



THE AMBASSADOR

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When the Foundation



by Seth Halpern
Editor

The global community is still reeling from the massive devastation that took place in Japan this past month. It is yet too soon to tell the real damage of the triple tragedy. Thousands of families have had their lives irrevocably changed after the earthquake and tsunami and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, were displaced and without power or water in the aftermath of the destruction. Unfortunately, the horror is not over. In addition to the need to rebuild their homes, towns, and lives, the threat of nuclear radiation is very real and unsettling.

It has been a year since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. After the horrific jolt there left hundreds of thousands dead, those around the world including our nation sprung into action. We did what we could to help. Yet, there is much debate over whether Haiti "had it coming". Some would say that the voodoo hold on the culture led to its demise. Others oppose that thought, but point to the corrupt government. Yet, no one could deny that the impoverished land of Haiti was not built to survive the power of a sizeable earthquake. News shows discussed how Haiti's lack of building codes and shanty-like dwellings were a tragedy waiting to happen.

Japan, however, is a different story. It is said that there is no nation more prepared for an earthquake. Yet, hindsight shows that some things are not in our control. Japan is one of the most industrialized nations on the planet and since they expect earthquakes regularly, they build to accommodate that fact. On March 11, God showed otherwise. The

forces of nature proved too much for this industrialized nation. Shifts in the Earth's crust can not be controlled by man, nor can the power of the water driven by tsunami tides.

We, in the west, should sit up and take notice that we cannot control life. We are "but a vapor" the Bible tells us (James 4:14). God is the one who created nature. He created the plates, the oceans, and the tides. It is His creation. He also created life. Each one of those lives that were lost and those grieving survivors are created in His image. Unlike the nature God created, these people are dear to His heart and He loves each one that perished as well as each one that survived.

Many argue at this point saying "Why does He create and then destroy?". "Why does a loving God allow innocent people to suffer or die?" There is no answer comforting enough to the person in the midst of grief. There is no answer that can soothe the anger and dry the tears of the pained mourner. Yet, when the emotions run their course and there is an openness to hear an answer, or for those not directly affected, yet wrestling with doubt and fairness, there is an answer.

God does not kill innocent people, because none of us are, in fact, innocent. God reveals in His Word "We have all fallen short of the Glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). We have all sinned against Him. In fact, we are all born into sin. He has made a way for us, through His own sacrifice of His son. Through that son, Jesus, we are again made right with Him. Not because of our goodness, but because of Jesus life, death, and resurrection.

continued on page 6 - SHAKES

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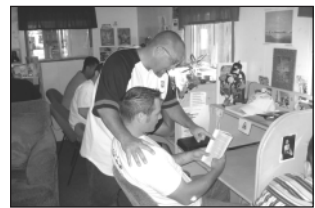
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- ✦ The Ambassador is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches.
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- ✦ The purpose of The Ambassador is to pursue the great commission 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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Our Purpose

by John Imler

Did you ever wonder just why you are on this earth? I know I have. Since surviving a serious heart attack and having a 5-way bypass at the age of 77, while others much younger have passed away, it really weighs on my mind. Friends have sought to encourage me by saying, “God still has work for you to do.” But just what is that work? Then, as I studied the Scriptures, several things have been made clear to me.

First, God reinforced my conviction that there is a purpose for all of us, and He has laid it out in advance. Psalms 139:16 states “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Yes, the number of my days was established in God’s book, and there is unfinished work already recorded on His pages for me to do.

What is that work is the question? In 2 Cor 1:3-4 Paul gives us a clue with these words: “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Peter invites us to “Cast all your anxiety (care) on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 1:7). We are invited to do this because it is only as we do so that we receive and experience the comfort that is offered to all of us in all our tribulation. Once we experience that comfort, then we are prepared to comfort those who are in

trouble—but not until.

Yes, each of us has experienced our own areas of tribulation—the loss of a loved one, the loss of earthly assets, the loss of a job or career, or the loss of our health—and has asked God “why?” Perhaps his answer is so that we may know the comfort that He alone can give in order that we may be able to comfort those in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sharing and comforting each other was an underlying theme in many of the writings of the Apostles to the early church. These are still needed today. In Hebrews 3:13 we are admonished to “encourage one another daily.” In Hebrews 10 we are admonished to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, to keep meeting together—and all the more as we see the Day approaching. 1 Thes. 4:18 and 5:11 challenge the believers of the early church to “encourage each other” and to “build each other up.”

This is Our Purpose.

John can be reached through his web page at www.faithrescued.com.

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The God Who Does

By Paula McBride

My mind was on autopilot one Sunday morning as I pulled out of the garage and headed toward church. However, as I rounded the corner and slowed to a stop, something clicked and all systems were activated. There before me was a peach orchard splendidly dressed in radiant pink. I reveled in the beauty and exclaimed audibly, "You did it, God! You control the seasons and promise that spring will follow every winter."

