

“ CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR! ”



Meet Pastor Frank: Over 30 years serving the Lord in Kings County, CA Page 7

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“A Voice for the Christian Community”

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Believers in Business



Michelle Vickers Owner of Java Heaven

Faith in ACTION



Bruce Smith Director of YFC and Campus Life



Wanda Drewry Drama Director

God's Provision on Display In a Land of Milk and Honey



(left to right) Isidro Macedo - Milk Barn Manager, E. J. De Jong - Owner, Gerrit De Jong - Manager, Luis Beltran - Manager at Wreden Ranch

“We love this time of year when everything is green and lush and you can see the bounty that the Lord provides.”

E. J. De Jong's comment captures the sentiment that many Christians share during spring-time in Kings County. Gabe Martinez, a sideline bee farmer

who grew up in the area said, “I am mesmerized by God's creation. Man planted the trees, but God made the trees. It is amazing.” The flowers are in bloom. The bees are pollinating the orchards and the cows are busy producing millions and millions of gallons of milk.

Mr. De Jong (pronounced De Young)

is a third generation dairy farmer in Kings County. He grew up on a dairy farm near San Diego and moved to the area in the year 2000. Managing Holstein cows is something his family has been doing ever since his grandfather moved from Holland to America after WWII. His grandfather, Arie De Jong, arrived with his wife, eight sons and three daughters. Many of them began work on a dairy farm in San Marcos, which is where several De Jong relatives still work and own a dairy farm and creamery to this day.

Arie De Jong played a role in establishing the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) denomination in Escondido, CA. This is one reason why E. J. grew up going to church every week, including going twice on Sundays. He went to Christian schools as a child, which helped shape his mindset for being a Christian dairy farmer today. When asked

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Christ & Common Sense

Optimist, Pessimist, or Psalmist?



Pastor Tim Dinkins

A couple weeks ago I saw a friend post an image with the following phrase, “Are you living like an optimist, a pessimist, or a Psalmist?”

The accompanying image had two glasses of water. One had water filled to the middle of the glass. The other had water overflowing and splashing down the side. The traditional outlook on life gives two options, either the glass is half full or half empty. The Bible reveals a third option that is infinitely better. It is a life that is overflowing with the goodness and faithfulness of God!

Psalm 23 is a great example of the overflowing life. The Psalmist describes the supernatural peace and goodness that comes from having the Lord as your shepherd. “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.”



(ESV) The word used for comfort in the original Hebrew refers to being encouraged and consoled in grief. The idea is that God’s loving presence cancels the fear and difficulty of even the worst situation. It makes it possible for fear to be replaced with a deep-seated joy that comes from being in the presence of God.

The Psalmist wrote, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” My favorite image in this section is of the cup that is overflowing with the goodness of God. The word used for overflowing refers to satisfaction and abundance. Psalm 66:12 uses the same phrase, “We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.” The Psalmist had discovered the marvelous secret of trusting in the sovereignty of God.

The apostle Paul also knew how to live the life of the overflowing cup. In Philippians 4:11-13 he wrote, “I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Paul’s strength did not come from “living his best life

now.” It did not come from tricking himself into thinking things were better than they were. No, his joy was found outside of himself. His joy was hidden in the work of God.

Christians who believe in the triune God are not only living for the physical world. They are living for eternity. This is why the believer should not settle for the analogy of the half glass of water. He knows that is not the whole story. He knows that a Christian worldview would not use such a limited and finite illustration. God does not fill a glass half full and tell people to use will-power to “look for good in a bad situation.” God is infinitely good and wise and full of joy! He tells humanity to “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” “Eat and be satisfied!” “My cup overflows, surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!”

I think it is helpful for Christians to re-

flect on the analogy of the glass of water. There are many believers who think their lives are like a glass that is half full. They don’t have what others have. Or they think they have too many problems compared to others. The Christian doesn’t have to live like that. They can upgrade the analogy to a cup that is overflowing with the lovingkindness of God (Lam. 3:22-23).

