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ON-PROFIT ORG.

U S POSTAGE
P A I D
BOISE, IDAHO
PERMIT #584

Treasure Valley Christian News 2309 N. Mountain View Dr., #220 Boise, Idaho 83706 O little town of
Bethlehem,
How still we see
thee lie!
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by...

No town in the world has such a glorious history or exalted status as Bethlehem, located today within the borders of Palestine. Despite all the crises and sufferings it has endured throughout its 3,000 year history, Bethlehem remains a relatively quiet place.

Bethlehem is mentioned in Genesis as Ephrath, the burial place of Rachael – a place of pilgrimage for both Jews and Muslims. It is also referred to in the Old Testament as the home of King David's family.

But the event Bethlehem is best-known for is the birth of Jesus – the Light of the World – in an obscure stable there.

An American songwriter of the past century captured that event in his own special way, causing Bethlehem to be remembered in the hearts of millions around the world at Christmastime. Phillips Brooks was born December 13, 1835, in Boston and was a quiet, reserved young pastor. Brooks had no children of his own; in fact, he never married, but he loved the little ones of his congregation dearly.

During a leave of absence from his church in 1865, Brooks made a trip to Bethlehem. There he joined in the traditional Christmas Eve services at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, built upon the site of the little stable.

ly the eternal destiny of all who call to Him by faith.

Here's how you can know Christ, the babe of Bethlehem, the Light of the World: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

3. Accept Jesus Christ, who made the Light accessible to you.

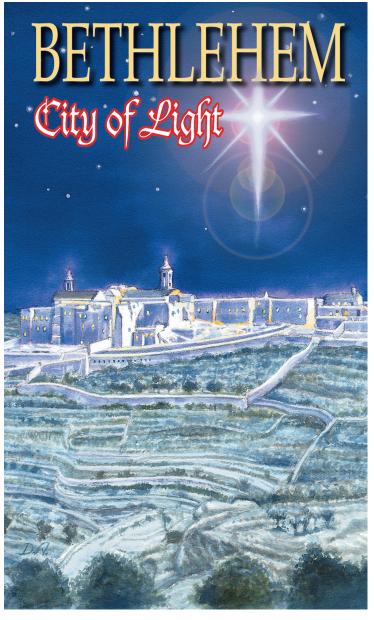
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12). For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).

Pray this sincere prayer, meaning it with all your heart, and God will give you eternal life, right now!

"Dear Lord, I am a sinful person who needs You. I turn from my sins and surrender my heart and life to You, right now. Save me dear God and make me Your child. Thank You for coming to Bethlehem, and for dying for me to pay for my sins. Help me to live for You all the rest of my life."

the rest of my life."

...The shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. (Luke



So moved was Brooks that he later wrote a poem for the children of his Sunday school, and his church organist set it to music.

Yet in thy dark street shineth The everlasting Light: The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in Thee tonight.

The everlasting Light of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, can brighten the life and alter complete**1.** Realize that you live in darkness, and that you need Jesus, the everlasting Light.

Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19). For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

2. Realize that rejecting that Light carries a penalty.

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

Bible references: KJV Illustration by Don Adair USED BY PERMISSION OF THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY FOR FREE SAMPLES OR CATALOG CALL 1 (800) 54-TRACT 1624 N. First St. Garland, Texas 75046-2008 USA (972) 276-9408 FAX (972) 272-9642 www.ATStacts.org

2:15)



Ed Burns, Pastor Deer Flat Church, Caldwell, Idaho

Ed Burns is the Senior Pastor of Deer Flat Free Methodist Church, which sits a few miles west of Caldwell, surrounded by farmland. The original church building was built in 1908 by settlers who had come west to homestead on the Deer Flat plain, and turn Idaho desert into productive agricultural land. Through the years, the church has grown both in numbers and physical size, and so has the desire of the people to serve Christ and reach their community and world with His love and forgiveness.

Deer Flat Church was excited to welcome Ed as their new Senior Pastor in September of this year. He and his wife Judy from Quincy, came Washington where they were pastors for 14 years. Ed has experience in conference leadership and in the training and mentoring of staff, along with many other gifts and abilities. His following testimony reflects his heart for sharing Christ with others:

Growing up in the small rural town of Moses Lake, in Washington State, I thought church was only for women and older men. This is pretty much what I experienced. I was the only boy in my 5th & 6th grade Sunday school class, unless I coerced one of my

Pastor Profile

friends to come with me by telling him I'd bring candy. Junior High was no different – it was always a bunch of girls and me.

As I reached my sophomore year in high school, God began to change all that. A young couple who were both school-teachers, were challenged by our pastor to quit their jobs in another town and move to Moses Lake "on faith" to be a part of something that God was about to do. They did and God did!

This couple trusted God to provide for them like I had never seen before. They poured their lives into a group of high school students in such a way that our whole community was affected. This "Omega" group learned how to care about others and actually had fun together, even in church! I went along with this youth group for a year and a half before God got hold of me personally, and that changed everything.

It was Friday, February 13, 1971. I'll never forget it. What started out as the worst day in my life ended up being the best day ever! You see, I had been living a phony lifestyle; acting like a Christian when at church or with youth group kids, but acting however I needed to when I wasn't with Christians. My lifestyle was challenged that day in a way it never had been before. Under the Holy Spirit's direction, people confronted me that day in two of my classes about how I was living my life. I was even confronted by one of my teachers who was a professing atheist. (God can use anyone for His purposes!) I felt like my life was a big mess and I just wanted to escape.

Since this happened on a

Friday, I figured that finding a party that night would be a good way to "drown" my sorrows. God had other plans. After the basketball game, one of the buildings at the school was apparently on fire and everyone left. I had no party invitations and nowhere to go, except to the youth group's "5th quarter" party. "This is better than nothing," I thought.

The "5th quarter" was at the home of a family that was new to our group. Only one of their children was a Christian, but they liked what they saw in that child and had invited the youth

group to their home. In the course of the evening, one of their daughters came home from a date. She was obviously high on some kind of drug and I felt sorry for her. It seemed to me that she was throwing her life away. I really wished I could do something for her.

It was on the way home that I heard God speak to me; not in an audible voice, but very clearly in my heart and mind. He said, "I'll help you help her, but you'll have to commit your life to me first." For some reason it all began to make sense to me that night: Jesus came to give His life for me and He wanted me to give my life to help others. That night I committed my life to Jesus Christ and it

changed the way I lived from there.

One of my youth leaders, the wife of the couple that moved to Moses Lake on faith, wrote a song about my life. It was called, "No Longer Phony" and was sung to the tune of "Leaving on a Jet Plane," which was a big hit in 1971. I began to share my testimony and we would sing that song at camps and other youth groups. God used it to change lives. So ever since then I've just kept telling people to put their trust in Jesus Christ and not be phony, because being phony doesn't work, living for Christ does.

For more information, view the Deer Flat Church web site: www.deerflat.org



Dave Patterson, Pastor Parkview Bible Fellowship, Boise, ID

Pastor Dave Patterson had the privilege of being raised in a good Christian home where he put his faith in Christ at a young age. He was in many ways the least likely candidate to become a pastor, however. He would characterize himself in his growing up years as a shy loner. Dave hated crowds and couldn't stand being in front of people. At the same time, however, he saw a lot of hypocrisy, legalism and empty traditionalism in the churches he grew up in and developed a deep desire to be a part of the molding and shaping of something

different - an authentic New Testament church characterized by sincerity, love and faithfulness to the Bible (a desire God has graciously granted him). Others must have seen something in Dave that he did not see in himself, for he was told over and over again that he would probably be a pastor someday. His mother has shared with him that even as a baby he would chatter on and on in his high chair and his grandpa would say "That's my preacher boy!" As a typical teenager, he resisted the idea of being told what he should do and made up his mind that the one thing he would never be was a pastor. Over time, however, God changed his heart and by his senior year in high school he was convinced that God wanted him to prepare for the pastorate at Bible college.

More than anything else, Dave's ministry is a testimony to the grace of God at work. He has transformed him, to his own amazement, into an out going person who loves being around people and is even comfortable speaking before a crowd. God has also worked in his life to bring about a change of focus in his teaching ministry from one that is headknowledge oriented (inherited from his theological training) to one that is more application and life change oriented (learned from the "school of hard knocks"). Pastor Dave's current passion is the development of a cross-cultural ministry that exemplifies God's love for all people, regardless of race, social status or background. This has in part been influenced by some wonderful experiences he has had working with refugee families from Iraq, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iran and the Congo. His ultimate goal is to be used of God to help shape faithful followers of Christ who will in turn lead others to Him.

For more information about Parkview Bible Fellowship, visit their website at www.parkviewbible.org

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Statement of Faith

Treasure Valley Christian News, Inc. is nondenominational in attitude and emphasis.

We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons, – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, His sinless life, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.

