



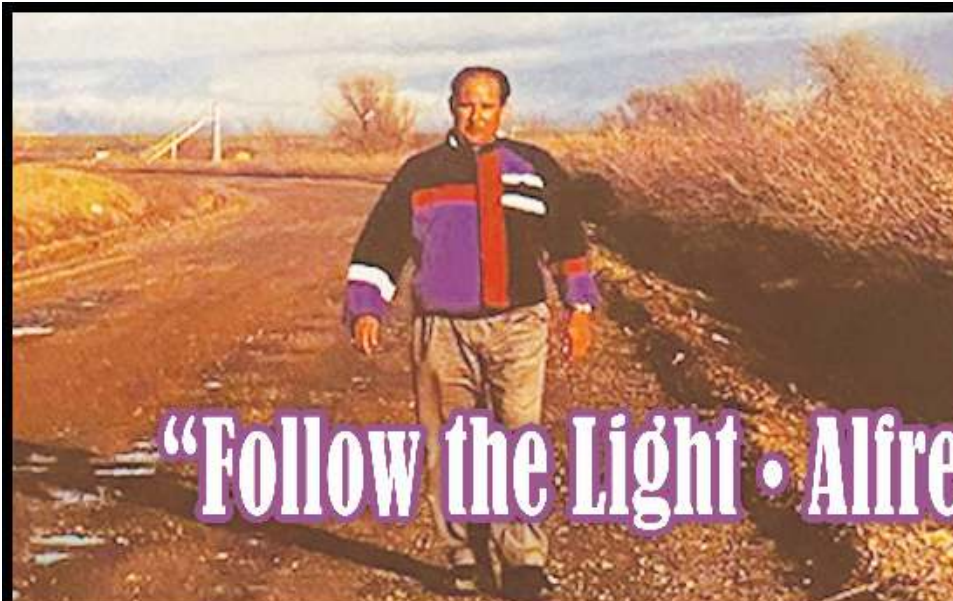
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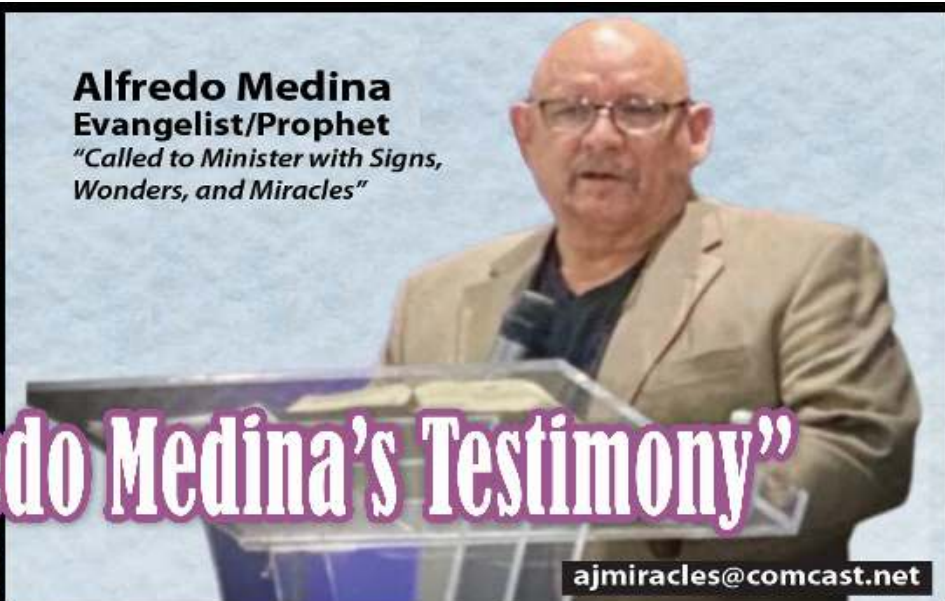
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By David McFarland
Originally Posted in the
Pentecostal Evangel June 28, 1998

On May 26, 1990, I was driving toward Sacramento, California, late at night with three men in my car. Under my shirt, I carried a money belt containing \$100,000. This was not unusual for me. It was just another transaction, like other drug deals I had done in the past. The men riding with me were not bodyguards. They were the people I was supposed to meet for a drug transaction at a house where the drugs were located. What I didn't know was that they had already planned to kill me and steal the money. As we turned onto a road, I remember clearly reading

the sign Sacramento Boulevard, just before crossing the Feather River, that one of the men pulled out a 38 revolver and pressed it against the back of my head and told me to keep driving.