This can not be done by your own power. This can only be done by repenting of living with a worldly mindset. The Christian must reject a selfish worldview for the selfless one that comes by serving God. Only God is able to remove a heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh. Then a person can confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead and be saved! Believing in Christ not only saves a person from their sin. It also saves them from a life that is limited to the confines of the materialistic world. My prayer is that you will upgrade the analogy of the glass that is half full to that of the Psalmist, whose cup was overflowing!

Pastor Tim Dinkins serves at Grace Bible Church in Hanford. All his articles can be read at the website below www.christandcommonsense.com



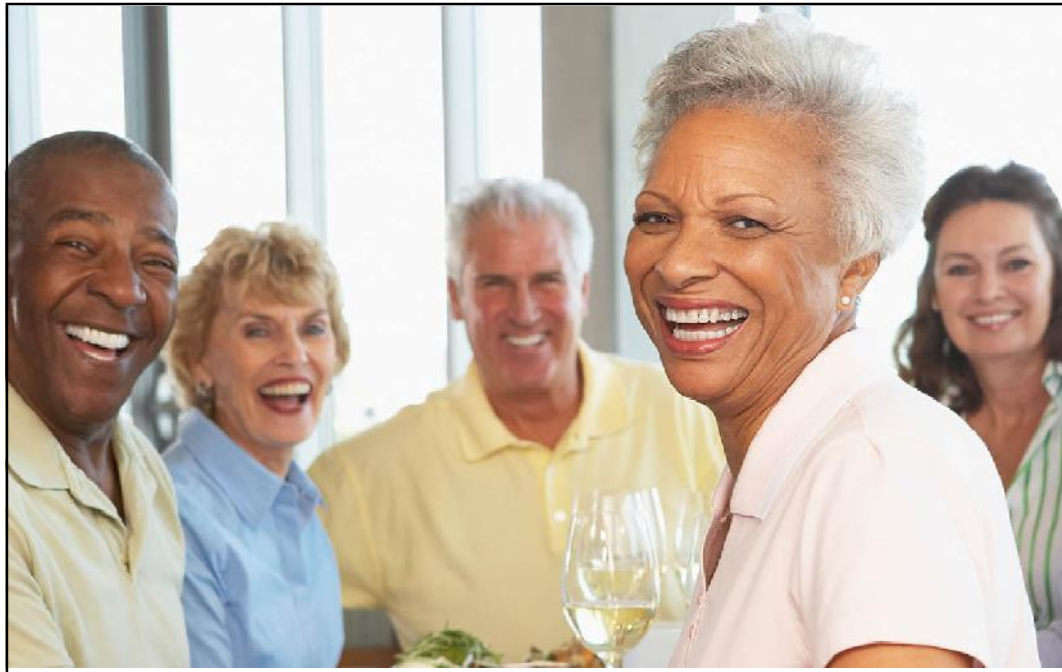
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**Russell (Rusty)
Karraker**

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**After an 8 year battle
with cancer** Rusty left be-
hind a loving and caring
family. Now his son Brett is
representing his families
resolve to do what his dad
would want them to do:

Visionaries of the Year Campaign

The tragedy of cancer is that it hurts people and the people they love. If left unchecked, it will run through its victims and move on to others who could have been saved if only someone would do something about it. www.TeamRussman.org

Thank God, there are organizations like Leukemia Lymphoma Society (KKS) and the Karraker family, “who lost their beloved Rusty to this dreadful disease”. Now is the time to help those afflicted with this awful sickness.

FIGHT BACK! That is what Rusty, the patriarch of the family would want his loved ones to do; and they are doing just that. They have formed a local team in Fresno County to raise money to help save others who suffer from cancer.

Rusty’s youngest son Brett Karraker, has been nominated as a candidate for the 2024 Visionary of the Year – as part of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Campaign. His mission is the help raise \$500,000 which will go directly to LLS in support of its longstanding goal: a world without blood cancers.

If they raise dollar goal of over \$100K by May 17th, they can connect their team name to two LLS-funded research portfolios to honor our joint efforts to help people with blood cancers.

