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

www.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM

# The War in Gaza is not about Revenge it is taking Hamas at its Word

By Liza Ashley

As the reality of war sets in and the worst elements of Western culture attempt to obfuscate moral truth, the essential facts of the Israel-Hamas conflict remain the same. This war, which Hamas started and could end today if they chose, isn't about vengeance. It is about taking Hamas at its word when it says it wants to obliterate Israel and its Jews and finally responding to the ugly truth that "mowing the grass" hasn't worked.

On October 7th, Hamas, an Iranbacked terrorist organization that has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007, launched a land, sea, and sky attack on

Israel — an act of terrorism that resulted in the highest number of Jewish deaths in a single day since the Holocaust.

In the aftermath, thousands of people across the U.S. and Europe scrambled to the streets and to their keyboards to blame Israel for the violence, tacitly or explicitly support Hamas, and celebrate the bloodshed.

But, while the West jumps at the opportunity to justify the actions of Hamas through "decolonization at all costs" and other intellectual gymnastics, Hamas itself makes no such effort.

The atrocities we witnessed — the rape of women, abduction of children, and intentional slaughtering of civilians — were not unfortunate means to a just end; they were the objective. Marching orders found on captured and killed terrorists make this clear. In Alumim, Southern Israel, a squad was directed to "achieve the highest level of human losses" and then take hostages. In Sa'ad, they aimed "to take control of the kibbutz, kill as many individuals as possible, and capture hostages until receiving further instructions."

This tactic, while horrifying, is only surprising because many people have refused to take Hamas at its word. The 1988 Hamas Charter explicitly states, "Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Moslem people," and "The

Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews)." In the preamble, it claims, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

The destruction of Jews is part of their eschatological aim, and they will spare no civilian — not even their own — to bring it about.

For decades, Israel has tried to disentangle itself from the Gaza Strip. But it has become increasingly clear that so long as Hamas persists, no amount of "mowing the grass"

#### **CONTINUE ON PAGE 14**

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1040 Lincoln Rd., Suite A, #124 Yuba City, CA 95991

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**Holiday Season** 



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Wednesday - 7pm

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### Praise Chapel Yuba City 398 Aylor Rd., Yuba City

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Wed - Men's Bible Study - 6:30 pm
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Pastors Chris & Angela Madsen

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# **INSPIRATION**

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#### --- Popcorning ---

By Christy Boals www.gracefilledpurpose.com

I learned something interesting about guinea pigs recently...when they are happy they jump! This behavior of theirs is called "popcorning." I can just imagine a group of happy guinea pigs jumping around like little popcorn kernels.

I found this especially funny because two of my children do something similar when they are happy. My twelve-year-old has always been our "sugar monster." Despite my best efforts at nutrition, the thing that makes her bounce up and down with sheer delight is anything sweet. This can be a dessert like cake or ice cream, but the treat that really gets her on her toes is jellybeans. If you want to see a twelve-year-old "popcorn" like a happy guinea pig just bring my daughter jelly beans!

With my other daughter, music is the source of her bounces and wiggles. For her whole eight years of life, whenever she hears music, she immediately starts moving. If she has the space, she breaks out in full on dancing! It is so joyful and full of life, that most of the time she gets those of us around her to join in.

It seems that children—and evidently guinea pigs—have joy built into them by God. For whatever reason (maybe



a lot of reasons in some of our lives), our joy seems to grow less and less as we get older. We lose that spontaneous ability to laugh, jump, spin or "popcorn" our happy moments. It is partly the cares of this world and partly our ideas of how "grown-ups" should act. Even as followers of Jesus, we can have incorrect ideas about how we should experience joy or happiness.

For a long time, I had been taught that happiness was not something followers of Jesus should pursue. Rather, we should rely on an underlying joy to get us through tough circumstances. Oddly, this led to a lot of guilt on my part whenever I would experience happiness. I also tried to keep myself strictly contained, not "looking forward" to things or pursuing things that would give me what I was taught was "frivolous" happiness. I am blessed to have a mentor who has shown me

that this type of thinking is not only incorrect, but that the Bible talks about joy over and over. Many of these verses are about the joy we have in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

God created all of our emotions, happiness and joy included. I now believe that He does want us to experience these feelings, especially when we think about Him. In fact, sometimes I feel so happy about my relationship with Him that I might do a little "popcorning" of my own. If this has been an area where you have held yourself back too, I would encourage you to do a search of all the verses that talk about happiness and joy in the Scripture, and then maybe join my daughter in a happy dance!

"Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart."
Psalm 32:11



#### **THE AMBASSADOR**

- The Ambassador is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- The Ambassador has a circulation 3,700 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- The purpose of The Ambassador is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- 🗷 We believe in the inspriation 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.
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Editor/Publisher - Seth Halpern

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Layout/Design - Teresa Davis

# **INSPIRATION**

#### Helping Others at the Holiday Season



By Jim Liebelt HomeWord Ministries www.homeword.com

It's recorded in Matthew's Gospel, (Matt. 10:8) Jesus said, "Freely you have received; freely give." Though our lives may not always be everything we hope them to be, for the vast majority of Americans, we lives that are richly blessed. One of the ways we can demonstrate that we are grateful to God for his many blessings, is to help others. The holiday season is a great time for your family to get involved in helping to meet the needs of others in your community - showing them the light and love of Christ. Here are some ideas for reaching out and helping others during the holidays.