It had been raining on and off all day and into the night. When we crossed the levee near the Sutter Bypass, it was close to midnight.

I tried to jump out of the car, which is when they fired two shots at my head while I was driving. One of the bullets struck me and kept me inside the car. My chest and face slammed into the steering wheel. My arm flew upward and hit the shift lever, throwing the vehicle into reverse. The car spun backwards into a small ditch, causing the rear tires to get stuck. The men jumped out. I looked

lifeless in the driver's seat, but I could still hear everything they were saying. They pulled me from the car. My physical body seemed paralyzed by the bullets, but I could feel what they were doing. They shot me two more times, execution-style, into my neck and head, then they stripped off my money belt and took the cash with them.

After that, they dragged me to the Sutter Bypass canal and threw my body into the water, leaving me there to die. I could hear their voices fading as they ran. And I died.

My spirit separated from my body when a voice from heaven called my name, and I had an out-of-body experience, taken to another place. It was not a dream; it was a divine reality.

I saw an opening, and the voice that spoke to me said that beyond it was a place where all those who do not do the will of the Father would go. It appeared to be a dark tunnel entry. And the smell that came out of it was like sulfur fumes. I heard agony. I heard screaming. I heard people weeping and cursing God coming out from within that place. The Lord spoke to me: *"This is the place where all who do not do My Father's will shall enter."* Then I heard the question: *"Are you going to continue to do the will of this world or the will of my Father?"* I answered: *"I am going to do the will of my Father."* Instantly, the Lord lifted my spirit upward into

CONTINUE ON PAGE 12**"Godly Wisdom from our
Spiritual Leaders"**

By Brandon Hyatt

Page 10

**Your Body Matters****"Good Sleep"**

By Tim Kurtz

Page 13

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

Editor/Publisher - Marci Dena Advisory - David Dena Graphic Design/Layout - Teresa Davis

INSPIRATION

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Are You a Deer or A Dog?

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

I happened to see a deer through my window today. She looked so calm and peaceful. I knew, though, that if I were to open my door, she would flee at once in a blind panic. I thought then of our faithful guardian dog, Sasha, who guarded my children for years. She, too, would look peaceful and calm most of the time. However, when she was startled, she leapt into action, ready to perform her duty as protector of our family.

When faced with danger, the two animals respond very differently. Deer will run in what they hope is the opposite direction from the threat, while dogs focus on the danger and run toward it. This made me think of us as people. I know there are lots of people who panic whenever something unexpected comes their way. When we panic, we can put ourselves and others into almost as much difficulty as the deer ends up in tangled up in something, scraped up, or staring into headlights. Maybe the unexpected event wasn't really that bad, but if we react without stopping to think or pray,



we can end up causing more harm.

I would rather be like a well-trained guardian dog. When the unexpected happens, I hope I can pause to pray and assess the situation through God's eyes. Then I can act rather than react.

As I act, God will give me courage and wisdom to face the issue head-on. "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Romans 8:37

Whatever may come into your life today, I pray that God gives you peace and courage to move toward it in His strength.

Bright Hope

by Paula McBride

Are you able to sing a hymn while your mind races along on a completely different track? Maybe it's my unique skill, until the time it wasn't. The hymn that jolted me was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas Chisholm. Chisholm suffered poor health all his life but at age seventy-five wrote, "I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of his providing care. He wrote of "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside."

Two words gripped me: bright hope. How could this impoverished invalid write a hymn about bright hope? Does bright hope have as its foundation the unfailing faithfulness of God?

Sometimes we think of hope as a way of expressing wishful thinking. "I hope you have a good day." "I hope you get the raise you asked for." "I hope you get a good tax return." That's a dim hope. Dim hope caused Naomi to tell her daughters-in-law that there was no hope she would have another son (Ruth 1:12). Dim hope caused the enemies of the Jews to fail in their attempted extermination plot (Esther 9:1).