Every tax-deductible dollar raised, counts as a vote towards his campaign, and helps support the LLS mission. If you wish to support him and his team to raise this money, you will be **FIGHTING BACK TOO.**

HEARS HOW YOU CAN FIGHT BACK WITH US:

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DEAR NOELLE by Noelle B. Nightingale
Biblical Counsel for Christian Women

Dear Noelle,

I have a long-time friend who keeps crossing the line, telling me things I don't want to hear. I give her a cold shoulder whenever she does that, but she doesn't seem to get the hint. She just does it again. I feel like enough is enough. I think it's time to unfriend her.

Frustrated Friend

Dear Frustrated Friend,

Long-time friends are a blessing to have because they know us so well. They see us at our best and at our worst, and we all need friends like that who love us enough to be honest with us. It sounds like your friend really cares about you, or she wouldn't keep reaching out to you when you treat her so coldly. But it's true that we won't see eye to eye even with our best friends sometimes, and that's why we need to learn how to deal with conflict the way God wants us to.

First of all, the Bible tells us there is no limit to how many times we need to forgive someone who sins against us. Peter thought he was being generous when he asked Jesus if it was enough to just forgive someone 7 times. But Jesus said, no, we need to forgive as many as 70 x 7 times (Matthew 18:21-22). In other words, we should stop counting the offenses.

Secondly, the Bible tells us why we need to forgive: it is because God has forgiven our sins that we need to forgive others. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another just as in Christ God forgave you." Our sins are too many for us to count, but God forgives us. If we have been forgiven, how can we not forgive those who sin against us?

Finally, the world tries to resolve conflict by unfriending the other person, but cutting off communication with a friend actually resolves nothing. In fact, it can lead to years of bitterness and regret. So instead of unfriending someone, the Bible tells us to go to the other person and work it out, whether we are the offender or the offended (Matthew 5:23; 18:15). We should not wait for the other person to come to us. They may not even know that they have done anything to offend us! That's probably true with your friend since she doesn't seem to get the hints you're giving her.

So my advice is, first examine your actions to see if you have done something wrong and need to change (Matthew 7:1-4). Then pray for wisdom and humility to be able to go to your friend. Be humble enough to own up to any wrongs that you have done. You can at least admit to not being very kind toward her and ask forgiveness for this. Then tell her what she has done that is bothering you (Matthew 18:15). If you follow these steps of biblical peacemaking, you will probably be surprised to find that she also admits to doing things she regrets. And then tell her that you forgive her for those things. It's amazing how a friendship can become stronger by working through conflict God's way!

By His grace,

Noelle

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Meet Pastor Frank: Over 30 years serving the Lord in Kings County.

**Pastor Frank Caudell
Lead Pastor at Grace Baptist Church Lemoore**

Pastor Frank and Teresa Caudell

Q. How long have you been serving as a pastor here in Kings County?

A. I began serving as a pastor in Kings County in 1990 and it has now been 34 years of serving as a pastor in Lemoore.

Q. If you could choose one highlight from your ministry, what would it be?

A. There are so many to choose from but the one that stands out is the day I had the privilege of baptizing 3 of my grandchildren.

Q. How has your wife helped you serve the Lord more effectively?

A. Much of our ministry has always involved music. In our early days of ministry, we were involved in a prison ministry in Kings County. We

would go into the prison and lead worship and teach God's word. We continue today to lead worship in our praise team at our church.

Q. What passages have you been preaching on recently and how have they helped your congregation serve the Lord?

A. I'm currently leading our congregation in a study of the book of Revelation on Sunday mornings, and we are going through the book of Ephesians during our Thursday night bible study. Ephesians speaks of how wonderfully God has equipped His people for service and our study of Revelation hopefully is creating a sense of urgency to reach the lost and be the kind of church that would not need to be chastened should our Lord write a letter to us.

Q. Is there a verse from the Bible that inspires you as a pastor?

A. My life verse as a pastor is 1 Pe-

ter 5:2-3, "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

Q. What are three things that you appreciate about living in Kings County?

A. 1) I like that it is a rural area without the hustle and bustle that's often found in more populated areas. 2) I also appreciate that with its central location to the rest of California, it's not far from the coastal cities to the west or the beautiful mountains to the east. 3) Lastly, I appreciate that this area is largely supported by the agriculture and dairy industry. There are a lot of hard working men and women who work to supply California (and beyond) with produce and dairy products.