We believe our salvation is by grace through faith, in His shed blood, which is evident through our works.

Where is That One Special Relationship?

JESUS is GOD the SON (CREATOR of the Universe and all Life!)

Hebrews 1:2-3 NIV

- 2 ...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.
- 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 3:3-4 NIV

- 3. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.
- 4. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

THE SAVIOR (GOD in human form) born of the Virgin Mary

Matthew 1:23 NIV

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us."

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 8:23-24 NIV

- 23. But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.
- 24. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."

John 14:6 NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

No other person can save you or give you hope and eternal life.

How to know JESUS as your personal **Savior:**

The *only* document on earth that is a reliable source for knowledge on who JESUS is or who GOD the FATHER is, is the Holy Bible. If you would like to know JESUS as your personal Savior from sin, pray the following prayer followed by studying The Holy Bible and get involved with a local Christian church.

Pray this sincere prayer, meaning it with all your heart, and God will give you eternal life, right now!

"Dear Lord, I am a sinful person who needs You. I turn from my sins and surrender my heart and life to You, right now. Save me dear God and make me Your child. Thank You for coming to Bethlehem, and for dying for me to pay for my sins. Help me to live for You all the rest of my life." Amen

If you would like to talk to someone further about how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please call toll free 1-888-NeedHim and view the web site: www.needHim.org

Community Unity... Path To Revival by John and Nancy McFadyen

What is community unity? According to Daniel Webster, it's the element that determines the identity of a group of people who are in harmony for a specific purpose with a definite effect in mind. Paul instructs us in Ephesians 4:1-3 to walk worthy of our calling (reflect the character of the Son) and to humbly endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I believe unity in the Christian community should be at the top of our priority list. In John 17:20-23 Jesus is praying for the believers of His day as well as generations that would follow. He reveals that He has given us the glory of the Father that we could experience the "oneness" or unity that he and the Father experience. Jesus prayed, "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me."

God says he has given his "glory" that we may have unity. Unity is a major foundational element for the Bride of Christ to be an effective witness. Glory has been defined as a Holy Spirit manifestation of God's great beauty and splendor. A prerequisite for receiving God's glory is found in the book of Peter 5:5, "all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." It is this humility that results in unity, which will cause the church to shine brightly in an ever-darkening world. Chapter 2 of the book of Acts demonstrates what can happen when Christians are of one accord and one mind (unified in Christ) they were filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit in a glorious way and about 3,000 people

were added to the church.

In Colossians 3:12-14 the church was exhorted to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Unity does not mean we have to agree about everything. What it does mean is that we need to agree to disagree, agreeably. In other words, we can respect and love one another with all our differences and convictions still intact and still achieve unity.

I am reminded of a story about a godly missionary who was seeking the Lord for direction as to where exactly God would have him serve. When God showed him that he wanted him to work with a ministry outside of his denomination, his reply was, "but God I can't work with them! I don't agree with what they believe and the way they do things!" God replied, "I don't always agree with what you believe and the way you do things either, but I still work with you."

In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, "the world will know you are my disciples by the love you have one for the other." Again in John 7:23 "May they be brought into complete unity to let the world know that you sent me." The truth is - all the church programs in the world could never be as powerful as the witness of the "Church" dwelling together in unity - it is the ultimate evangelistic outreach!

As an opportunity for the churches to come together in unity, Treasure Valley Festivals holds four major prayer gatherings per year to intercede for our community and nation. For more information you may contact Kathy Pipal 342-3581 or John or Nancy McFadyen 353-0552.



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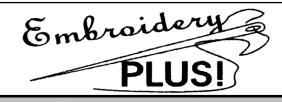
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MISSION STATEMENT

To share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to serve (to inform, motivate and equip) Christian churches in the Treasure Valley Idaho area via our newspaper, in print and online

Informing - sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and Christian events and resources people can participate in.

Motivating - addressing spiritual growth issues and encouraging peo-

ple to attend a bible believing church of their choice.

Equipping – Equipping churches by sharing examples of successful outreach church ministries to our community and how their church can replicate this type of ministry.

You can send a letter to the Editor via the Internet by going to:

<u>www.tvcnews.org</u>



by Gary D. Anderson with his wife Joyce

Associate Minister - Crossroads Christian Church, Boise, Idaho

Coach Hawkins and the Boise State University Bronco football team are known across America for their great string of wins and for their work ethic. They are not known for easy training sessions. Either there is a string of wins or life is easy. It isn't

Our Captain calls us into a conflict more serious than football, more intense than Iraq. It is the battle for the eternal destinies of all peoples. We either breeze through life to the loss of many or take courses of tough training that enable wins.

"Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" is such a course. Over a15-week period it embraces 4 perspectives: biblical, historical, cultural and strategic. For a total cost of \$240 an attendee each week gets one 3-hour evening session taught by a different seasoned, sometimes renowned, veteran of the front lines. Many are flown in from various places across the West. Each week also includes another handful of the best articles on the subject in the past 400 years, quizzes and personal responses. In addition are exams and an integrated team project.

Residents Gain a

World Christian

Movement

Perspective

Dozens of the greatest Christian organizations around the world consider "Perspectives" to be critical training. More than 5,000 new people globally take it each semester. Alumni are scattered throughout the Treasure Valley. Last autumn,

51 people from 17 different churches joined to take it here. Eleven of them even took it for 3 units of upperclass college credit each (\$120 extra) through Boise Bible College.

Whether a person is thinking of jumping into the battle for eternal destinies for one intensive month or for their whole life, "Perspectives" is well worth taking first. Pay for someone to attend or attend yourself! It is to be offered here again twice in January through May, 2004: Sunday evenings at Boise's Vineyard Christian Fellowship and Monday evenings at Nampa's Church of the Open Door. To apply, contact coordinator Joleen Seusy at 376-2991 or jseusy@integrity.com.

Letter To The Editor

TODAY - from cover to cover - I have read one of the most interesting periodicals I have occasioned to read for some time. Would you like to know the name of that "most interesting periodical"? It's name is "Treasure Valley Christian News"!!! If you refer to yourself as a Christian and live within this area, but, have not read it (or have access to it), I would URGE you to get a copy and read it. Then, after having read it, in some manner, support it. If virtually all having access to it would support it, this area could have one of the largest Christian-oriented papers within the entire nation!

The MAJOR reasons, though, for a lack of support is found in the upper right-hand corner of the Oct./Nov. issue on page 15 and starts with a heading "TOP 10 REASONS" and, I won't finish that subtitle to try to influence you to get your own copy! It is my hope that the TVCN editorial people will print that item within EVERY issue.

It is precisely for some of the Top 10 Reasons that I did not read the paper previously, even though I was aware it existed. Due to the life I had been living and even though God's power had prevailed, bringing me out of that life, those calling themselves "Christian"

shunned me; therefore, I did not want anything to do with any of them either - no mat-

ter what denominational dogmas were represented, so I refused to read the TVCN. But, God had other ideas about me reading it, so, today - I was led to take a copy on my way out of the 16th and State Street Albertsons, and upon having the time when I got home - I read it from cover to cover.

The headline which had attracted me to this particular issue is on it's front page, "HAL-LOWEEN - Separating Fact from Folklore". Had I not seen that, I would not have even paid any attention to it; however, because I had - at one time - been into witchcraft, and the witches to whom I belonged celebrated Halloween as the top holiday of their particular faith, I wanted to see what the paper's writer had to say about it.

After having read that item, I began reading the rest of the articles and found it a most delightful paper, praising the Lord for having "turned me onto" it! It is my intention to subscribe now.

In the interim, if this letter gets printed, I wish all of my fellow Christian brothers and sisters of not only the Treasure Valley, but also within the entire world, God's blessings, encouragements, strengths, and affirmations of faith so that all of us shall be among those celebrating His GLORIOUS return!

In Christian love,

Rev. Ruben J. Schmidt, D.D., Boise, ID 4 November 2003

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!

We encourage reader participation in the Treasure Valley Christian News through our Letters to the Editor section. Letters printed in the Treasure Valley Christian News are subject to editing for brevity, clarity, legality and taste. Letters should be issue-oriented and should avoid personal attacks on individuals or groups. Also, poetry submissions are discouraged.

Send letters to: Treasure Valley Christian News, 2309 N. Mountain View Drive, #220, Boise, ID 83706 or Email: tvcnews@characterlink.net. Writers must give their full name, address and phone number.



Ministry SPOTLIGHT!

Chrysalis

Helping Women Start New Lives

by Amy Huse

The burden of homeless women has weighed heavily on the heart of Marsha Tennyson, the president of Chrysalis, for almost two

decades.