Bright Biblical hope is a companion



of faith. Faith comes by hearing God's word. Hope comes by experience. Faith accepts the gift of a promise. Hope confidently expects the fulfillment of the promise, and the Bible is full of promises.

Would you like some peaceful rest? Psalm 62:5 says, "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him." Perhaps you need strength. Isaiah 40:31 says, "...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." Are you in the depths of despair? Job was, too, when he cried out, "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him" (Job 13:15). Are you concerned about your future? "There is surely a future hope for you" (Proverbs 23:18).

How can we know that God's promises are truth? Mary, the mother of Jesus must have wondered this when the angel told her she was going to have

CONTINUE ON PAGE 10

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• Wait For The Lord •

by Agnetta Vick

My husband, Brian, has owned this beautiful leather jacket for quite a number of years now. Funnily, we got this jacket at a thrift store here in town for fifty cents! Of course, at the time that we bought it, we didn't think much of this jacket other than it's a nice looking jacket. We honestly thought that it's just a good jacket and well, for fifty cents, not a lot of consideration was made that day. We brought it home and Brian loved the jacket very much. He didn't think much of it until, one day, he wore it to work (we both worked at the same job at that time) and one of our coworkers who happened to be an experienced hunter said that the jacket was extraordinary. One of a kind, genuine leather made from one single deer. She pointed out many different things on that jacket that showed just how excellent of a work it is. She even said she wanted to buy it for a few hundred dollars. Brian said no, to my utter disappointment.

Our coworker then told us that we need to be careful and make sure to get the jacket cleaned the right way; or else it would be ruined. That particular advice was the beginning of our long journey and struggles on finding the place to have the jacket cleaned. Years



They That
Wait Upon
the Lord
Shall Renew
Their Strength

came and went, and we could not find one place in town or anywhere nearby that's able to treat genuine deer-skin jackets. I reached a point where I told Brian "just don't wear it again". He then said, "we'll find a place; I am patient and I am not giving up".

Fast-forward to Summer 2025; at this point, this jacket has been in the family for almost eight years. I was invited to our Church Women's Coffee and Thrift to Lincoln. Honestly, at that time, life had not been easy. Things happened that broke my spirit. Up until the morning before the scheduled trip, I was still hesitant. I didn't want to go. Brian told me that morning "go, have fun and fellowship with the ladies. It will lift your spirit". So, I went. Thank the Lord,

I went.

Just like it's said in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion..." (NKJV).

I was encouraged; my spirit was lifted up. Joy returned. Hope flourished once again. Prayers were said and blessings were poured over. My cup was full when I returned home. I loved every bit of the trip that I decided to take Brian and our daughters to do it again the next week.

I was telling him all about the nice places we could go when Brian suddenly said that he would look for a cleaner to treat his leather jacket. He looked it up online and found one.

Literally one block away from the coffee shop I went to with the church ladies. We were hopeful, but not quite convinced that the cleaner would actually have the ability to do it. It had been eight years and we hadn't had any luck. We took the jacket anyway. They said yes. As a matter of fact, this tiny little dry cleaner is THE ONLY one left in the Sacramento Roseville area that is able to treat genuine deer skin material. Thank God, we did not give up. Thank God I went on that trip with the church. Thank God Brian had the idea to look up dry cleaners. Thank God we did not get rid of the jacket because it is too inconvenient. Thank God.

"Trust in The Lord with all your heart. And lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

How many of us are still waiting on the Lord? I know I am. For so many things, I could not even begin to list them. Some might have been waiting for months. Some have been praying over and over again for years. Some prayers uttered in the silence of the night; again and again. When things get too difficult to bear, I look at the now-

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

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• ONGOING EVENTS •

SUNDAY

ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays at 6:00pm
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. - Yuba City
Christian 12 Step Support Group

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Tuesdays at 7pm
Church of Glad Tidings-1179 Eager Rd (Bldg 200)
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday at 7:00 pm
Praise Chapel - 398 Aylor Ave., YC - (530) 300-1458
"An In-Depth Search" A time to ask the hard questions, study & research together, discussion and dialogue

THURSDAY

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

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

FRIDAY

MEN'S PRAYER & BREAKFAST-Friday Mornings 5:30am
Church of Glad Tidings-1179 Eager Rd (Bldg 200)
(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