Such an experience may seem foolish to some, but the foundation of my faith rests in the knowledge of a God who does what He says He will do. God's attributes reveal who He is, but we come to trust those attributes by what He does.

Throughout the Old Testament, God urges His people to look at what He does. The prophet Isaiah writes in the form of a trial speech as God asserts His superiority over idols. God is righteously blunt as He lays out the facts: "Idols can't do anything. They can't hear, see, or keep promises. A woodcarver works with a chisel and plane to fashion an idol, nails it down to keep it from falling over, and then uses the scraps for firewood." On the other hand, says the Lord, "I alone stretched out the heavens. I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have paid the price to set you free. I do what I say I will do" (from Isaiah 44). Sadly, even though God's superiority is plain for us to see, many still reject Him and follow idols of their own making.

In the New Testament, God's passionate commitment to human

redemption and the restoration of relationship with His children is revealed in another mighty deed--the sending of His precious Son, Jesus Christ. We can learn the attributes of Jesus, but we come to trust Him by entering into what He does. As one with His Father, Jesus showed His power over nature, disease, death, and evil forces during His ministry on earth. He was the friend of sinners and prostitutes; He touched the unclean and conquered the stench of death with new life.

In Christ, God performed the most gracious act of all. He granted His Son permission to bear our sins in His own body on the cross. Those of us who ignore God's passionate love are still loved by Him! In living, Christ loved us. In dying, He saved us. When He was buried, our sins were carried far away.

Yet the story goes on! If the substitutionary death of Christ was God's most gracious act, then the resurrection of Christ is the mightiest act, and beyond that, His coming again is a most exciting hope for the future. Because God has shown His trustworthiness in the past by doing what He said He would do, we can count on Him for forgiveness of sin, His presence, strength, and purpose for today, and the assurance of a glorious future forever in His eternal kingdom.

We can know God for who He is, and we can trust Him because of what He does. Let's live victoriously on this solid foundation. Happy Easter!



Kid's Corner



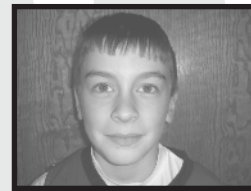
How has God answered your prayers?



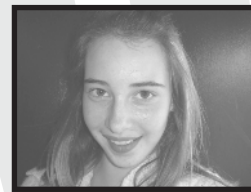
I was in second grade and I prayed about getting a bird. This year, (three years later), on the Sunday of the Super Bowl, I found a wounded dove in my driveway. I got the bird and put it in a huge cage and now it is happy. I learned that God answers prayer even though I had to wait a long time. ~Maddi Halpin, age 10



Me and my class and my teacher prayed that my dad's surgery would go well and it did. ~Mia Darwazeh, age 10



My dad fell out of a tree and busted himself up and now he's getting better. All my relatives, teacher, and classmates prayed for him. ~Joe Myers, age 11



I prayed that I would know if my grandpa would go to heaven when he died. My parents told me the glory of God was around him when he died. ~Ellise Benedict, age 12



A dog was chasing me. I hid in an empty house for about ten minutes. My dad prayed and the dog finally went away. ~Isabella Malan, age 11



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Set A Pace And Run The Race

By Ronnie McBrayer

My middle school-aged sons have begun serious athletic conditioning in their Physical Education class. Gone are the romping-around-days of freeze-tag and unruly dodge ball games. Now they have to meet physical strength standards and run the mile every week. Now, I'm no help to them. Call on me for help with a history project or a book report. But running? Forget it. If you ever see me running please stop and help me. Something big and bad is chasing me. What with her little collection of 5K trophies and ribbons (continually they mock me), it is their mother who must coach them. And the thing she teaches them most often is how to set pace, how to finish the race they begin.

To complete any long distance race the runner must set a speed that he or she can maintain. Flying out of the starting block as if your britches are on fire will do you no good if you are sucking wind by the second turn; this is true on the track, and true in life. The writer of the book of Hebrews, aptly enough, once compared life to a sporting event. We are athletes on the track in this arena of life and there is a race to run. He says, "Strip down, travel light, and don't quit."

You can't run in stiletto heels, steel-

toed boots, a three-piece suit or denim skirt. Get rid of those things. And forget about carrying anything with you: No backpacks, no coolers or picnic baskets. Free yourself from as much baggage as possible. And then, keep your eyes on the finish line. Don't go wandering into the stands for a hot dog or a beer. Get out of the souvenir shop and quit giving interviews to ESPN while the game is still on. Those who finish the race are the ones who stay at it.

The Scriptures do not provide us with any mystical, steroid-ized shortcuts to "run (or ride) with perseverance the race marked out for us." Instead, they coach us to set a pace for the marathon of life we run. It will take everything we have to finish, but finishing is enough. So take the writer of Hebrews' advice. Get in shape, get light, and get after it. Grind away day after day and mile after mile if you must. You don't have to win the race, just finish.