Q. What advice do you have for Christians serving the Lord here in Kings County?

A. Because we live in an increasingly pagan and anti-God society, we need to follow Paul's exhortation to the Philippian Believers to shine as lights in the world in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. (Phil. 2:15)

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Believers in Business



Michelle Vickers (Owner of Java Heaven)

How long have you been the owner of Java Heaven?

We opened on June 23rd, of 2020 as the new owners of Java Heaven. We have two locations: 850 W Elm St. (near Woodrow Wilson) and 1764 N 10th Ave. (near Best Buy Supermarket).

How did you see God's hand in how you were able to buy the business?

I previously owned Edible Arrangements and we started praying for guidance about our future. I wanted something new because as my kids were getting older I wanted to be able to spend more time with them. I wanted to have the time to coach the girls teams, attend the Muffins with Mom or help with a class Valentine's party, but running Edible didn't allow me the ability to commit to anything. I was always "on call". My husband Kaine & I had an idea of a business model, something different than a coffee shop, however after researching the cost involved it was out of our reach. Ironically enough, shortly after a friend of mine tagged me in a post from the previous owners about their interest in selling Java Heaven. I reached out

to the owners and as time progressed, doors continued to be opened. It truly was God guiding my path. Java Heaven allows me the time flexibility to be more invested in my kids lives.

Is there a Bible verse that inspires you in your daily work?

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." When I purchased this coffee shop I absolutely felt it was "His" business. He opened the doors for me and I know that those two years of prayers were answered. I definitely struggle sometimes feeling overwhelmed with rising costs & staffing. For example, if I lose a great employee, I stress about the time necessary to hire & train someone new. Then God does something amazing and basically tells me, "Michelle why are you worried? I am just closing one door by putting these employees on a different path in order to open the door

for someone new that I'm sending to fill their place." God is always good and right on time.

What's one way you've seen God use your business to bless other people?

I would say that owning Java Heaven has given me more opportunity to interact with my community face to face. Edible was located in Visalia and the majority of our orders were online, so that didn't allow much interaction with my customers. For example, now when one of my customers reaches out to sponsor their child for a sports team or fundraiser for a school program it's more personal because I've built that relationship with them. We get a lot of donation requests so now we have to make the difficult decision of choosing which ones we will say yes to. We love our community and we love being able to serve people.

Faith in ACTION



Executive Director, Youth For Christ and Campus Life

How long have you been working in Kings County?

I started in 1991, so that makes this my 34th school year serving in the Central Valley. I started in Dinuba as the Ministry Director in 1991 and then I became the Executive Director in 2000. In 1999, I began meeting with the local pastors here in Hanford and attended the Ministerial Association meetings. At that time, there was a pastor that was out at Lakeside Community Church whose name was Andy Abbas. Pastor Andy actually was the police chaplain here in Hanford and there was another youth pastor here in town named Mike. I was coming to the pastor's meeting and I was told, "Hey let's go pray together." So we went down to the park and prayed for the youth in the Hanford area, and that's how ministry in Kings County began.

What campuses are you involved in here in Hanford?

We started doing School Resource Chaplains because that's what Pastor Andy did. He did police chaplain work and he was asked to go to Hanford High because there was a suicide there and the principal at that time asked for support. Through that process, we became aware that we needed to have chaplains on school campuses here in Hanford. The Hanford High School district approved us for being chaplains and that's how it started.

So we started at Hanford High and Hanford West because at that time Sierra Pacific wasn't even here. So we had those two schools and we had five or six of us chaplains walking campus just getting to know the kids and listening to their stories. Through our meetings with the kids, our times turned into lunch groups that meet weekly. After several years of serving, Crystal (Trevino) became part of a volunteer team coming to these lunch groups. Now it's become much bigger, so now we're doing school clubs on each school.

How do these students get connected with churches?