PRAISE CHAPEL COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT
Every 1st and 3rd Friday at 6:30pm
Praise Chapel - 398 Aylor Ave., YC - (530) 300-1458

PRIME TIMERS - First Friday every month at 12:00
Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
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SATURDAY

MEN'S WALK & TALK - 1st Saturday of the Month - 10am
Church of Glad Tidings-1179 Eager Rd (Bldg 200)
Looking for a place to find fellowship and develop friendships? Join us for Walk & Talk the first Saturday of the month. For more information contact Phil Britton (530) 300-0408 or churchofgladtidings.com/events

ONGOING EVENTS: CONTINUE TO PAGE 7

CALENDAR

• ONGOING EVENTS •

CONTINUED - SATURDAY

BETHESDA HEALING WELL -

3rd Saturday of the Month 10:00 am

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Come to receive prayer and be refreshed while soaking in an atmosphere of worship and praise. Sorry, No Childcare.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST -

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am.

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
Food, Faith and Fellowship.

NIGHT OF PRAYER

Every Last Saturday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City
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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.

• Prayer List for March 2026 •

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



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Everyone is encouraged to come and participate as one body considering the magnitude of what Jesus suffered on behalf of mankind. Also, join with other believers in quiet worship and prayer.

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WISDOM FROM A SPIRITUAL LEADER

My Top Five Favorite Books

Throughout my journey in ministry and in my personal walk with God, a few books have done more than just give me information—they've truly shaped me. They've spoken to me in different seasons, challenged the way I think, convicted my heart, and stretched my understanding of what it really means to live fully surrendered to Christ. Some books you read... and others you carry with you. These five have stayed with me, shaping my faith, my leadership, and my hunger for God in lasting ways.

God's Generals – Roberts Liardon

This book ignited a deep hunger in me for revival and the power of the Holy Spirit. Right after I gave my life to Christ at 13 years of age, my father told me I needed to read this book, and I'm so grateful he did. At that young age, it completely shaped the trajectory of my spiritual life as I pursued Jesus and his call on my life. Reading the lives of men and women like Smith Wigglesworth, Kathryn Kuhlman, and others challenged my comfort and called me to a higher place. It showed me early on that Christianity was never meant to be casual or lukewarm but fully surrendered and Spirit-empowered. It reminded me that God uses yielded vessels, imperfect people who are wholly given to Him. It stirred both reverence and expectancy in my heart for what God can still do today.

Wild at Heart – John Eldredge

Eldredge's message resonated deeply with the core of masculine identity and spiritual purpose. He articulates the God-given desires within a man, a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. I was given this book by my sister on my 18th birthday,

and it couldn't have come at a more defining season of my life. To this day, it remains my all-time favorite book, one I continually recommend to men and women. It helped me understand that our passions, courage, and drive are not obstacles to faith but can become instruments in God's hands when rightly surrendered. It gave me permission to come alive and language for things I felt but couldn't yet articulate. It helped shape my understanding of manhood through a Christ-centered lens.

Growing Deep – Charles Swindoll

If the previous books lit fires, this one built roots. Swindoll emphasizes spiritual maturity, biblical literacy, and a grounded faith that goes beyond emotional experience. It challenged me to cultivate depth, to be a believer who is not just passionate but stable, discerning, and anchored in truth. For anyone with a hunger to go deeper with God, this book is where I'd suggest you start. Without proper structure and a solid framework for how the bible works, we will always find ourselves living in the vague spiritualism that produces nothing but emotionalism and chaos. Learn to live by God's principles, and you'll learn to actually grow!

Spiritual Leadership –

J. Oswald Sanders

Few books have shaped my leadership philosophy more than this one. I read this book for the first time in my first year of ministry internship. Sanders reframes leadership not as position or charisma, but as consecration and discipline. The call to lead with humility, prayer, integrity, and sacrifice has deeply shaped how I view pastoral responsibility. It reminded me that



Pastor Brandon Hyatt
The Father's House in Live Oak

spiritual authority flows from spiritual formation. God is not a God of chaos, yet some of our churches are run that way. The production of chaos always means that God is not running the ship; humans are. But once we turn over that authority to God's way of doing things, we will develop true stability and a stable footing for the long haul.