Ronnie McBrayer is the author of "Leaving Religion, Following Jesus." He writes and speaks about life, faith, and Christ-centered spirituality. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

SHAKES

continued from cover

The governor of Tokyo made a shocking statement after the tsunami. He said that this tragedy may be "Divine punishment" because of the greed. I'm not sure what prompted this government official to proclaim that accusation but it is sobering. While the governor does not believe in Jesus as Lord, he saw the sin (greed) at work, so much so that he thought it to be "wrath of god" punishing them.

The God I believe, honor, and serve is a loving God. He loves the people He created enough to make a way for us to

come to Him. Although He's a righteous and just sovereign creator, He is also a merciful, loving and gracious God. We have a lot in common with the Japanese. We are very industrialized and prepared. We are proud and greedy. We live in an area prone to earthquakes. Perhaps we should thank God for the advance warning and the ability to see the devastation from afar. Perhaps we should continue to live out our faith and honor God by helping the struggling, shattered Japanese people any way we can. Perhaps we should also come down from our high view of ourselves and in humility respect the power of the sovereign God. He made a way for us. Let's take it.

Furnace Or Incinerator

By Jon Skillman

I have become a fan of one line wisdom. You know those snappy little one-liners that grab your consciousness and cause your head to bobble in agreement... those succinct sayings that pack complexity into a few well-chosen words.

Well I came upon such a line the other day that really set me to thinking (not always a good thing). It read: "If you are in the furnace, it's easy to catch fire." Now on the surface, it makes perfect sense, but my question is, in which context was it written? Was it positive, or negative?

My first take was that it had a negative connotation. For example: It's like a recovering addict returning to the same environment (furnace) that made him an addict in the first place. He has, in effect, placed himself in a position to catch fire again. Or, it's like someone continually returning to the fire (furnace) of an abusive relationship, odds are pretty good that they will, once again, get burned. I tend to look at these types of situations not so much as entering a furnace, as it is throwing yourself into an incinerator... the difference being, an incinerator is strictly for destroying things, whereas a furnace can be used in more productive ways.

With this in mind the thought struck me that this one-liner could also have a positive message. For instance, how many times have you heard someone say:

"Oh so-in-so is on fire for the Lord." Well that's probably because so-in-so has entered The Lord's Furnace and has caught fire. This is a good thing because God will use so-in-so to fuel his furnace for the good of others. And the really cool thing about The Lord's Furnace is... it is not governed by Einstein's Theory of Relativity, it is ruled by God's relativity to us. This means so-in-so has become fuel for God's furnace, but like the burning bush, he will not be consumed.

In Isaiah 43:2, God tells us: "...When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Now you may be saying, isn't this a contradiction; how can you have one person blazing away and another not getting burned? Well, and this is strictly my opinion, one is ablaze in the spirit, while the other is being purified through the flames of trial and affliction. In other words, one is radiating the heat of faith, while the other is being cleansed by it. God's purpose is to purify us not destroy us.

So I guess the message in all of this is: If you find yourself in trouble, don't throw yourself into the world's incinerator and be consumed... Step into God's furnace and be cleansed, saved and set ablaze in God's glory.

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A Peek At My Bookshelf - Recommended Reading by Deena Peterson "Passport Through Darkness" by Kimberly L. Smith

As demands on my time grow, I find myself getting a little pickier about what I read. I'm always on the hunt for books that will move me, change me, make me think, or shake me up. Kimberly L. Smith has done all of that with her book, and I honestly believe it could be one of the most important books you read this year.

"Passport Through Darkness" is by no means easy to read. Some of the events Kimberly describes will leave you shaken to your very core. Some will appall you; some will make you weep; some will leave you burning in anger; some will have you so frustrated you'll yearn to make a difference.

That was what motivated Kimberly. She left her corporate career and comfortable lifestyle for the mission field of Spain, working along with her husband, Martin. What neither of them knew was God had moved them across the globe to a mere jumping off point.

Circumstances led the couple to Portugal, to work side-by-side with a struggling mission effort to impoverished and orphaned children. But what the Smiths uncovered in that orphanage turned my stomach, and sent Kimberly on a mission to stop child-trafficking and to rescue orphans in the darkest parts of the world.

Her mission efforts took her to Sudan and Darfur, areas plagued with disease, genocide, war and atrocities that are mind-boggling to many of us. She worked with nothing to rescue those who were society's throw-aways. Often Kimberly's efforts seemed in vain.

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This isn't just social gospel...this is the real deal. And some of the things Kimberly endured are simple atrocious. And yet she returned, time after time, working tirelessly to help save one child, one mother...one life.

Kimberly is brutally honest about her own personal walk with Christ and her relationship with her husband. When debilitating illness kept him stateside, she

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continued to work as a missionary, which strained her relationships at home.

And she was reluctant to share all she had witnessed for fear of what the outcome might be...secrets that nearly cost her all she held dear. This is a book with multiple layers, and a rich reading experience.

