fri, 6:30pm

Join us for this Christ-centered recovery group that provides a safe place for you with people who will love you through your pain, and celebrate with you during your victories. The group meets weekly, so visit us any time. Contact Jim Myers at 635-4688 for more information.

Knit & Crochet Women's Fellowship

First Baptist Church of Olivehurst, 1777 -8th Avenue
Mon 10am - Noon
Practice your yarn craft or learn a new one with us. Knifty Knitters are welcome. Bring your own project or work on a charity item that we donate to those in need in the community. Contact Vivian 530-301-9841 for further information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PAIRS ESSENTIALS

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27
Thursdays 6:30 - 9:20pm
Church of Glad Tidings
1179 Eager Road, Yuba City
(Hwy 99 at Eager Rd)
Registration/Info: 530-671-6069
www.YubaSutterMarriage.com
This course teaches participants skills and strategies to establish positive attitudes, behaviors, and patterns of emotional expression that lead to healthy habits for a loving, lasting relationship. For individuals and couples.

10 GREAT DATES BEFORE YOU SAY "I DO"

Begins Jan 7, 2011
Friday nights 6:30 - 8:30pm
Emmanuel Faith Tabernacle
5286 Feather River Blvd., Linda
Registration/Info: 530-743-8555
www.YubaSutterMarriage.com
Couples will love growing together while going out together. Share your hopes and dreams, appreciate your differences, communicate and connect, evaluate your relationship, celebrate romance, and more.

Faith Christian Schools-Candy Sale

January 13-February 1
Purchase World's Finest Chocolate from our elementary students or at either school office. Bars and boxes are \$2.00 each and contain coupons for Round Table Pizza valued at \$1.00-\$3.00. Proceeds benefit the FCS Scholarship Fund. Call (530) 674-5474 for information

Feel the Power

Hallwood Community Church of the Nazarene 2825 Hwy 20 Marysville, CA. 95901
Sunday January 16, 2011 at 10:30am
Recorded into the Guinness Book of Records Jon Pritikin uses feats of strength to deliver the powerful message of Christ. Whether it's using his teeth to bend steel rebar, shattering a baseball bat over his leg, or rolling a frying pan Jon appeals to all ages with his inspiring message.

Anger Resolution Seminar

Hope Point Nazarene Church_600 N. George Washington Blvd. Y.C
Sundays, at 5pm, January 23 through March 27
Don't "manage" anger. Resolve it! This nine week course provides practical answers to equip individuals to conquer anger in their lives and also help others come to freedom. Register online at hopepointnaz.org. Registration is \$35 (includes seminar workbook).

Faith Christian High School Homecoming Games

January 28
At the Clarence A. Summy Gymnasium - 3105 Colusa Hwy, Yuba City
FCS vs. Country Day -Varsity Girls play at 6:00 p.m. and Varsity Boys at 7:30 p.m. Call (530) 674-5474 for information. King & Queen crowned after the Boys Varsity game.

Faith Christian Schools Auction Drawing Tickets

Available Now
January 2011
3105 Colusa Hwy. Yuba City
Apple Ipad, Side of Beef, or 2011-12 Season Tickets for FCS Sports & Drama - \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00. Visit www.faithchristianschool.com or call (530) 674-5474 for information.

Faith Christian Schools Annual Auction & Dinner Reservations

January 2011
Now taking reservations for the 20th Annual FCS Auction & Dinner event that is scheduled for April 1, 2011 at the Hope Point Nazarene Church in Yuba City. Visit www.faithchristianschool.com or call (530) 674-5474 for details.

A Hand Up Ministries Annual Tri-Tip Fundraising Banquet

Hosted by Glad Tidings Church/Embassy of Heaven
Feb. 3rd @ 6 PM
Come join us for some good fellowship outstanding food and fun and share in the joy of helping make some one less fortunate's life a little brighter..Tickets are \$20 each available at Church of Glad Tidings, Crosspointe Books or by calling 671-1260

PICK-A-PARTNER

Feb 4th & 5th
Friday, Pt 1 6:30-9:30pm
Saturday, Pt 2 8:30am - 1:30pm
Registration/Info: 530-671-6069
www.YubaSutterMarriage.com
Picking the right partner may be the single most important predictor for long-term relationship success. You'll learn everything you need to pick the best partner for you and how to grow your relationship so that it will be a happy, healthy union that lasts.



Happy
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Year
2011

COMMUNITY

WWW.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM

Brilliant Outreach Strategy Uses JESUS Kiosk at Mall

by Teresa Neumann

"We're just trying to listen to the voice of Jesus and simply follow Him into the marketplace, which is one of the places He is working."