- **1.** Donate your time helping out at a food kitchen or a food bank.
- 2. Visit someone who lives at a nursing home or who lives alone and is confined at home because of poor health.
- **3.** Invite some neighbors who don't have plans to join your family for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.
- **4.** Buy some (or all) of the Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner groceries for a needy family in your

- community.
- 5. Have your family go through their winter clothes and coats, pick out those that are old or are no longer wanted or needed and give them to homeless people in your area or take them to a local shelter.
- **6.** Make some bag lunches and distribute them to homeless people in your area.
- 7. Make more desserts than you need for your holiday meals. Give extras to neighbors or to a needy family in your area.
- **8.** Find an elderly person in your area that could use some help at the grocery store. Better yet, invite them to your home for a special holiday meal.
- 9. Find a family in your area that could use some help to take care of fall yard clean-up, basic repair or weatherization around their home. Buy the needed materials and get to work!
- **10.** Invite a neighbor's family over for a simple, fun family game night.

Jim Liebelt is Senior Editor of Publications for HomeWord.

#### **MORE, PLEASE**

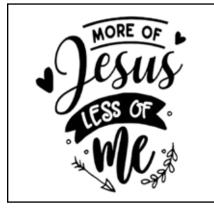
By Paula McBride

"Please, sir. I want some more." These poignant words were penned by Charles Dickens in his book, Oliver Twist. The character, nine-year-old Oliver, was so desperately hungry that he dared ask for more soup from the fearsome and brutal Mr. Bumble.

Have we ever been that hungry? Probably not, but as the season opens for numerous eating events, we may be consuming more: more turkey or ham, dressing, sweet potatoes, and all the other fixings. After that, we will want pie with more whipped cream. Afterward, we are uncomfortably full and feeling guilty for our indulgence. Next Thursday, though, is another eating event and we will enjoy more once again.

Our lives are blessed with so much that it's easy to fall into the mentality of always wanting more. Sure, we need food, shelter, and other physical provisions, and it's not wrong to seek those. Yet God offers His quality of "more" that will satisfy beyond physical appetite and need to the inside part of us. That space can only be satisfied with a relationship with our Father who yearns for us with an everlasting, inexhaustible love. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul records his prayer to the believers that they may comprehend "what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God" (3:18-19).

In the physical realm, we know when we are hungry and can eat to be filled, or to ask for more when we are not satisfied. With God's "more", it's a privilege to hunger for more of Him. "Blessed are those who hunger and



thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). That's an invitation to ask for "More, please," and be filled with the desire and ability to live God's way.

Sometimes we don't get it right when we try to live God's way. It's then that we can ask for more grace. "But He gives more grace" (James 4:6). James explains that we need to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil, let ourselves be washed and purified, and fill up with more of His grace.

The battles of life leave us feeling powerless, but another "more" is promised by our heavenly Father. After listing significant trials, Paul wrote, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37). That works for us, too, when we face troubles. We can ask, "More, please," for power to conquer the adversity in front of us.

This month, as we eat our way to Thanksgiving, may we be extra thankful that God's "more" never runs out. His love is limitless, His satisfaction is complete, His grace is sufficient, and His power is available. We need never feel guilty asking for "More of you, Jesus, please." He delights "to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

# CALENDAR

WWW.AMBASSADORNEWSPAPER.COM

#### ONGOING EVENTS

ROAD TO RECOVERY - Sundays, 7:00pm

Christian 12 Step support group

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

**GRIEF SHARE -** Mondays at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.

A grief support program that meets weekly to help give encouragement after the death of loved one. Anyone can attend on any week because each class is "self-contained." For more information about GriefShare you can go to www.griefshare.org or contact the church at 530-870-0511.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM

Church of Glad Tidings

1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953

(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

**GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays**, 6:00pm,

For those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Crossroads Community Church - 445 B. St. Yuba City

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

Church of Glad Tidings

1179 Eager Rd (Building 200) - Live Oak, CA 95953

(530) 671-3160 - info@churchofgladtidings.com

"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

FREEDOM NIGHT - 2nd Friday of each month

Church of Glad Tidings

1179 Eager Rd., Live Oak

www.churchofgladtidings.com

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

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

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

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#### • Prayer List for November 2023 •