Seventeen years ago she became Vice President of Women's Programs through the Los Angeles Mission in response to growing numbers of women living on the streets of "skid row." These women desperately needed help with everything from drug addictions to a warm meal and a place to stay. Few resources existed for women then. "I would see the women... and my heart would ache with the knowledge that God created each of them with a plan and a purpose that they were totally unaware of." Since then, Tennyson has moved to the Treasure Valley and served with the Boise Rescue Mission, establishing City Light Home for Women and Children. At City Light,

Marsha realized the overwhelming need for a safe place for women to live while they turned their lives around, which encouraged her to found Serenity, which has recently been re-named Chrysalis Women's Transitional Living, Inc.

Women who long to change their lives after suffering from addictions to drugs or alcohol, and those re-entering society after incarcerations resulting from their addictions, now have a safe place to stay. At Chrysalis, old information, thinking, desires, and addictions can be broken while women learn how to start again, a new and godly creation. Chrysalis provides a safe, Christian environment, free of alcohol, drugs, physical and mental abuse where women learn the love of their Creator and His plan for their lives. However, the need is great. The two homes with 19 residential beds that make up

Chrysalis are completely full, and women must be placed on a waiting list for a chance to change their lives through this ministry.

Residents of Chrysalis must commit to change their lives by following a complete program of rehabilitation. Life Skills classes enable women to re-enter society, better prepared to face challenges and temptations, and to succeed in their practical endeavors. Each woman maintains a full time job, and several also return to school. A computer room provides

residents with the opportunity to perform job searches and improve their computer skills. Each resident must attend a church of her choice on Sundays and the homes supply an additional weekly Bible Class. Perhaps the most crucial step in the program consists of pairing Christian mentors with residents for weekly meetings for accountability in achieving their goals. This provides wonderful opportunities to build new, healthy relationships as they fulfill Chrysalis' vision statement; "women empowered by God,

empowering others toward positive life change."

Chrysalis needs your prayers and support to provide more courageous women with a new start in life. Chrysalis receives no public funding, and relies on private donations for their continuing ministry. If you can help with a tax-deductible gift or would like more information, please call 424-1323 or write Chrysalis Women's Transitional Living, Inc., P.O. Box 7494, Boise, Idaho 83707.



Trust in the LORD with all your

heart, and lean

not on your own

understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

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Christmas Programs



Saturday, November 29 - 3:00 pm **THE MESSIAH** (A Christmas Music program by Handel) performed by the combined choirs and orchestra of NNU - No Cost

Northwest Nazarene University Brandt Center 707 Fern Street, Nampa, Idaho

For more information, call (208) 467-8413 or 467-8795

Friday, December 5 - 7:30 pm Saturday, December 6 - 4:00 pm Sunday, December 7 - 4:00 and 7:30 pm Monday, December 8 - 7:30 pm LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE (A Christmas Music program with orchestra) - No Cost (a free will offering will be taken) College Church of The Nazarene 504 E. Dewey Ave. Nampa, Idaho (across the street from Northwest Nazarene University) For more information, call (208) 466-8421

Saturday, December 6 - 5:30 pm
A HOLIDAY HOMECOMING Christmas
Concert – Join us for an old fashioned evening
of praise and worship as bring forth the songs
of the season in celebration of the birth of
Christ. There will be no childcare available.
St. Paul Baptist Church
1320 W. Bannock Street, Boise, Idaho
Contact person: Leatrice Shelton
For more information, call (208) 344-0674
www.stpbc.com – stpaul@stpbc.com

Saturday, December 6 - 7:30 pm
MORNING SONG CONCERTS of Eagle
Jennifer LaMountain/Steve Darmody (Free
Inspirational Gospel Concert - a free will offering will be taken) Children welcome. There
will be no childcare available.
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For more information, call (208) 362-2221
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Being Single with Contentment

by Jeff and Joanne Brown, Calvary Chapel - Boise

"Will someone out there please make me happy?" Whose job is it to make me happy?... Is it my job?... Is it someone else's... Is it God's?... What is contentment?... How do I get it?

Paul said that he had learned to be content in any circumstance, and we know that Paul saw a wide range of circumstances. We know from Scripture that Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin, the judiciary branch of Jewish government.

From that, most scholars deduce that he was married, that he made a good living and that he was highly respected in his culture. At the time of his conversion all of that changed. In his subsequent writing, Paul speaks of being hungry and thirsty. He speaks of being beaten with rods, shipwrecked and reviled, of being tied with chains and locked in prison. All of this sacrifice, Paul says; counts as nothing when compared to the privilege of being obedient to what God had for his life. Jesus said, "I desire obedience more than sacrifice."

If this is true, does obedience require that we find a way to line ourselves up with Scripture and to then be content with where we are in our circumstance?

If you answered "yes" to that question, we would agree. When we decide to let go of those things that are ensnaring us, to look for the joy in our circumstance and to begin to trust the Lord for who and what He has for us, this becomes an obedience to rejoice in, not a sacrifice to endure.

Another person can never make us happy. Only the obe-

dience, surrender, trust and contentment borne out of our relationship with Jesus Christ will ever make us happy, or joyful; in the Biblical sense. When we expect from another person those things that only God can do for us, we set ourselves up to be disappointed and disillusioned.

When we expect a person to make us happy or content, we place that person, imaginary or otherwise, in a position higher than God. In relationship, the world calls this "co-dependency." The Bible calls it idolatry.

It is God's job to meet our needs. This life of Biblical Christianity that we have chosen to believe in is a life of faith. It is a life where we choose to believe that God will accomplish His desires in us if we will allow Him to. It is a belief that assumes that a God-driven life is more complete and therefore more attractive than a self-driven life. As a single person, we can pray that the Lord will "bring me somebody," or ... we can pray that the Lord will "make me complete and content in Christ so that my relationships can be healthy and grow according to His will and purpose for my life."

Having a desire to be married is not a problem. The Bible says, "He who finds a wife, (spouse) finds a good thing." The problem is; when finding a partner becomes our primary focus, it tends to define our entire life. The places we go, the things we do, the way we dress and the way we act, not to mention the way we relate to God; all become driven by when or whether we will meet someone. Jesus didn't come to

bring us another person, He came to give us life; and that more abundantly.

We have heard, "That's easy for you to say, you are happily married." We have not always been married and we have not always been happy. Both of us have previously been in longterm marriages to other individuals who decided that they wanted something different and divorced us. We were both single as adults for many years before we met and decided to marry. We know that marriage, even to the "right" person, even in the church and even in the Lord; is not always a day at the beach. We know that the time we spend as single people, sometimes in spite of the circumstances, is a time to be cherished. It is a time to practice being joyful. It is a time to lick our wounds, if necessary, to heal our hurts and to learn to build healthy friendships and relationships.

It is a time to be available for service, a time to be free to allow the Lord to do everything that He would desire to do in us. We know that we won't be ready for a relationship until we are content to be single. We know that being single is a season of life. We know that spending this season in obedience, joy and contentment is an option.

We know that the alternative is not very fun, not very happy, and not very attractive. As always, we are available via e-mail at:

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"Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

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RESOLUTIONS TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE PARTY O

by Pastor David Hardesty

I am convinced my wife does not think I'm perfect. I leave stuff around the house, don't always shave, frequently run late, and tend toward forgetfulness. And tend toward forgetfulness. Oh, I was good enough to marry, but perfect? Naaaaaw.

So if anyone could make some New Year's resolutions, it would probably be me. So, for 2004 I will be neater, cleaner, sooner, and allaround-more-organized. Or not. After being messy, unshaven, tardy, and forgetful for 41 years I may not be able to change. Sorry, dear. But I'll try – I really will.

make resolutions because there are areas in our lives that need to change. And we all need to make changes, so we should all make resolutions, right? But if everyone decides to lose 10 pounds every year, why are we all getting heavier?

Maybe it's because we're resolving the wrong things, in the wrong way, for the wrong reasons. I've been studying the Bible's book of Colossians and for this New Year I want to suggest something different. Colossians 3:1-3 says, "If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (NASB) That's the model resolution for a Christian!

You see, most of the things in my life that need to change will change naturally if I choose to focus my heart and mind on Christ and the things He cares about. The mind of Christ is pure, noble, humble, and loving; if my mind runs in those same channels my personality will start to resemble His, won't it? And if my personality resembles His, my problems and bad habits will be conquered by His charac-

This will take some work. The phrase "keep seeking" aims us at the future. It requires us to do and do and do what it takes, now and tomorrow, until we reach the final success of heaven. Like Coach Hawkins and the BSU Broncos chasing the perfect season, we Christians must pursue eternal things until the last whistle blows and victory is ours.

How? Start with where we "set our minds." A person can choose to lose weight or watch less football because he's chubby or he's getting nagged; that resolution is bound to the earth. If we choose to lose weight to be healthier and serve God better; if I choose to watch less football so I'll have more time and energy to be a better husband and help my wife become all God hopes for her, those are heavenly-minded solutions. And with them I know the Holy Spirit will help me do what it takes to honor my Lord.