(Lansing, Michigan)—Informational kiosks abound at malls and tourist spots around the world. One such kiosk—named the JESUS kiosk—at the Meridian Mall near Lansing, Michigan, has been rented out by a group of Christians affiliated with Meridian Marketplace Strategy.

Notes a report in NCN News: "The project is as simple as renting kiosk space in a mall, putting the JESUS film on a loop, and letting the Holy Spirit begin to work. The Michigan District did just this with encouraging preliminary results. The kiosk is equipped with televisions featuring the JESUS film in various languages such as American Sign Language, Mandarin, Hindi, and Arabic. The 'He Cares We Care' kiosk is operational from 9:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

and staffed with volunteers for a portion of the time. Comment cards are collected throughout the day. Often the volunteers are able to pray with visitors."

According to the report, people have requested prayer for homelessness, job needs, obedience, strength for service to Christ, stress, seizures, confusion about God, foster custody court cases, cancer, families, marriages, churches, the lost, world peace, depression, and disconnected utilities. One shopper reportedly wrote, "Before I came (and visited the kiosk), I felt the world did not care; now I feel there are people who care." Another commented,

"We need this—the world is a mess."



As a seafood lover, Larry could not pass up the opportunity that he was presented with.

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Where To From Here?

Okay, here it is another article on what to do for the New Year. You know what to expect, right? What bad habits are you going to give up? What good habits are you going to start? What new goals are you going to set? Join a gym? Get out of debt? Change jobs? Reconcile damaged relationships? You get the idea?

I would like to make one simple suggestion to launch you into an effective and gratifying 2011. Guaranteed! (By the way, this isn't a TV evangelist's promise of financial prosperity.) Actually I won't make a suggestion; instead I will ask you a question. Are you a committed follower of Jesus Christ? (Please re-read the question and take some time to meditate on it.) The following verses should help you to sincerely answer that question:

• John 14:15 "If you love me, obey my commandments.

• John 15:14 "You are my friends if you obey me."

So, based on these verses, are you a committed follower of Jesus Christ? If the answer is yes, then my guarantee stated above applies. Notice the words I used; effective and gratifying. If you are committed to Jesus (walking in

obedience) then you will be effective for His purposes and as a result you will feel gratified. What a deal. The world is looking for something genuine and the sad truth is that most Christians live in the world of compromise which destroys our Christian witness. The challenge for all of us who claim the name of Jesus is to completely sell out to Him living for Him in complete obedience. (I know I am repetitive with the word obedience because it is foundational to our relationship with Christ).

With that said, I would like to invite you to join the Christian Business Alliance in 2011. We are Christians representing over 20 different denominations who meet weekly in a variety of locations in the Yuba Sutter Marketplace. We meet each Tuesday at noon to pray for local businesses and/or ministries, to hear powerful testimonies and to encourage each other in our Christian walk. If you would like more information, please contact me at 632-9292 or email Seth Halpern at editor@ambassadornewspaper.com. Seth will include you with the details of our weekly meetings. Won't you join us?

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Christian BUSINESS ALLIANCE

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The Christian Business Alliance would like to invite you to our midweek meetings

Current members:

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Ron Brasier - A Hand Up Ministry - (530) 671-1360

Marty Brown - KCYC-LP FM - (530) 674-5296

Kathleen Caldwell - City of Live Oak - (530) 695-2112

Fred Cox - Richard's Tree Service - (530) 673-7993

Brent Davis - Davis Family Insurance - (530) 671-2764

Jon Fullerton - Sierra View Mortuary - (530) 742-6957

Shelley Gallagher - Gallagher Ranch

Larry Geweke - Larry Geweke Ford-Kia - www.geweke.com

Debbie Gilstrap - Sierra Central Credit Union debbie_gilstrap@hotmail.com

Pamela Givans

Marcos Gonzalez - Ultimate Business Maintenance - (530) 671-1564

John L. Guth - AttorneyEstate Planning - www.johnguthlaw.com

Seth Halpern - Ambassador Newspaper - editor@ambassadornewspaper.com

David Hobbs Painting - Cont. Lic#880562 (530)742-2428

Marilyn Hoffman - Associated Brokers - (530) 682-1930

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For weekly reminders, updates, or to join email editor@ambassadornewspaper.com

OPINIONS

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BREAKPOINT

Changing Lives, Minds, and Communities through Jesus Christ

Unplanned Obsolescence Marriage Is In Trouble

by Chuck Colson

A new study does not bode well for the future of marriage in America. What's the church to do? First, look in the mirror.

A recent Time magazine article asks the question, "who needs marriage?" Apparently the answer is fewer and fewer Americans. At least, that's the finding of a recent study by the Pew Research Center. Its findings ought to concern anybody who cares about the state of this essential institution, and what we're doing about it--or perhaps more to the point, what we're failing to do about it.