- **1-Nov Veterans-** Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- **2-Nov** Pastors- That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- **3-Nov Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- **4-Nov** Homeless- Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- **5-Nov World Affairs-** Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- **6-Nov Israel-** Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem-and for an end to the war against in Gazathe destruction of Hamas and the protection of civilians as well as limited Israeli casualities
- **7-Nov Election Day-** Pray that Righteousness would be the Victor and that God's choice would be elected and approved!
- 8-Nov Mental Health Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Heallth/
  Illness issues that they would receive support & treatment
- **9-Nov** Race Relations Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- **10-Nov** Global Revival- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- **11-Nov Veteran's Day-** Pray a prayer of blessing on those who served our country and for healing of PTSD for many of whom who experienced horrible things
- **12-Nov Marriages-** Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- **13-Nov** Local Ministries- Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- **14-Nov California-** pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- **15-Nov Pray that fathers** would give Godly wisdom and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- **16-Nov** Disabled- that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- **17-Nov Life -** Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- **18-Nov Human Trafficking-** Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- **19-Nov** Addicted- pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord pursue and receive the treatment they need
- **20-Nov Discipleship-** Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- **21-Nov President-** Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- **22-Nov Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- **23-Nov** Thanksgiving- Let us all Thank the Lord for his provision materially and spiritually!
- **24-Nov** Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed- pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- **25-Nov** Restore America! Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation **26-Nov** 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!

  27-Nov Unity of Churches/Global impact- Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- **28-Nov** Seniors and Elderly- Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- **29-Nov Pray for your neighbor-** for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- **30-Nov** The Persecuted Church around the world. Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution

# **CALENDAR**

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: JOY CAME DOWN Praise Chapel Church, 398 Aylor Ave. Yuba City

Sunday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Recording Artist/Author, Lou Ann Lee for the Joy Came Down Concert. Lou Ann Lee and her husband Cedric, Pastor Celebration Church in Meadow Vista. Along with Lou Ann are Special Guests: Singer Monique Donnelly and Guitarist Corban Figueroa as well as the Celebration Worship Team and Choir. This Concert is FREE and will be a great way to start the holiday season.

#### **CREATIVE LIGHT THEATER presents:**

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Storyline: Jillian has had it! Life has piled on too many impossible things for one girl to deal with. Absentee parents gone at Christmas, a brother she can't rely on, bullying at school, misunderstandings, and a fog of depression. God is far away - or is He?

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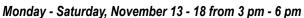
11234 Loma Rica Road, Loma Rica (Across from Gold Eagle Market)

December 16th & 17th, 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Come join The Adventure through Bethlehem as did Mary and Joseph

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD, SHOEBOX GIFT NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK

Turn in your packed shoebox gifts to: Adventure Church 876 W Onstott Frontage Road, Yuba City



Sunday - November 19 from 9am - 12:30 p.m.

Monday - November 20 from Noon - 3 p.m.

Join us in sending the gospel to children around the world, by packing shoebox gifts with Operation Christmas Child! Since 2009, 17.4 million children have made decisions for Christ because of receiving a shoebox gift and the gospel from O.C.C. Learn all about it at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

For questions, call Dennis at (530) 695-1495





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- 1. Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
- 2. Read it yourself You will be enriched by reading it.
- 3. Share a copy or an article with someone- you will have someone in your life benefit from an article in every issue, cut it out and send it to them, or send them the whole issue
- 4. Leave a copy of The Ambassador when you're having coffee or a meal or waiting for your car. Use it like a tract. It may be less intimidating.
- 5.Monitor The Ambassador at your church: assure its presence and visibility
- 6. Subscribe for a friend or family member (or yourself)
- 7. Find new locations- ask businesses that you frequent to take some papers, deliver and monitor them
- 8. Deliver a small route- 1 to 2 hours each month
- 9. Give financially as an Individual partner, business partner, churches/ministries partner (every dollar helps to impact the community)
- 10. Talk to your like-minded Christian friends, family, business associates and church leadership, about helping as well.

If you would like to help, please contact Seth Halpern at 530-933-1385 or email editor@ambassadornewspaper.com





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

#### Where Have All The Good Women Gone?

Barbie's new Stevie Nicks doll illustrates how feminism destroyed the female virtues of patience, loyalty, and compassion.

Barbie has just introduced the Stevie Nicks doll, which harks back to Nicks' early days with Fleetwood Mac. The preorders sold out in a flash. Nicks said on X: "When Mattel came to me asking if I would like to have a Barbie made in the 'Rumours' cover style, I was very overwhelmed. Of course, I questioned 'would she look like me? Would she have my spirit? Would she have my heart..." Nicks' fears were put to rest upon seeing it. "I am her and she is me. She absolutely has my heart."

Dolls aren't a new love for Nicks, who spoke of her affinity for them in a 1992 interview with Vox magazine. Nicks' home was decorated with dolls and lace, and she confessed a desire to dress like a rag doll. "She's like a damsel in distress in her castle," Vox reported, "and we're in her fairyland lounge."

Nicks is featured in my book, The End of Woman: How Smashing the Patriarchy Has Destroyed Us (Regnery, 2023), after I unearthed her candid



remarks to Vox about her life, career, and four abortions. "To give up four (babies) is to give up a lot that would be here now. So that really bothers me, a lot, and really breaks my heart. But they're gone, so ...' she composes herself. 'But I couldn't because I was too busy. And I had all these commitments."