An old hymn declares, "I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delights. Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight. I am resolved to follow the Savior, faithful and true each day. Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth, He is the living way: I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free! Jesus, greatest, highest, I will come to Thee." (P. Hartsough)

Friends, in 2004 let's not linger with earthly things. Instead, let us resolve to set our hearts and minds on things above, and let the things above change who we are below. Be blessed!

For more information, visit the Crane Creek Baptist Church web site www.idahope.org or e-mail to: cranecreekbc@juno.com.

COMPASSION



by Christine Heimbigner

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. "Matthew 25:35-36

It was in November 2002 that my husband and I first became aware of Compassion International. We were attending a concert for the Christian band "Kutless" (at New Heights Christian Fellowship) with our daughter and her husband. Halfway through the concert, a young man got up on stage and began speaking about how he had become involved in sponsoring a child through Compassion.

After the concert ended, I found myself at Compassion table. It was covered with the photographs (and biographies) of children needing sponsors. One photo in particular caught my eye. That is how we became sponsors to little Aiswarya. It has been almost a year now, and we are developing a relationship with her through letters, pictures and prayer. She is part of our family.

Compassion International is an evangelical Christian child development ministry focusing on the spiritual (introducing the person of Jesus Christ to each child), physical, economic and social needs of children. It is a worldwide network that serves the children of Middle

America, Asia, Africa and South America.

From 1973-2003, Compassion International also worked with children in the United States and in July of 2003 launched the US branch as a separate organization forming YouthPartnersNet. YouthPartnersNet teams up with local churches, youth workers and faith organizations to reach children and young people in the United States who suffer from spiritual and physical poverty.

Steve and I look forward to a long relationship with Aiswarya and her family. She has been a delight to us especially as our own children are leaving the nest. The Lord has enabled us to reach out to her through Compassion. We are so blessed that He has given us the privilege to show His love to Aiswarya. We hope to meet her in person someday.

For information on child sponsorship through Compassion International, go to the following website: www.compassion.com or call: (800) 336-7676.

For information on child sponsorship through YouthPartnersNet go to the following website: www.youthpartnersnet.org/ or call: (800) 334-KIDS.

"... And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". Matthew 25:40



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Sometime last year, a stray cat took up residence under our front porch. Small, with long mottled calico hair, he was homely and abandoned. We would occasionally see him in the morning ambling across the street to our neighbor's garbage can, but for the most part he would avoid any human contact.

Why didn't we adopt the stray cat, you ask. We had a cat. A beautiful black and white long haired cat with the longest whiskers I've ever seen. "Whiskers" was his given name, but he never did learn to come to anything but "Kitty." So "Kitty" he was.

Kitty was a gift from God. My husband didn't want a cat never did like cats and could see no redeeming value in any of them. He was a DOG man. And so we have our collie, Lassie. But I'd had cats off and on for years before marrying Jon and often lamented the lack of one in my life. I informed him one day I was going over his head and asking God. He chuckled. I started praying and several days later we were blessed with a box full of kittens. Five in all, and their mama to boot, all happily nestled in a box on the front porch. Some kind stranger answered God's call and left them just for us. We chose the prettiest one and took the others to the animal shelter.

And so for five years, we (yes, even my husband) have loved and been loved by our Kitty. We have laughed at his kitten antics with Lassie, looking so fierce as he tried to catch her tail or grab on her leg and bite and scratch. He patiently endured being hauled around upside down in the pudgy little hands of our grandchildren. He loved to cuddle and lick our chins with his scratchy tongue. He even chose the great outdoors instead of a litter box. We were blessed with a perfect cat.

Stray Cat

by Judy Harmon with husband Jon - Nampa, Idaho

Kitty got sick last week. A urinary blockage, the vet said, and kept him overnight with a catheter, IV and antibiotics. After he came home, he continued to have trouble relieving himself. As he was used to going outside, I let him out, thinking he would be more comfortable using God's litter box. He never came back. I have looked under every bush and tree to no avail and now believe our precious Kitty is gone.

The day after Kitty disappeared, the stray cat bravely sat at our front door. He was filthy and his hair had become so matted it had pulled from his skin in places and stood in four inch mounds on his back. He was extremely thin and smelled of dirt and dried feces. But he also had a little pink tongue that tends to stick out and a sweet calico colored face. And when I stepped outside, he softly meowed and rubbed against my leg.

So I have adopted him. It took me most of the day to cut the matted hair from his back and sides. Bald in the middle and long shaggy hair around his face and still matted tail, he looks like a punk rocker. But he is filling out as a result of nutritious food and his hair has already started growing back. Give him a month and a good bath, and he will be beautiful!

As I courageously worked on the cat, I had the feeling God wanted to teach me a les-

son. How often have I seen homeless people standing by the side of the road with their "will work for food" signs and shaken my head in disgust at their laziness. As a preschool teacher, how many times have I shuddered at the little ones who came to school, filthy and full of head lice. How many times have I watched people struggle with the burdens of a sinful world and not bothered to point them to the One who will lift that burden and lead them down the right path.

How can I willingly hold and comfort a smelly, possibly diseased cat, give it expensive food to restore it to good health and ignore God's words, "Feed my children." Aren't His people, sick, hungry and without hope, more redeemable than a stray cat?

I desire to seek out God's strays and feed and uplift them. I pray I can be as blind to their faults as I am with our cat and gently show them the hope we have in our all merciful and loving Father.

I challenge you to do the same!

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'.

Matthew 25:40



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Seven Places - Shara with group

Hey!! It's Shara again! I hope you are doing great since I last wrote. I got the wonderful chance to meet and hang out with the band Seven Places when they came to town to do a concert. Seven Places songs can be heard on Airl, Effect Radio and KTSY. They are located in Southern Oregon and their CD, "Lonely For the Last Time," can be found in stores. Here is a little look at the band.

Seth Gilbert (23): vocals; Tyler Jones (20): guitars, keyboard, vocals; Donnie Vizzini (19): bass; and Jeffrey Gilbert (20): drums, make up the band. Here is what they had to say. SR: Where did you come up with your name? **Seth:** Yes, it's the seven

places Jesus bled from the head, the hands, the feet, the back and the side. That's where we got it.

SR: How did you become a band?

Seth: We played together in our garage and then we played more music together in our garage.

Tyler: And we liked it. (laughs) **SR:** How long ago was that? Seth: Eighteen years ago. (laughs)

Tyler: Eighteen months times three. Not unlike the kids of the movie The Sandlot. (laughs)

SR: How did you come up with ideas for your songs? Seth: That's a good question. We played chords. (laughs) Well, we'll be like, "Hey, let's have a song we can all jump to." So then we'll play it that way, and then, later on, we'll put lyrics to it. Or, let's play

a song that we might all potentially cry on. **SR:** Do you guys have a favorite song on the CD?

Donnie: I'll say..."It Might Be Today." Jeffrey: Yeah, I like that one. **Tyler:** Yeah, I do too.

Seth: Um..."It Might Be Today," it's a hot little number. (laughs) I'm gonna say, "Little," yeah, that's

what I'll say.

SR: Is there someone who has really inspired you as a band, like another band?

Jeffrey: Me (laughs)

Seth: Telecast for me, there's a band called Telecast. You should get them too. You would like them.

Donnie: Me and Tyler liked Tooth and Nail bands when we were growing up, so lot of old school Tooth and Nail bands.

Tyler: I like Further Seems Forever.

Jeffrey: There's these guys, they hunt, they're called Demon Hunters, they're really good. SR: When you're on the road do you do daily devotions together or anything?

Seth: We don't talk together at all. So, no, um... you know we try to, we try to as much as we can, I think It breaks down to personal devotions. It's kind of up to each

SR: What advice would you give to

aspiring bands?

ment?

Seth: Don't quit when it gets frustrating. Keep it up, hang in there. And pray, a lot, definitely prayer is like, seriously, sounds cliqueish, but it's really a

Tyler: I say, write like five songs you really believe in and practice them until you got them down perfect. And play them, a lot.

Jeffrey: And get sick of them. (laughs)

Tyler: Make sure you believe in them. Don't just say, "Oh, there's a song I wrote," make sure they're the best you can do.

Seth: Yeah, cuz if you're not totally into them, then once you do get signed, you're record label will pick that one to be your single (laughs) and nobody wants that.

Donnie: And as long as the bass is louder then everything else it's a good song. It really is. SR: What would you consider your mission state-

Seth: Mission Statement, well, to break it down way

<mark>simple</mark>, definitely to, uh, just to preach Christ through the

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music, and um, leave your burdens at the door when you come in to watch us. That would be our mission statement, just to preach Christ at all times through

SR: What is one challenge you see with teens all over the nation?

Seth: That's a good question. The biggest challenge you see with teens all over the nation? Um, man, that's a wavy question, a challenge, would have to be, I think getting them to hear you, cuz once they listen, you know, or once you kind of hit it off with them, you're in, you got a little friend for life. But I guess it's getting them to the point where they'll listen.