Baptized by Blazing Fire – Yong-Doo Kim

This book was both sobering and awakening. I asked a previous pastor to read it once. When he came back, he asked me not to give it out to the people in the church. When I asked why, he said it wasn't because the book wasn't biblical, but because the people couldn't handle it. Its vivid accounts of spiritual encounters, eternity, and the urgency of repentance stirred a renewed fear of the Lord within me. I remember reading this book at Starbucks, weeping in the corner after a chapter or so. It pressed me to live with eternity in view and to minister with greater urgency for the salvation of souls. I do not suggest this book to the new convert. This book is for those who have grown cold in their faith, who need a fresh awakening, and who want that flame of repentance and souls to awaken again.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 4: "BRIGHT HOPE"

a Son. "For no word from God will ever fail," Gabriel assured her (Luke 1:37).

So bright hope is based on God's unfailing promises, but the best is yet to come. Eternal life! Titus writes, "Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:7).

So much hope is wrapped up in the gift of eternal life. When Jesus gave His life on the cross He endured the just punishment we deserve so we wouldn't be separated from the great love of God and the wonderful future He has prepared for us. Three days later, Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave to prove eternal life was possible. As Thomas Chisholm wrote: "Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth/Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide./ Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow/Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside." That certainly is a reason for bright hope for the coming days.



CHRIST'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; other sat down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

And the multitude that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, HOSANNA to the SON of David: Blessed is HE that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Matthew 21: 8,9

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

289 Babies Saved From Abortion So Far During 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign

by Shawn Carney and David Brando
LifeNews.com

Ready to start the week with extremely encouraging news? Here it is! 40 Days for Life campaign leaders tell us that so far this campaign ... 289 babies have been spared from abortion – that we know of!

We can only wonder how many mothers have turned away from abortion that only God knows about. Since He's a good and merciful God ... we have to believe there are many more!

Yuba City, California

"Praise the Lord!" said one of the California leaders. "Two babies were saved from abortion at the Yuba City 40 Days for Life!"

Both of these young women went to Planned Parenthood for pregnancy tests. They were being pressured ... feeling distraught ... and considering the abortion pill.

Thankfully, one of the volunteers was able to provide life-affirming

encouragement – giving the women information about fetal development, directing them to a pro-life pregnancy help center and exchanging contact information so they could get back in touch.

One of the women did just that, sending back a text message after her visit to the help center.

"Thank you again!" she wrote. "I'm so incredibly thankful you guys were out there that day. You guys knew the exact words to make me feel better. And I knew you guys would as soon as I pulled up. God really does work in such amazing ways!"

Austin, Texas

Austin is taking part in 40 Days for Life for the 19th time ... pausing at the midpoint of the campaign for a candlelight vigil "to give thanks for the blessings we've seen ... to be motivated ... and to pray for all of those affected by abortion."

And those blessings include "four moms (so far) that had scheduled an abortion



but changed their minds and chose life," said Heather in Austin.

There have been dozens more that have stopped to talk to counselors. Heather noted a common theme from the women they've spoken to.

"It's so expensive here!" is what we keep hearing about the abortion facilities. She said, "Your presence matters!"

Portland, Oregon

"We had a turnaround!" said Therese in Portland.

A mother arrived at the abortion center with her teenage daughter. "I saw them go in," Therese said, "but I wasn't able to hand them any information."

About an hour and a half later, the mom came back out. "When I asked if I could give her any resources, she said no, she didn't need any. She said her daughter had changed her mind."

"She didn't do it," the mother said. "She decided not to do it." She also said it was a hard decision for her daughter. "It's the father that's the problem," she murmured.

The volunteers promised to help ... and to pray. The mother and daughter left smiling.