Nicks, like many women before and since, prioritized career over family, seeing her obligation to her fans and those who worked on her tour as more important. She speaks of the heartbreak of the men with whom she had relationships and who were the fathers of her children. "Eventually,



their hearts couldn't take it, they couldn't understand quite enough, how deeply embedded in this I was. And so it eventually hurt them too much and they had to leave, or face devastation on their own."

In her new book, The Toxic War on Masculinity, Nancy Pearcey explains that men intuitively understand the difference between a good man and a real man. Sociologist Michael Kimmel asked thousands of men two questions, starting with cadets at West Point. What is a good man, and what is a real man? The characteristics of the good man, the cadets reported, are: "Honor, duty, integrity, sacrifice, do the right thing, stand up for the little guy, be a provider, be a protector." The real man's characteristics, on the other hand, are "tough, strong, never show weakness, win at all costs, suck it up, play through pain, be competitive, get rich, get laid." The good man puts others before himself while the real man puts himself first. Despite years of the culture trying to tear down masculinity, this timeless distinction between a good man and a real man remains.

What happens when we apply the same questions to women: What is a good woman? What is a real woman? The answers are nowhere as easy and clear. The last 50 years have airbrushed any semblance of a good woman from the culture and replaced her with the working woman.

#### **Roots of Feminism**

In 1963, Betty Friedan dropped an ideological bomb on the world with The Feminine Mystique, which sold around 3 million copies in its first few years of publication. The blast can still be felt and seen today. In her book, Friedan makes the case that women need to leave the home to become truly free. What wasn't obvious in the book was Friedan's communist commitment and her Marxist goal to get women into productive work and outside the home. Using a blend of psychology and disguised Marxist argumentation, Friedan convinced millions of women to grasp the great good of a career.

Building on Friedan's propaganda, feminism has been retinkering the popular conception of womanhood ever since. Although the feminist ideal is much older, hailing back to Percy Shelley's articulation of the "independent woman" in the early 1800s, the independent working woman, unfettered by husband and children, became the new way women all over the world thought they ought to live.

This ideal woman was soon everywhere: She splashed onto the pages of glossy magazines such as Cosmo and Seventeen; she was on viral blogs, like Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop;

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 17** 

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#### **MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE**

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year? Dealing with Grief during the Holidays

By Becky L. Brown, PCC, NCC

Everywhere you look the halls are decked with holly and ribbon declaring the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The radio stations are now playing all Christmas and holiday songs where they would normally play various pop and rock songs. It really is the most wonderful time of the year; the whole world is celebrating Jesus, even when they don't worship Him. But the holidays are a time when the loss of a loved one or relationship can really make you feel more like singing 'it's the most horrible time of the year'. What can you do to help cope with the deep losses during a time of joy?

Grief is an individual experience that everyone will have at some point in their lives. The holidays are especially tender times because of the empty place at the family table, the change in the traditions, and the searing pain of reality. There is no 'right' way to grieve; however, there are ways in which we get stuck in our grief. When we cease to live because of the death of a loved



one or the end of a relationship, we may be stuck in our grief and need support in moving through it. We never just 'get over' a loss but we can move through it!

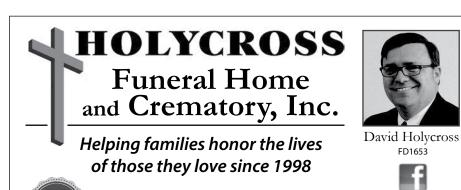
Just last week I attended a funeral of a son of some friends that was killed in a motorcycle accident. This was a tragic loss and it was compounded by the fact that they lost another son just 15 months ago due to complications of surgery. The heaviness of sorrow in that service was palpable. How can anyone endure such grief? My friends are faithful believers and have served God their whole lives in ministry. As I looked upon the crowd making their way through the receiving line, there were many who were racked with grief. I began to reflect on the lost who were there who were dealing with the loss of this loved one. Where was their hope? Even in the sadness, we who are in Christ realize He will sustain us.

If you are reeling from a recent loss, or even feeling stuck in your grief, will you make a connection with someone today and let them know of your pain? It is hard to reach out in those times when you feel no one will understand or everyone is so busy. Make the connection with someone today towards healing the pain of grief. Healing from the pain of grief does not mean you have forgotten your loved one, or that you are disrespecting the loss, it means you are living and need to go on with your life. Honor the memory of your loved one by fully stepping into your life. There are support groups like Griefshare, in churches or communities that can help you walk through this season of grief so that the holiday season doesn't have to be endured but can be enjoyed with a new vision.

Remembering your loved one during the holidays can be a heart-warming time instead of a heart-wrenching time. God feels your loss and can be found when you seek Him.

You can call 1-800-NEW-LIFE for a counselor if you want help to move through your grief. Take the step towards healing today, it can be the best gift of all.