Generally, teenagers don't just decide to start of go to church. They need to have a relationship with somebody and then that person can invite them to church. That way, they can either go pick them up or they can meet them at the front door (of the church)... that's really part of our mission statement is to partner with our local churches and like-minded partners. And it begins with a relationship.

Is there a Bible verse that inspires you in your ministry?

My life verse is Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Back in college I picked that verse. I'm actually a camping ministry major in college and I was able to watch God working through me through college and the camping ministry, and through every day of my life. I served in a camp in southern California full time for four years. I saw God molding me to be ready for this ministry. Honestly, what we do with Campus Life is camping ministry without a facility. We go to school and we do activities to reach and speak to teenagers. We mentor kids.

What are your plans for the future

Almost three years ago, our YFC Board approved our succession plan. The plan was that whenever I pulled the trigger, we would begin the hiring process to hire an assistant director who would shadow me for a full year. Then that person would become executive director and I would

become the assistant director. We do that a second year and that allows people to trust the new director.

On December 18th of this past year, our new Assistant Director began. We hired Jason Protzman. Jason has 26 years of experience in youth work and ministry. He actually became a Christian at 16 years old. He got involved with Campus Life in New York, and he's been involved with Campus Life all these years. Previously, He's been in Dinuba at Living Word Fellowship as the Associate Pastor. He was partnering with us through his church, and then his wife came to work for us as a mentor at one of our local schools. That's where got to watch the inner workings of this ministry. On August 1st, Jason Protzman will be the new Executive Director and I'll swap with him and I'll be the assistant. Then, in August of 2025 I will step away from paid staffing and I'll become a board member. I plan to still be involved. I love this ministry and I believe God's called me here for such a time as this.



Bruce Smith, Crystal Trevino, Jason Protzman

Student Spotlight

Students Steal the Show In Spring Melodrama

Romance, rivalry, and a rock-paper-scissor battle were all included in this year's performance at Kings Christian School (KCS). The hard work and long hours of preparation of the students and staff were put on full display in the original play entitled "The Saga of Shannie Okey Dokey".



The play follows the story of **Beefalo Bill Kodee and his Rootin' Tootin' Hootin' & Hollerin' Wild West Show**. Bill becomes frantic when the star of the show, Shannie Okey Dokey is kidnapped by the dynamic duo of Vicious Victoria Devious and Villania DeFoe. Thankfully, Marshal Gil Gallant and his deputy Lag B. Hind are able to thwart the villains' plans and Shannie Okey Dokey is safely returned to the show.

The entirety of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes were able to participate in the melodrama. The 6th grade class was able to perform a square dance at the beginning of the program, which was very well received. The 7th and 8th grade students filled the ranks of the cast, which was made up of almost forty students, who performed in forty-eight different parts.

The costumes were handpicked for the melodrama. Many of the actors seemed to fit naturally with their characters and costumes. This was especially true for the students who adopted a southern accent for their character. Shannie Okey Dokey, Gil Gallant, and Lag B. Hind had some of the most convincing versions of a southern drawl. One actress even tried using an Irish accent with her lines.

It was hard for the audience to choose a favorite character because the students did such a good job. There were plenty of laughs and Yee-haws to be heard during the play. A highlight was when the principal's son came on stage in full costume mimicking the principal! One person was overheard saying they thought it was the best production they had seen in ten years! Another person said they



laughed so hard they almost started crying when they heard the first recitation of the "Rootin' Tootin' Hootin' & Hollerin' Beefalo Bill Wild West Show."

This year's play was directed by Mrs. Wanda Drewry, who has been facilitating dramatic productions at the school for over forty years. She began at KCS as a third grade teacher in 1982 and she has been involved ever since. She describes Melodramas as "Overkill in expression and silliness... Being silly for a kid is easier than a serious drama." When asked about how she found the scripts Mrs. Drewry said, "God opened the door." She learned that her colleague's mother, Mrs. Elaine Azevedo had plays that she had written herself. They only had twelve characters, which was a problem because Mrs. Drewry needed parts for at least twenty students. Her colleague, Michelle, was willing to write in extra

parts for extra students. This is where cameo appearances from characters such as the Paramedics and the Skunks came from. Mrs. Drewry said that adding more characters is what allowed "everyone to get a part to play".