Please consider joining us on the sidewalk. Your prayerful presence can save lives! Visit www.40daysforlife.com/yubacity to sign up or call Dianne at 530-632-7497.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "FOLLOW THE LIGHT • ALFREDO MEDINA'S TESTIMONY"

the heavens. I stood between towering walls on my right and left. In front of me was a door that looked like the colors of pearl. A brilliant light stood in front of me. A voice spoke to me and said, **"This is the entrance to My Father's kingdom. All who do His will shall enter through it."**

Again, the voice that spoke to me asked: **"Are you going to continue to do the will of this world, or the will of My Father?"** I responded, **"I'm going to do the will of my Father."** Then a figure emerged from the light, a man glowing like bronze, clothed in white, with long hair. He said: **"I am Jesus, the One you did not know."** He put His arms around me. He returned me to my body that was floating in the Sutter Bypass canal, dead. The moment my spirit entered my body, I came to life again. Then the hand of the Lord went beneath my

chest cavity, lifted me out of the water, and stood me upright on the embankment of the Sutter Bypass. His words were: **"Follow Me. Follow the light."**

I staggered and walked as He guided me that night to where three fishermen were fishing. I will not go into detail here, but they were frightened when I



arrived. They rushed me to the nearest place for help: the East Nicolaus Fire Department. Life was gone from me. They tried to revive me. Again, I was with the Lord, and while in His presence, He spoke to me: **"You shall go back into the world so that many of those who do not believe may come to believe."**

And I was back in my body, and I recall hearing someone saying, "We have him back." Moments later, I heard the roar and felt a strong gust of turbulence. Life Flight was landing on Highway 99 near East Nicolaus. They loaded me into the helicopter and flew me toward UCD Medical Center in Sacramento. On the way, I heard medics saying: "We're losing him... we're losing him." They lost me. Again, I left my body, and once again, I was with the Lord. He spoke the same words: **"You shall go**

back into the world so that many who do not believe may come to believe." I did not understand everything that was happening, but I knew those words were so assuring to me.

At UCD Medical Center, they worked on me. I heard one of the doctors saying, "I can't believe he is still alive. He has no blood in him." Soon after those words, I again had an out-of-body experience. While I was with the Lord, the hospital staff covered my body with a sheet, believing I was dead. While with the Lord again, He spoke to me, saying: **"Son, you have been chosen, for I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I AM the God of the Living and not of the dead. You shall live for I have called you to speak to a generation that knows me not."** Right after those words, He placed me back in this body of mine, and I sat straight up on the gurney while two staff members were rolling me down a hall. One of them, a lady, yelled, "Oh my God, he's alive!"

Doctors were uncertain if I would survive. Two bullets had entered through my jaw from the back of my neck, near my head. Another entered from behind my head, blinding my left eye. The

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

YOUR BODY MATTERS



"Good Sleep"

In previous articles, I focused on the spirit, soul, body connection, giving a reminder that care for our body is very important in our walk with God.

Now, for information/advice to support your health journey. Today there is a vast amount of good information available thanks to the internet and a growing interest in health and longevity.

(First the needed disclaimer) I am NOT a medical professional and am not giving any medical advice. I am a pastor who values my health and has learned a lot about it along the way. My information will be basic, and I encourage you to research the topics that interest you further. Your own self-study and learning to listen to your own body, along with your doctor's expertise, is a good combination for success.

There are several categories to address to maintain a healthy lifestyle. For many, the topics of proper nutrition and exercise usually come to mind first. Yet numerous health voices now agree that the MOST important thing for your health is "GOOD SLEEP." Surprised! Remember that whatever your body can't do without, is probably what it needs the most. So, after AIR, what does the body crave next? Both water and SLEEP. Try going three days without either. Yet most could go a few weeks without food before a health crisis.

Sleep takes about one-third of our lives. Our beginning and ending seasons of life (babies/very elderly) require even more. God designed the rest/wake cycle from the beginning. He rested on the seventh day and called



Tim Kurtz

it "holy". Each day of creation started with "evening and then morning". We tend to think our busy day has made us tired, so now we need sleep. But God says you first need sleep so that your next day will be productive. Getting deep, uninterrupted sleep significantly affects your quality of sleep and energy the next day. Studies show that the hours of sleep before midnight are especially important for body rejuvenation. Therefore, this old adage, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"

New research is discovering how many essential things are reset and repaired in your body while you sleep. Even the nicest looking car will not last long without regular oil changes. Rest is important physically and spiritually. Your soul and spirit never sleep, but they need a break from the demands of your body. God may even want to communicate to you in a dream while your body is quiet.

Unfortunately, getting to sleep or waking and then being unable to go

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

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