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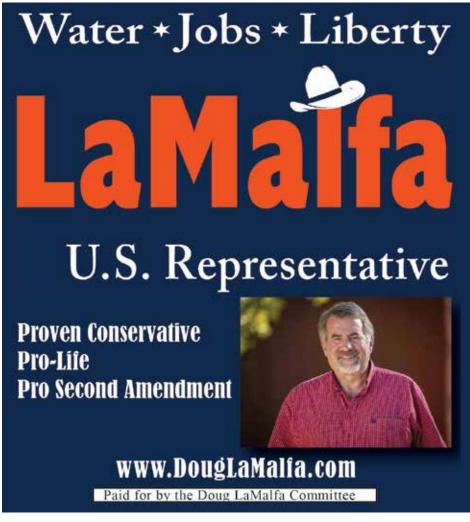
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# **Christian Apologetics**

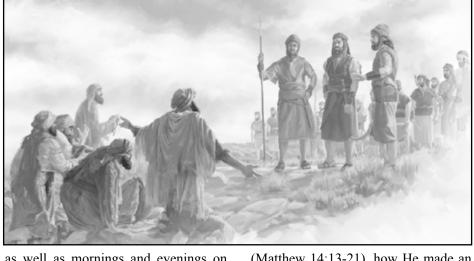
#### The Sun Stood Still-Really?

By Mark Lyons (apologeticspress.org)

In compliance with God's will to punish the terribly wicked nations of Canaan (Deuteronomy 9:5; Joshua 10:8), Joshua and his army of Israelites engaged in battle with the "five kings of the Amorites" and their armies at Gibeon (Joshua 10:5,10). In the midst of the battle, which poured into other areas of southern Palestine, Joshua spoke to the Lord, saying: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon" (10:12). The inspired writer goes on to acknowledge: "So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped till the people had revenge upon their enemies" (10:13). Even more emphatically, the writer testifies: "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel" (10:13-14).

What does the text mean when it says, "the Sun stood still"? Did the Sun literally stand "still," or did the Earth stop its approximate 1,000-mph rotation on its axis in order to give the Israelites more time to defeat their enemies? And what about the Moon; did it actually stop, too? What are we to make of such language?

First, is it possible that the same God Who miraculously created the entire Universe out of nothing could supernaturally (and literally) stop the Sun (or any other part, or all parts, of the Universe that He so chooses)?1 Could the same God Who made light,



as well as mornings and evenings on Earth, without a Sun (on days 1-3 of Creation; Genesis 1:3-19)2 also cause the Moon to "stop"?3 Is it possible for the omnipotent Creator, Who currently "upholds the Universe by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3, ESV), to miraculously manipulate a day on Earth to His liking? Is it possible for God to refract light or to specially create some kind of light to illuminate a part of the Earth for a longer period of time than the normal daylight hours? Though skeptics often ridicule the idea of miracles, in truth, if a supernatural God exists, then supernatural miracles are possible. Could God Almighty work an astronomical miracle on behalf of the Israelites when they faced the armies of the Amorites if He so chose? Indeed, He could.

But how, exactly, could God have "stopped" the Sun and Moon? The fact is, we are not told how God could have worked such a miracle any more than we are told how He miraculously fed several thousand people with merely five loaves of bread and two fish

(Matthew 14:13-21), how He made an iron ax head float in water (2 Kings 6:4-7), or how exactly Jonah could have survived for three days in the belly of a fish. The recognition of God's unlimited knowledge and power should be a logically sufficient explanation.

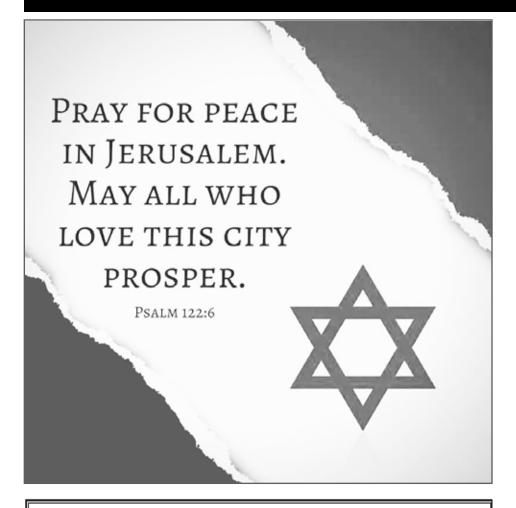
Bible students must keep in mind that the book of Joshua is a historical composition, full of real people, places, dialogue, and events, and is written in ordinary language. Joshua is not a book of prophecy or poetry filled with extensive amounts of figurative language. Nothing in Joshua 10 suggests that we should interpret the account as highly figurative or symbolic. That said, one common element of normal, "everyday" speech and writing, both in Bible times and today, is the description of things as they appear (and not necessarily in the scientifically precise manner that we would expect in a geometry or chemistry classroom). Since to everyone on Earth (both in Bible times and today) it appears that the Sun moves from the east to the west, man has long referred to the Sun rising

and setting (though technically what we see is the result of the Earth's rotation on its axis). Could it be that the miracle God worked in Joshua 10 had less to do with the Sun than one might initially think? Certainly. As Hebrew scholar Justin Rogers commented: "Indeed, it appeared to them that 'the sun stopped in the middle of the sky.' This is clear use of phenomenological language, and it simply means this day was unusually long. Daylight was halted miraculously so as to allow God's forces more time to conquer their foes."4 God did not inform us of the precise manner in which He chose to work this marvelous miracle, but rest assured, it happened, and it was amazing. In fact, "there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man" (Joshua 10:14).5