Tyler: And selling records.

Seth: Yeah, (laughs) selling them records, that's the greatest challenge.

Well, there is the band for you. They are a great band and I would encourage all of you to buy their CD, "Lonely For the Last Time." If you would like to write an article sometime in the future let me know. Thanks for reading and God bless all of you.

Shara Rose, Teen Editor

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My Trip with The Go Show

by Rick Cave, Youth Pastor Valley Shepherd Nazarene, Meridian, Idaho

If you're anything like me you never even consider it a possibility that you might win any sort of contest. When I was the correct caller for a contest that

Airl was putting on I thought I was the luckiest person in the world. Not only was I the correct caller, but I also won Audio Adrenaline's brand new CD, "Worldwide." I chalked it up as one of the coolest events of my life. I was also entered into a chance to win the grand prize which was an allexpense paid trip for 2 to Denver, Colorado with VIP passes to The Go Show. We're talking Audio Adrenaline, MercyMe, Kutless, and The Swift. Plus a his-n-her snowboard signed by Dave Downing and Shannon Dunn - world class snowboarders and awesome Christians. But it doesn't end there. Also included in the package is the opportunity to spend the day snowboarding with the guys in the bands.

Friday morning the phone rings. I pick it up and I hear, "Hey Rick, this is Mike Shaeffer from Airl. Congratulations, you're going to Denver!" I couldn't believe it – this never happens to me! I was waiting for the punch line, but it never came. I actually won the prize of all prizes.



Arrangements were made and the day finally came for me and one of my youth

89.5 FM

sponsors to head to Denver (I couldn't take my wife because we just had our 3rd child about 3 weeks earlier). To say it was amazing would be an understatement. We went backstage where the bands were hanging out and eating and met them. It was so cool to be rubbing shoulders with guys I've heard on CD and saw only from a distance at conce<mark>rts.</mark> I don't know what I was expecting, but these weren't

> just Christian musicians, they were normal down-toearth guys that loved Jesus more than anything. We sat and talked with Jim and Mike of MercyMe for a long time. We talked about our families, joked around with each other and it felt like we had known each other for a long time.

The concert was the best I had ever been to. I had seen Audio A in concert before, but the other 3 were new to me. The Swift was awesome, Kutless rocked, MercyMe led us in incredible worship, and Audio A brought down the house.

The next day we meet them up at Eudora Ski Resort for a day of fun. It was a glorious day. The sun was shining, there were a few inches of fresh snow and we were all ready to do some shredding. Some of us snowboarded, and some of us skied, but we all had a good time. We even took a shot at the

half pipe. Not a very successful attempt, but the key word for the day was fun!

If I never win another contest in my life, that will be okay. This was an amazing experience and I can say what 99% of Airl listeners can't say - I went snowboarding with Audio A and MercyMe! But I'm not gloating!!

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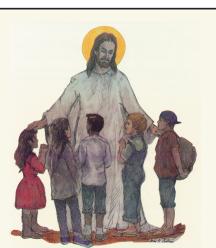
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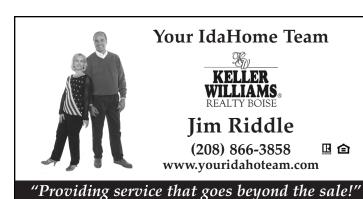
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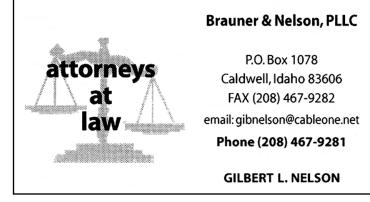
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though.

My ex-husband (who says he's a Christian) would answer an emphatic NO; it's a fun and exciting pastime!

Our differences of opinion on this eventually led to divorce. If he had won more often, it might have been different. I might have tolerated all the hours he spent working up lottery-number formulas and the many evenings he spent concentrating on bingo cards and maybe even the bus trips he took to the Indian casinos across the state line.

I won't go so far as to say that gambling is a sin, because that would rule out pennyante card games and whatnot. And the Bible never calls it a sin, to my knowledge. However, the Bible does have a lot to say about money and its wise use. In the parable of the talents, Jesus even condemned the man who failed to earn interest on his money because he had hidden it in the ground. Imagine what the Lord might have said to one who had lost all his money at dice or slots!

Some gamblers walk away from the game when they realize it's unfruitful. My Dad, for example, gave up Black Jack, which at least requires skill in addition to luck. My daughter had an acquaintance that lived as a professional card player for a few years and then got tired of the life and quit. These folks weren't addicted

Is Gambling a Sin?

by Marcia Bracy Yiapan

Compulsive gamblers are another story. They may quit for a while, when they've lost big and have really messed up their lives. Then eventually they start feeling lucky again and the lure of a big win overpowers them. It thrills them just to think about it.

Interestingly, both winning and losing are exciting events for gamblers. They can become desperate to win a lot of money to pay off their debts and they may turn to begging from friends or to crime. My ex-husband began pawning things and then borrowing from finance companies at exorbitant interest rates. Of course, he did it all in secret.

Gamblers Anonymous and its sister organization for the family of an addict, Gamanon, are great helps. But I heard some unbelievable stories at their meetings. I heard of one young woman in her twenties who had ruined her career in banking by embezzling money at work to cover her gambling debts. Another couple had been dealing with the husband's temptations for many years (with the help of G.A.) and I could tell the wife was wondering if she should stick it out any longer. Now she was afraid he might be gambling online while she was at work.

They say that gamblers, believe it or not, have an average IQ that's above the norm - about 120. They are typically warm and generous types who yearn to win the jackpot so that they can shower their loved ones with goodies. Although my ex-husband was unusual here, compulsive gamblers generally are also addicted to tobacco and/or alcohol as well as to gambling. And, therefore, they have a high suicide rate. For all these reasons, I believe we should do all we can to repeal state-sponsored gambling and restrict legal gambling wherever possible.

Tragically, gambling has become so pervasive that I have seen teenage boys shooting craps in the hall of their high school.

I don't think it's true that the poor gamble more than others. In fact, the cases I've met and heard about involved pretty affluent middle-class folks. And rich athletes seem quite susceptible to the temptation to play games with their extra cash. Judging from the number of people gambling today, I sometimes think we Ameri-cans really do have more money than we know what to do with. But there are those who don't have enough, so we do not have the right to waste our money by throwing it down the casino or the lottery drain.

Here's a thought if you're tempted to gamble: gamble on God instead. Give Him 10% of your income for a month or more (what the Bible calls the tithe) and see how you come out. My ex never would consider such a "risky scheme" for his money. But after a few wins and lots of losses, he is now about destitute, while I, who tithe most of my income, am comfortable in spite of the fact that I'm currently unemployed.

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What distinguishes humans from the rest of the creation? Although evolutionism regards man above animals in intelligence, skill, creativity, and selfawareness, it does so according to degree, regarding us as leaders in a survival competition. Humans are regarded as highly evolved animals, with spinal chord and column, and furthermore boasting four limbs. Within these, we are noted for bearing live young and walking upright. And furthermore, we are the "modern" ones - Homo sapiens - emerging superior in intellect and function. These are thought to be our advantages by degree.

By this type of comparison, however, humans do not always come out ahead! We are not as strong as many beasts. We cannot fly as birds fly, smell or hear as well as many creatures, breathe underwater, or tolerate the extreme temperatures that many creatures thrive in. Our bodies are not as efficient as the cold-blooded, nor are we the fastest creatures, over short or long distances. Such comparisons fall short, because we are not to be compared primarily in this manner. We are not different in degree, but different - period.

Mankind is distinct. The Biblical Creation narrative speaks unmistakably on this matter, indicating that mankind possesses a mode of life – and a place among the living – unique to all else.

Mankind Set Apart

First, man is distinguished in that he is created separately: God created land creatures, declared them good, and then, according to the narrative "God said..." once again (Genesis 1:26), creating mankind. The same transition divides all prior acts of the Creation narrative (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24): God created, declared the works as good, and then created anew. Were humans simply a class of land animals, no creative transition would be required.

Second, man is distinguished in the sequence of creation. Days 1 through 4 set the stage for Days 5 and 6 – creatures of the water, sky, and land, and ultimately, mankind (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-7). The hierarchy is unmistakable.

Third, man is literally one of a kind – the only kind in this movement of the creation symphony. All other organisms were declared "according to kinds" alongside other kinds – a collection of vegetative kinds, a collection of aquatic kinds, and so on. But for man, no array is specified, nor even a distinction between ancient and modern man. "Mankind" therefore is a fitting term for the whole of humanity.