My thanks to Audra Jennings at B&B Media for my copy, and to Kimberly for stepping out in faith and writing such a moving book. I'm giving "Passport Through Darkness" the Golden Bookmark for Writing Excellence" and urging everyone to get a copy. This book is published by David C. Cook and is available at Crosspointe Books and other Christian bookstores.

Visit MakeWayPartners.org to learn more about Kimberly and Martin Smith and their worldwide outreach.

Happy Reading!
 Deena Peterson

*An Independent Reviewer
 Totally Dependent Upon Jesus!*

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

Off The "Wall"

Some inspiring posts found on Facebook

"The sins of others should not offend me as much as my own."

You cannot fully care for someone who is suffering without entering into his pain.

The sick must be touched if they are to be healed.

The weak must be nourished, the wounded embraced.

CARE is the bigger part of cure. (Book: Theirs Is The Kingdom)

"If you do not abide in prayer, you will abide in temptation."
 ~John Owen

"Affliction is the stone which our Lord Jesus throws at the brow of our giant pride, and patience is the sword which cuts off its head."
 ~Charles Spurgeon

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CALENDAR

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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.yrsl.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

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
Sunday 7-8pm, Thursday 6:30-8:30
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
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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
Mar. 19th, 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.

Couplehood
Begins March 16th
Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:45pm
Church of Glad Tidings
www.YubaSutterMarriage.com
How can we protect our relationship from becoming another statistic? What can we do to keep our love energized? Couplehood teaches how to protect, nourish and transform your relationship into an enduring and fulfilling connection. Info: 530.671.6069

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tax Relief 2011: A Rockin' Comedy Show!
Hope Point Nazarene Church, 600 N. George Washington Blvd. Y.C
April 15th, 7pm
Need a little Tax Relief this year? Then join us for some great music from the 50s, 60s, 70s, & 80s featuring the Hope Point All Star Band and great laughs from nationally renowned comedian Adam Christing. Tickets are \$10 each or \$5 if you're a visitor to Hope Point. Register at HopePointNaz.org today as seating is limited.

First Lutheran Spring Craft and Hobby Boutique
First Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall, 850 Cooper Avenue, Y.C.
Sat April 16th, 10am - 2pm
The Spring Boutique is a fundraiser to benefit the youth group that will be traveling to the Las Vegas area to do a week of service this summer. They will be working with kids on a St. Judes ranch, elderly persons in a nursing home and at-risk children in the inner-city. Admission is free

First Lutheran Maundy Thursday Service
First Lutheran Church, 850 Cooper Avenue, Y.C.
April 21, 6:45 pm

First Lutheran Good Friday Tenebrae Service
First Lutheran Church, 850 Cooper Avenue, Y.C.
April 22, 6:45 pm

The Way Of Suffering - Jesus
Starting at Town Center fountain in Yuba City, proceeding up Plumas Street east on Colusa Hwy to Sutter Street than across the Fifth Street Bridge, and concluding at Veteran's Memorial Park in Marysville. Also join with other believers in worship and prayer
Good Friday, April 22, 9:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt
Hope Point Nazarene Church, 600 N. George Washington Blvd. Y.C
Saturday April 23rd 10am
Hey - All Kids up to 5th Grade! Join us for our yearly Egg Hunt to begin in the Family Life Center at Hope Point Naz. Contact the children's department at 671-1130 for more details

PREPARE/ENRICH Training
Friday, April 29th
8:30am - 4:00pm
Church of Glad Tidings
www.YubaSutterMarriage.com
The New Customized version of Prepare/Enrich is the most advanced couple assessment tool available and designed to help facilitators learn how to use the Prepare/Enrich Program with premarital and married couples. For Marriage Educators, Clergy and Laity. Info: 530.671.6069

National Day of Prayer Breakfast
Church of Glad Tidings
Thursday, May 5th @ 7:00 a.m.
The CBA and The Ambassador Christian Newspaper present the National Day of Prayer Breakfast. Tickets are \$15 each and a table of 10 is \$120. Tickets available at Crosspointe Christian Books.



Things never overheard around the Israelite camp.

© Steve Wall www.TreesoftheField.ca

Mark Your Calendars!

RESOURCES

UNDERWATER WITH YOUR MORTGAGE?

What is a Christian Supposed to Do?

Many homeowners, including Christians, are upside down on their mortgage. The world's economy is bleak! Homeowners, including some pastors and churches, have found themselves having to choose between buying groceries and paying bills. No government bailout program can save a drowning homeowner without a job, so don't be duped by scammers, waiting to take your money.

The Obama plan (HR 3648) was designed to help homeowners modify their loans to an affordable amount by adjusting interest rates or reducing loan balance. Unfortunately, only about 5% of applicants are being granted any significant reduction. Most people have been lied to, strung along for months with no answer, told their paperwork was never received, required documents were missing, or they simply didn't qualify for help. Of those that were granted a reduction, 60% of them were back in default within 6 months.