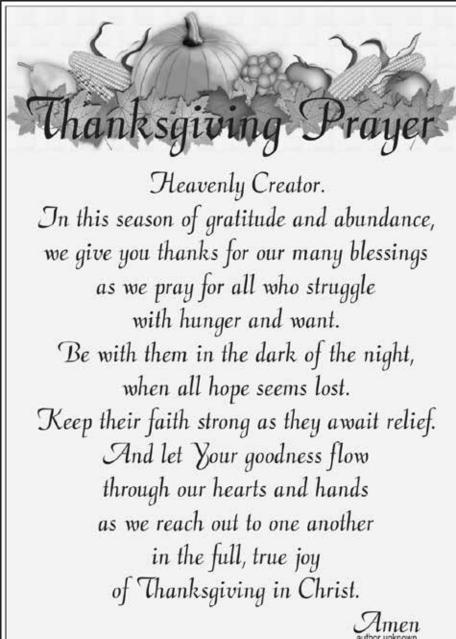
#### **Endnotes**

- 1. The Sun literally moves. It rotates about every 27 days at its equator (www. nasa.gov/sun), while traveling through the Milky Way Galaxy at an estimated 514,000 miles per hour (starchild.gsfc. nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question18.html).
- 2. Keep in mind that "the Father of lights" (James 1:17), Who is "light" (1 John 1:5), could create light easily without first having to create the Sun, Moon, and stars. Just as God could produce a fruit-bearing tree on day three without seed, He could produce light supernaturally on Day 1 without the "usual" light bearers (which subsequently were created on Day 4).

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 17** 



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# Continued for Page 1: "The War in Gaza is not about Revenge..."

— a term coined to describe Israel's philosophy of containing and shutting down consistent attacks from Hamas will suffice.

In the era of the Camp David Accords, Israel tried to cede control of the Gaza Strip to Egypt, but Egypt refused. In 2005, Israel pulled out of Gaza entirely and forced over 8,000 Israelis to leave. Since Hamas seized control of the strip in 2007, Israel has followed a philosophy of containment and mitigation. Conflicts have largely followed a standard path, with Hamas and Islamic Jihad firing rockets into Israel and Israel responding with airstrikes targeting military targets, culminating in an eventual "until next time" resolution.

But, after the attacks on October 7th, it has become clear to Israeli leadership that this strategy has to change. It is time to pull up the grass — Hamas and Islamic Jihad — by the roots while making every effort to spare civilians so the bloodshed of both Israelis and Palestinians can finally end.

But now we are in the awful reality of war, and even just war is gruesome.

Independent investigations confirmed that Hamas uses schools,



mosques, and hospitals as weapons depots and military headquarters and regularly launches rockets toward Israel from civilian centers, introducing the added danger of misfires. Despite Israael's repeated warnings to evacuate Northern Gaza toward the South, Hamas has told Gazans to stay put, and Egypt has refused to accept refugees or allow safe passage for those with foreign passports.

Regardless of what some bad actors may have you believe, Israel has zero interest in civilian casualties. Targeting civilians or exercising anything other than the highest care possible in

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fraught situations would violate Israel's Hebraic values and undermine its claim to the moral high ground — an essential asset as it tries to retain the support of Western democracies.

While no one knows what will follow if Israel successfully dismantles Hamas, we know one thing. In the words of Michael Herzog, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.: "So, we (Israel) have no desire to occupy or reoccupy Gaza ... We have no desire to rule over the lives of over two million Palestinians."

Even still, war is always an ugly matter, especially when terrorist organizations force their own people

into harm's way. While the war is just, the loss of human life, especially innocent life, is always a tragedy. Now more than ever, those looking on from the West need to keep two things in mind at once: It is possible to support Israel in its necessity of ending Hamas while exercising deep compassion for those caught in the crossfire.

As the region settles into what could be a protracted and bloody conflict, we must retain moral clarity about how this war started and how it must end while doing all we can to avoid becoming callous.

Ultimately, the possibility of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, while further off than it was before October 7th, isn't dead because it can't be dead. When the dust settles, Israelis and Palestinians will still be living side by side. This means it will be the task of prudent statesmen and women to find a creative path forward where Palestinians and Israelis alike can thrive, free from the oppression and genocidal aims of Hamas.

Liza Ashley is Associate Director of the Charles Malik Institute at the Philos Project. She regularly writes and speaks on topics relating to religion, culture, and foreign policy.