A fourth distinction is that man is a kind like no other, distinguished in his very nature. The narrative pronounces three times that man, unlike any other creature, is created in God's "image" and "likeness" (tselem and demuwth in the Hebrew). Yet man is not God, for the word tselem comes from the root meaning "to shade." Man, rather, is a "shadow" of God. This is our unique heritage, which even the angels do not

possess! This attribute goes beyond the non-material soullife (nephesh in the Hebrew) that all creatures possess, and even beyond the spirit (ruwach). God-image is a mysterious quality, in many ways as difficult to understand as God Himself. But we do know that it concerns relationship. God created the creatures, yet He fathered man. Indeed, the genealogy of Jesus Christ extends all the way back to Adam, who is called "the son of God" (Luke 3:20-38).

We see how God fathered man in our fifth distinction: man's formation. Whereas all other life, including other terrestrial life, is "brought forth" (yatsaí in the Hebrew), only man is "formed" or "shaped" (yatsar). Furthermore, while the Bible indicates that many creatures are animated by breath-life along with man, only man received this breath directly and personally from God. The Creator did not merely speak breath into man (which He showed that He could do), but He came into close physical proximity to literally "inspire" Adam.

Finally, man is distinguished not only in being, but also in purpose. Man possesses a unique role and responsibility. With regard to vegetation, man is given the responsibility to cultivate and to preserve (ëabad and shamar in the Hebrew), and with regard to creatures, man is to rule and maintain dominion (radah). Creatures of land and sky, by contrast, are given vegetation for food, but are given no ruling capacity. And vegetation itself simply provides nourishment, having no capacity for responsibility. Mankind alone is the caretaker and primary beneficiary of all living things, and of the planet itself. The popular statement, "The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth" (commonly attributed to Chief Seattle) is simply untrue, and an offense to the biblical record. What a contradiction: worldly philosophy adopts

degree but of separateness altogether. It must be understood that in God's creative symphony, any similarities between man and animals are simply themes confirming the same Composer. In this mighty opus, mankind is clearly the climactic movement, followed only by the postlude of God's satisfaction and rest on Day 7.

God created the creatures, yet He fathered man.

such notions of man's subservience to Earth, while at the same time claiming man's rise to the top of the evolutionary ladder! Only the biblical record of history reconciles both the depravities of man as well as his preeminence and splendor among the creation.

Sadly, many scientists have used physical comparisons of man and animals to disregard God's Word regarding greater distinctions – ones not of Moreover, it is unmistakable in the whole of Scripture that mankind is at center stage as the crown of the creation and its proceedings; any less of a distinction detracts sadly from the central beauty in God's epic work.

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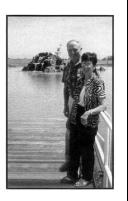


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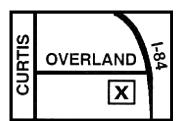
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Water for the Soul

by Pastor Philip Hughes Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church, Roswell, Idaho

Florence Chadwick was the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions. On the 4th of July 1951, she attempted to swim from Catalina Island to California coast. There were two obstacles on her swim: the dreadfully cold Pacific Ocean, and a thick fog layer which made it impossible to see the land. After about 15 hours in the water, and when she was within a half mile of her goal, Chadwick gave up. After the failed attempt she told a reporter, "Look, I'm not excusing myself. But if I could have seen land, I might have made it." Not long afterward she tried again. Once more the shore was out of sight because of the mist and fog. This time Florence made it.

The difference on her second attempt was that she continually reminded herself that even though it was not visible, land was just ahead of her. The thought that the land was indeed there, gave her confidence to swim on and reach the goal. In fact, she broke the men's record by 2 hours. Chadwick's experience is an apt picture for the Christian life. The Bible speaks of following Christ as a race. How easy it is to want to give up and quit, but we need to persevere.

There is a stimulating passage of Scripture in the 12th chapter of Hebrews, written to Christians facing tremendous pressure for the purpose of encouraging them to continue in their faith. Many of these Christians were discouraged and wanted to quit. The words of Hebrews were given to inspire them to persevere. Following hard after Christ is equated with running a race, in which believers are told to

"run with perseverance the race that is set before us." (NRSV, 12:1) *The Christian life is not a sprint.*

It is a life long race involving years of ups and down, lessons learned and lessons failed, times of refreshment and times of great dryness. How do we persevere? By seeing the goal ahead of us, and for the Christian, the ultimate goal is union with Jesus and living in a way that honors him. Hebrews tells us that perseverance comes by looking to Jesus who is "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" and "who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross..."

Jesus never said that following him would be easy and undemanding. He said that anyone who wanted to follow him had to carry the cross, and that a person needs to count the cost before setting out to be a disciple because it could be costly. But you can endure much if you see the joy of the goal. The Message, a contemporary translation of the Bible, provides the words of Hebrews to us this way:

"Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed...he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever."

It goes on to read that whenever we feel ourselves lagging in faith, we should go over Jesus' life again. "That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!" Adrenaline is what fortifies a runner when she is feeling tired and weary and wants to stop.

Perseverance is also a quality of farmers. They know that all things come in their season, and so they persevere in their work

Paul, to whom much of the New Testament is attributed, and who was a dauntless missionary for the gospel of Christ, applies this lesson of farming when he writes in Galatians, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time if we do not give up." (6:9) This was the same Paul who said he only wanted to "finish my course and the ministry that I have received from the Lord Jesus." (NRSV, Acts 20:24)

After many years of up and downs in serving the Lord, the apostle could see the checkered flag. He could sense the fifteenth round. He knew the ribbon at the end of the race was in view. But he wanted to finish his course to which the Lord called him.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon once told his congregation, "By perseverance the snail reached the Ark." Sometimes we feel like that snail, slow and dawdling along.

Prayer comes hard. The Bible doesn't make any sense. We can't seem to get it together when it comes to love, patience, controlling our tongue, or a host of other things we know should characterize our lives.

It seems like our progress in the faith, which the Bible calls sanctification, is so sluggish. Don't stop running. Per-severe. Keep reminding yourself that what Philippians 3:14 calls "the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" is just on the horizon.

For more information, view the Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church web site at www.sterrymemorial.com

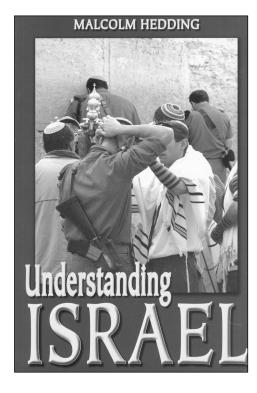
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The Bible says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "Your sins have separated you from God" (Isaiah 59:2). Jesus Christ of Nazareth is your connection to God. Jesus says "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." If you want to be connected to God, you must accept Jesus as your personal Savior from sin. We suggest you pray this prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I realize that I am a sinner separated from you. I can't save myself. I repent of my sins. I believe that Jesus is who he claimed to be. I believe that Christ died for my sins. I believe with all my heart that Jesus rose from the dead and you will also raise me. I accept through faith alone your free gift of salvation. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

If you would like to talk to someone further about how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please call toll free 1-888-NeedHim and view the web site: www.needHim.org.



BOOK REVIEW

by Dennis Mansfield

"Understanding Israel" by Malcolm Hedding, Executive Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Available through www.ICEJ.org.

For those believers who have struggled with how a Christian is supposed to view Israel, *Understanding Israel* is a tremendous tool to bring about understanding, compassion and clarity.

Across America, Christian churches have asked their members to pray for Israel, but why? Why should we? Hedding answers that question and many more.

He begins his book where the nation of Israel began: with Abram, soon to be Father Abraham. The author follows the three separate roles that the Nation of Israel has played over the last 4,000 years: a birthing role, a suffering role and a priestly role.

Focused on Abraham's call from God, Hedding clearly explains how each chapter of Abraham's life points to God's plan of redemption by using the people of Israel. In a fascinating way, the author "connects the dots" for those of us who have remained confused over Israel's importance, by spelling it out simply, line by line, precept upon precept.

Romans 11 becomes a wonderfully new chapter to read after being exposed to Hedding's ideas in "Understanding the Times." Truths leap off the page of scripture as never before on this issue of Israel. The story of world redemption involves Israel. The story of Israel involves Abraham. Mr. Hedding cleverly takes his reader on a trip through scripture returning often to a study of the Old Testament through Jesus' teachings. It is a marvelously helpful method.

Having led three tours to Israel, myself, I expected to learn different perspectives on an age old issue. What I received instead was a brand new perspective on an ancient-future truth: Israel still matters to God and Israel is the key to His plan of redemption. For the world's redemption involves Israel and its Messiah.

Do not pass by this "must read." It is changing people's lives across America.

Dennis Mansfield is a consultant on Israel issues with the ICEJ. He attends the Vineyard Boise. He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 25 years. They have 2 adult children and an 11 year old son who is still at home keeping them young!! He can be reached at mansfield56@msn.com.