The truth, which is not being told upfront, is that a trial modification immediately puts a homeowner in the path

of foreclosure. If denied down the road, the bank will expect the homeowner to "cure" the deficit created by the temporary payment. They will add late charges and attorney fees*. If the loan can't brought current, including late fees and attorney fees, they are headed for foreclosure and the court house steps.

What is the right thing for a Christian to do?

There are no biblical accounts of mortgage solutions to guide us, no eleventh commandment for instructions, but there are several passages that guide us through debt obligation. Romans 13 makes a pretty clear statement: pay your taxes and all your debts. We are not promised a home on earth, only an eternal home in Heaven and the rest is "dust."

What can Jonah teach us about being "underwater"?

Jonah 1:3-17

Old Jonah was in trouble. So when the crew of the ship determined that he was the cause of the terrible storm, they threw him overboard- no lifeboat, vest, or

government bailout. With seaweed wrapped around his neck, Jonah lost all hope. It's hard to imagine the anguish Jonah experienced or the anxiety of swimming in the stomach of a "whale of a fish," full of floating fish heads, guts, seaweed, etc. If ever Jonah prayed, it was probably "fervent" at that point.

When the great fish finally spit Jonah out on land, Jonah had a task to do: preach to Nineveh.

There is a rescue from financial drowning available for you.

Don't run away as Jonah did or stay in deep water when Senate Bill SB 931 went into effect January 1, 2011. It is a lifeline to save your credit, not your home. If after trying for a loan modification, you were denied or strung along for months on end, this new bill mandates that your first loan debt will be forgiven and possibly a second loan. As Christians we should have a clear understanding of sin debt forgiveness, as that debt was paid on the cross. This is about mortgage debt forgiveness, and the banks are now obligated by law to forgive your debt if they agree to a short sale.

Help is available. Not a scam to take your money, no upfront fees to guarantee a loan modification, no cost to you at all. Banks can no longer come after the homeowner later for the difference between the loan balance and the sale amount.

Short Sale vs. Foreclosure

Banks are coming to terms with the short sale process and many of them are now telling the borrowers to contact a real estate agent immediately and list their home as a short sale. Owners do not pay real estate commissions, and the banks will eventually stop harassing them once a short sale is initiated.

A short sale allows the bank to recover some of the debt and the homeowner has debt forgiven. One additional benefit for owners with a security clearance: a short sale protects your security clearance, as the closing letter from the bank says "Debt satisfied as agreed."

Jan Duke is a Realtor with Re/Max Gold, who is experienced with short sales and bank owned properties. She may be contacted at 530-674-4895.

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RESOURCES

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Compassion: 10 Ways to Help People in Crisis

By Steve Arterburn

1. Be there! Even better than sound advice or financial aid is the physical presence of someone who is genuinely concerned.

2. Listen! It's important that people in crisis are able to verbalize their story. It helps them process the situation — mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Encourage delaying any non-essential decisions until crisis has passed ... There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. ~Proverbs 12:18.

3. Don't take any rash statements or harsh words too seriously. People in crisis often vent emotional stress in the most convenient direction. Don't react, respond in love ... Love is patient, love is kind. ~1 Corinthians 13:4

4. Know when to back off! Often, well-intentioned expressions of concern can cross emotional and practical boundaries. Watch for subtle signals that it may be time to give the person in crisis some space ... The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. ~Proverbs 16:1

5. Pray and alert others to pray too! In addition to the supernatural power of prayer, people in crisis often find great comfort in knowing that they're being prayed for ... pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. ~James 5:16

6. Find practical ways, however small, to help the person in crisis maintain routine functions. Simple things like bringing meals, doing laundry, taking the kids to soccer practice, etc. relieve enormous pressure during difficult times ... And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is

pleased. ~Hebrews 13:16

7. Help the person in crisis maintain a realistic perspective. People in crisis are often overwhelmed by their situation. Remind them of life's truly important issues and help them weigh their situation in the light of a realistic, eternal perspective.

8. Link them with helpful resources. People in crisis often don't think clearly. Be an objective third party who can point to crisis agencies, clergy or other assistance.

9. Don't think you're not needed just because the crisis has passed. Crisis situations often have long-term consequences. Make yourself available for continuing care and concern.

10. What would Jesus do? Jesus encountered people in crisis regularly. Examine Scripture to glean wisdom from His example.

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If It Feels Good For Me, Isn't It Right?

Faithfacts.org

Feelings are not reliable. They can change. They can be dangerous. For example, the feeling of anger produces numerous ills, including murder.

As explained by Herman J. Eckelmann (Montgomery book in the resource list), people have felt good about "bad" systems as well as "good" ones. Nazism, communism, and the cult of Jim Jones all began with good feelings.