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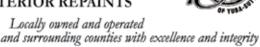


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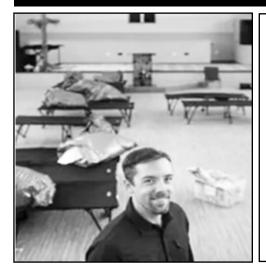
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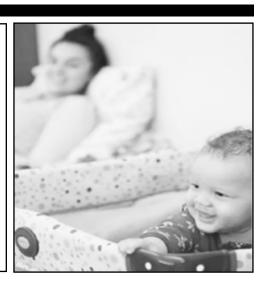
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#### **CATEGORIES OF HOMELESSNESS**

REST is a multi-church collaboration to provide winter emergency shelter offering a hot meal and a comfortable cot. The support that REST supplies through people like you gives a unique assistance for families, women and couples who pose no threat to society. By kind endeavors, REST helps them become reestablished. Many of our former guests are settled in permanent housing. Some have returned to help out as volunteers, bringing their empathy and energy.

The Eskimos have 50 words for snow. We have one. If people believed we were facing global cooling instead of global warming, they'd probably be updating their Funk & Wagnall's snow lexicon. But I digress. We do suffer from a single word to describe a diverse population and a complex situation. That one overused word is "homeless". Or the euphemistic "unhoused".

Homelessness is lately getting more attention from the government. That, like always, is sure to be a mixed blessing. But apart from spending money and making demands of local entities, this focus will bring an overlooked and oversimplified issue into view. Expect a lot of consternation.

I propose "homeless" be used as an umbrella word, like the one word describing those white flakes that fall from the winter sky. If we are to understand and address the predicament, it will be important for us to specify the types of homelessness that distinguish it by cause and effect, as well as by motivation and by capacity for remedy.

Having volunteered in homeless services with REST (Regional Emergency Shelter Team), for 10 years, I am acquainted with a portion of the people we broadly label as "homeless". Most of my homeless friends are dismayed by their loss of place. So, we as Christians can respond wisely and allocate our assets effectively, it will be helpful to have, not 50 but for now, four categories.

Circumstantial – These folks fall into a homeless condition by an increase in rent, loss of job, or escape from abuse. It is unforeseen and undesired and unavoidable. They need a safe space.

**Critical**– Those afflicted by a mental illness or cognitive impairment may not be able to provide for themselves. Support systems will help these unwilling, unwitting victims of homelessness.

**Cyclical**– This group lacks job skills or familial resources to stay in self-provided housing. The goal is to deliver employment training and entry-level

opportunities to gain sustainable wages. Criminal – The people in this category are often drug abusers who perpetrate crimes in order to support their habits. Intervention by rehabilitation and/or incarceration may be best advised.

Efforts to solve homelessness are stymied by the broad-brush belief that people without shelter are suspicious or malicious. Homeless people in my acquaintance have an incredible capacity to care for each other. If we were to add our own compassion to theirs, we'd find Desmond Tutu was

on to something; "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Our shelter opens December 3rd, and it will continue for 18-wintery weeks with the help of people like you. Correction, not 'like you', but YOU! We rely on volunteers welcoming guests, driving vans, hosting dinner, making friends, serving breakfast.

Get involved. Contact REST Director Frank South at (530) 683-2274 or restdirector.ys@gmail.com

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#### Bible Baptist Church in Marysville: In His Service for 50 years.



Fifty years ago, gas was 39 cents a gallon, and the revolutionary cell phone was invented. While the internet did not yet exist, Bible Baptist Church in Marysville did. For 50 years, this pillar in the community has stood the test of time. Birthed out of a passion for bringing children to church, this ministry has reached generation after generation with their buses, Sundayschool classes, and community outreach programs.

While Bible Baptist Church is iconically known as the church with the white buses, it did not start there. In fact, in the fall of 1973, Bible Baptist Church was started in the living room of the Samms' family home. There was no beautiful church building, no property, and no bus. It simply started with a group of dedicated young families who had a heart to reach the children of this area with the good news of the Gospel.

Once the church was established, the charter church members almost immediately began their first ministry to the community. Of course, it was the bus ministry; this first bus was anonymously donated to the church and was used for decades. Big Red, as the first bus was affectionately called, led the way as it carried children, teenagers, and adults to Sunday school. Once Big Red ran out of room, BBC added new buses to their fleet, and Big Red became one of the iconic white church

buses. These white buses have traversed Linda, Marysville, Olivehurst, Live Oak, and Yuba City in the spirit of Jesus when He said to His disciples to bid the little children to come to Him.

By 1975, Bible Baptist purchased their property, an almond orchard, off of N. Beale Rd. In 1976, an old, one-room schoolhouse building was donated to the church. The church members had the building moved to their property and worked together to get it renovated and repaired. Growth was coming to BBC, so by 1977 Pastor Niemeir broke ground on the main church building that is currently being used today. 1977 was also the year that Bible Baptist Church started Heritage Christian School. Today, Bible Baptist Church is home to Conquerors Christian School and Preschool, established in 2016, with the preschool being added this past September. Both are a ministry of BBC focusing on creating a safe place for children to learn and develop a biblical worldview while partnering with families in developing lifelong learners with critical thinking skills.