When asked about her role in the play, Mrs. Drewry said, "I am the loaves and fishes. I just use what I've got... you can have my loaf or you can have my fish and let's see how far it will go." Clearly, Mrs. Drewry has been able to take the melodramas a long way. For over forty years, she has helped students learn to act and become more confident in themselves, while delivering hearty laughs and side-splitting guffaws along the way.

The play was directed by Mrs. Wanda Drewry and produced by Mrs. Denise Jordan, Mrs. Iris Roche, Mr. Andrew Jarvis, and Mr. Kevin Dalafu.



God's Provision on Display

In a Land of Milk and Honey



Continued from front page

what he thought about God's handiwork on a dairy farm, he said, "God created this animal for the benefit of man. You look at these animals and you start understanding the science and how no other animal can do this to this scale. It is amazing!"

One of E. J.'s herds contains around 5,000 cows. Each dairy cow can on average produce 11 gallons of milk each day! That comes out to a total of 55,000 gallons that need to be trans-

ported to creameries and processing plants in the area. The Kings County Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHAI) recently recognized E. J.'s herd as the third highest milk producer in the county, out of eighty registered herds. E. J.'s herd also had the highest life-time producing dairy cow in the county, with a total of 11 pregnancies and at least that many years of milk production. E. J. said he likes to keep his cows "comfy and happy." Clearly, he is doing something right if the cows are able to spend so many years producing calves and milk at such a high rate.

Kings County may have fewer acres than other counties (890,545), but it makes up for it in production value. Based on the 2020 crop report, the county's milk production created more than \$2 billion of gross value for the county. That made it the highest value per acre income of any of

the surrounding counties. There is so much milk being produced in the county, it resulted in an average value of \$2,518.00 per acre!

Last year's crop report for Kings County also reported that the county ranked first in production of cotton and wheat, third highest in apricot, peach, plum, and tomato production, and fourth highest in the production of corn, milk, cream, pistachios, and silage. Overall, Kings County ranked eighth in agricultural production.

One fascinating aspect of the 2021 crop report had to do with apiary products, which are related to bees. Over 606,000 pounds of honey were produced in the

county, which would result in almost four pounds of honey for each person in the county (152,000 population in 2021). A significant amount of money is made from pollination services. In 2021, fruit and nut tree pollination resulted in almost \$18 million in total income. All that work was done by almost 92,000 colonies of bees.

Gabe Martinez has worked with some of those bees. He described how a single nucleus colony of bees can have around 5,000 bees. If the bees are housed in a double-stack, then the number can go up to 50,000 bees! The intricacy of the bees communication, wax and honey production, and pollination expertise has led Gabe to be amazed by how God created bees. He said, "We can see God at work in every aspect of the bees. We know God created them. He created them to communicate, to find pollen and nectar. The scout bees go out and communicate. It is mind-boggling. Scientists try to figure it out, but they can't fully explain it. It is amazing!"

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KINGS COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 6 **VENDOR MARKET AND CRAFT FAIR**

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
726 East "D" Street, Lemoore
lemoorenaz@sbcgloval.net
Jewelry, wellness, woodworking,
metal works, Beauty products,
soaps, and more.

Apr 13

Poetry Open Mic - Hanford Branch Library - Saturday, April 13 - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - 401 N. Douty St. Hanford

Apr 16

Food Truck Takeover in Civic Park - Tuesday, April 16 - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Apr 18

Commanding Courage Bible Study - Thursday, April 18 - 6:30 pm Grace Bible Church - 707 W. Fargo Ave. Hanford

Apr 19-20

For the Valley Conference - Friday & Saturday, April 19-20 - 5 pm registration - 1101 Marion St, Kingsburg, CA

Apr 20

20th Annual Kingsburg Car Show - Saturday, April 20 - 7 am - Draper Street in downtown Kingsburg