These examples show that the notion that truth is relative to the cultural setting or situation is a cop-out. While there may be some differences at the margin from culture to culture, every culture has essentially the same set of moral absolutes. For example—trustworthiness, loyalty, honor, self-sacrifice, etc. are common to all cultures. And when a culture violates moral absolutes, we rightfully condemn such activity. What "is" is not equivalent to "what ought to be." Ritual human sacrifice is never right no matter what the culture. The difference between Adolph Hitler and

Mother Theresa is not simply cultural. There are standards.

Utilitarianism or majority rule are likewise inadequate standards for truth. Slavery in America was not right just because it was normal or useful. There is transcendent moral truth.

We do not speak of morals in animals—only in man. This enlightens us to the biblical teaching that man is "made in the image of God." As put by R. C. Sproul, "man's role as image bearer of God carries with it an awesome moral responsibility that cannot be neutralized by a relative standard of goodness."

Being a Christian does not make us perfect. But history suggests that by removing the restraints of God's law and love, the worst barbarism breaks forth. There were several massive efforts to control or forbid religion in the twentieth century—Soviet Russia, Communist China, the Khmer Rouge, and Nazi Germany. The result was not more peace and harmony but more oppression. As Alister McGrath said in his history of atheism, "The 20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those who believed that religion caused intolerance and violence."

Which philosophy produces love: every man for himself or Christian compassion?

Sinful man tends to give preference to models that rationalize his lawlessness and desire for absolute self-sovereignty (what feels right), rather than on the basis of a transcendent moral order that enables the human soul. The goal is truth, not excuse.



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Are You Distracted Too?

by Dave Kugelman

Have you ever heard this saying; "If the devil can't make you bad, he will make you busy?" He will not only distract you with the busyness of life but place other things in your path to capture your attention away from Christ. With that stated, I know that all of us including me have a tendency to give the devil too much credit for wreaking havoc in our lives. We do this so we can have a scapegoat. In other words, "the devil made me do it." That excuse is un-Biblical because of this verse:

1 Cor. 10:13 "But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it."

Remember temptation is not sin. It is only when we act on that temptation is when it becomes sin. Let me be clear, I am not saying that busyness is sin. I am saying when other things (not necessarily bad or evil things) start to

capture your attention, then your relationship with Christ will start dissipate. I'm writing this because of personal challenges that I know are vying for my attention.

I believe that God is speaking to his children to get on with the business of the Kingdom. And that is to fulfill the great commission. That is to be a witness for Him and to make disciples. But in order for us to fulfill His calling, we must not allow the busyness of life to keep us from time spent with Him on a daily basis. (prayer, Bible reading, fellowship etc) We are to be about our "Father's business. The Christian Business Alliance seeks to do this by being an active Witness in the marketplace, both as individuals and as an organization. Won't you join us? We meet every Tuesday at noon at varying locations. To be included in the weekly emails, contact

Seth Halpern
editor@ambassadornewspaper.com
David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Business Alliance.
For more information on the CBA contact Kug @632-9292



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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
- Christi Dutcher
- 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
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- Darrell Sayles - Love Unlimited Body of Christ - luboc2004@yahoo.com
- Roger Shadd - Shadd Janitorial Supply - 530-673-0083
- Robert Stark - Sutter county Auditor/Controller - suttercountyauditor.org
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Adopt- A- Platoon

Tony Dannible is a local Christian who attends Word of Life Church in Marysville. His son, (what is his name?), is serving our country in Iraq. Every month, Tony sends his son a box of "goodies" - candy, snacks, and hygenic supplies, basically items he might want and miss from back home.

Tony shares "I know my son is excited to see that box come every month. I also know that the other guys in his platoon are happy when he receives it because, he shares. He has a large kind heart. I thank God daily for the ability to be able to do this for him and his fellow soldiers".

He was surprised at just how much he was able to put into the box (12"X12"X6") and how little it cost (\$12.95) to ship. As he walked out of the post office the Holy Spirit prompted him that if he could send all of this for one soldier why couldn't his church do the same thing on a larger scale. Maybe his church, he thought, could "Adopt a Platoon" of about 20 men. He began to think "out of the box" (no pun intended) and realized that if other local churches would come on board, our community could show the love of Jesus Christ in a very tangible way. In fact, in addition to snacks and hygiene items, we could include Christian videos, messages, or cards to

encourage our troops and let them know we're praying for them as well. What really struck Tony was how simple and inexpensive this would be.

Word of Life Church did, in fact, adopt a platoon. Platoon A, 591 ST ENCO, Camp Taji, Iraq, to be precise.

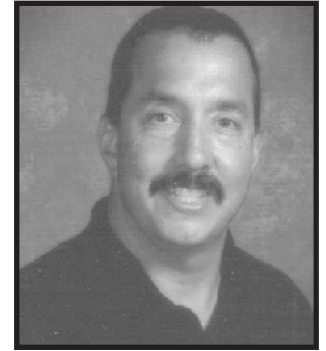
After talking with Tony and hearing his "heart", it is clear that God has given him his "mission". He wants to bless the young men and women who are sacrificing for all of us and hopefully have an eternal impact on some of their lives. He prays for that scared or lonely soldier who reaches out in email or letter and be open to embrace the truth of the gospel and receive eternal life through our Savior.