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

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He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

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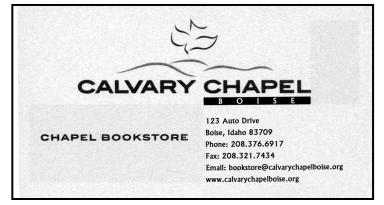
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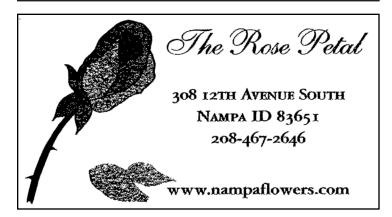




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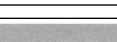




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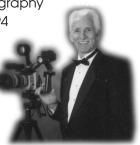
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"Single-Mindedness"

by Sheli Yerkes



There is a truly eclectic nature of today's Single person. They are various ages from 18 on up. They have seemingly different stories. They are divorced, or never married, college students, or full time employees, some have kids, some don't... you get the idea.

They have some things in common though: loneliness, dreams of relationship, isolation, searching to belong and wanting to connect.

Many Singles hit the streets and bars on the weekends. It's easy to think, "Maybe a few drinks will make me forget, make me funnier, or make me just plain not care..."

Some Singles get involved with internet dating services. That can be a nightmare. Well, at least the Single person can get connected a Christian church, right?

Some of the best churches in town have little or nothing to offer the Single person. No

class, TLC, or other functions. They usually don't have a budget or a "point person" on staff. Often the few straggling Singles get lumped in with another group, or under a pastor that has no time for them. In fact, most churches don't even have "Singles" down as a viable demographic of people.

Every other age group fits pretty well under a category: kids, teens, young families, and seniors. If you call the church office on any week day you can get information on many activities. But if you want to stump them, ask them, "What do you offer for Single's ministries?"

First off, the single-minded person is very much loved by God the same as anyone else. Paul, the famous single dude, was happily devoted to God's work. He was so passionate about it, that he wrote to us and said in 1 Corinthians 7:8 "Hey all you unmarried, and widows, this is a good thing, if you are like me and abide in Christ!" But he also says that it is better to marry than to touch another without that sacred bond. So there is the good news; whatever your marital status is, our goal is the same! In all we do we are called by God to glorify him, and not to live for ourselves but to live out his purpose in each of

In Philippians 2:2 "Fulfill my joy, and be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, and of one mind." Does this mean we all have to think the same way, or like the same things? Not at all! But whatever your situation, we are to be unified in the purpose of furthering the king-

I say, it's time to take a stand Singles! If you want to make a difference in your church and community, BE the difference. Don't wait for something to happen, but as Zig Ziglar says, "Make something happen!" There are things for the Christian Single to do, we just have to search for them, promote them, and create more of them, whether you are Single

For more information about the singles ministry in the Boise area, view our web site: www.sourceboise.com or e-mail at: sheli_yerkes@countrywide.com.

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Constitution In Crisis Summit

by Mary Rutkowski

In 1775, the British came to Lexington and Concord to take the arms from the American colonists. Now, the enemy wants to take our God! Would you have been on the green in 1775? For me, THIS IS OUR LEXINGTON AND CONCORD!!

Read on!!

Our religious freedom is under constant attack in courts all across the country. Recent federal court rulings have caused me to become increasingly concerned about the direction of our nation. Our courts pervert justice and mock God's law, sodomy has been elevated to a constitutionally protected right, civil laws sanction the murder of the unborn and the infirmed, and the Ten Commandments and pledge of Allegiance have been banned from our classrooms and courtrooms. I'm concerned about what this means for us as individuals, and for the future of our families and our communities.

The National Coalition to Restore the Constitution is organizing simultaneous rallies in every state capital to demonstrate nationwide support for the courageous stand taken by Judge Roy Moore in defense of our religious freedom.

Their goal is to mobilize tens of thousands of citizens across America to rally at their capitals to launch a formal Petition for Redress of Grievance to Congress demanding that they do their duty, honor their oath and use the power we the people gave them in Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution to limit the jurisdiction of the federal courts on the subject of religion to the clear language and intent of the 1st Amendment.

If you are as alarmed as I am with recent court rulings banning the Ten Command-ments and other expression of religious faith from our public life, then I urge you to join me and citizens across the country on to taking meaningful action to end judicial tyranny.

We all have a part to play in preserving our heritage of religious liberty. We can't afford to think that someone else will do our part. I hope you'll join us today at:

http://www.restoretheconstitution.org/campaigns/10cffr/10cff r.aspx.

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May the Lord God bless and provide and may His will be done!

Mary Rutkowski is a Latin teacher at the Classical Christian Academy in Post Falls, Idaho.

For more information call (208) 773 6698.

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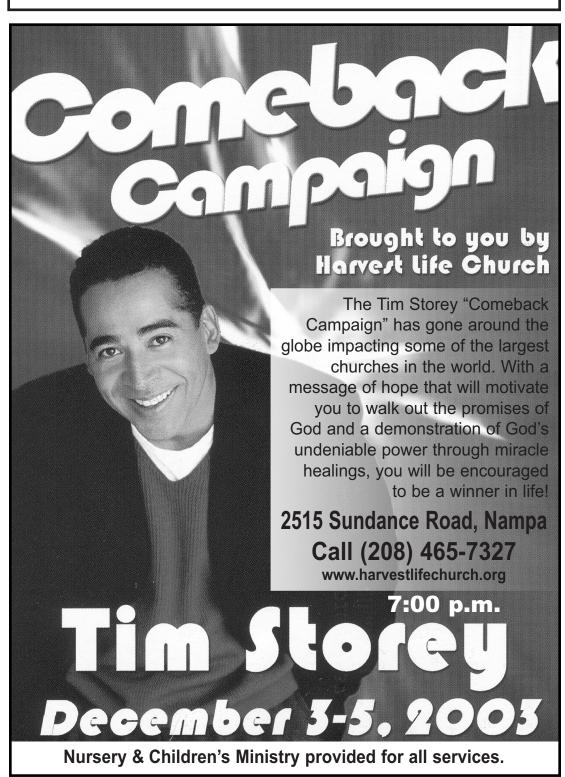
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Announcing the New Practice of Dr. Brian J. Roe, Chiropractor

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CHRISTIAN EVENTS CALENDAR

This is a guide to Christian-oriented concerts, plays, youth activies, entertainment, speakers and ministry events. If you would like your event listed at no cost, submit your events online at our web site www.tvcnews.org, E-mail to tvcnews@characterlink.net, phone (208) 377-3568, fax to (561) 258-3188, or by mail to P.O. Box 1829, Boise, ID 83701 *Information may have changed since the receipt of this event calendar information. Please confirm with the contact name about the event you are interested in attending.

DECEMBER 2003 SEE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM LISTINGS ON PAGE 6

December 3-5 – 7:00 pm Comeback Campaign

The Tim Storey "Comeback Campaign" has gone around the globe impacting some of the largest churches in the world. With a message of hope that will motivate you to walk out the promses of God and a demonstration of God's undeniable power through miracle healings, you will be encouraged to be a winner in life! Harvest Life Church, 2515 Sundance Road, Nampa. Nursery & Children's Ministry provided for all services. For more information call 465-7327. www.harvestlifechurch.org.

JANUARY 2004

Thursday January 29 - 7:00-9:00 pm

Foundations In Genesis of Idaho/Oregon presents the following Free Seminar "Mankind Set Apart" with speaker Chard Berndt.

Crossroads Christian Church, 501 N. Curtis Rd., Boise

Seminar Overview: What distinguishes humans from the rest of the creation? Although evolutionism regards man above animals in intelligence, skill, creativity, and self-awareness, it does so according to degree, regarding us as leaders in a survival competition. We are not different in degree, but different – period. Mankind is distinct. Sadly, many scientists have used physical comparisons of man and animals to disregard God's Word regarding greater distinctions – ones not of degree but of separateness altogether. This seminar will encourage people of God's special purpose in their lives. For information call (208) 355-5353 and view the Foundations in Genesis website: www.figionline.com

Friday January 30 — 7:00-9:00 pm

Foundations In Genesis of Idaho/Oregon presents the following Free Seminar "Mankind Set Apart" with speaker Chard Berndt.

Treasure Valley Baptist Church, 386 N. Verde, Ontario, OR

For information call (208) 355-5353 and view the Foundations in Genesis website: $\underline{www.figionline.com}$

Treasure Valley Christian News / 12.2003-01.2004 - 17

The Greatest Story Ever Told!