According to the study, the cultural changes of the last 50 years have led to a sharp decline in marriage. In 1960, two-thirds of all Americans in their twenties were married. Today, only one-quarter is. Overall, only 52 percent of American adults were married in 2008, compared with 72 percent in 1960. Part of the reason, Pew notes, is that new family forms have emerged as cultural and legal alternatives to marriage.

The most obvious of these is cohabitation. More than half of those between the ages of 30 and 49 say that they have cohabitated at some point. And now more and more Americans—55 percent—now view cohabitation as a good, or at least neutral thing. So it's no surprise that nearly four in ten Americans see marriage as becoming "obsolete."

I don't need to be a statistician to guess where these trends are headed. There's one more disturbing trend that the Pew study points out. Pew calls it the "marriage gap." Among those with a college education and good income, marriage remains the norm. But marriage is markedly less prevalent among those on the lower rungs of the socio-economic ladder. And lower income families are very likely to be headed by a single parent, almost always the mother. It's difficult to imagine a better way to perpetuate the income gap between the affluent and the poor than this trend.

The list of what social scientists call "adverse outcomes" associated with single parenthood is long and well-documented,

including the soaring prison population we deal with here at Prison Fellowship.

So what are we to make out of all of this? Clearly, the trends are running against traditional marriage—the foundational institution of any civilized society. The last thing the institution of marriage needs is yet another legally sanctioned "new family form." I'm talking, of course, about so-called gay "marriage." Should so-called gay "marriage" become the law of the land, barring a miracle, I don't see how these trends can be reversed.

Closer to home, the church has to ask itself if and how we've contributed to the trends documented in the Pew study. While few churches sanction cohabitation and some of the other new family forms Pew describes, our record on divorce and re-marriage leaves a lot to be desired. Advocates of these new family forms take delight in pointing out that divorce rates are higher in the Bible Belt than they are in more liberal parts of the country. They don't hesitate to point to studies showing that Christians aren't that much better at marriage and family than their non-religious neighbors.

Fair enough, they have a point. If we're going to lead the fight to preserve traditional marriage, we need to start by creating a place where there is no question of its being "obsolete." That is, our homes and our churches.

AS WE SEE IT

Is God a Sports Fan?

By Seth Halpern

Steve Johnson of the Buffalo Bills argued with God recently. Most of us have at one time or another. But we've managed to not broadcast it on Twitter. After a recent game where Johnson dropped a ball in overtime, he wrote the following on Twitter.

"I PRAISE YOU 24/7!!!! AND THIS IS HOW YOU DO ME!!!! YOU EXPECT ME TO LEARN FROM THIS??? HOW??? I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS!!!! EVER!!! THX THO..."

My initial reaction was to judge him for blaming God. Soon, though, I realized that we have probably all been there. Questioning God, doubting His wisdom and plan. Are we really all THAT spiritual? Yet, there are two points that make this case one of discussion. First, he put what should have been a private discussion with God, into the public eye. After all the recent backlash of foolish Twitter comments by celebrities, WHY do they still do it?? It would seem that they would learn from other's mistakes. Now, all the world will persecute him. Believers will judge him, unbelievers will mock him (and his faith). Yet a more important question is this: Does God cause us to win? If so, then what about the prayers going out for the other team. When the Giants won the World Series, Brian Wilson and other Christian on the Giants probably prayed for victory. Certainly there were



Seth Halpern - Editor

many who thanked God for their series win. But what about Nolan Ryan, Josh Hamilton and other well known Christians on the Texas Rangers? Why did God choose to listen to the Giants prayers and not the Rangers? Perhaps, as the old saying goes, God not so much interested in "whether we win or lose, but how we play the game"! We teach this principle to our kids when they're young. That is, until we see potential in them to play "competitive". Then, it often becomes a matter of whether we win or lose. Think about it. At what point, do we as parents go from "That's the way to hustle, Jimmy" to "C'mon Tyler, keep your eyes on the ball!" There is a point at which sport goes from a character building exercise to an ego-inflating (or deflating) one. I know that many, probably most, will disagree with me because we are a nation that loves our sports. I also enjoy sports and watched the Giants win the World Series. It's just that I think God is really much more interested in whether we play with integrity displaying the fruit of the spirit than He is about who wins the ring. Let's go back to that old principle we teach our kids and when you do get frustrated with God for losing, talk to Him, don't post it on Twitter!



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A Prayer of Mother Teresa

Deliver me...

From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honored,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the desire of being popular,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being suspected.

Lucinda Vardey, ED.

(from "Mother Teresa: A Simple Faith")