So how can we in the Yuba-Sutter area (a small location many thousands of miles away) make a difference. Tony believes that if our local churches are willing to make small commitment to place a box in a common area for people to place inexpensive items and then send them to a troop, platoon or company once a month, blessings would flow across the globe!

If you would like to have your church participate in this expression of Christ's love, please contact Tony at 329-8694 or email him at tonydannible@yahoo.com.

Sponsor Spotlight

Jim Whiteaker
Sutter County Supervisor –
District 4



Years in Business: 9 years

Years in Yuba-Sutter Area: 45 years

Hobbies: All Sports, Hunting, Fishing

Favorite Quote/Verse: "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest." Mark Twain

Inspiring Persons: My father, Roy Whiteaker

"Hot Button"/Passion: I love being a teacher and a Sutter County Supervisor

Home Church: St. Isidore's Catholic Church/ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Why do you support The Ambassador? It's an informative source that keeps me updated on Christian ideology.

Message to the Community/Other Comments: 2 Timothy 1:7: "For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline".

View From The Pulpit

Is The Lord Jesus Christ Open-minded?

By Pastor Michael A. Carling - Free Grace Baptist Church

We are told today by certain religious leaders that we need to have an "open-mind" when it comes to religion. Too many of us are apparently "biased," or "not willing to listen to the ideas of others" when it comes to God and the way of salvation.

The Apostle Peter would be considered by ecumenicists today as "narrow-minded," "intolerant," and even prejudiced toward only one way of salvation which comes through only one Savior. When questioned by the religious leaders of Jerusalem by what power or by what name an impotent man had been healed, Peter responded that

the man had been healed through the power of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they had crucified. Peter also added that "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This was a rather bold statement by Peter. Was Peter asserting that Judaism was not the religion through which faith and salvation is granted to a sinner? Did his statement also mean that salvation did not come through any other "god" or savior raised up from among men?

continued on page 13 - OPEN



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OPEN

continued from page 12

What did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, teach concerning these things? Christ said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). The words "I am" in the original language of the Greek New Testament are an emphatic "I myself am and no one else." Christ alone and no one else is the bread of life. To never hunger or thirst spiritually means coming to Christ alone.

Christ said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). The "all" that God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world will, by God's grace, come to Christ and He will in no wise cast them out.

Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The same Greek words used for "I am," as noted before, are used here also. Christ said I and no one else am THE way, THE truth, and

THE life. There is no other way, no other truth, no other life. If anyone wants to come to God the Father, he can not come except by or through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Did the Lord Jesus Christ teach that salvation was possible by any other savior? The answer is no. Did He teach that there are many religious "ways" that lead to the same God? Again, the answer is no. Is there any other name under heaven given among men, other than the Lord Jesus Christ, whereby we must be saved? Once more, the answer is no.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught one religion, one way, one truth, one life, one savior. He was sent by God the Father to purchase redemption for a particular people, whom God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world. If you believe that "Christ alone" is the sinner's only hope, then you too will be considered "biased," "prejudiced," and not "open-minded." Let God be true but every man a liar, for God the Son said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Testimonies of God's Grace Rachel

"Growing up I was truly blessed with a wonderful family that loved and cared about me. Although I had a long history of Christianity in my family and was raised in church, I never truly understood the crucial importance of developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

My parents were divorced when I was around the age of ten and I never realized how much of an impact it really had on me. By the time I was twelve I was already drinking beer, smoking weed and smoking cigarettes. I thought this was a way for me to be cool and accepted. I started down a long dark road that I couldn't understand at the time. That summer I tried methamphetamine and was soon introduced to pain killers and methadone. Soon I was on to heroin.

These drugs took me to places I thought I would never go. I became so addicted that I didn't know how to stop. I was slowly destroying myself and those around me that cared and loved me the most.

My mom told me she had been praying desperately for God to save me because there was nothing anyone could do to get my attention. I know now that God had answered her prayers. After my third arrest I was charged with twenty-seven felonies and was looking at years in prison. As I was sitting in my jail cell, I knew that something had to give. I was tired of being tired. I believe my release into Teen Challenge was totally God ordained.

Since I've been through Teen Challenge, I have been given another chance at life. I have been freed from drug addiction and the desire for anything within my past lifestyle. By the grace of God and my family's prayers I have been given the opportunity to know Jesus' love and forgiveness in a personal way. He has restored the relationships within my family and has given me a new strength and hope in Him."