Time has passed, people have grown, and some things have changed, but Bible Baptist still works to minister to this community. The buses continue to run and bring people to church. There are Sunday-school classes ministering to all age groups. Vacation Bible School

**CONTINUE ON PAGE 17** 

#### CONT'D FROM PAGE 8: "WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD WOMEN GONE?"

TV remade her again and again, from Mary Tyler Moore to Murphy Brown to Selina Meyer in "Veep;" and Hollywood made her a superhero, unencumbered by the demands of pregnancy or a smaller physique than her male counterparts. The ideal woman always "kicks a\*\*".

#### **Ambition as Virtue**

Gone was the good woman and her hallmark virtues, such as patience, loyalty, and compassion. These ideas were redefined as codependency, a kind of slavery, or only for women who were doormats. The virtues of the working woman ascended, taking center stage: self-reliance, ambition, focus, and strength. No family - no man, no child — would get in her way. Every few months, especially during award season, a new starlet comes out and thanks the universe for allowing her to get an abortion, lest her career would have been ruined by the demands of caring for a wriggling, wailing, dream crusher.

The Nicks story isn't just about the sad reality of a mother ending the lives

of her children because of her working obligations. It shows the mental discord created when women neglect what makes them good in order to embrace what makes them a Marxist. Sadly, Nicks' love for dolls will never take the place of her children. Her life is a testimony to what happens when we give up our children for a much lesser good.

Certainly, Nicks, like so many other women who have followed Friedan's advice, can be called many good things— a good singer, songwriter, and entertainer, or even a good Barbie doll. But few would be tempted to call her a good woman.

Carrie Gress is a fellow at Ethics and Public Policy Center. A mother of five, she is the author of 10 books, including "The Anti-Mary Exposed: Rescuing the Culture from Toxic Femininity." She is the editor of the online women's magazine Theology of Home. Her latest book is "The End of Woman: How Smashing the Patriarchy Has Destroyed Us."

#### CONT'D FROM PAGE 12: "THE SUN STOOD STILL- REALLY?"

For more information, see Eric Lyons (2006), "When Were the Sun, Moon, and Stars Created?" www.apologeticspress. org/AllegedDiscrepancies. aspx?article=1990&b=Genesis.

- **3.** The Moon also rotates on its axis as it revolves around Earth (moon.nasa.gov/about/in-depth).
- **4.** Justin Rogers (2017), "Does the Bible Teach a Flat Earth?" Reason & Revelation, July, 37[7]:74-77, apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx? category=11&article=5428&topic=82, emp. in original.
- 5. A story has circulated on the Internet for many years that NASA discovered Joshua's "missing day." This story is a hoax. Although some (such as C.A.L. Totten and Harry Rimmer) have alleged to have discovered a "missing day" (in connection with Joshua 10), their calculations and differing conclusions are highly questionable and unproven at best and laughable at worst. Rimmer goes so far as to "arrive at the conclusion that the day of battle was Tuesday...July 22" [Rimmer (1944), The Harmony of Science and Scripture (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans), pp. 251-283].

https://apologeticspress.org/the-sun-stood-stillreally-5529/

#### CONT'D FROM PAGE 16: "BIBLE BAPTIST...50 YEARS"

is held annually for the children of our community. Every year, the church is transformed to match the theme, whether that be an airport complete with a jet,

a medieval castle and moat, a mission station and rocket, or even a port with a pirate ship. Currently, BBC also hosts a weekly kids club for midweek children's Bible study and a food pantry for those in need. Every week care homes are visited, ministering to seniors, and dedicated

workers run church services multiple times every week in the local jails. As we look back over the years of impact, one thing is clear: BBC cares about community and bringing people of all ages to God.

To celebrate 50 years of service to the Yuba Sutter community, Bible Baptist



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See our "50 years of Service" ad on the back page.



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# OP/ED

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For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES: Gossip- Pornography of the Soul

(Originally published in the November 2007 issue)

There is a lot said about pornography and rightly so. It is a horrible and rampant addiction epidemic destroying individuals, marriages, and families. Men are most often the ones entrapped although recent statistics show that women are not immune from it's infective nature. Believing women, however, often indulge in another vice, that being gossip. While men are also open to this sin, I believe that women are more prone. It intrigues me that these two vices are of particular interest to the church community. I believe they come from the same root. Pornography is the unclothing of (usually) the female body. The need to see what is not allowed and to leave the "victim" exposed and vulnerable. Likewise, gossip is the "unclothing" of another person's life that is not intended for our knowledge. Men, as we know, are stimulated by sight and thus opt for a visual image of the illicit. Women are typically more communicative



Seth Halpern - Editor

by nature. So, the stimulus becomes speaking and hearing that which should not be communicated, leaving the "victim" exposed and vulnerable. Again, I am speaking in generalities regarding gender, but the stereotypes of men and women are such, for a reason; they are often (but not always) true. This said, it is important to flee every potential opportunity to sin in these so called "victimless" crimes. For they are not victimless at all. Both pornography and gossip can destroy the lives of the "victims" as well as the perpetrators.



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.

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