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (as it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2: 1-40 (King James Version)

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

VINEYARD BOISE COUNSELING CENTER

Fees are based on a sliding scale and some insurance companies are accepted. For an appointment, contact Joe Ingrao at the church office. Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 4950 N. Bradley, Boise Phone: 377-1477

BIBLICAL/SPIRITUAL COUNSELING

Counselors are available to pray with men, women, and couples in need. Appointments can be made through the church office at: Grace Chapel 1422 N. Eldorado, Boise Phone: 208-375-5515

CHURCH HISTORY STUDY GROUP

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Mission of Boise, 9915 University Dr. (meet at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center) Contact: Patrick O'Grady, Phone: 375-9630

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT/

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGAglow International, Contact: Darcy Ambum, Phone: 342-2988

CHRISTIAN SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION SUPPORT GROUP Bellwether Ministries Contact: Bill Edwards Phone: 433-8443 P.O. Box 15766, Boise, ID

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Contact: Howard Jones Biblical Studies Center 1025 Belmont, Boise, ID Phone: 342-2182

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF IDAHO

Contact: Bob Smith P.O. Box 427, Nampa, Idaho Phone: (208) 465-9842

www.gospelcom.net/cef/worldwide/usa/id.php

CHRISTIAN HOME SCHOOLERS OF IDAHO

For more information about Christian home education in Idaho visit their website at www.chois.org or call (208) 424-6685.

FAMILY LIFE

(A ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ), Contact: Leland and Peggy Cantrell or John and Candy Gibson, Boise Phone: 377-2723

HOMEBUILDERS COUPLES SERIES

(A ministry of Family Life) Contact: Leo and Norma Hellyer, Boise Phone: 344-1357

PRO LIFE SUPPORT

(Idaho Chooses Life) Contact: David Ripley, Boise, Phone: 344-8709

LIFELINE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Contact: Diann Huter and Linda Stradley, Nampa Phone: 466-4000

MINISTER SUPPORT

Praise, Inc., Contact: Ron Warren Phone: 454-1377 P.O. Box 1377, Caldwell

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

(Serving Idaho) Contact: Mark Hubbell, Salem, Oregon Phone: (503) 363-8491

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND LIFE CONTROLLING PROBLEMS SUPPORT FOR TEENAGERS

Teen Challenge of Idaho, Contact: Alice Ware, 11826 Fairview Ave., Boise, Phone: 375-4636

MINISTRY TO THE ELDERLY TWILIGHT HOPE MINISTRY

Twilight Hope Ministry is a ministry to the elderly in facilities in our community or at home.

Calvary Chapel, 123 Auto Drive, Boise, Contact: Chris Johnson at 321-7440.

Email: cjohnson@calvarychapelboise.org

SHELTER FOR MEN:

Boise Rescue Mission, 520 Front Street, Boise, Idaho Phone (208) 343-2189 Website: www.boiserescuemission.org

SHELTER FOR MEN:

Lighthouse Rescue Mission, 472 Caldwell Boulevard, Nampa, Phone: (208) 461-5030

SHELTER FOR WOMEN:

City Light Home for Women and Children, 1404 W. Jefferson, Boise, Phone (208) 368-9901

GENERAL ASSISTANCE REFERRAL

Love, Inc., Phone: (208) 466-7810 www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvususfo.nsf/stable/loveinc

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL EMERGENCY AND SEASONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

Salvation Army, 403 12th Ave. S., Nampa, Phone: (208) 467-6586

TIMEZONE YOUTH CENTER

Tuesdays-Fridays – After school programs for youth including skateboarding and also educational classes.

Bobbie Trenckmann, Director, 1408 State St., Boise For more information call: (208) 388-8406 Website: www.TimeZoneYouthCenter.org

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Food Bank at Community Christian Center, 202 E. 42nd Street, Garden City, ID * Food distribution for those in need. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 pm to 8 pm. Bring in picture ID, Social Security cards, and proof of residency. Phone: (208)375-3921

GENERAL RECOVERY GROUP

General recovery group for men and women who struggle with addictions, have unresolved past issues, or going through difficulties and need support. 31 S. Midland Blvd, Nampa, Idaho Contact person: Annie Phone: (208)938-4178 Email: annie@getrealministry.org Website: www.getrealministry.org Child care is available. ONGOING: Every Sunday evening

SEXUAL ADDICTION SUPPORT GROUP

31 S. Midland Blvd, Nampa, Idaho. For more information, contact Jay at 467-7777. Email: homecoming@getrealministry.org Website: www.getrealministry.org An open 12-step group focusing on men who struggle with sexual addictions: pornography, affairs, etc. Child care is available

SOURCE MINISTRY

Your web based source to information about healthy Young Adult activities all over the Treasure Valley. We offer activities, that connect them with a network of friends, with Christ as the foundation. Look us up online: www.sourceboise.com

CLASSIFIEI

Classified ads are \$2 per line with 30 characters per line in a "phone book" style format.

Call 377-3568 to place your ad!

DAYCARE

AGAPE DAYCARE Low rates/open 24 hours. CPR/First Aid certified. Learning & nurturing environment. Where your kids are more than just watched! Call Lenette at 468-0836.

CHRISTIAN CHILDCARE At home mom has 2 openings, ages 2-6. ICCP OK. Flexible rates/hours. 284-0285. www.angelfire.com/ ma4/twoheartschildcare

VOLUNTEERS

ARE YOU LOOKING for a place to volunteer? Maybe just a couple of hours a month? A place where you'll feel at home? Maybe a place where you know you can make a difference? Then KTSY is looking for you! Currently we have an outstanding group of volunteers that give of their time each month to help out with answering phones, mailings, and various concerts and festivals. If you are interested in a chance to be a part of our volunteer family, then give us a call at 459-KTSY.

OFFICE SPACE

GREAT LOCATION for your office in a quiet neighborhood with a great view overlooking Boise. If vou are a new business owner or a current business looking for an affordable office space, call Bob Cook or Michele at 484-3840 or 322-7769 at the Mountain View Professional Building or stop by their office at 2309 N. Mountain View Drive in Boise, Idaho.

MUSIC LESSONS

PIANO and VOCAL LESSONS for ages 2 through adults. Learn how to play the piano based on ear training, singing, movement and theory. Call Mila at 331-0278 or 409-0278.

ROOM MATES

CHRISTIAN MALE to share 3 bedroom/2 bath SE Boise home. Ten Minutes from Micron and BSU. \$300 per month, \$100 deposit, utilities included. Call Keith at 336-8774.

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE Sell advertising on the phone for the area's only non-denoiminational, positive Christian news publication. Must have Christian values. TVCNews is looking for advertising phone salespeople. For interview call Anthony at 377-3568 or Merl at 602-3832 (cell). Up to \$10 per hour, 20 hours per week.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to distribute the TVCNews to churches. Call Rev. Anthony Harper 377-3568. Email: tvcnews@characterlink.net

FREE ADS

FREE ADS (15-20 word minimum, continuous run) are offered in Hot Off The Press for all your Church services and events! Call (208) 466-8788 or (877) 466-8788; or fax to: (208) 466-0388. E-Mail your information to: hotoffthepress@att.net



EVE

Keep up-to-date by checking our website @ www.groovinteens.com!

TOP 10 Reasons

Preventing Christian Unity...

- 1. Lack of focus on CHRIST
- 2. Denominational walls
- 3. Disobeying scriptural principles on how to treat one 7. Shunning others you another
- 4. Gossip
- 5. Unforgiveness
 - 6. Lack of prayer for others
 - don't agree with

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one." Jesus quoted in John 17:11 (NIV) of the Holy Bible.

Help Complete our **TOP 10** list... give us your feedback. Send your comments to:

> Editor, Treasure Valley Christian News tvcnews@characterlink.net

P.O. Box 1829, Boise, Idaho 83701 • Phone (208) 377-3568

CHRISTIAN MEDIA GUIDE

Over-The-Air Television Stations

UHF Channel 38

Nampa - KCLP CA, (208) 442-9222

UHF Channel 31

Seventh-Day Adventist (3ABN)

1-800-752-3ABN

UHF Channel 47

Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) (714) 708-5405

Cable or Satellite TV & Radio Stations Available TV includes: Trinity Broadcasting Network, Inspirational Network, Eternal Word Television Network,

The Worship Net, and Family Net.

Available Radio includes: ChristianNet, Moody

Network, VCY America

*Ask local cable systems or satellite service dealers for a full listing

Primary Radio Stations

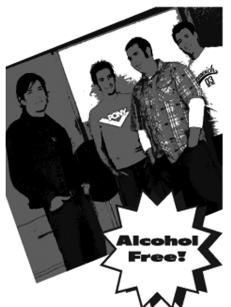
KSPD AM 790 Boise (208) 377-3790 KKIC AM 950 Boise (208) 322-3437 KBXL FM 94.1 Boise (208) 377-3790 KBGN AM 1060 Caldwell (208) 459-3635 KTSY FM 89.5 Caldwell (208) 459-KTSY

Radio Signals Extended by **Translators**

KAWZ FM 106.7 FM 88.1 AirOne FM 89.1 KEFX FM 95.7



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8:00 pm - 12:30 am

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9:00 pm - 9:40 pm 11:30 pm - Midnight

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