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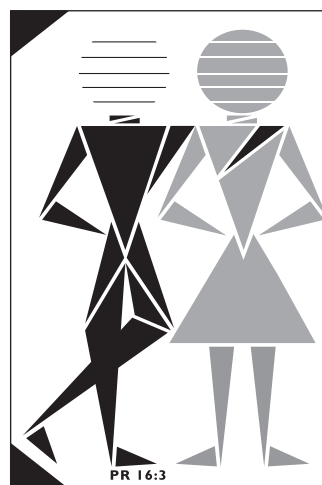
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BREAKPOINT

Changing Lives, Minds, and Communities through Jesus Christ

Shamed Into Action - America and Libya by Chuck Colson

"Who is my neighbor?" That's what an expert in the Law asked Jesus after the Lord affirmed the two great commandments: Love God with all your heart, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan. You know the story and the punch line. The Samaritan saw his neighbor in the man beaten and left for dead along the road to Jericho, and the Samaritan loved his neighbor by tending to his wounds.

In a world awash in crises, no nation on earth has the power or resources to stop every injustice and tend to every wound. But there are times when a great nation can and must do something. And for the past several weeks, forces loyal to the brutal dictator Muammar Qaddafi bombed and strafed innocent civilians along with the rebel forces they had targeted. And the U.S. did nothing.

The magnitude of our inaction hit home to me late last week. I bumped into the great Catholic theologian Michael Novak. He reminded me that once Michelle Obama had said that when her husband won the nomination for President, it was the first time in her life she'd been proud of her country. Then

Novak told me that he had never been so ashamed of his country as when our leaders failed to lift a finger to stop the massacre in Libya. Strong, sobering words.

And now the U.S. has been shamed into action by, of all things, the United Nations, which declared a no-fly zone over Libya, and the government of Libya then announcing a cease-fire. But for American honor and credibility among the oppressed people of the world the damage has been done. We dawdled too long -- just as we did with the genocide in Rwanda.

Now don't get me wrong. Putting troops in harm's way is the most difficult decision a President can make, especially at a time when our military is stretched so thin. I know. I was there myself in the White House. It's tough. But as I've said many times on BreakPoint, a President must first weigh whether military action is just. According to the Christian just war tradition, in order to be just, a military action must be for a just cause and done for the right reason; it must be waged by a legitimate authority as a last resort; the action must be proportional to the threat; and there has to be a probability of success. I can't imagine a more just and

AS WE SEE IT Being Right By Seth Halpern



Seth Halpern - Editor

I had lunch with a friend recently who is in a season of renewal in his life. When I asked him what he wants in life, he said that he wants simply to "be right". I questioned him as to whether this means to be correct in an argument. What he meant was to "be right with God"; to be able to lay his head down in bed and know that he had not sinned against his Lord. This got me thinking. Am I going through life trying to be right about what I believe and what I say and what I think, or should I really be more concerned with "being right" with God. I know that the blood of Jesus on the cross gives me forgiveness of my sins and the righteousness of Christ is applied to me by His grace. But am I right with God today? Have I sinned against Him? His grace does not nullify my

responsibility. Although I cannot be righteous enough to earn His love, His Grace is not my opportunity to live a sinful life. Paul said "May it never be!" One of my favorite quotes comes from Phillip DelRe who says "If I'm right ABOUT God and I'm right WITH God, then I don't need to fear man, the world or the devil himself and it's ok to get excited about Jesus" Yes, we need to be theologically correct. Zeal alone can lead people astray. But we need to be Right With God, following his Will according to His Word and being led by His Spirit. If we do that, we will be able to lay our heads down at night and get a good night's rest!

proportional response to the massacre of innocent people than to establish a no-fly zone. So I was mystified and chagrined by our nation's inaction. And we have every right to wonder just what kind of pressure the Administration may or may not be putting on Saudi Arabia to cease its involvement in the savage suppression of revolts in Bahrain.

Again, America can't run around the globe solving every conflict. But there are

times when we have the ability and the moral obligation to stop a grave injustice ... and to help innocent people who seek only freedom. This was one of those times.

America is great so long as it is a moral beacon. When we behave immorally, when we look the other way in the face of grave evil, we lose our greatness. And we Christians -- the moral conscience of society -- have to be the ones to say so.

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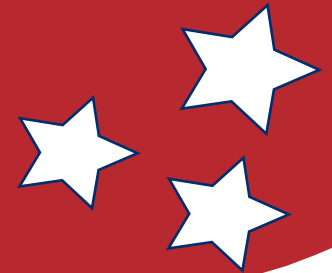
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Ken DeVore is the Chief of Staff for local Assemblyman Dan Logue (3rd District). He is in his tenth year working at the State Capitol, where he has spent time in both the Assembly and Senate houses. Prior to his call to politics, he and his wife, Samantha, were youth pastors, and this experience has given him a unique Christian insider's perspective on policy and politics "under the dome." He understands firsthand the need for prayer and action in politics.

He has worked with his father in a family business and is a veteran of the U.S. Army. He completed his undergraduate studies at CSU, Chico, and attended graduate studies at CSU, Sacramento.

*"I will say to the Lord, my Refuge and
my Fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:2*

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