Apr 26

Taste of the Valley - Friday, April 26 - 6 pm - 9 pm - Downtown Hanford

May 2

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2 - 12 pm Hanford Civic Center Park

May 2

Thursday Night Market in Downtown Hanford - Thursday, May 2nd - 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

May 1-5

Carnegie Museum "Kings County's Asian Experiences" exhibit Friday - Sunday, 1-5 pm 109 E. 8th St. Hanford

June 2

Pops in the Park, Sunday, June 2 - 6:30 pm - Hanford Civic Park

June 8

Carnegie Museum Car Show - Saturday, June 8 - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm - 109 E. 8th St. Hanford

Saturday, May 11

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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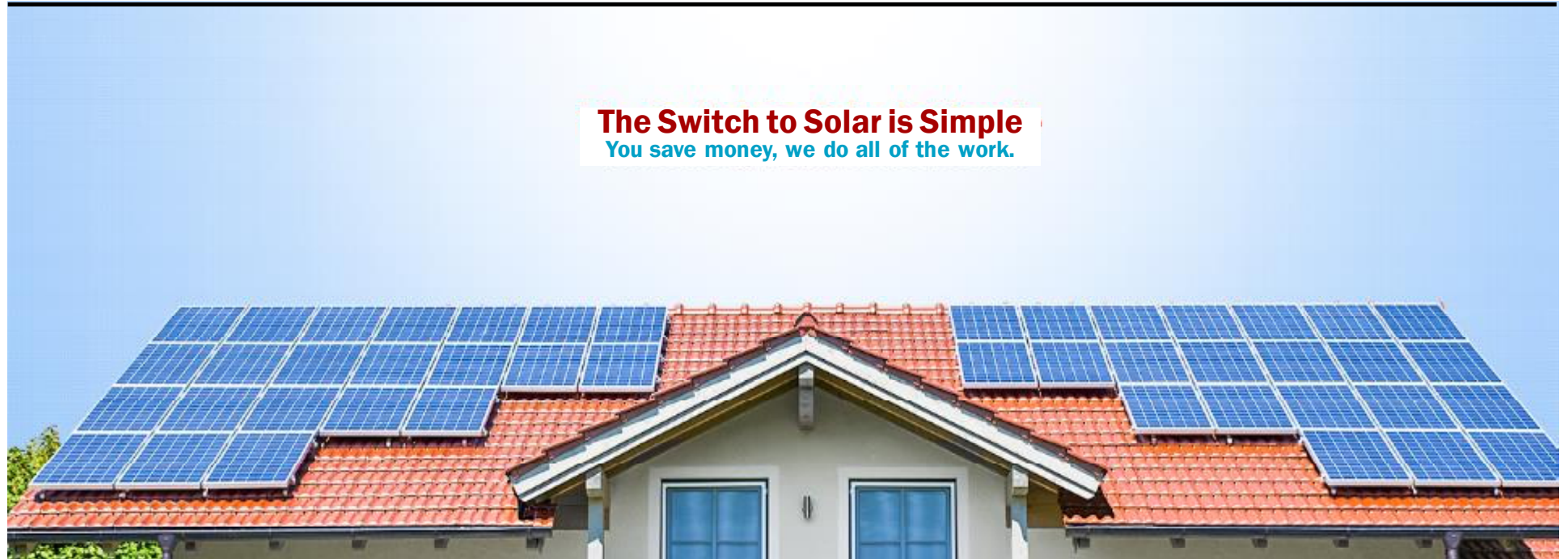
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Price \$94,500

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Wheels, 20-Spoke Aluminum



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MSRP \$29,770

Richard's Discount \$500

Price \$26,770

\$3K Off MSRP

Driver Confidence II
LS Convenience / Sport Edition
*There are 2 available at this price



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2024 Silverado 1500 Crew LT 4WD

Stock #: 9852T
MSRP \$60,475

Richard's Disc - \$1,500
Selling Price - \$58,975
Bonus Cash - \$1,750
Consumer Cash - \$750
Trade in Bonus Cash - \$1,000*

Price \$55,475

\$3K Off MSRP

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*Must trade in 2010 or newer



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